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# Suffolk Estuarine Strategies

## Blyth Estuary Strategy

Options Shortlisting Consultation Document  
October 2004



**ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY**

The Environment Agency is the leading public body protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.

It's our job to make sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in today's society, so that tomorrow's generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

Our work includes tackling flooding and pollution incidents, reducing industry's impacts on the environment, cleaning up rivers, coastal waters and contaminated land, and improving wildlife habitats.

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# Introduction

The Environment Agency is responsible for managing the flood risk arising from rivers and the sea, in many areas.

There are several areas in Suffolk that are becoming increasingly susceptible to flooding. The Agency has commissioned the development of long-term strategies to manage the flood defences for three of the Suffolk Estuaries: the Blyth, the Alde and Ore and the Deben. This project is known as the "Suffolk Estuarine Strategies". These flood management strategies are being developed over the next 2 years starting with the Blyth.

The Blyth Estuary Strategy study area stretches from the Harbour mouth to the tidal limit upstream at Blyford Bridge (see Map 1).

With sea levels expected to rise over the next 100 years, and with areas of land behind the current defences several metres lower than the normal high water in the estuary, steps must be taken to ensure that the response to changes to the risk of flooding is appropriate. The production of a flood management strategy will enable us to manage the potential impacts that necessary change will bring and also allow opportunities associated with such change to be identified.

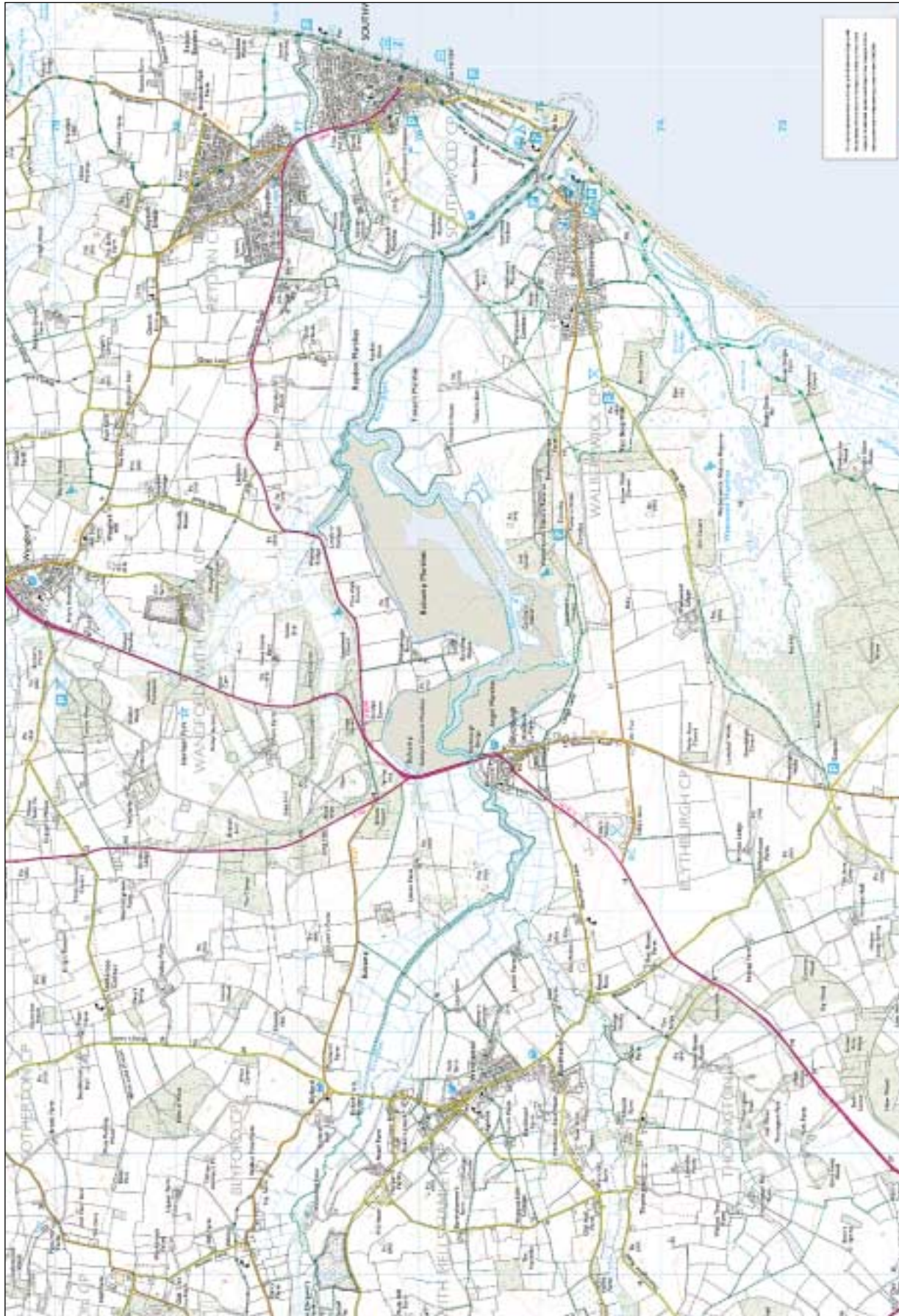
# The Aims of the Shortlisted Estuary Options Consultation

This consultation document marks the latest stage of the option assessment process and follows on from 'The Blyth Estuary Strategy: Options Consultation Document – February 2004'.

After further studies and following on from comments received from consultation to date, this present consultation document sets out the process of moving from a long list of options to a short list of options for the Blyth Estuary.

The objectives of this consultation document are to:

- Illustrate the process of option selection.
- Present the long list of options that have been considered.
- Describe the proposed shortlisted options.
- Seek the views of interested and affected parties and identify the key concerns of individuals and organisations.

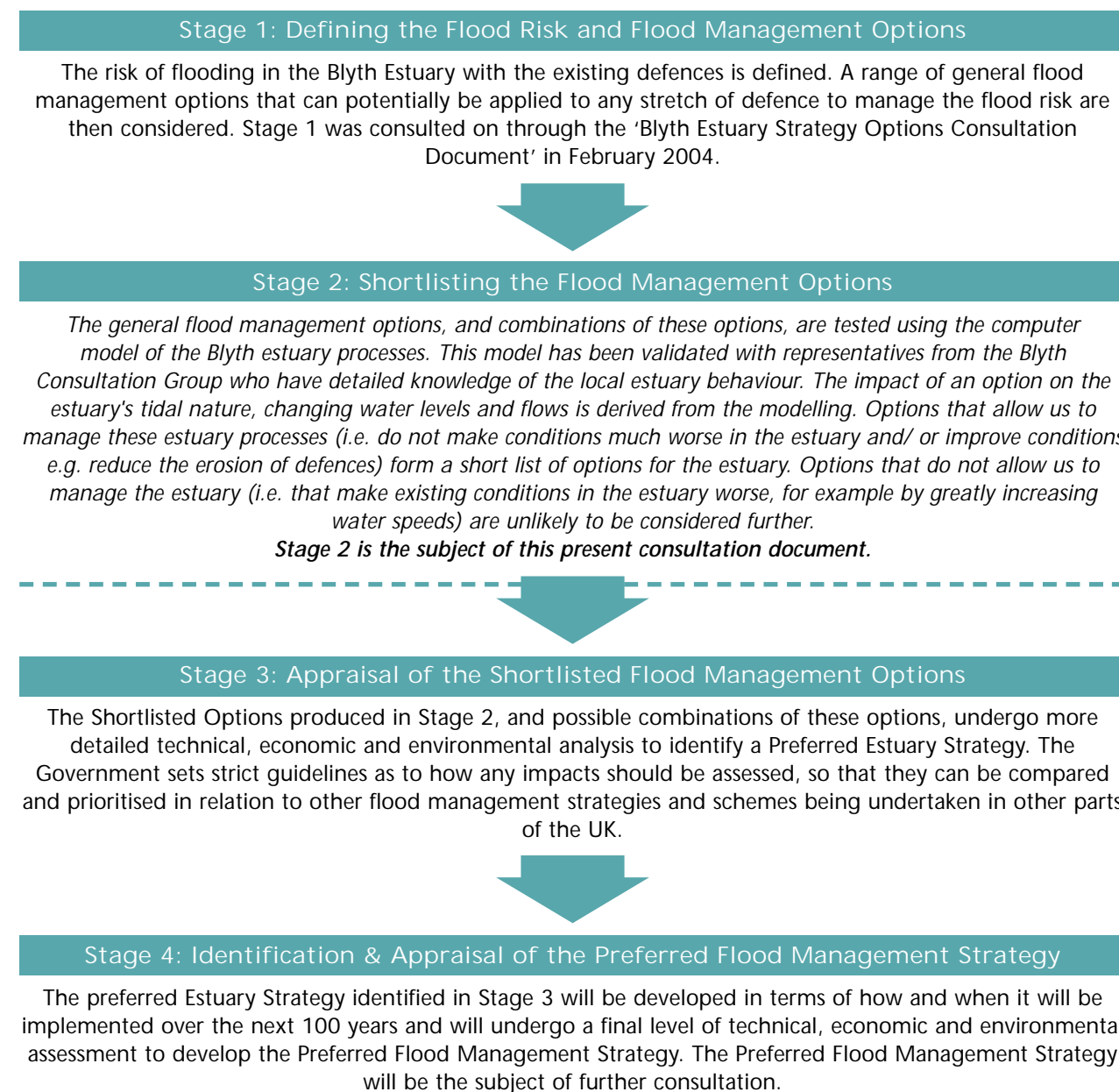


Map 1 The Blyth Estuary

# What is the Approach to Option Selection?

The process of choosing the Preferred Flood Management Strategy for the Blyth Estuary is made up of several stages.

This allows the Agency to check at each stage of strategy development that the appropriate level of detailed study has been given to each option before it is taken forward or ruled out. The process also allows the views of stakeholders to be included at each key stage. This process is set out below:



# The Current State of the Blyth Estuary

The Blyth Estuary is a dynamic entity, constantly straining to shift its course in response to changing environmental factors.

The Blyth is currently an ebb-dominated estuary. That is, the outgoing tide is stronger than the incoming tide. As a result, with each tide, sediment in the estuary tends to be carried out of the estuary. The opposite of this would be a flood-dominated estuary, where sediments are carried into the estuary.

The existing flood defences around the Blyth Estuary are becoming unsustainable to maintain due to changes in the nature of the tides, sea level rise and the forces of erosion. These flood defences currently provide a relatively low level of protection for the majority of agricultural land and grazing marsh that they protect. Statistically, studies have shown that there is a 5-20% chance of this land being flooded in any one year. The condition of many of the flood embankments is currently deteriorating due to

observed increases in the erosion of saltmarsh and in some cases direct erosion of the embankments themselves. As a result the risk of flooding is increasing. Poor ground conditions also mean that the cost of maintaining the defences is increasing, whilst poor access makes maintaining these defences difficult.

A review of the Northern Harbour Arm at the mouth of the estuary was undertaken as part of the Southwold Coastal Frontage Scheme. This review assessed that, assuming there was no further erosion experienced at the Harbour entrance, the Arm would remain in place if maintained for the next 50 years. However, if the Northern Harbour Arm were to fail the shape of the estuary mouth may change.

# What are the Options for the Blyth Estuary?

The previous consultation document set out a number of general flood management options for the Blyth Estuary.

These were: No Active Intervention; Do Minimum; Hold the Line; Advance the Line; and Managed Realignment (see Notes 1 and 2 below).

These options form the basic building blocks for developing a strategy for the Estuary. We have used these building blocks to develop a long list of options for the Estuary, by considering the following:

- Each of the general flood management options applied to the whole of the estuary;
- Each of the general flood management options applied to sections of the estuary.

*We have also taken into account:*

- Comments received during the previous consultation period (Stage 1).

- Options being put forward by the Southwold Coastal Frontage Scheme currently being developed by the Environment Agency in partnership with Waveney District Council. For example, the Blyth strategy has taken into account the proposed Southwold Coastal Frontage Scheme option of a secondary bank on Buss Creek, which follows the line of the present Reydon to Southwold footpath to protect low lying properties to the north. Further details of the Southwold Coastal Frontage Scheme can be obtained from the contacts shown at the end of this document or from the SES website: <http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk>.

*The long list of options is shown in Table 1.*

**Note 1:** Do Minimum involves limited amount of maintenance, which will lead to a reduced standard of defence over time due to the effects of sea level rise. In the short term, this option will be the same as the Hold the Line option as it will involve keeping the defences on their current alignment. In the long term, the eventual deterioration of the defences will result in an impact similar to the No Active Intervention option. Do Minimum has not therefore been considered as a separate option in the model - please refer to 'Hold the Line' for the short term impacts and to 'No Active Intervention' for the long term impacts of this option.

**Note 2:** Managed Realignment and No Active Intervention are similar options in that they both involve allowing the existing defences to deteriorate (naturally or in a controlled way), with the consequent flooding of the land behind the defences. When looking at whether No Active Intervention or Managed Realignment is more suitable for a site, we need to consider factors such as the topography of the land (e.g. is there naturally rising ground behind the defences) and whether any properties would be flooded further away from the site without any intervention (e.g. a secondary defence). We will be investigating this during the next stage of the strategy study.

# Shortlisting the Blyth Estuary Options

Each of the options shown in Table 1 was tested using the Blyth Estuary computer model.

The model has been used to test how these options will affect the whole estuary under present conditions and scenarios of Sea Level Rise and Tidal Surges (like the 1953 flood event).

Options that allow us to manage the estuary processes will be taken forward as 'Shortlisted Options' for the Estuary. These Shortlisted Options are shown by a ✓ in Table 1. Options that do not

allow us to manage the estuary processes are unlikely to be considered further.

Details of the outcome of the modelling exercise are set out in Table 1. These details can also be found on the SES website: <http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk> and will be available at the forthcoming public exhibition.

## The Shortlisted Options

A summary of the implications of the Shortlisted Options is set out in the following pages of this consultation document.

The implications of these options are based on the results of the computer model. An indicative cost has also been included to provide the likely scale of costs associated with the implementation of each option. The implications and costs presented are not based on a detailed technical, economic and environmental assessment; the detailed assessment will be undertaken during the next stage of the study.

For each Shortlisted Option a computer generated figure with a 'birds eye' view is shown. The figures show the area over which high tide and low tide will extend under each option on a day-to-day basis. The area covered by the low tide (the blue areas) shows

the land that will be underwater at all times. The area covered by high tide (the brown areas) shows the land that will be periodically under water i.e. the intertidal area. The figures do not show the extent of flooding that would occur under an extreme event; we will investigate this during the next stage of the study, once we have confirmed which options should be taken forward for detailed assessment.

The vertical scale of the figures has been deliberately exaggerated so that the shape of the land can be seen more clearly; this does not affect the water levels shown.

Table 1 Details of Impacts of the Flood Management Options on Estuary Processes

General Flood Management Options		Impact on Estuary Processes	
<b>No Active Intervention Options</b>	No Active Intervention throughout the Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As defences fail, more water will enter &amp; leave the estuary each tide.</li> <li>Increase in flows &amp; erosion.</li> <li>Increase in pressure on existing defences &amp; reduction in their lifespan.</li> <li>Widening of the harbour mouth.</li> </ul> <p><i>No Active Intervention is the baseline option against which other options must be assessed</i></p>	✓
<b>Hold the Line Options</b>	Hold the Line throughout the Estuary	<p>In the short term, no effect on water levels or water speeds. As sea levels rise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in upstream water levels.</li> <li>Faster flows in Harbour area.</li> <li>Increased pressure on existing defences &amp; reduction in their lifespan.</li> </ul> <p><i>Although this option does not work with estuary processes in the long term, this option was clearly stated as a preference during the previous round of consultation</i></p>	✓
<b>Advance the Line Options</b>	Barrier at either: Blythburgh Bridge, Bailey Bridge, or the Harbour Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No effect on water levels or water speeds in the estuary under normal tidal conditions.</li> <li>No protection to downstream areas during surge or storm events.</li> </ul>	✗
	Barrage at either: Blythburgh Bridge, Bailey Bridge, or the Harbour Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in water levels &amp; water speeds in the estuary under all conditions.</li> <li>Increased erosion upstream of barrage, and estuary would silt up behind and erode in front of the barrage.</li> </ul> <p><i>Although this option does not provide any flood defence benefit in the estuary it could, in the right circumstances, be used to manage water levels for nature conservation benefit</i></p>	?
	Advance the Line by Narrowing the Estuary at the Bailey Bridge Advance the Line by Making the Estuary shallower at the Bailey Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the short term, reduction in erosion upstream of the Bailey Bridge. However, due to the life expectancy of the structures, in the medium to longer term these options need to be combined with other options to continue to reduce pressure on existing defences - see Advance the Line + Hold the Line Combinations on page 10.</li> </ul>	✓
<b>Managed Realignment</b>	Managed Realignment throughout the Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to No Active Intervention above, although this would allow us to manage which defences fail first, thus controlling the flood risk in the estuary.</li> </ul>	✓

Proposed for Shortlisting?

**Note:** A barrier is a defence which can be raised and lowered to reduce the flood risk upstream of the defence. A barrier does not affect the day to day estuary use or tidal conditions, it only reduces the effects of surge events. A barrage is a permanent defence structure within the estuary. The barrage stops the tide moving upstream of the structure and will prevent navigation. A barrage provides flood protection to all land upstream of the structure from tidal surges but not fluvial flows. The barrage does not provide any protection to land areas downstream of the barrage.

Table 1 continued

Various Combinations of General Flood Management Options

Impact on Estuary Processes

<b>No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment + Hold the Line Combination Options</b>	Hold the Line throughout the Estuary + New Channel through Bulcamp Mudflats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in water levels upstream of Bulcamp Marshes.</li> <li>Increase in flood impacts of surge events.</li> </ul>	✗
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment Upstream of Harbour Mouth + Hold the Line of the Harbour Mouth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in upstream water levels &amp; water speeds as amount of water able to enter &amp; leave the estuary each tide is controlled.</li> <li>Reduction in pressure on existing defences &amp; increase in their lifespan.</li> </ul>	✓
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Robinson Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deflection of water entering the estuary on to the marshes, reducing upstream water speeds.</li> <li>Reduction in pressure on existing defences upstream (greater than under the option to Hold the Line throughout the estuary only) &amp; increase in their lifespan.</li> <li>No effect on upstream water levels.</li> </ul>	✓
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Town Marsh + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same effect as option above.</li> <li>In addition, flooding Town Marsh would result in greater pressure &amp; erosion of the North Harbour Arm because under this option flooding would occur behind the existing defences.</li> </ul>	✗
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Tinkers Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the amount of water entering &amp; leaving the estuary each tide.</li> <li>Increase water speeds through the Harbour mouth &amp; channel.</li> <li>Increase pressure on Town and Robinson Marshes defences &amp; therefore reduce their lifespan.</li> </ul>	✗
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Tinkers Marshes + Excavation of a channel through Tinkers Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, except that the channel through Tinkers Marsh would make the incoming tide move more quickly upstream.</li> <li>This would increase water speeds &amp; therefore put more pressure on the defences at the Harbour mouth &amp; channel, reducing their lifespan.</li> </ul>	✗
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Reydon Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere	<p>Reydon Marshes is a very large area and is approximately half a metre below the existing low water level. As a result, flooding this area would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greatly increase the amount of water entering &amp; leaving the estuary each tide.</li> <li>Increase water speeds through the Harbour mouth &amp; channel.</li> <li>Increase pressure on all the other defences in the estuary &amp; reduce their lifespan.</li> </ul>	✗
	Widening (narrow/ medium/ large) of the Harbour entrance only + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The outgoing tide would become even more dominant than at present, resulting in more sediments being lost from the estuary than at present.</li> <li>As a result, the erosion of the existing defences will increase &amp; their lifespan will be reduced.</li> </ul> <p><i>NOTE: The option 'Widening (narrow/ medium/ large) the Harbour entrance + Hold the Line' does not allow us to manage the estuary processes on its own. However, this option may have benefits when combined with any of the above options. This will be investigated during the next stage of the strategy study.</i></p>	?
	No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Town Marsh and Robinson Marshes + Widening of the Harbour entrance + Hold the Line elsewhere	<p>As above.</p> <p><i>NOTE: The model shows that the larger the mouth of the estuary is made, the greater the loss of sediment. This is because widening the mouth of the estuary does not address key areas of pressure and erosion</i></p>	✗

Proposed for Shortlisting?

Table 1 continued

Various Combinations of General Flood Management Options

Impact on Estuary Processes

Proposed for Shortlisting?

<b>Advance the Line + Hold the Line Combination Options</b>	Advance the Line by Narrowing the Estuary at the Bailey Bridge + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Restriction on the amount of water entering &amp; leaving the estuary upstream of the Bailey Bridge.</li> <li>● Reduction in high tide water levels, water speeds &amp; erosion upstream &amp; downstream of the Bailey Bridge.</li> <li>● Reduction in pressure on the existing defences &amp; increase in their lifespan.</li> <li>● Making the estuary <i>shallower</i> may encourage the estuary to change from an ebb-dominated estuary to a flood-dominated estuary, which would encourage sediments to stay in the estuary.</li> </ul>	
	Advance the Line by Making the Estuary shallower at the Bailey Bridge + Hold the Line elsewhere		
<b>Advance the Line + No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment + Hold the Line Combination Options</b>	Advance the Line by Narrowing the Estuary at the Bailey Bridge + No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Tinkers Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Restriction on the amount of water entering &amp; leaving the estuary upstream of the Bailey Bridge.</li> <li>● Flooding Tinkers Marshes would further reduce water levels, water speeds &amp; erosion upstream of the Bailey Bridge (compared to the option above).</li> <li>● Greater reduction in pressure on existing defences upstream &amp; increase in lifespan of existing defences compared to the above option.</li> <li>● Making the estuary <i>shallower</i> may encourage the estuary to change from an ebb-dominated estuary to a flood-dominated estuary, which would encourage sediments to stay in the estuary.</li> </ul>	
	Advance the Line by Making the Estuary shallower at the Bailey Bridge + No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Tinkers Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere		

### Option 1: No Active Intervention throughout the Estuary

This option would involve ceasing all maintenance, repair and renewal work on the defences throughout the Blyth Estuary. The defences would continue to be monitored and assessed until they eventually failed. Areas of land currently protected from tidal flooding would no longer be protected. Figure 1 shows the area over which high spring tide water levels would extend under this option.



Impacts behind defences	Impacts in front of defences	Indicative Cost
More frequent flooding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● agricultural land</li> <li>● residential properties</li> <li>● heritage assets</li> <li>● footpaths, roads and infrastructure</li> <li>● abstraction points</li> <li>● freshwater sites designated as Special Protection Areas for nature conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Loss of the Southwold Denes and/or Walberswick sand dunes</li> <li>● Gain in intertidal habitats</li> <li>● Collapse of the Harbour channel and Harbour mouth defences resulting in a loss of moorings</li> <li>● Water speeds in the harbour area will increase, making navigation more difficult</li> </ul>	Low

## Option 2: Hold the Line throughout the Estuary

This option would involve maintaining the existing flood defences on their current alignment throughout the estuary. The change that this option would have on the low and high tides is shown in Figure 2. The low and high tide levels under Option 2 are similar to the current low and high tide levels in the Estuary.



Impacts behind defences	Impacts in front of defences	Indicative Cost
Protection of the following assets to the same standard as at present (assuming that the defences are raised to account for sea level rise): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● agricultural land</li> <li>● residential properties</li> <li>● heritage assets</li> <li>● footpaths, roads and infrastructure</li> <li>● abstraction points</li> <li>● freshwater sites designated as Special Protection Areas for nature conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Saltings will experience continued erosion</li> <li>● Water speeds in the harbour area will increase, making navigation more difficult</li> </ul>	High

## Option 3: No Active Intervention/ Managed Realignment Upstream of the Harbour Mouth + Hold the Line of the Harbour Mouth

This option would involve undertaking work on the present harbour arms at the mouth of the estuary (excluding the present Harbour wall upstream). Elsewhere in the estuary No Active Intervention would be applied as in Option 1. The change that this option would have on the low and high tides is shown in Figure 3.



Impacts behind defences	Impacts in front of defences	Indicative Cost
More frequent flooding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● agricultural land</li> <li>● residential properties</li> <li>● heritage assets</li> <li>● footpaths, roads and infrastructure</li> <li>● abstraction points</li> <li>● freshwater sites designated as Special Protection Areas for nature conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protection of Southwold Denes and Walberswick sand dunes</li> <li>● Gain in intertidal habitats</li> <li>● Water speeds in the harbour area will increase, making navigation more difficult</li> </ul>	High

## Option 4: No Active Intervention/ Managed Realignment at Robinson Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere

This option would involve an option of No Active Intervention at the stretch of defence that protects Robinson Marshes from flooding and maintaining the defences on their current alignment elsewhere in the estuary. The change that this option would have on the low and high tides is shown in Figure 4.



Impacts behind defences	Impacts in front of defences	Indicative Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Permanent loss of Robinson Marshes</li> <li>● In the medium to long term, protection of the following assets to the same standard as at present:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– agricultural land</li> <li>– residential properties</li> <li>– heritage assets</li> <li>– footpaths, roads and infrastructure</li> <li>– abstraction points</li> <li>– freshwater sites designated as Special Protection Areas for nature conservation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protection of Southwold Denes and Walberswick sand dunes</li> <li>● In the medium to long term, loss of moorings along Robinson Marshes channel section</li> <li>● Gain in intertidal habitats at Robinson Marshes</li> <li>● Elsewhere, saltings will continue to experience erosion</li> </ul>	Medium

## Options 5a and 5b: Advance the Line by Narrowing the Estuary or Making the Estuary Shallower at the Bailey Bridge + Hold the Line elsewhere

Options 5a and 5b would involve either narrowing the channel or raising the bed of the estuary at the Bailey Bridge upstream of the present harbour moorings and maintaining the defences on their current alignment elsewhere in the estuary. The change that these options would have on the low and high tides is shown in Figure 5.



Impacts behind defences	Impacts in front of defences	Indicative Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protection of assets behind defences upstream and downstream of the Bailey Bridge:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● agricultural land</li> <li>● residential properties</li> <li>● heritage assets</li> <li>● footpaths, roads and infrastructure</li> <li>● abstraction points</li> <li>● freshwater sites designated as Special Protection Areas for nature conservation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No impact on existing harbour and moorings below the Bailey Bridge</li> <li>● Navigation may be improved downstream of the Bailey Bridge, however navigation upstream of Bailey Bridge may be prevented</li> <li>● Making the estuary shallower may result in the creation of a flood dominated estuary which will encourage more sediment to stay in the estuary</li> </ul>	Medium

## Options 6a and 6b: Advance the Line by Narrowing the Estuary or Making the Estuary Shallower at the Bailey Bridge + No Active Intervention/Managed Realignment at Tinkers Marshes + Hold the Line elsewhere

Options 6a and 6b would involve either narrowing the channel or raising the bed of the estuary at the Bailey Bridge in combination with either No Active Intervention or Managed Realignment at Tinkers Marshes and maintaining the defences on their current alignment elsewhere in the estuary. The change that these options would have is shown in Figure 6.



Impacts behind defences	Impacts in front of defences	Indicative Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent loss of freshwater sites designated as Special Protection Areas for nature conservation</li> <li>Protection of assets behind defences upstream and downstream of the Bailey Bridge:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agricultural land</li> <li>residential properties</li> <li>heritage assets</li> <li>footpaths, roads and infrastructure</li> <li>abstraction points</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No impact on existing harbour and moorings below the Bailey Bridge</li> <li>Navigation may be improved downstream of the Bailey Bridge, however navigation upstream of the Bailey Bridge may be prevented</li> <li>Gain in intertidal habitat at Tinkers Marshes</li> <li>Making the estuary shallower may result in the creation of a flood dominated estuary which will encourage more sediment to stay in the estuary</li> </ul>	Medium

## What happens now?

During the next stages of the strategy study (Stages 3 and 4, shown on Page 4) the shortlisted options, and any combination of these options, will be subject to detailed technical, economic and environmental assessment to identify a preferred overall strategy for the Estuary.

The assessment will be undertaken in line with Government guidelines for flood management strategies. The outcome of the model will be used to assist us in making these decisions, as will any comments received during this round of consultation.

Once a Preferred Strategy for the Estuary has been identified, the lifespan of the strategy options and their timing for implementation will then be

determined to produce the most sustainable flood management plan for the estuary over the next 100 years.

Consultation with organisations and individuals who are interested in and /or affected by the Blyth Estuary Flood Management Strategy will continue to be undertaken at key stages throughout the programme as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 | Key stages of the programme

Stage in Programme	Consultation Opportunity	Timescale
Introduction to the Blyth estuary study	Initial consultation with the local community, landowners, statutory authorities and other parties	COMPLETED
Initial appraisal of options for the Blyth estuary	Presentation of the various General Flood Management Options in the form of a public consultation document. Consultation with organisations and individuals who expressed an interest in response to the previous consultation	COMPLETED
Shortlisting of options for the Blyth estuary	Presentation of the shortlisting of Estuary Options in the form of a public consultation document and public exhibition. Consultation with organisations and individuals who expressed an interest in response to the previous consultation document.	Autumn 2004 – current round of consultation
Appraisal of preferred strategy for the Blyth estuary	Presentation of the preferred strategy in the form of a public consultation document and public exhibition. Consultation with organisations and individuals who expressed an interest in response to the previous consultation document.	Winter 2004/5
Publication of Blyth estuary strategy	Advertisement in local newspapers. Report available for public comment.	Winter 2004/5
Approval of Blyth estuary strategy	Period for review of strategy by statutory consultees and approval sought from Defra.	From Winter 2004/5
Blyth estuary strategy implementation	Implementation of the Blyth Estuary Strategy review findings and recommendations.	Following approvals

# Consultees

The following groups will be contacted during the present and future consultations, as well as the general public:

Anglian Water plc.	River Blyth Navigation Committee
Anglian Wildfowlers Association	RNLI, Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Blyford Parish Council	RYA, Royal Yachting Association
Blythburgh Parish Council	RSPB, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Blyth Forum	Southwold Golf Club
British Association for Shooting and Conservation	Southwold Harbour Users group
British Canoe Union	Southwold Parish Council
British Telecom	Southwold Sailing Club
British Trust for Ornithology	Southwold Town Council
CEFAS, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Country Land and Business Association	Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Project
Countryside Agency	Suffolk County Anglers Association
Crown Estate	Suffolk County Council
Defra, Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Suffolk Preservation Society
Department for Transport	Suffolk Underwater Studies Group
East Anglia Fisherman's Association	Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Eastern Sea Fisheries	Transco
East Suffolk Water Ski Club	Walberswick Common Lands Charity
English Heritage	Walberswick Parish Council
English Nature	Wangford and Henham Parish Council
Environment Agency	Waveney District Council
Essex and Suffolk Water Company	Waveney (Southwold) Harbour Authority
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Wenhaston with Mellis Hamlet Parish Council
NFU, National Farmers Union	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
National Grid	As well as,
National Monuments Record Centre	Internal Drainage Boards
National Trust	Local conservancy bodies
Norfolk and Suffolk Anglers Association	Local landowners and businesses
Ramblers Associations	Local clubs
RDS, Rural Development Service	Voluntary and special interest groups

# The SES and Blyth Strategy Consultation Groups

## The Suffolk Estuarine Strategies Overarching Consultation Group

An overarching consultation group for the Blyth, Alde and Ore and Deben estuaries has been set up to provide guidance on the requirements of UK law, local government policy, planning issues and initiatives in the region and provide comment on project objectives for the strategy. The group is made up of representatives of the District and County Councils, English Heritage, English Nature, the National Farmers Union, Royal Yachting Association and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Management Unit.

## The Blyth Estuary Strategy Consultation Group

A consultation group made up of representatives of the local community has also been set up to provide guidance and information about local issues and provide comment on local objectives to be considered in the development of the strategy. The Blyth Consultation Group includes representatives of the District, Parish and Town Councils, English Nature, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, local landowners, RNLI, the local wildfowling syndicate, sailing and yachting interests, the River Blyth Navigation Group, Waveney Harbour Authority, watersports users, Southwold Harbour Users Group and the Suffolk Coasts and Heath Management Unit.

## The Suffolk Estuarine Strategies Website

All the information presented in this and previous documents for the Blyth Estuary, and information on the Alde and Ore and Deben strategies can be found on the SES website – <http://www.suffolkestuaries.co.uk>. The website includes a Glossary of all the terms used in the consultation documents. Alternatively, if you would like a copy of the Glossary to be posted to you, please let us know.

The website also provides you with the opportunity to comment online, so if you will find it easier to do this or you want to save the cost of a postage stamp please log on and let us have your comments and queries online.

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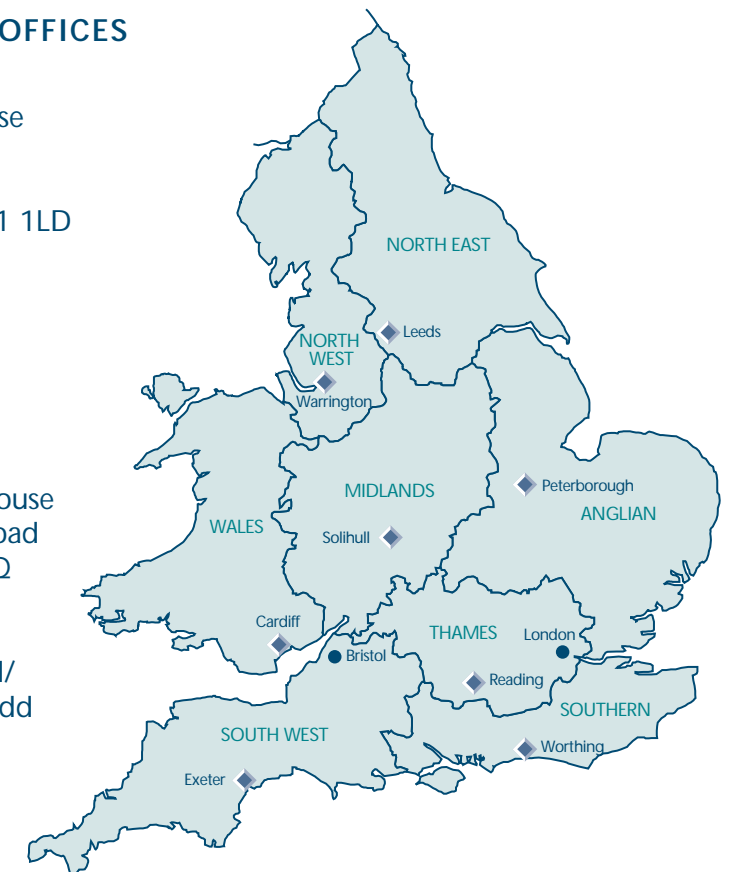
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