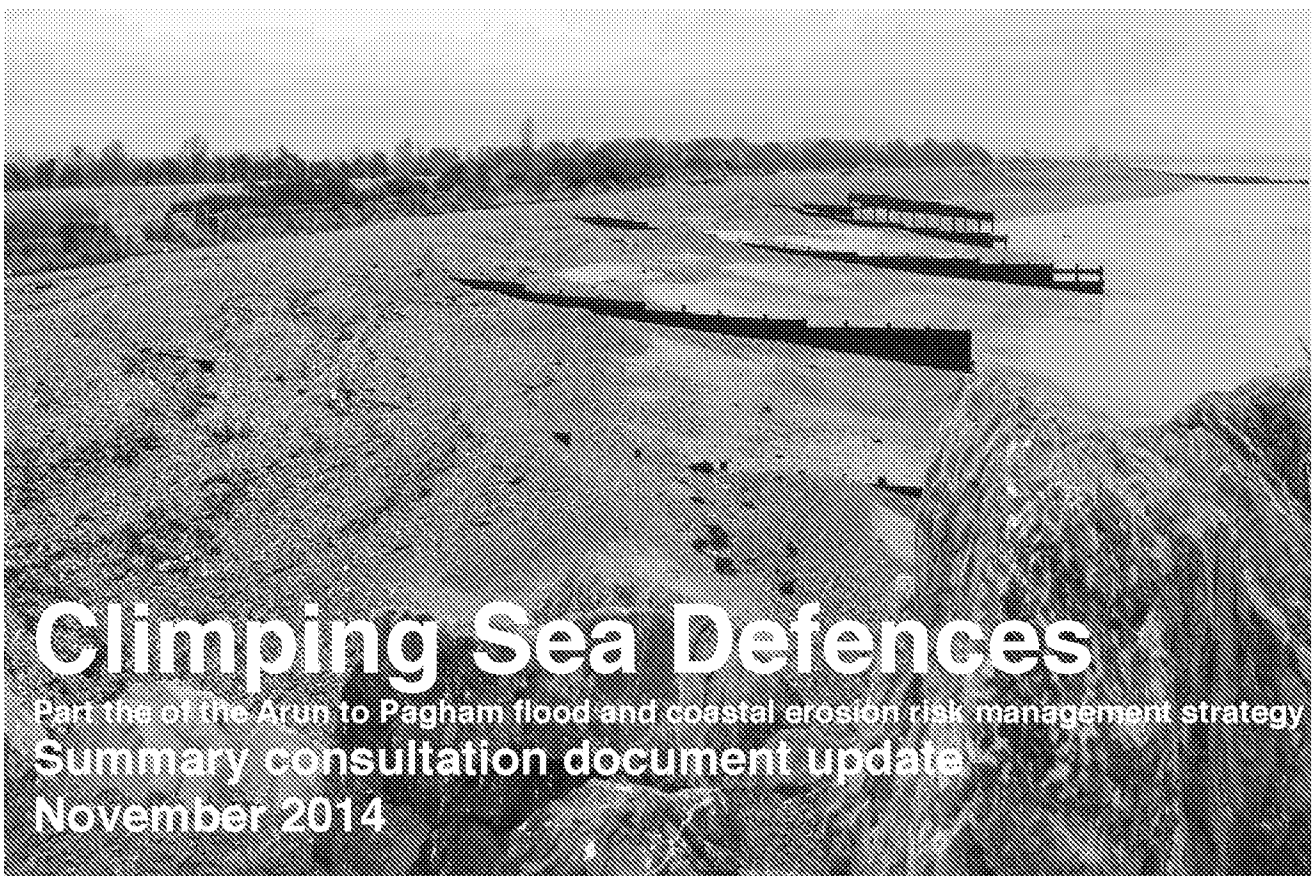




Environment
Agency

Planning for the future



Climping Sea Defences

Part the of the Arun to Pagham flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy
Summary consultation document update
November 2014

Introduction

The Environment Agency and Arun District Council have been working together to develop the Arun to Pagham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, to manage flood and erosion risks along the coastline between the River Arun and Pagham. We have looked at different options for managing these risks and weighed up the associated costs, benefits and environmental impacts of each over the next 100 years.

We first produced a draft strategy in 2009 and consulted on the findings with people affected. We have now revised the draft strategy for the Climping frontage in response to the comments we received.

These are our key messages:

For the Climping frontage only

- We have changed our recommendation for Climping beach from Withdraw Maintenance to Do Minimum. However, the overall economic situation has not fundamentally changed. There is very limited justification to invest central Government funds to continue to maintain the defences.
- Some works proposed are unlikely to be affordable from current budgets. We have to prioritise our limited resources to those areas with more properties at risk.
- We have assessed that Climping beach has a limited remaining life as a flood defence.

For the rest of the strategy area, excluding the Climping frontage

- We have not changed our recommendations for the coastline between Pagham and Elmer, and for the west bank of the River Arun from the coast to Ford. These are the same as we presented in the 2009 draft strategy.

This booklet relates to flood risk to land, property and infrastructure behind Climping beach and the River Arun west bank only. We describe what the change in draft recommendation means, why it has changed and how you can have your say.



Climping beach

When we consulted with you in 2009, our recommendation for the Climping frontage was to 'withdraw maintenance' because the economic analysis identified that it would cost more to maintain the defences than the cost of damage prevented.

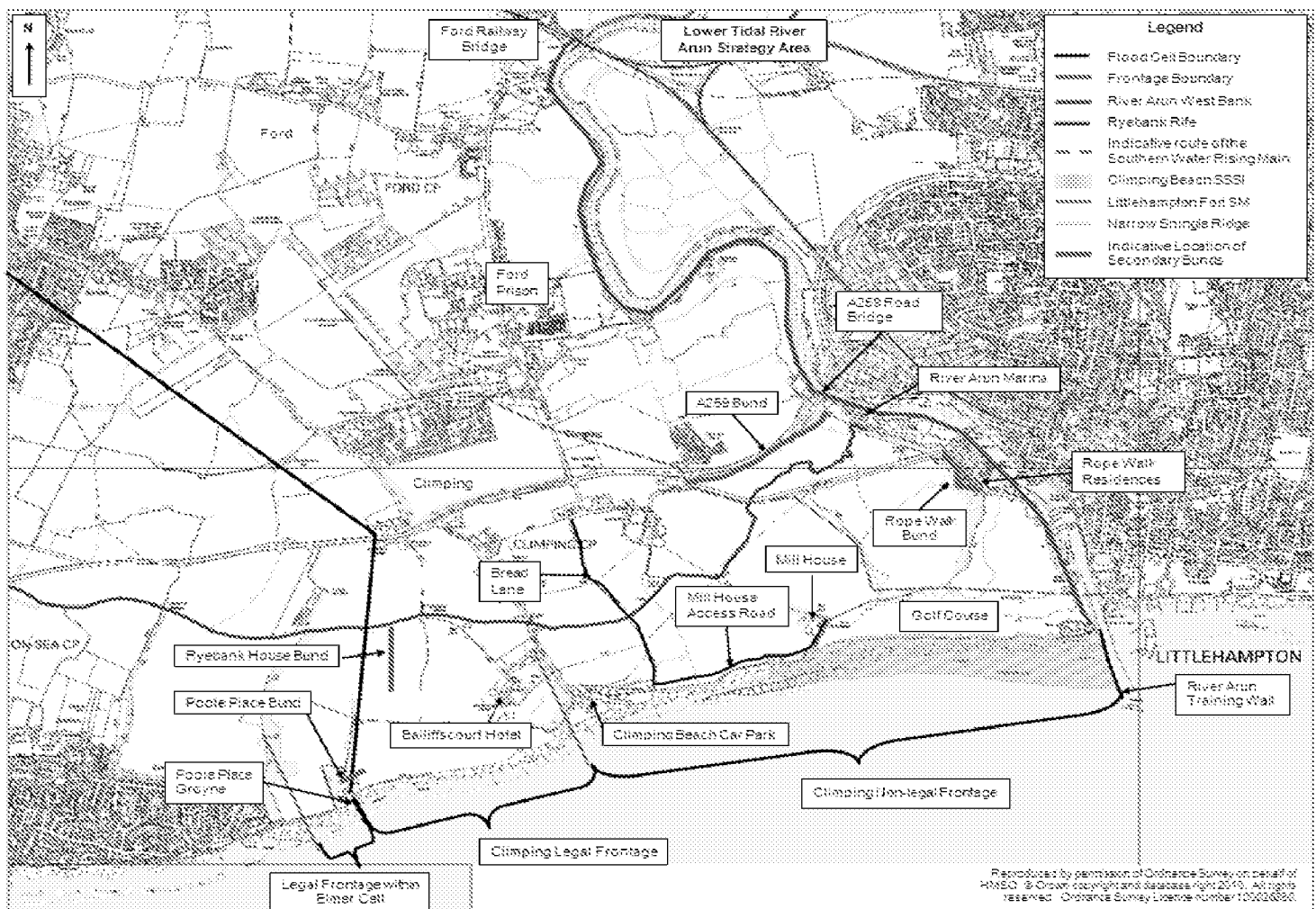
We have now completed a new, more detailed analysis of the beach which has shown us that the beach is more stable than we first thought, although it has a limited remaining life as a flood defence.

What's different?

Our new work has led to a change in our draft recommendation for the Climping frontage to 'Do Minimum'. This means that we will try to maintain the existing defences to prolong their life, a process we call "patch and repair".

The key difference between our previous and latest recommendations is the time when we 'withdraw maintenance'.

We will continue to maintain the westerly section of the frontage which is considered separately because of historic legal agreements.



Key Plan: Climping and the River Arun West Bank

We have concluded that if minor repairs are made to the defences they could remain economically viable for between 15 and 35 years. However, compared to other locations with more properties at risk, we anticipate that funding these works each year will be a significant challenge.

The draft strategy recommends that we should try to maintain the defences for as long as we can, but some of the works needed may be unaffordable within current budgets. We may have to prioritise our limited resources to communities elsewhere.

We can only justify carrying on work here as long as the economic benefits exceed the costs. We will monitor the costs to determine when it is no longer economically viable or sustainable for us to continue with this work.

There is the possibility that a severe storm or series of storms will breach the defences or cause damage that is beyond economic repair in a much shorter (or longer) timescale than mentioned above.

Funding

Paying for maintenance works at Climping will continue to be a challenge. We will make the most of the limited resources we have but we will have to make difficult choices when prioritising our work in the years ahead.

Importantly, we are unlikely to have available funding for all the work we would like to do on the beach, even if it remains economically worthwhile.

Under Government rules for investment, there is no economic justification for major works to repair or replace the groynes in the future.



If a major storm were to cause significant damage to the defences which would cost more to repair than the benefits that would be gained, then we could not justify repairing the damage and we would cease further maintenance immediately.

Annual maintenance costs for the beach vary from year to year depending on the weather experienced and damage caused to the existing structures. Under Government rules for investment, if the costs outweigh the calculated benefits, we will no longer be able to use our permissive powers to carry out any work on the beach or groyne.

Working with the community

Listening to the community

From 1 June 2009 to 31 December 2009, we consulted local residents on the draft strategy. We met many local people to explain our draft recommendations and answer their questions.

Over 300 people came to speak to us at our exhibitions across the strategy area. We received over 200 written responses by letter or email.

The feedback we received from the community challenged us to take another look at our work at Climping. The work this required took longer than anticipated but it was important to get things right.

We have now revised our draft recommendation based on a new analysis of the beach. However, the overall economic picture at Climping has not fundamentally changed.

Once the strategy is finalised we will plan with the community how it will be implemented.

Implementation

We will inform the community and our Local Council partners at the time we need to consider stopping our maintenance permanently. At this point, we will use the guidance in force at the time. The current guidance is the Environment Agency's Protocol for the Maintenance of Flood and Coastal Risk Management Assets (October 2013). A copy of this can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-asset-maintenance-the-environment-agencys-approach>

We will help the community at Climping to adapt when we can no longer carry out maintenance work. We will discuss these issues with the landowners and affected parties, offer advice on practical ways for them to maintain the defences themselves and advise on any consents or permissions they may need.

We will continue to support the community in investigating opportunities collaboratively to fund measures to extend the life of the current defences.

We want to help anyone who will be affected by the proposed changes to understand fully:

- what is happening and why
- how will it affect them
- their rights and responsibilities
- what they can do for themselves to reduce flood risk
- how they need to prepare for the changes that will happen
- how to contact us
- how we can help

It will be a matter for the landowners and affected parties to decide what they do next and what action is best for them.

River Arun western bank including Rope Walk

We have included this section because the community at Rope Walk is at flood risk from both the River Arun and the sea. Our recommendation for the River Arun West Bank frontage has not changed and remains as 'Sustain' a 1 in 10 year standard of protection.

Low lying land between Climping beach and the River Arun provides a potential route for flood water if the sea defences were breached. Our recommendations for the River Arun west bank take both sources of flooding into account.

188 residential properties are currently at risk during a flood event we statistically expect to see once in every 200 years (0.5% chance of occurring in any one year). Current risk management relies on the continued maintenance of the existing river defences, as well as the sea walls, groyne fields and beach levels.

This means that the height of the current river defences will need to be raised over time, and new in-land defences will be required in the future.



River Arun western bank, at Rope Walk

The strategy recommends the construction of new flood walls south of the A259 road bridge and works to sustain the existing tidal defences north of the A259 to Ford Railway Bridge.

We also propose that a new flood embankment is built to protect Rope Walk from the sea should the Climping beach defences breach in the future.

These works would continue to provide communities on the River Arun west bank with the same protection against flooding as they have today, taking into account climate change and sea level rise in the future. We estimate that the works needed over the next 15 years would cost £9m.

Government rules for investment require a combination of Central Government Grant in Aid and local funding to enable the works to go ahead. The majority of this funding will need to be found locally with only a small contribution likely to be available from Central Government.

We will work with our Local Council partners and other stakeholders to secure the funding solutions needed. However, implementing the works in the short term is likely to be unaffordable under current funding arrangements.

Find out more

What is next?

You can contact us to request a copy of the latest version of the Arun to Pagham Strategy document and further supporting information. Please call us on [REDACTED] or email the project team at [REDACTED]. We will post hard copies on request.

Alternatively, hard copies are available to view at:

- Environment Agency office, at Chatsworth Road in Worthing;
- Arun District Council Civic Centre, at Maltravers Road in Littlehampton

Have your say

Please send your feedback to us as soon as possible and no later than 12 January 2015. You can do this in a number of ways:

Online

Complete our e-consultation at [REDACTED]

Email us at [REDACTED]

Face to face

We are attending a Clymping Parish Council meeting on 19 December 2014 at 7.00pm. Please contact the parish council for further information.

Post

Write to us at: SSD Enquiries, Environment Agency, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, BN11 1LD.

Finishing the Strategy

Completing the strategy is a priority for the Environment Agency and Arun District Council. It is an important step in developing projects to manage coastal flood and erosion risk between the River Arun and Pagham.

Once finalised, the strategy will support the investment case needed to direct available funds to our coastal communities. Securing funds to maintain and repair the existing defences will be a challenge. The strategy provides risk management authorities with clarity on the technical issues that can be used as a framework for negotiating and securing contributions for future works.

We welcome your comments on these proposals. In particular, we are keen to understand any concerns or questions you may have so that we can respond to them where possible within the final strategy or through the discussions around implementation that will follow.

We will consider all of these before making our final decisions in early 2015. We will keep you informed of our progress and share the outcomes of this consultation with you.

Would you like to find out more about us,
or about your environment?

Then call us on

0300 555 1234 (Mon-Fri 8-6)

Calls to 03 numbers cost the same as calls to standard geographic numbers
(i.e. numbers beginning with 01 or 02).

email

or visit our website

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60** (24hrs)

floodline **0845 988 1188**