

Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defences

Welcome to the third newsletter keeping you informed of progress towards the replacement of the groynes at Felixstowe. This scheme is part of a wider strategy for improvement works to Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defences. This newsletter summarises the outcome of our review of the Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defence Strategy and sets out the next steps in the project.

Background

In partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council we have commissioned Black & Veatch Ltd to review the Southern Felixstowe Coastal Strategy previously issued in June 2003. This review updates the coastal defence strategy for Southern Felixstowe in light of revised guidance for sea level rise and economic appraisal. The coastal defence strategy is designed to enhance the frontage and provide protection from flooding for the next 100 years. The strategy also includes an allowance of 1.1m for sea level rise over this time frame. In the short term, the updated strategy will support the case for funding of urgent coastal defence works to the Felixstowe frontage between the War Memorial and Landguard Common.

The strategy study area

The study area for the strategy covers the flood risk area from the War Memorial, just north of the pier, to the Trimley Marshes in the Stour and Orwell Estuary. This is shown in the figure opposite. The following assets are located within the study area:

- 960 residential properties;
- 468 other local businesses and commercial properties;
- the Port of Felixstowe;
- the amenity beach;
- the leisure and amenity facilities adjacent to the main amenity beach;
- the War Memorial;
- Landguard Fort and its associated fieldworks

- the Landguard Common Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve;
- Trimley Marshes, an important wetland reserve and Special Protection Area.

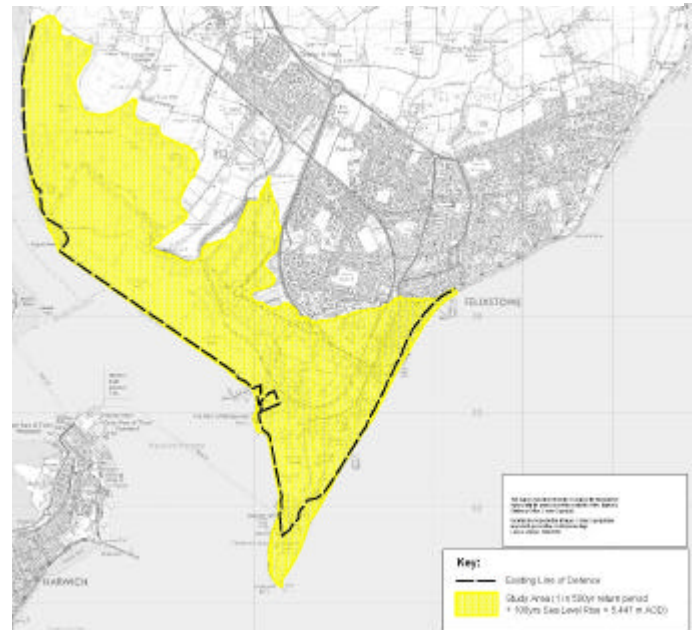


Figure 1: Strategy Study Area

Southern Felixstowe Coastal Strategy Review

In developing a coastal flood risk management strategy for Southern Felixstowe, the following strategic options have been considered:

- No Active Intervention (Do Nothing) – walking away from the existing defences.
- Do Minimum – maintaining the existing coastal defences until structural failure.
- Improve – improve the coastal defences to provide a uniform standard of protection against coastal flooding. The following sub-options have been considered. These are Standards of Protection, which represent the probability of a flood event exceeding the coastal defences.
 - 1 in 50 years;
 - 1 in 100 years;
 - 1 in 200 years.

The Preferred Option

The strategic options for Southern Felixstowe have been assessed based on the latest technical, environmental and economic factors

and take into account consultation to date. This has allowed us to select the preferred strategic option. The assessment process identified that 'Improve to 1 in 100 years Standard of Protection' is the preferred option for Southern Felixstowe.

The implementation of the preferred option will involve the following:

- Routine maintenance of the existing (plus any new) coastal defences.
- As soon as funding is available and approval gained, construction of 20 rock fishtail groynes and beach recharge (addition of extra shingle to the existing beach to raise the level) between the War Memorial and Landguard Common. The raised beach will serve to protect the existing sea wall from further damage.
- Throughout the strategy period raising of existing defences where required and feasible, followed by any necessary replacement over the next 100 years.

War Memorial to Landguard Common Scheme



Figure 2: Photo sketch of planned works



Figure 3: Artist's Impression of planned works

Figures 2 and 3 give an indication of the result of the works between the War Memorial and Landguard Common when they are finished.

They show the rock groynes buried beneath the beach adjacent to the promenade and indicate the openness of the proposed beach when compared to the current situation. There will be 20 groynes and each groyne will be 40m (44 yards) long and 105m (115 yards) apart.

What now?

Approval of the revised strategy is expected by January 2008. The approved strategy will be used to bid for funds required for the start of the urgently needed works to the frontage between the War Memorial and Landguard Common.

Planning permission of the scheme for the rock groynes and beach recharge between the War Memorial and Landguard Common was granted in 2005 and detailed design has already been undertaken.

Subject to funding, construction of the War Memorial to Landguard Common scheme will commence in spring 2008 and be completed by autumn 2008.

Contacts

If you have any queries or issues that you wish to discuss concerning the Southern Felixstowe Coastal Defence Strategy Review please contact:

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