

Exe Estuary: The Strategy

Exe Estuary Strategy - High Level Options

The aim of the Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy is to produce a long-term plan for sustainable flood risk management in the Exe Estuary that provides appropriate levels of protection to all flood risk areas and safeguards the environment. The Strategy looks up to 100 years ahead and needs to take into account the impacts of predicted climate change.

Baseline Studies have established the need for a Strategy to manage the risks that will increase as a result of deteriorating defences and increased sea levels. The next stage is to identify High Level Options that provide appropriate management around the Estuary for each of the fourteen separate locations (units) between Sandy Bay and Holcombe.

Some lengths of coastline are naturally protected by a beach or cliffs, or there is nothing significant at risk that will need any particular management except monitoring.

Other lengths already rely on defences against flooding. Where these protect significant properties, or other assets, they will need to be sustained and possibly improved where this can be justified.

In some cases the best action may be to allow some land to flood but to move the defences back to continue to protect property.



The full range of possible High Level Options is:

- **No Active Intervention (NAI)**- Natural change is allowed.
- **Maintain** - Maintain the defences. The risk of flooding will not increase significantly.
- **Sustain** - Enhance the defences. This is necessary as the risk of flooding increases.
- **Improve** - Improve the defences. A higher standard of protection can be justified.
- **Manage** - Defences are managed in other ways such as being repositioned inland.
The risk of flooding to properties will not generally increase but some land may be at increased risk.

There is no need to build defences everywhere. This would be intrusive, very expensive and damaging to the character of the Estuary and its wildlife. The aim of the Strategy is to find the right balance that is good for people, good for the environment and is affordable. These factors have been considered to identify a possible High Level Option for each unit.

The following draft High Level Options are provisional and subject to review following any further assessment, comments or new information that we receive.

*Some potential to Manage (further work needed)

Draft High Level Option	Short Term 0-20 years	Med. Term 20-50 years	Long Term 50-100 years
Sandy Bay	No Active Intervention (NAI)	No Active Intervention (NAI)	No Active Intervention (NAI)
The Maer	Maintain or NAI	Sustain or NAI	Sustain or NAI
Exmouth	Improve	Sustain	Sustain
Courtlands, Lympstone Commando and Exton	Maintain	Maintain	Sustain
Lympstone	Maintain/Sustain	Sustain	Sustain
Clyst St George	Manage	Sustain (moved defences)	Sustain (moved defences)
Clyst St Mary	NAI, Local Improvement or Manage	NAI, Local Improvement or Manage	NAI, Local Improvement or Manage
West Bank of the Lower Clyst	NAI, Maintain or Manage	NAI, Maintain or Manage	NAI, Maintain or Manage
Topsham & Countess Wear	Sustain*	Sustain*	Sustain*
Exminster Marshes & Powderham Banks	Sustain	Sustain	Sustain/Manage
Kenn Valley	Maintain*	Sustain*	Sustain*
Starcross	Sustain or Improve	Sustain	Sustain
Dawlish Warren		Further work needed	
Dawlish to Holcombe	Sustain or Improve	Sustain	Sustain

Further work may be needed to identify the right High Level Option, for reasons that include:

- There are complex issues, such as at Dawlish Warren.
- Some options may depend on the availability of additional funding beyond what is available for managing flood and coastal risks.
- The best option may depend upon factors that will not be assessed until the next, more detailed, stage or until discussion with those affected.

How do I find out more?

- See the Environment Agency website www.environmentagency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/121323.aspx for further information on the Exe Estuary Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
- You can send comments or queries to the Strategy Team at ExeEstuaryStrategy@atkinsglobal.com

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