

Foresight Future Flooding

Action Plan

Introduction

The Foresight project on flooding and coastal defence provides an indication of future risks from flooding and coastal erosion based on scenarios of socioeconomic development and climate change. The analysis suggests that risks could increase significantly over the next 30 to 100 years, but there are significant variations between the different scenarios and considerable uncertainty inherent in looking so far into the future.

Nevertheless, the reports provide an excellent resource, quantifying the possible scale of the challenges that we face and provide a broad assessment of the different measures available to reduce risk.

The research has identified a range of difficult choices, some of which will be highly influential for our ability to manage flooding in the future and could usefully be addressed as soon as possible. Others are less well defined and would benefit from an improved understanding which can only be realised as the results from research and improved data become available.

The project has helped develop a shared understanding of the challenges faced by the wide range of stakeholders affected by flooding and coastal erosion. The Action Plan seeks to build on this understanding and provide a channel through which actions across and outside Government can be co-ordinated. A group of key stakeholders, chaired by Elliot Morley, will meet in one year to monitor progress and consider the need for other actions.

In order for the Action Plan to be effective it must be responsive to changing circumstances and will require regular review. This initial plan focuses on immediate actions, the findings of which will influence longer-term activities. A key mechanism for responding to the challenges within the report will be the new cross-governmental strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England which is expected to be finalised early in 2005.

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
<p>Association of British Insurers</p> <p>ABI would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the implications of the findings of the report with key players in the market; have a wider debate on the implications of the result in the context of their review of the implications of climate change for insurance; provide specific written briefing to its members on the key findings of the report. 	Director of General Insurance, ABI	<p>Household Committee, May 2004</p> <p>Climate Change Event, Summer 2004</p> <p>Members briefing on day of launch, April 2004</p>
<p>Cabinet Office</p> <p>Will review the effectiveness of the action plan as an example of how issues which affect a number of departments can be taken forward.</p>	Strategy Unit	May 2005
<p>Council of Mortgage Lenders</p> <p>Provide a briefing for its members on the key findings of the report and set up a meeting to discuss the implications for its members.</p>	Jackie Bennett Senior Policy Adviser	July 2004
<p>Country Land and Business Association</p> <p>Consider the implications of the project's findings for its members at a meeting of the Flood and Coastal Defence Focus Group. The Association will make a summary of the key findings of the project available to its membership.</p>	Peter Beale, Country Land and Business Association	September 2004

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
<p>Defra</p> <p>Review the implications for the new strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management.</p> <p>Maintain dialogue with other Government Departments and stakeholders to ensure a co-ordinated and forward looking approach in response to the project.</p> <p>Refine and update the analysis – making use of developing knowledge, techniques and data as they become available to refine estimates of flood risk and likely future funding requirements.</p> <p>Plan for future needs – investigate measures to allow flood risk schemes to consider future as well as current requirements including promotion of adaptable solutions.</p> <p>Develop management responses – use the project to inform R&D programme development including pilot schemes, and monitoring tests to demonstrate the technical effectiveness of different responses to flood management.</p> <p>Consider the implications of the report in its review on the UK's sustainable Development strategy.</p>	<p>Flood Management Strategy Unit</p> <p>Flood Management Division</p> <p>Flood Management Division</p> <p>Flood Management Division</p> <p>Flood Management Division</p> <p>Flood Management Division</p> <p>Sustainable Development Unit, Defra</p>	<p>Spring 2005</p> <p>Ongoing, periodic review following completion of the strategy</p> <p>Ongoing, first partial revision to inform SR 2006 (autumn 2005)</p> <p>Ongoing with periodic review</p> <p>Ongoing with periodic review</p> <p>Ongoing with periodic review</p>

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
<p>Defra</p> <p>Taking forward action nationally and internationally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Use results of the project to feed into dialogue with other government departments and stakeholders to ensure a co-ordinated and forward-looking approach to minimising the impacts of climate change on flooding, through appropriate adaptation.</p> <p>Make use of developing knowledge, techniques (e.g. UKCIP toolkit) and data (e.g. climate change scenarios) as they become available to pass on to those taking forward this work.</p>	<p>Climate Energy and Environmental Risk, Defra</p> <p>Climate Energy and Environmental Risk, Defra</p> <p>Climate Energy and Environmental Risk, Defra</p>	<p>Ongoing with periodic review</p> <p>Ongoing with periodic review</p> <p>Ongoing with periodic review</p>
<p>DfT</p> <p>Will ensure the findings from Foresight Project are reflected in action plan implementing recommendations from DfT's report on Implications of Climate Change for the Department.</p> <p>Work with DTI to draft a summary of the Foresight project report suitable for internal DfT use and transport professionals.</p>	<p>Nigel Doitchin</p> <p>Nigel Doitchin</p>	<p>May 2004</p> <p>September 2004</p>
<p>DTI</p> <p>Produce a model for the public understanding of risk and use it to produce a case study on flooding.</p>	<p>Director, Foresight</p>	<p>September 2004</p>

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
<p>English Nature</p> <p>Would use the work of the project to:</p> <p>Inform their strategic approach to managed realignment at the coast and recreation of freshwater habitats (such as grazing marsh) in sustainable locations;</p> <p>Inform the development of the concepts of 'functional coasts' and 'sustainable estuaries';</p> <p>Inform the development of the integrated catchment trial it is running with the Environment Agency and Defra which are focussing on achieving multiple benefits for people and the environment.</p> <p>Use the material to inform broader strategy and policy development, including ideas for reform of the 1949 Coast Protection Act;</p> <p>Use the material as a resource in communications on the importance of Managing flood risk.</p>	<p>James Marsden, Head of Policy</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
Environment Agency Take account of Foresight findings in its policies and actions to promote mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions at national and local levels.	Climate Change Policy Manager	Continuing
Review the forthcoming Defra-led cross-Government Flood and Erosion Risk Management strategy in the light of the Foresight findings.	Flood Risk Management Policy Manager	February 2005
Present and consider the Foresight findings at the regional level (for both flood and integrated environmental management) including potential for more detailed assessment or communication to address local conditions.	Regional Strategic Unit Regional Flood Defence Committee	March 2005 March 2005
Incorporate Foresight findings in its own annual public awareness campaign on flood risk management.	Water Management Marketing & Communications Manager	Continuing
Review in the light of the Foresight findings: (a) existing guidance on catchment flood management planning (with Defra, and discuss SMP guidance)	Flood Risk Management Policy Manager	March 2005
(b) planned investment levels in flood management	Director of Water Management	March 2005
(c) its flood management operations	Flood Risk Management Policy Manager	March 2005
(d) its own science plan	Flood Risk Management Policy Manager	March 2005

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
Environment Agency Inform the Planning for Flood Risk Management in the Thames Estuary through (a) a joint workshop, run with the Foresight team, to build relevant findings and knowledge into the Thames Estuary Strategy. (b) use, demonstrate and assist the promotion of the Flood Ranger educational tool. (See note below on links to areas of work where other stakeholders have the lead.)	Thames Estuary Programme Executive	December 2004
HMT Will review the implications of this work and ensure that SR 2004 spending decisions are informed by the findings of this work and other evidence on achieving sustainable futures.	EFRA team leaders, HMT	Ongoing
Local Government Association The LGA will • Consider the implications of the work and how to respond through appropriate member structures. • Ensure dissemination of the findings of the report to local authorities in England and Wales – including dissemination to the LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group.	Nick Easton, Programme Manager, Economic and Environmental Policy Division, LGA	January 2005

ACTIVITY	OWNER	COMPLETION DATE
<p>Local Government Association</p> <p>The LGA will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw attention to the report via articles in Local Government First, which is circulated on a weekly basis to over 30,000 councillors and chief officers. • Encourage local authorities to consider the practical implications of the report. 	Nick Easton, Programme Manager, Economic and Environmental Policy Division, LGA	January 2005
<p>Northern Ireland Departments</p> <p>Consider the extension of the RASP to NI</p> <p>Investigate the opportunity to support research into flood risk assessment for intra-urban areas.</p> <p>Consider the implications for the Northern Ireland biodiversity strategies (habitat action plans).</p>	<p>John Clarke, DARDNI – Rivers Agency and John Davison, DOENI – Planning Service</p> <p>Bob Davidson DOENI, Environment and Heritage Services</p>	<p>March 2005</p> <p>March 2005</p>
<p>Queens and Ulster Universities</p> <p>Will be trialling FloodRanger for possible use in their Geography courses.</p>	<p>Harry Johnson Queens University</p> <p>Robert Myers Ulster University</p>	October 2004
<p>ODPM</p> <p>Use the work to inform ODPM's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of PPG 25; • Input to the Government's Flood and coastal management strategy, which is looking up to about 20 years ahead and which is being led by DEFRA's Flood Management Division 	ODPM's sustainable development group	<p>December 2005</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>Research Councils</p> <p>It will inform the developing programme of research of the Flood Risk Management Consortium. (A joint project with the involvement of EPSRC, EA, DEFRA, NERC, Scottish Executive and UK Water Industry Research.)</p>	Peter Hedges, Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Environment, EPSRC	Ongoing with formal review in 2007
<p>Scottish Executive</p> <p>Take the outcome of the project into account when reviewing levels of protection provided by existing and proposed flood defences and in the ongoing development of the Scottish Executive's Flood Risk Framework.</p> <p>Take the outcome of the project into account in the planning of Scotland's ongoing research into flood and coastal risk management.</p>	Environment and Rural Affairs Department	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p> <p>To inform the Welsh Assembly Government's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Strategy and Policy framework for flood and Coastal Defence • Future Planning Policy Guidance • Environment strategy; and • Transport Infrastructure. <p>To ensure wider dissemination of the findings of the report within Wales.</p>	<p>Peter Jones, Environment Division</p> <p>Kay Powell, Planning Division</p> <p>Claire Bennett, Environment Division</p> <p>Gareth Morgan, Transport Directorate</p> <p>Peter Jones, Environment Division</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Autumn 2005</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>April 2005</p>



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Note:

Where the Environment Agency does not have lead responsibilities, it will support the call of other stakeholders for review of planning and institutional policies, or for further studies for clarification, where the Foresight findings indicate that a more strategic approach is warranted. This includes:

- coastal zone and river corridor planning and management;
- institutional structure for urban drainage and surface water management;
- land management measures for flood management;
- PPG25 (Development and Flood Risk) review with regard to the functioning of the flood plain
- Building regulations and the resilience of buildings to flooding
- a sustainable approach to insurance across the spectrum of flood risk and social conditions