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Ipswich Flood Defence Management Strategy Study

October 2002



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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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Environment Agency
Rio House
Waterside Drive, Aztec West
Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD
Tel: 01454 624400 Fax: 01454 624409

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Introduction

Ipswich is situated in Suffolk where the Rivers Orwell and Gipping meet (Figure 1). The rivers run through the centre of the town, through industrial and residential areas and the port. Our study area extends from Norwich Railway Line Bridge downstream to the Orwell Bridge, where the estuary widens. A map of the study area is shown on page 3.



Figure 1 Location of Ipswich

What is a Flood Defence Management Strategy?

The Environment Agency are responsible for flood defences in Ipswich. The Government encourages operating bodies such as the Environment Agency to consider flood defence in an integrated and sustainable way by looking at the whole river system rather than individual sections. A long-term plan, known as a flood defence management strategy, is developed and sets out the policy and objectives for flood defence taking into account a broad range of local interests and issues. Within this framework we can make decisions about providing the most appropriate flood defences and this approach allows us to manage the whole flood defence system more effectively.



Failed defence at Velocity Control Structure

Why are we developing a Strategy for Ipswich?

Within Ipswich there are flood defences which protect the town on both sides of the rivers for a total length of 11km. There are also five river control structures crossing the river channel that regulate river water levels and the amount of water passing through them. The majority of the flood defences were constructed some 20 to 25 years ago and are at or nearing the end of their useful life. Some sections of the flood defences require renewal in the next five years.

The Environment Agency, prompted by growing concern over several flood susceptible areas in Ipswich, commissioned the development of a flood defence strategy.



Figure 2 Plan View of the Study Area

What is the Approach to the Study?

Work on the study so far has focussed on fully defining the flood defence problems in Ipswich and identifying key issues relevant to these. We are now entering the phase of the study aimed at the analysis of options and the identification of a preferred Strategy. This will be based upon an evaluation of the options against a range of Strategy objectives that include technical, environmental and economic considerations.

In order to keep the residents of Ipswich and other interested parties informed of progress and allow input to the development and selection of Strategy options we intend to undertake consultation at the key stages shown in Table 1.

Table 1 | Outline of the Consultation Process

| Purpose of Consultation | Proposed Issue Date |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Introduction to the study | October 2002 – this document |
| Comment on potential Strategy options | December 2002 |
| Identify preferred Strategy | February 2003 |
| Conclusions of the study | June 2003 |

Ipswich Steering Group

A Steering Group has been set up to provide guidance and information about local issues and initiatives. The Steering Group is made up of representatives of the Borough and County Councils, EEDA, ABP Ipswich, English Nature, Anglian Water and DEFRA. It is believed that this close working relationship will result in a Strategy that will benefit everyone affected by flood defence issues in Ipswich.



Stokebridge Wharf

Who will be consulted about the Study?

The following groups will be contacted during the present and future consultations.

Statutory Consultees

- Babergh District Council
- Countryside Agency
- Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs
- Department for Transport
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Mid Suffolk Borough Council
- Office of Deputy Prime Minister
- Suffolk County Council

Non Statutory Consultees

- Anglian Water
- Associated British Ports, Ipswich
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- British Canoe Union
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Eastern Sea Fisheries Commission
- East of England Development Agency
- Fox's Marina

- General Public
- Gipping Angling Preservation Society
- Greenways Project
- Inland Waterways Association
- Ipswich Canoe Club
- Ipswich Waterfront Steering Group
- Local Conservation Groups
- Local Chamber of Commerce
- National Grid
- Neptune Marina
- Orwell Country Park
- Persimmon Homes
- Railtrack/Network Rail
- River Action Group
- RSPB
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- Sustrans
- Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust

Consultation Contact

If you have any queries or issues you wish to discuss, please contact:

Binnie Black & Veatch
Grosvenor House
69 London Road
Redhill
Surrey
RH1 1LQ

Mary Froud, Environmental Scientist
Telephone (01737) 856 445
E-mail: froudmbv.com

or

Environment Agency
(Anglian Region)
Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough
PE2 5ZR

Rod Hicks, Project Manager
Telephone (01733) 371 811
E-mail: rodney.hicks@environment-agency.gov.uk

CONTACTS:

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY HEAD OFFICE

Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD

Tel: 01454 624 400 Fax: 01454 624 409

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REGIONAL OFFICES

ANGLIAN

Kingfisher House
Goldhay Way
Orton Goldhay
Peterborough PE2 5ZR
Tel: 01733 371 811
Fax: 01733 231 840

MIDLANDS

Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Solihull B91 1QT
Tel: 0121 711 2324
Fax: 0121 711 5824

NORTH EAST

Rivers House
21 Park Square South
Leeds LS1 2QC
Tel: 0113 244 0191
Fax: 0113 246 1889

NORTH WEST

PO Box 12
Richard Fairclough House
Knutsford Road
Warrington WA4 1HC
Tel: 01925 653 999
Fax: 01925 415 961

SOUTHERN

Guildbourne House
Chatsworth Road
Worthing
West Sussex BN11 1LD
Tel: 01903 832 000
Fax: 01903 821 832

SOUTH WEST

Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter EX2 7LQ
Tel: 01392 444 000
Fax: 01392 444 238

THAMES

Kings Meadow House
Kings Meadow Road
Reading RG1 8DQ
Tel: 0118 953 5000
Fax: 0118 950 0388

WALES

29 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0TP
Tel: 029 2077 0088
Fax: 029 2079 8555



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE

0845 9 333 111

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
F L O O D L I N E

0845 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60



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