

Slimbridge

Existing defences and probability of flooding

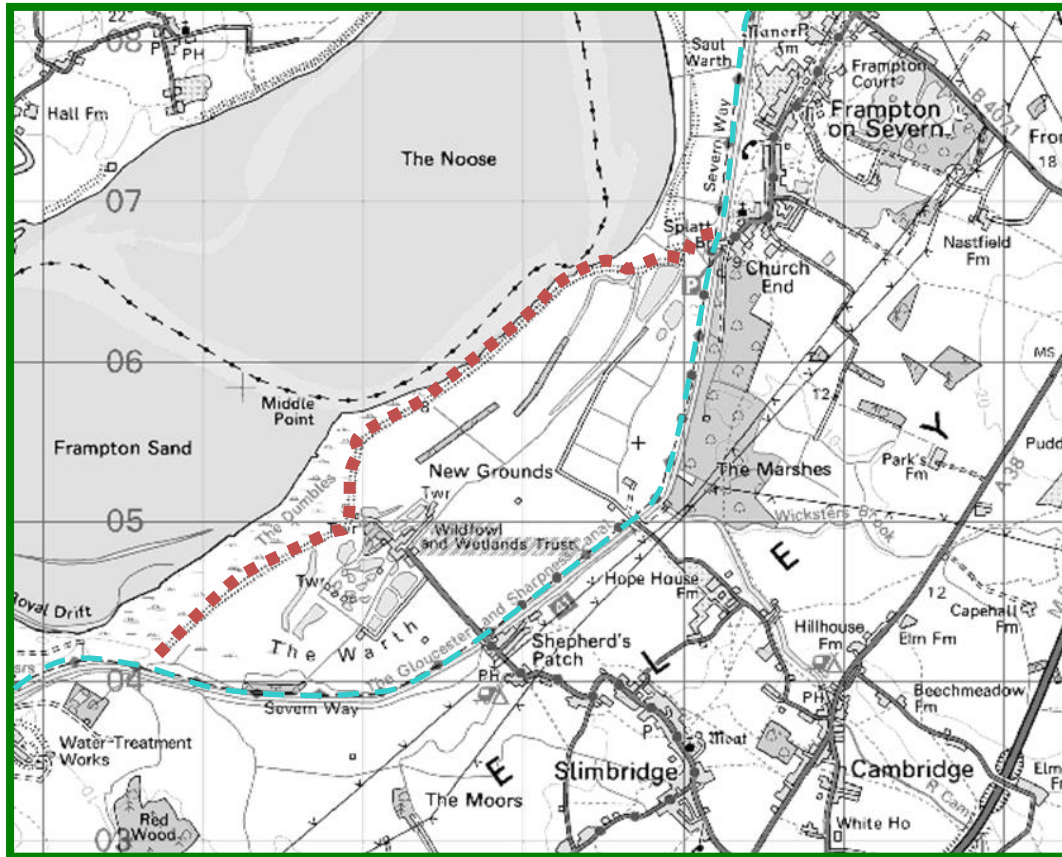
The existing defence is currently in good condition and the Gloucester and Sharpness canal also acts as high ground behind the embankment. This ensures that the risk of property flooding on both the landward and estuary side of the canal by the tide is a 1 in 200 chance or less in any year. Sea level would have to reach 0.7m above current levels before the tidal flood risk to property on the estuary side of the canal becomes greater than a 1 in 200 chance.

Sea levels and storminess are predicted to increase in the future, but the high level of the embankment will continue to provide the current level of protection from the tide.

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 now and in the future?

The EA intends to continue to carry out maintenance as needed on the embankment to protect properties at Slimbridge. Please see the Supporting Information for further explanation of EA maintenance and funding.

Managed realignment of defences on the estuary side of the canal may be an option should landowners wish to consider this.

How these options were reached

The existing defences are in good condition and should provide a high standard of protection into the long term. Costs should be less than the economic benefits because minimal maintenance is likely to be required to the embankment.

Ongoing local discussions

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.

Key

- Existing defences referred to in text
- Gloucester and Sharpness Canal