

A CIWEM Conference in association with Defra

**MAKING SPACE FOR WATER:
TOWARDS A NEW GOVERNMENT STRATEGY FOR
FLOOD & COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT IN
ENGLAND**

**OCTOBER 20th 2004
SOAS, LONDON**

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Background

A Strategy for Flood and Coastal Defence was last published in 1993 and now needs revising.

Over the last year or so, Defra has led Government work towards developing a new strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England that:

- Provides the strategic direction for the next ten to twenty years, with commitments to review progress regularly and to set issues in the context of the longer term.
- Looks wider than flooding from rivers and the sea to consider all aspects of flood and coastal erosion risk management, taking a holistic approach.
- Sets flood and coastal erosion risk management firmly in the context of Defra's aim of sustainable development.
- Looks at a broad range of drivers for change including climate change and planning and development pressures.

Partners across Government departments and agencies, associations and stakeholder groups have already been engaged in this strategy development exercise. The Government launched a public consultation exercise on 29 July 2004 in order to seek views on the proposals from as many different stakeholders as possible.

The full consultation document is available to download from <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/waterspace/index.htm>. Paper copies are available from Defra Publications (08459 556000; defra@iforcegroup.com) by quoting reference PB 9792. Further information, including a series of background documents, are available from the strategy webpages via <http://www.defra.gov.uk/envirom/fcd/policy/strategy.htm>.

The consultation exercise will close on 1 November 2004 and, subject to the outcome, the Government hopes to publish a new strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England in early 2005.

Aims and objectives of this conference

Many of the issues raised in the consultation document and proposals for this new strategy will be of interest and significance to a wide range of policy-makers, deliverers and other interested parties. This conference falls towards the end of the consultation exercise. It aims to provide a forum for a broad range of stakeholders to debate key sets of issues raised in the consultation document, in order to raise awareness, promote understanding and work towards consensus. It is assumed that participants will have previously seen the consultation document. The objectives of this conference are to:

- Clarify the drivers, vision and aim for the proposed new strategy
- Provide an overview of the scope of the proposed new strategy
- Consider proposals for assessing flood and coastal erosion risks in the context of sustainable development
- Discuss the ways in which flood and coastal erosion risk management can work with natural processes
- Debate the role of land-use planning and a move towards integrated drainage planning, particularly in urban areas
- Consider proposals for sustainable long-term coastal management
- Highlight the importance of flood resilience and resistance measures, flood warning and raising public awareness
- To help inform your response to the consultation

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- 09:00 Registration and refreshments
09.45 Welcome to the conference on behalf of CIWEM
David Ramsbottom, CIWEM & HR Wallingford
- 09.50 **Chair: David Richardson**, Deputy Chief Engineer, Flood Management Division, Defra
Chairman's welcome
- 09:55 **Introducing the proposals for a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England**
Flood Management Strategy Unit, Defra
- 10.15 Session 1: Assessing and managing flood and coastal erosion risks in the context of sustainable development**
This session will focus on questions posed in the consultation document about the strategic approach to risk assessment
Presentations: **Noel Cleary**, Defra & **Edmund Penning-RowSELL**, Middlesex University
10:15 Discussion
10:30
- 11.00 **Session 2: Making space for water by working with natural processes**
This session will focus on proposals in the consultation document related to managed realignment, the role of washlands and catchment-based land management approaches and ways to achieve multiple objectives
Presentations: **David Collins**, Defra & **Ruth Davis**, RSPB
11:10 Discussion
11:45 Buffet and refreshments
- 12.30 Chair: **Noel Cleary**, Head of Flood Management Strategy Unit, Defra
Session 3: Making space for water through land-use planning and integrated drainage management
This session will focus on questions posed in the consultation document in relation to planning and development policy, urban drainage, sewer flooding and groundwater flooding
Presentation: **Lester Hicks**, ODPM & **Jacobs Tompkins**, Water UK
12:45 Discussion
- 13.15 **Session 4: Making space for water by living with a changing coastline**
This session will focus on questions raised in the consultation document about the effectiveness of current coastal management and strategic planning arrangements compared to some possible alternatives.
13:15 Presentation: Regional Engineer, Flood Management Division, Defra & **John Riby**, Scarborough Borough Council & LGA Coastal Special Interest Group
13:30 Discussion
- 14:00 Sweet course and refreshments
- Chair: **David Rooke**, Head of Flood Risk Management, Environment Agency
Session 5: Making space for water through awareness and preparedness
This session will focus on issues raised in the consultation document about flood resilience and resistance measures, raising public awareness and flood warning schemes.
14:45 Presentation: **Mike Johnson**, ODPM & **Tom Crossett** Chairman, National Flood Forum
- 15:00 Discussion
15:30 General discussion pulling together the themes of the day.
16:00 Chairman's summary
16:15 Close and refreshments

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The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) is the leading professional and qualifying body for those who are responsible for the stewardship of environmental assets. The Institution provides independent comment, within a multidisciplinary framework, on the wide range of issues related to water and environmental management and sustainable development.

The Venue: The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists.

Accommodation: There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book; this is also available on the CMS website www.coastms.co.uk

The Organisers: The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS) on behalf of CIWEM.

Conference fee:

Fee	Fee £155	VAT£ 27.12	£182.12
NGO, Charity, Academic rate	Fee £ 95	VAT £16.62	£111.62
Student rate [See below]:	Fee £ 40	VAT £ 7.00	£ 47.00

Group rates: Contact CMS 01531 890415.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking
- All non-CIWEM-member conference delegates will receive CIWEM Environmental Partner grade membership to the end of December 2005. They will also receive free copies of our magazine and have the opportunity to be involved in local CIWEM events and activities. For more information, contact membership@ciwem.com, or see www.ciwem.com.

Conditions:

- Cheques should be made payable to 'CMS'.
- **They should be sent to CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU.**
- BACS & Credit cards cannot be accepted.
- **Invoices can be provided** on request.
- Confirmation of registration and receipts will be forwarded on payment.
- Payment should be completed **BEFORE** the event; otherwise entry may be refused
- No refunds will be made for cancellation less than ten working days before the meeting.

Further details from Bob Earll: Phone / Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: www.coastms.co.uk or Email bob.earll@coastms.co.uk

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