

Poole and Wareham

Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

Briefing Note 1: July 2010

The Environment Agency is developing a strategy to manage tidal flood and erosion risk between Durlston Head and Hengistbury Head, including Poole Harbour, for the next 100 years. We are carrying it out in partnership with the local authorities.

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 undertaken 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.

Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham fall within the study area for the [Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan Review](#). This SMP public consultation closed in February 2010 and the final report is due in late 2010. Our strategy will develop the policy options identified by 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 in this area in the future.

Strategy scope

The study area for the strategy extends from Durlston Head to Hengistbury Head. It includes Poole Harbour and the estuaries of the Frome and Piddle up to their tidal limits.

Strategy aims and objectives

The strategy has three main objectives:

- to define 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;



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- 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 along this coast and within Poole Harbour, 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 area.

It is essential that the strategy adequately reflects the issues and concerns of the communities, businesses and organisations which have an interest in this coastline. We need to 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 consultation will be in the autumn 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 Brownsea, Wareham and Hengistbury.

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:

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or by post to:

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