

# FLOOD RISK FOR YOUR HOME OR LAND?



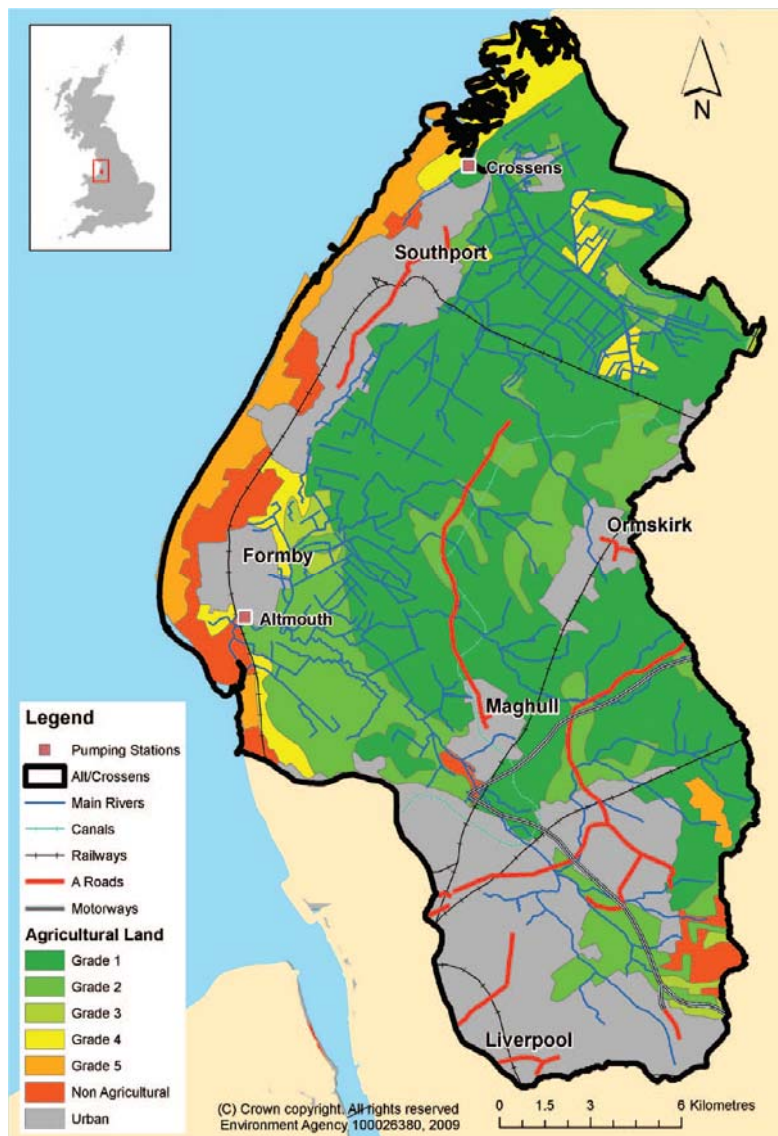
**Crossens Pumping Station, opened in 1961, which currently drains, through the Sluice, Back Drain and Three Pools, the moss-lands and what was once Martin Mere - England's largest lake prior to 1696 with an 18 miles circumference.**

**By Spring 2015 the Environment Agency propose making a significant change from current practice, by either reducing or stopping Land Drainage work within the catchment area of Banks, Mere Brow, Tarleton, Holmeswood, Rufford, Burscough, Scarisbrick, Halsall, Southport and beyond.**

The Environment Agency says that the current system is unsustainable on a number of levels. The system is largely managed through artificial means that is contrary to the natural processes of the catchment area and is largely achieved through expending non-renewable energy through pumping. Whilst intensive drainage provides short term productivity benefits, the longer term impact on ground levels and associated drainage impairment will reduce the effectiveness of the drainage system and may reduce agricultural productivity overall. In the process, extensive peat shrinkage will result in carbon dioxide emissions. It is likely that future water demand will exceed supply and the current system is not effective at providing either flood storage, when needed, or a reliable supply of water in dry periods.

In their 2009 report, the Environment Agency themselves stated **“The catchment area is heavily reliant on two pumping stations to drain it; failure of these could put over 6,000 properties at risk.”**

## THE AFFECTED AREAS



For over 300 years, the area has provided some of the best agricultural land in the UK and this is now at risk. The Environment Agency has said that the current system is unsustainable.

As a result of climate change, the Environment Agency estimated that by 2100, without any reduction in pumping, approximately 405 further properties will be at risk of fluvial flooding alone.

**What can be done?** - Quite a lot actually.

1. **Come to the special meeting** at St Stephen's Social Club, Hoole Lane, Banks at 7:00pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of November.

2. **Contact your MP** Lorraine Fullbrook and let her know your concerns – Write to her at The House of Commons, London. SW1A 0AA or Tel: 02072-197217 or email: [info@lorrainefullbrook.com](mailto:info@lorrainefullbrook.com)

3. **Call the Environment Agency** on 03708-506506 (Mon-Fri 8-6)

4. **Read the Consultation Document** which you can access on the internet at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/portal> and **complete the response form** or ask your Councillor for a copy.

***YOUR BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS  
NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW !***

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***PLEASE ACT QUICKLY***  
**THE CONSULTATION PERIOD ENDS ON THE 16<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2011**

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