

## Protecting flood defences – Access for fishing clubs

The Environment Agency is working with local fishing clubs to try and ensure that the River Trent flood defences are kept in a good condition during the winter months.

We are aware that many fishing club members enjoy access to the river banks via footpaths and local agreements with landowners. During the last couple of years we have seen an increase in access from vehicles on the raised flood defence embankment, causing some localised damage to the grass covering.



Photograph showing surface damage to the flood defence

### Raised flood defences

The Environment Agency carries out regular maintenance along the River Trent flood defence to help keep a good grass cover. This is because the grass helps to knit the surface of the embankment together, which helps to reduce soil erosion. This is essential for the embankment to remain robust during high water events.

During winter months, wet weather conditions can increase the risk of damage to the grass covering on the flood defences as the ground becomes increasingly muddy. These conditions can also make the embankment difficult to travel on.

Where we are made aware of any damage caused by vehicle access, we will aim to speak to the relevant individuals and/or organisations to prevent any further damage, and if this damage persists, we may consider enforcement action.

### How can I help?

**Accessing river banks – Care should be taken to access the river banks without causing damage to the raised flood defence embankment.**

**We would like to encourage fishing clubs members to avoid the use of vehicles directly onto the raised flood defence where possible.**

**For further information, please contact us locally via email at:  
[EMDenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:EMDenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)**