



Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

Statement of Environmental Particulars

Draft Final February 2015

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment and make it a better place for people and wildlife.

We operate at the place where environmental change has its greatest impact on people's lives. We reduce the risks to people and properties from flooding; make sure there is enough water for people and wildlife; protect and improve air, land and water quality and apply the environmental standards within which industry can operate.

Acting to reduce climate change and helping people and wildlife adapt to its consequences are at the heart of all that we do.

We cannot do this alone. We work closely with a wide range of partners including government, business, local authorities, other agencies, civil society groups and the communities we serve.

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Statement of environmental particulars for the Exe Estuary Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

Introduction This statement of particulars indicates how environmental and consultee considerations were taken into account during the preparation of the plan and how the Environment Agency selected the approach adopted in the final plan. The statement goes on to set out the monitoring procedures that have been set in place to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan/programme.

The environment during the development of the plan **Integration of environmental considerations**
 Environmental considerations were integrated throughout the development of this plan by following the Environment Agency’s SEA operational instruction. This document ensures the potential significant effects of the plan on the environment are considered throughout its development.

Influence of the environmental report
 The environmental report that was open to public consultation influenced the development of the plan by identifying environmental enhancements and setting out requirements for mitigation, where significant negative effects were identified.

Mitigation and Enhancement

Environmental Topic	Agreed Mitigation/Enhancement activity	Responsibility for implementation
<p>Population and Human Health</p> <p>There is potential for deterioration in views for recreational users, vehicle travellers and property occupants in later epochs of the Strategy, by constructing new defences or raising existing defences to manage flood risk from rising sea levels. Visual impacts will require greater consideration within the more visually sensitive locations of the historic built environment including Exmouth, Topsham and Starcross.</p>	<p>We will design new or raised defences sympathetically at project level to blend in with the existing landscape.</p>	<p>Environment Agency Plus</p> <p>Teignbridge District Council</p> <p>East Devon District Council,</p> <p>Devon County Council</p> <p>Exeter City Council</p>
<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Increased flood and erosion risk to parts of the South West Coast Path, East Devon</p>	<p>Further consultation will be required with the South West Coast Path Steering Group, Natural England and Devon County Council regarding</p>	<p>Devon County Council</p> <p>East Devon District Council</p>

<p>Way and Sustrans cycle routes in areas of NAI (e.g. Sandy Bay, Courtlands etc).</p>	<p>likely impacts on the South West Coast Path and East Devon Way. Consultation will support early identification of viable alternative inland routes. Routes will need to be adapted and altered to accommodate erosion risks; these may need to be relocated inland in some areas.</p>	
<p>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna Loss of internationally designated intertidal habitat in the footprint of new or improved defences and due to coastal squeeze (attributable to the Strategy) within the Exe Estuary European Marine site.</p>	<p>Compensatory habitat provision is made in the Strategy proposals to maintain the condition of the Exe Estuary designated sites.</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>
<p>Historic Environment Potential loss or damage to areas of post-medieval reclaimed enclosures around Clyst St Mary and potential damage to listed bridge at Topsham and their setting. MR in Kenn Valley has the potential to harm the Powderham Registered Historic Park and Garden and affect the setting of key designated heritage assets.</p>	<p>Detailed design at the project level may be able to lessen or avoid potential impacts. Any erosion protection proposed at project level to control risks to the listed bridges will be sympathetically managed. Consultation with English Heritage and the County Archaeologist will establish the significance of increased erosion to the listed bridges.</p> <p>We have identified an opportunity to develop a fully integrated 'habitat and heritage' design that reduces harm and delivers ecological benefits to Powderham Registered Historic Park and Garden. Any design will draw on a thorough understanding of the historic environment and design intentions at Powderham, and involve detailed discussion with the landowner.</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p>

Consultation responses

Responses to consultation period (start date to end date)

In total 147 consultation responses were received during the 6 week period of consultation on the draft plan and its accompanying environmental report. The majority of consultation responses related to data gaps/further information that the Environment Agency may wish to take into account during the finalisation of the plan. Such issues were updated as appropriate. The table below indicates where consultation responses led to wider changes to the plan.

Consultee	Summary of comments	Action taken to finalise Plan
Individual consultees and Save the Clyst Campaign	There were considerable concerns/objections received relating to the lower Clyst units where the draft Strategy proposed in FCRMU8 managed realignment on the East Bank.	Change in Strategy plan: The Strategy proposes to maintain the flood embankments in FCRMU8 'East Bank of the Lower Clyst' in the short term, rather than progress the draft Strategy option of managed realignment.

Trans-boundary consultation responses

The SEA did not identify any significant environmental effects that required trans-boundary consultation on this plan. Due to this, no consultation responses were received via this consultation route.

Reasons for selecting the adopted plan in light of reasonable alternatives

The approach adopted in the final plan was considered against a number of reasonable alternatives during its development. The major reasons for selecting the adopted plan over the reasonable alternatives were:

- The alternative solutions had an adverse impact on the environment and did not meet environmental legislative requirements, notably the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (amended in 2012) and the Water Environment (WFD)(England and Wales) Regulations 2003.
- Did not adequately address flood and coastal erosion risk to people, property and critical infrastructure within an FCRMU, now and in the future.
- Were not flexible enough to cope with changes in our knowledge.
- Were assessed to be technically or economically unfeasible.

Further details on the selection of the preferred option, which was developed into the adopted plan, are presented in its environmental report. Information on how to access a copy of the environmental report can be found in the post-adoption statement, which can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications

Environmental monitoring measures during Plan implementation

The table below sets out the indicators that will be monitored to ensure that unforeseen significant environmental effects are not generated during implementation. These indicators will also monitor the success of mitigation measures and environmental enhancements in the adopted plan. Developments implemented as a result of the plan will be assessed for environmental impacts at a project level using the Environment Agency's internal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) operational instruction.

Environmental effect/mitigation/enhancement	Indicator	Monitoring method	Responsibility
There is the potential for changes in coastal processes during MR to affect water quality with the potential for changes in fisheries and associated loss of commercial fishing revenue	Water quality	Water quality at commercial (shell)fishery locations associated with MR sites (before, during & after delivery of MR) Fisheries productivity/quality adjacent to MR sites	Environment Agency
Potential damage to Dawlish Cliffs SSSI by defence works undertaken between Dawlish and Holcombe	Changes in condition of the SSSI	Where adverse impacts are anticipated, it is recommended that Network Rail consult Natural England with regard to any changes in condition of the SSSI, as a result of their management activities	Network Rail
Loss of intertidal habitat in Exe Estuary SPA and Ramsar site due to coastal squeeze and direct loss in footprint of raised or new defences (with associated bird disturbance)	Designated intertidal habitat type and extent.	Monitoring of habitat types, extents and distribution to confirm whether predicted losses are occurring and to ensure that the rate of habitat creation keeps pace with measured losses.	Environment Agency
Success of habitat creation schemes to achieve target conditions.	Habitat created	Monitoring of success of intertidal habitat creation at MR sites will be undertaken through post-implementation survey and aerial	Environment Agency

		photography.	
Uncertain impact: changes in evolution of Dawlish Warren spit may affect the Dawlish Warren SAC and Exe Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.	Physical changes to Dawlish Warren and estuarine intertidal habitat.	Monitoring geomorphological change at Dawlish Warren (using aerial photography). Potential response: Modify location and timing of further MR activities if rate or nature of change is considered detrimental to environmental assets.	Environment Agency

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