

Managing flood and coastal erosion risk

An update for England

July 2015

The Environment Agency has produced its fourth annual national flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) report for England, covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

What is the national FCERM report?

['Managing flood and coastal erosion risks in England: 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015'](#) provides a high-level summary of flood and coastal erosion risk management during the year, covering all sources of flood and coastal erosion risk, and reflecting how risk management authorities and other partners are working together to deliver the National FCERM Strategy.

The report is primarily for risk management authorities, as well as other groups and individuals with an interest in the management of flood and coastal erosion risks at a national scale. It fulfils the Environment Agency's duty to report on flood and coastal erosion risk management in England under section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the National FCERM Strategy.

What is in the report this year?

The year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 saw some important challenges and achievements in flood and coastal erosion risk management in England.

The Environment Agency, local councils and internal drainage boards completed the largest programme of capital works in any one year. A total of 111 new flood and coastal risk management schemes were completed during 2014 to 2015, reducing flood risk for 31,700 households and reducing coastal erosion risk for a further 1,000.

This brings the total number of households benefiting from investment to reduce risk between April 2011 and March 2015 to 177,300, exceeding the 165,000 target for the period by more than 12,000.

This was achieved against a backdrop of one of the biggest ever flood and coastal risk management recovery programmes in England to repair assets damaged by the tidal surge and storms of winter 2013 to 2014. Risk management authorities, councils, communities and contractors worked together so that, by the end of October 2014, all affected defences provided pre-winter 2013 standards of protection on a permanent or temporary basis, benefitting over 200,000 households.

In December 2014, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the first 6 year capital funding settlement to reduce flood and coastal risk in England. Risk management authorities worked together through the year to develop a programme that will benefit from £2.3 billion of government grant-in-aid between 2015 and 2021 and provide better protection to 300,000 households. The longer term settlement provides a stable base for collaborative working, efficiency and securing greater investment from partners.

Coinciding with publication of the 6 year programme, the Environment Agency presented a new analysis of the long term costs and benefits of flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. The study presents a new analysis of the costs and risks of flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. Optimum levels of investment will be between £750 million and £800 million per annum over the next ten years, rising to between £850 and £900 million in the longer term in today's prices. The government's investment plans for the next 6 years align closely with this assessment. Planned investment is forecast to reduce risk by about 5% by 2021, and subsequent investment at the optimal level would reduce it by some 12% in the longer term.

Other information reported for the year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 includes:

- the Environment Agency invested £818 million on flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. Of this, £510 million was capital investment, including £151 million distributed to local councils and internal drainage boards. Defra provided £752 million in grant-in-aid
- in addition to the Defra grant, regional flood and coastal committees raised £32 million in local levy. risk management authorities including internal drainage boards, water and sewerage companies and Highways England made significant investments that are contributing to reducing flood risk and improving resilience
- an estimated £55 million worth of financial and in-kind contributions was raised towards flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes during the year, taking the total partnership funding raised since April 2011 to £134 million
- in addition to reducing risk for households, investment in capital schemes completed during 2014 to 2015 improved protection for over 11,300 commercial properties and 100,000 hectares of agricultural land, of which 48,000 hectares were classified grade 1 or grade 2
- risk management authorities created and improved a record 3,718 hectares of priority habitat.
- for planning applications in 2014 to 2015 for which the Environment Agency was made aware of the outcome, 96.4% of planning outcomes were in line with Environment Agency flood risk advice. For applications for development of new homes, over 98% of 77,125 new homes had planning outcomes in line with Environment Agency advice
- the Environment Agency partnered with lead local flood authorities (LLFAs) to publish and consult on draft flood risk management plans, which are required by the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 to fulfil EU Floods Directive obligations. This first cycle of flood risk management plans enables strategic flood risk planning inland and at the coast, bringing together information within existing Environment Agency and local authority plans. The final flood risk management plans are due to be published in December 2015

How is the report put together?

The Environment Agency compiles the annual report using information from a number of sources:

- numerical and statistical information collected by the Environment Agency
- information collected directly from LLFAs on their progress in developing local flood risk management strategies and asset registers, and carrying out section 19 flooding investigations
- direct contributions from risk management authorities and other partners, including the Association of Drainage Authorities (ADA) and internal drainage boards (IDBs); Highways England; water and sewerage companies; coastal groups; regional flood and coastal committees (RFCCs); the National Flood Forum; and Defra.

Where can I get further information?

'Managing flood and coastal erosion risks in England: 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015' is published on GOV.UK [here](#)

Contact: emer.oconnell@environment-agency.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency