

County Council flooding alarm system in place (and growing) to help Lincolnshire residents prepare for the worst

Communities across Lincolnshire are becoming better prepared for flooding thanks to a hands-on initiative led by Project Groundwater Greater Lincolnshire (PGGL) in partnership with UDLive. It's a practical, community-focused scheme that reflects LCC's determination to give residents the tools and information they need before floodwater reaches their doors.

If it's bad weather and there's a risk – the system will let you know if you're in direct danger, in plenty of time.

The project began in Heighington, a village that has dealt with repeated groundwater flooding over the years. The local school has been hit several times, with water rising through a manhole on its grounds whenever groundwater levels surge. Seeing the impact this had on pupils, staff, and families, the council stepped in. PGGL installed a telemetry device at the school to monitor conditions, then added three more across other high-risk spots in the village. These locations were chosen through careful analysis of past flood events and a close look at how water moves through the local landscape. By using secure mounting points such as bridges, the council has created a dependable network that reflects real-world risk.

Once the devices are in place, they feed into an online dashboard created specifically for each village. This gives residents, parish councils, and local authorities a clear, real-time picture of what's happening; water levels, rainfall, device health, and more. The dashboard isn't just a technical tool; it's a shared resource that helps people feel informed and connected. Data can also be exported for mapping and planning, supporting both everyday awareness and long-term decision-making.

Each device includes two alarm thresholds: a warning level and a breach level. When triggered, SMS and email notifications go straight to residents, parish councils, and Community Emergency Response Teams. These alarms don't promise that flooding will occur, but they do give people valuable time to prepare and protect their homes. To make sure the system is easy to use, PGGL runs onboarding sessions for parish councils and CERT members, followed by test alarms before the system goes live. Drop-in events are also held for residents, especially those who have previously experienced flooding or received Property Flood Resilience measures.

The scheme has already been put in place across 80 villages, with more than 200 devices installed and over 2,000 users signed up. Its success has attracted interest from other parts of the country, with councils such as Nottinghamshire County Council adopting the model for their own communities meaning a clear recognition of the leadership shown in Lincolnshire.

Each device comes with a 10-year warranty and maintenance package, with a set of three devices costing £5,100 for the full decade of support and data services.

To learn more about how the alarms work, email Innovative.Resilience@lincolnshire.gov.uk