

Exe Estuary

Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

Briefing Note 1: June 2010

The Environment Agency is developing a strategy to manage tidal flood and erosion risk around the Exe Estuary for the next 100 years. We are carrying it out in partnership with the local authorities of Teignbridge, East Devon, Exeter City and Devon County.

We are doing this to work out the best way to protect communities and the environment into the future as sea levels rise. This briefing note introduces the work we are doing.

What is the strategy?

Flood risk and erosion management planning is carried out at a range of scales. At the broadest level Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) set the policy context for flood risk and erosion planning over large areas.

Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategies (FCRMS) form part of the next tier of planning. They identify and assess measures for the eventual implementation of the policies identified within the SMP.

The Exe Estuary falls within the area covered by the [South Devon and Dorset Coast Shoreline Management Plan Review](#). The SMP public consultation closed in July 2009 and the final report is due in late 2010. Our strategy will develop the policy options identified within the SMP Review into implementation plans, which detail flood risk management solutions at specific locations. This will include possible managed realignment.

Once it is completed and approved, the strategy will guide much of the work we and the local authorities do along the coastline and in the estuary in the future.

Strategy scope

The strategy study area extends from Straight Point to Holcombe. The upstream extent is at the tidal limit of the River Exe at St James' Weir, and the weir just upstream of Clyst St Mary.

We are also reviewing the existing flood defences in Exeter in parallel with, but distinct from the strategy. There is a small area of overlap between the study areas at the tidal limit.

Strategy aims and objectives

The strategy has three main objectives:

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- to define and agree a 100 year plan of investment for tidal flood and coastal erosion risk management by the Environment Agency and local authorities to protect local communities;
- to identify and prioritise other flood risk management activities such as providing advice to utility companies to protect important infrastructure, providing advice to planning authorities to control development in inappropriate areas, and investment in flood warning;
- to decide where we should create new inter-tidal wildlife habitats to compensate for losses of habitat caused by rising sea levels.

In meeting these objectives, we will take into consideration the impact on people and the environment around the estuary, and the cost of implementing any measures.

We will also take account of the views and concerns of local people and organisations.

How you can get involved

Local knowledge and experience is important to help shape the future management of flood and coastal erosion in the Exe Estuary area.

It is essential that the strategy adequately reflects the issues and concerns of the communities, businesses and organisations with an interest in this area and that we make sound decisions based on the best available information, science and expert opinion.

The strategy will be delivered in spring 2012, and we are consulting and engaging at key points from now onwards. The main public consultation will be in the summer of 2011. If you would like to be kept informed please register with us now. We are already aware of concerns, expressed through the SMP process, of potential managed realignment at Dawlish Warren, Exmouth Maer, Powderham Banks and the Lower Clyst.

Information on progress on the strategy will also be posted on the project website:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31736.aspx>

Contact us

You can register interest or find out more information on the strategy at any time by contacting the project team by email at: ExeEstuaryStrategy@atkinsglobal.com

or by post to:

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