

Newsletter

Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme

Reducing tidal flood risk to 1,800 Properties



Welcome



This is our first newsletter to keep you up to date with progress on the construction of the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme. Team Van Oord is designing and building the project for the Environment Agency and East Devon District Council.

Once complete 1,400 homes and 400 businesses in the town will be better protected from tidal flood risk by new flood walls, ground raising, flood gates and property flood resilience measures along the sea front and estuary-side.

The £12million tidal defences will reduce flood risk from the current 4 per cent chance of happening in any year (1 in 25 year) to 0.5 per cent chance of happening in any year (1 in 200 year). The design takes into account the impacts of climate change and sea level rise taking the best approach that can be improved in future years as needed.

We plan to publish the Exmouth Tidal Defence Scheme newsletter each month.

Environment Agency and East Devon District Council

The Environment Agency is working together with East Devon District Council on the project to improved Exmouth's tidal defences. The need for the work was initially identified as part of the Exe Estuary flood risk management strategy, with the scheme and funding being developed between the two organisations since 2015.

'We are delighted to start construction of the new defences that will reduce tidal flood risk in Exmouth' said Rob Butler, Environment Agency project manager.

'We recognise that the work will be disruptive at times, however our contractors will try to minimise impacts as much as possible so that everyone can continue with their daily lives.'

One of the first jobs that has already taken place was the sad, but necessary, removal of trees along Royal Avenue.

'We understand people will be concerned and upset by the loss of some of these trees. We worked hard to try and avoid removing them where we could, and we will be planting at least the same number of trees again when construction works are complete. We appreciate that it's not possible to replace mature trees on a like for like basis, however we will be replacing with established trees, and will try to match the size of the removed trees where possible.'

'We scheduled this work to avoid disturbing legally protected nesting birds that could nest in the vegetation/trees.' - David Turner, East Devon District Council Project Manager.



Registered site
www.ccscheme.org.uk

Planning Update

We are pleased to report that planning permission for the Exmouth tidal defence scheme was granted by East Devon District Council in early January 2019.

Two specific areas of the project, Morton Crescent and Alexandra Terrace Junction, were granted outline planning while the details were being worked up. The detailed planning application for Morton Crescent was submitted on 13 March and is now live on the planning portal here:

<https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?>

We will be holding a public event for the Alexandra Terrace Junction before the detailed planning application is submitted. We will let you have the date, time and venue for this as soon as we can.



Storm surges increase the risk of tidal flooding along the Esplanade



Meet and Greet Day

Team Van Oord hosted a meet and greet at the Sea Cadets building on 27 February.

Around 100 people attended to find out how the construction of the scheme will be carried out.

Representatives from the Team Van Oord design and build organisations, Environment Agency and East Devon District Council answered questions and discussions with attendees.

Thanks to everyone who came along, those who helped make the day a success and also to Tony Griffin for enabling our use of the Sea Cadets building.



A busy day at the office for the project team.

Ecology

The Exe Estuary is designated for over-wintering birds. It is a RAMSAR Site, Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). To avoid disturbance to internationally important bird species the construction works which are on and next to the foreshore, where the birds forage, will need to be carried out between the months April and September when these birds are not present.

Eelgrass is a type of seagrass found on the Exe, and is a main food source for birds such as Brent geese (a protected species on the estuary). It is easily damaged and very slow growing. We will ensure that this is protected during construction.



Key Programme Dates

Early April 2019

Works start on defence wall and ground raising in the Royal Avenue / nature reserve area.

Late April 2019

Works start on the existing sea wall south of the Esplanade.

June 2019

Works start on gabions adjacent to "The Gut" in the Camperdown Terrace area.

July 2019

Works start on piling around the gut from the Sea Cadets to the Sea Scouts in the Camperdown Terrace area.

September 2019

Works start on secondary defences on the north side of the Esplanade (The Grove to Premier Inn).

Scheme completion 2021.

Traffic Management

In early April 2019 Construction Works Start in the Royal Avenue area (Duck Pond). The following restrictions will be in place:

- Restricted vehicle access to Royal Avenue at the recreation ground end from April to September 2019. Vehicular access to slipway and parking will be closed for durations whilst works are being carried out in the area. Pedestrian access to recreation ground will be maintained. (Note: This access will be open for the Exmouth Festival period)
- Royal Avenue northbound lane closure with traffic light control for approximately 4 weeks
- Triangular section of the Imperial recreation ground long stay car park will be closed from April to September 2019
- Lorry park closed at north end, access only for construction traffic and MSMarine boatyard for duration of the scheme
- East Devon Way closed from Carter Avenue to LED leisure centre

Traffic Management Cont'd

During periods when there is restricted access for campervans at Imperial recreation ground, there will be signage in place to divert these customers to other facilities in the town.

In late April 2019 construction works start on the existing sea wall south of the Esplanade. The following restrictions will be in place:

- Approx. 50m length of westbound lane closure with traffic light control. Works will progress from east to west, starting from the Mamhead slipway
- A section of the lower walkway will be closed from Mamhead slipway to the beach access steps ('Temple Steps') opposite Alexandra Terrace junction

See Attached Plan for more details.

Site Office Locations



Our site office will be located in the lorry park at the north end of Royal Avenue car park.

Public Liaison Officer



Jayne Johnson is the public liaison officer (PLO) for the construction phase of the scheme

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www.gov.uk/government/publications/exmouth-tidal-defence-scheme/exmouth-tidal-defence-scheme

