



**FOLKESTONE
TO RYE
COASTAL
STRATEGY
STUDY**

SHEPWAY
DISTRICT COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENT
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HR Wallingford

WHAT IS THE FOLKESTONE TO RYE COASTAL STRATEGY STUDY?

Commissioned by Shepway District Council in partnership with the Environment Agency, the Study has been undertaken by specialist coastal consultants HR Wallingford. Its aim is to:

'reduce risks to people and the developed and natural environment from flooding and coastal erosion by the provision of technically, environmentally and economically sound and sustainable defence measures'

The Study has involved gathering a vast quantity of data and analysing it to predict wind, wave and water level conditions for storms of different severity. The existing defences have been surveyed and their condition assessed. The response of these defences to various storm conditions has been mathematically modelled. From this, areas requiring improvement have been identified and appropriate solutions recommended based on engineering, economic and environmental criteria.





WHY CARRY OUT A STRATEGIC STUDY?

All too often in the past decisions have been made to resolve a local problem at the coast without considering knock-on effects on adjacent frontages. This Study not only helps to prevent this but also seeks to resolve some of the competing demands in coastal areas by forming a strategic overview of the coastal defences from Folkestone to Rye.



THE COASTLINE

The area has been subdivided, based on coastal processes, land use and defence type, into a series of Management Units. The coastline varies from the high clay and sandstone cliffs at Folkestone to the low lying shingle ridges and farmland of Dungeness and Romney Marsh. The study area is home to approximately 50,000 people and is rich in historical, archaeological and environmental assets. Although defended for many centuries the effects of global warming and climate change are increasing the challenges to provide sustainable coastal defence solutions.

THE PROBLEMS

FLOODING

The large, relatively flat expanse of Romney Marsh means any significant breach or overtopping of the coastal defences could result in widespread flooding, extending as far inland as the Royal Military Canal. All the defences protecting the



Marsh need to be considered together since there are few inland barriers to halt the flow of floodwater. Concentrating on the defences in one area could result in flooding through the 'backdoor' as a result of a breach elsewhere. With parts of Romney Marsh two metres lower than the highest spring tides there is a real risk to life and property from flooding.



EROSION

The cliffs at Folkestone and Sandgate have a history of instability. The coastal defences are an important factor in preventing large scale landslides. If the defences are not maintained and fail, the risk of cliff failure could increase. Large scale cliff movement would extend several hundred metres inland threatening lives, properties and infrastructure.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

To reduce the risk of flooding and erosion seven priority actions have been identified. These are lengths of coastline that need attention within the next five years. It does not mean that areas not mentioned in these priority actions will be abandoned, but simply that the current management is sufficient to maintain an appropriate standard of protection.

1. *Dungeness Foreland*

- further studies are required to investigate whether the current recycling activities are having an adverse effect on the internationally important habitats at Dungeness.
- in the long term the shingle defences along the southern flank should be maintained either through increased recycling or renourishment with marine aggregate.

2. *Littlestone to St. Mary's Bay*

- construct new rock groyne and renourish with shingle
- raise walls locally to provide consistent standard of defence

3. *High Knocke To Dymchurch Redoubt*

- construct new groyne and renourish beach with sand or shingle
- protect seawalls with a rock revetment

4. *Fisherman's Beach to Folkestone Harbour*

- provide a continuous shingle beach along the whole length supplemented by rock groyne and headlands plus local improvements to seawalls

5. *Romney Sands*

- renourish with shingle to raise the beach crest level.

6. *Hythe Ranges*

- maintain existing defences through maintenance works to groyne and rock revetment

7. *Coronation Parade*

- repair seawall and renourish beach

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

This is your opportunity to have your say. The Strategy Study will be out for public consultation until 8th September 2000. Once all the comments have been considered the document will be presented to Shepway District Council and the Environment Agency for adoption, and will then form the blueprint for future management of the coastline between Folkestone and Rye. Attention will then turn to implementing the priority actions.



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CONTACTS

If you would like to discuss the future management of our coastline or wish to comment on the Strategy Study please contact:

Shepway District Council for the coastline from Folkestone to Hythe or the Environment Agency for the coastline from Dymchurch to Rye.

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