

# Poole and Wareham

## Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

### Briefing Note 2: November 2011

The Environment Agency is developing this strategy to manage tidal flood and erosion risk between Durlston Head and Hengistbury Head, including Poole Harbour over the next 100 years. We are working in partnership with Purbeck, Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset County Councils, as well as Natural England.

We are doing this to work out the best way to protect communities and the environment as climate changes and sea levels rise.

#### New data and advice

We are evidence based and always use the most up to date and accurate information.

In February 2011 we issued **new national tide level data**. This data provides the accepted still water sea levels during extreme tide conditions – those that might occur less frequently than once a year. This data has been developed from a national research project, using observed levels from around the UK coastline. It has been extensively checked and reviewed. It is available using Keyword SC060064 at <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk>.

In September 2011 we issued **new advice on adapting to climate change**. This advice is available as product code GEHO0711BTZU-E-E at <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk>. It is based on the latest information from UK Climate Projections <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk>.

#### Impacts

We are assessing the impact of the new data and advice on our work. In general it will reduce our previous estimates of long term flood risk and impact our economic and environmental assessments and how we manage flood and erosion risk in the future.

Because of this new work our formal consultation on draft options has been moved to Winter 2012/13.

Climate change impacts on flood and coastal erosion are a challenge and risk for Defra, the Environment Agency, Councils and others. These impacts are well documented and include sea level rise; the increase in intensity, severity and frequency of coastal storms, and rainfall affecting river flooding and surface water systems in urban areas.

The UK Climate Projections give predicted climate information for the UK as accepted by Government into the next century. Projections of future changes to our climate are provided, based on simulations from complex climate models. The purpose of providing information on the possible future climate is to help those needing to plan how they will adapt to help society, and



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the environment, to cope with a changing climate. This includes the Environment Agency and is reflected in our plans for the Poole Bay, Poole Harbour and Wareham Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, ensuring we plan not only for today but for the future as well.

## More Information

More information can be found on the website:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31736.aspx>

## Contact us

For specific questions relating to the above please contact the project team by email:

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