

---

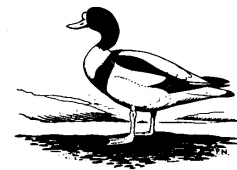
# **TEES TIDAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

## **COMMENTS BY THE TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB ON THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S SCOPING REPORT**



TEES ESTUARY LOOKING NORTH

Photo by Ted Parker



© Teesmouth Bird Club

**April 2005**

RPT004/ECP

## TEES TIDAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - COMMENTS BY THE TEESMOUTH BIRD CLUB ON THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S SCOPING REPORT

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report outlines the Teesmouth Bird Club's (TBC) response to the Scoping Report on the Tees Tidal Flood Risk Management Strategy issued by the Environment Agency on 15th March 2005.
- 1.2 The Scoping Report was reviewed by the TBC's Conservation Sub Committee on 12th April 2005 and the comments contained herein reflect the collective views of the Club.
- 1.3 This document contains our general comments on the Scoping Report, as well as more detailed views based on the format of the Agency's questionnaire.
- 1.4 We understand that, at this stage, the Strategy is at a broad level and the TBC would welcome the opportunity to be involved as further, more detailed studies emerge.

### 2.0 GENERAL COMMENTS

- 2.1 We found the Scoping Report to be clear and informative and clarified the key issues well, particularly concerning the flood defence options and the key environmental issues.
- 2.2 During our discussions, a number of general queries arose on which the TBC would be grateful for clarification, viz:
- What is the interrelationship between this Strategy and the Tyne to Flamborough Head SMP?
  - What were the criteria used for defining the 'study area'. We are unclear on this aspect, as some areas around the Tees Estuary appear to have been omitted, such as Coatham Marsh at Warrenby and the Coatham Enclosure at Redcar. Has a specific flood return period been used?
  - Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out yet and, if not, is one planned?

### 3.0 DETAILED COMMENTS BASED ON THE AGENCY'S QUESTIONNAIRE

- 3.1 The TBC's detailed comments in response to the Agency's questionnaire are tabulated below:

QUESTION	TBC's COMMENTS
Q1 Are you aware of any other strategic studies in the Teesside area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>'Coastal Arc Strategy 2004-2007'</i> (Tees Valley Partnership): this document looks at enhancing the tourism and other development potential of the coastal area from Hartlepool to Staithes.</li> <li>• <i>'Redcar and Cleveland Tourism Strategy 2003-2008'</i>.</li> </ul>

QUESTION	TBC's COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>'Hartlepool Tourism Strategy and Action Plan'</i>.</li> <li>• <i>'Tees Valley Tourism Strategy'</i>.</li> <li>• <i>River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan.</i></li> <li>• <i>South Gare Study</i> (commissioned jointly by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT) and the then British Steel to look at the tourism, recreation and conservation potential of South Gare, Redcar.</li> <li>• <i>Environmental Statement for the Teesside Offshore Windfarm</i> (Entec UK Limited).</li> </ul>
Q2 Are you aware of any other geomorphological or coastal habitat studies undertaken for the Tees Estuary?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scoping Study for the new Teesport Deepwater Dock (Royal Haskoning) – currently being undertaken.</li> <li>• Hydrological studies for the new RSPB Saltholme Reserve, Teesmouth (RSPB, Newcastle – contact: Kevin Bayes).</li> <li>• Hydrological studies of Seaton Common (Hartlepool Borough Council).</li> </ul>
Q3 Are there any other consultees we should approach?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durham Bird Club (Conservation Officer: John Olley, 11 Alston Way, Meadowfield, DURHAM, DH7 8XF (Tel 0191 3789874)).</li> <li>• Hartlepool Natural History Society (Russell McAndrew, 5 Thornhill Gardens, HARTLEPOOL, TS26 0HX (Tel 01429 277291).</li> </ul>
Q4 Are you aware of any features that could influence the pattern of flooding?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic problem with a blocked/collapsed, major culvert near Port Clarence (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).</li> <li>• Permanently high water levels in Dormans Pool and Saltholme Pools, Teesmouth as a result of a ruptured water main (INCA).</li> </ul>
Q5 Are you aware of any other areas that are susceptible to flooding, including activities such as transport?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A178 north of Port Clarence sometimes floods as a result of high water levels in Saltholme Pools on each side of the road.</li> <li>• Periodic inundation of the dune system at South Gare, causing flooding of the former lagoon area.</li> <li>• Coatham Marsh, Warrenby.</li> </ul>
Q6 Are you aware of any other causes of flooding?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Q4 above.</li> <li>• Possible failure of the Teesside Whitewater Course valves – these are closed at high tides but if the valves fail, water could pass up the channel and flood Portrack.</li> </ul>
Q7 Do you know of any other defences, including those that may be privately owned?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand dunes on South Gare foreshore.</li> </ul>
Q8 Do you consider that this document has captured the major environmental issues within the study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See para 2.1 above.</li> <li>• SNCI's in Cleveland under review by TVWT (draft document</li> </ul>

QUESTION	TBC's COMMENTS
<p>area? Do you know of any other sites awaiting designation?</p> <p>Are you aware of any cases where species or habitats have been affected by flooding or flood management activities within the study area? Please state your knowledge of both positive and negative effects?</p> <p>Are you aware of any initiatives which seek to restore floodplain or water-dependent habitats in the study area?</p> <p>Are there any other historic or archaeological sites that are vulnerable to the effects of flooding or flood management activities?</p> <p>Do you know of any other planned leisure, recreational, housing, commercial or industrial developments on the estuary or within the natural floodplain?</p> <p>Do you know of any other land or water level management initiatives within the study area?</p>	<p>recently prepared). This has yet to be consulted upon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB Saltholme Reserve is due for completion in 2008 and may be designated.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inundation of Greenabella Marsh (north of Greatham Creek) in 1978. This was beneficial for birds, especially waders.</li> <li>• The periodic inundation of the dune system at South Gare, creating saline lagoons within the dune slack. These inundations were beneficial and created habitat for wading birds. The lagoons have now dried up and inundation hasn't occurred for many years.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB Saltholme (due to open 2008): major reed-beds, lake, lagoons, etc.</li> <li>• Creation of filtering reed beds by ICI to the east of the A19 north of Portrack.</li> <li>• Creation of a new wader lagoon on Greenabella Marsh by INCA, immediately to the north of Greatham Creek, Teesmouth. Water inflow/outflow is controlled by valves. Completed about 3-4 years ago.</li> <li>• ICI Wilton site – water bodies created for wildfowl.</li> <li>• The CATS site on the Seal Sands road, Teesmouth – freshwater marshland.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relict salt workings on the ICI Brinefields and Seaton Common.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal Arc Strategy (Hartlepool BC and Redcar &amp; Cleveland BC).</li> <li>• Coatham Enclosure, Redcar (multi-use development adjacent to the seafront).</li> <li>• Tees Forest Strategy.</li> <li>• South Gare Study (TVWT).</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSPB Saltholme Reserve.</li> <li>• Seaton Common – English Nature/Hartlepool Borough Council.</li> <li>• Holme Fleet lagoon, Cowpen Marsh, Teesmouth – INCA.</li> <li>• Saline Lagoons to the north and south of Greatham Creek on the east side of the A178.</li> </ul>
<p>Q9 Do you know of any other policies and plans that may be relevant to the strategy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See above.</li> </ul>
<p>Q10 Do you know of any partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teesmouth Bird Club/RSPB/Tees Valley Wildlife</li> </ul>

QUESTION	TBC's COMMENTS
opportunities that could be developed?	Trust/Environment Agency.
Q11 We do not have the plans marked *. Can you help us obtain these?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No.</li> </ul>
Q12 Are there any other options we should consider?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We can't think of any that you haven't covered at this stage.</li> </ul>
Q13 Are there any other impacts, opportunities or constraints resulting from the options?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See para 3.2 below.</li> </ul>

3.2 Our specific comments on the options outlined in Section 6 of the Scoping Report are as follows:

OPTION	TBC's COMMENTS	ACCEPTABLE
Do Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acceptability of this option from an ornithological point of view depends upon the site/cell concerned and TBC would need to be consulted on specific sites. This is a highly unlikely option.</li> </ul>	√
Do Minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a poor option ornithologically and we can see no positive benefits, apart from possibly in the short-term.</li> </ul>	X
Defences - Along Existing Alignment or Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This would ultimately result in the loss of habitat elsewhere.</li> </ul>	X
Defences – Seaward of Existing Defence or Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the worst-case scenario, as it will reduce the area of inter-tidal land through land reclamation.</li> </ul>	X
Defences – Landward of Existing defence or Frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This option has great nature conservation potential and would assist with sustaining biodiversity. It would help to replace habitats that have been lost.</li> </ul>	√
Development Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We agree with this option, in association with other environmentally beneficial solutions.</li> </ul>	√
Tidal Barrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have no strong views on this at present and the environmental impacts would need to be more clearly defined.</li> </ul>	?
Tidal Barrage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe long-term, adverse impacts on habitats and bird populations make this option unacceptable to TBC.</li> </ul>	X
Relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would support this option, though clearly there are adverse human and economic impacts associated with it.</li> </ul>	√
Flood-proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No strong views.</li> </ul>	√
Flood Warning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No strong views.</li> </ul>	√
Flood Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No strong views.</li> </ul>	√