

Longney

(Note: the northern most part of the Longney and Epney parish [north of Hill Farm] is included and discussed as part of the Elmore options. Epney [south of Longney Crib] is included in the Fretherne with Saul

Existing defences and probability of flooding

At Longney, most properties are protected to at least a 1 in 200 chance of tidal flooding. Properties at Waterend and the agricultural land at Longney currently have about a 1 in 100 chance of tidal flooding.

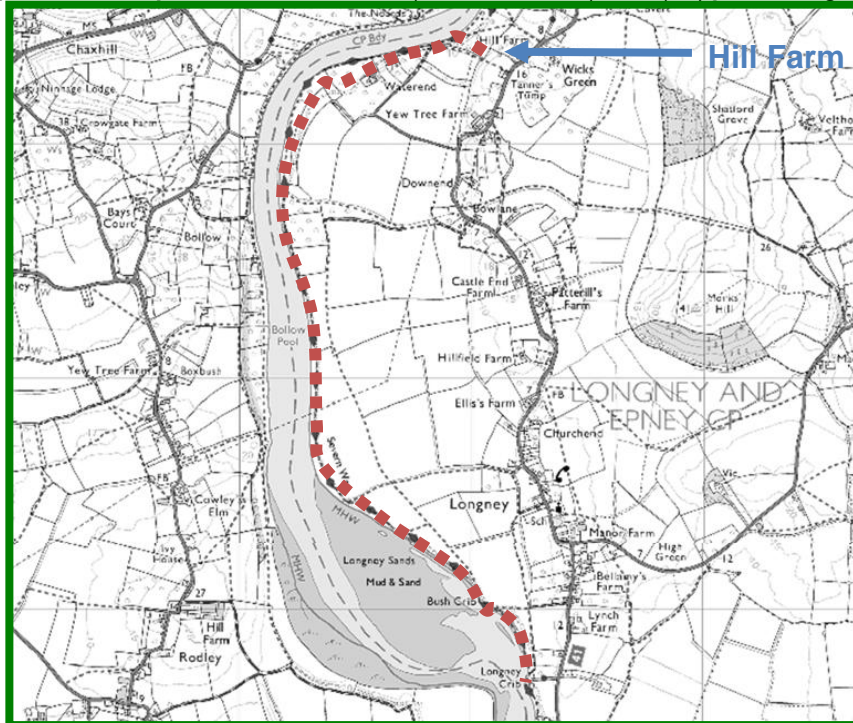
At their current levels, the defences will become less effective toward the end of the century as sea levels rise and storminess increases. This is likely to have the greatest impact on agricultural land.

A sea level rise of 0.3m would result in most properties having a 1 in 100 chance of flooding in any year. Properties at Waterend and agricultural land would be at increased risk.

Sea level rise note

The UKCP09 medium emissions scenario projects approximate sea level rises of 0.1m by 2030, 0.3m by 2060, and 0.7m by 2110 and an approximate increase in fluvial flow of 25% by 2110.

Currently sea level is rising at about 2 to 2.5mm a year. If this rate were to continue then sea level rise would be less than the amount projected by the UKCP09 medium emissions scenario.



What can be done?

The EA intends to continue to maintain the existing defences well into the medium to long term future, depending on actual sea level rise experienced.

The EA carrying out maintenance on the defences depends on the annual availability of public funding. Please see the Supporting Information for further explanation of EA maintenance and funding.

How these options were reached

The defence is in good condition and so is likely to require minimal maintenance in the short term.

The long length of the defence and the relatively low number of properties benefiting from it means that the cost of increasing the height of the entire length of the defence on its current line would be more than the economic benefits. Under the existing funding policy, the entire length of the defence is unlikely to be raised using public funding.


What could be done in the future?

If a point is reached when the EA is unable to continue to maintain the entire length of defence and/or a tipping point is reached in terms of increased flood frequency there are a number of options that can be considered.

Those options may include:

- Working in partnership between public authorities, landowners and community to maintain and/or improve the existing defence.
- Landowners taking on responsibility for the maintenance and/or improvements of the defences (subject to the appropriate consents or permissions being obtained).
- Doing nothing and allowing the standard of protection to reduce as condition of existing defences deteriorate
- Landowners, community and the EA exploring a voluntary managed realignment scheme to construct new defences, provide an improved standard of protection for properties and allow some land to be used for habitat creation.
- Adapting properties, property access and land use to become more resilient to flooding.

Key

 Existing defences referred to in text

Ongoing local discussions

The EA, landowners, community and other organisations will seek to explore further what could be achieved by working in partnership to maximise maintenance with the funding that is available each year.

The EA will seek to work with the community and landowners to address concerns about erosion at Longney Crib.

The EA is continuing to make improvements to the way that flood risk is communicated on its website and to raise understanding within the community of their flood risk and the way that this is presented. On request, the EA can supply specific flood risk information to property owners that can be passed on to insurance companies.