

# Joint Defra / EA Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management R&D Programme

## Science Project: An Independent Review of the Defra/EA Research and Development Joint Programme in Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Summary SC040026/SS

This project evaluated the performance of the Joint Defra/Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) R&D Programme, following its full inception in 2001.

The Programme was formulated after a similar review in 1998 (MAFF/Environment Agency, 1999) which recommended that the then Ministry for Agriculture Fisheries and Food and the Environment Agency join together in sponsoring and managing their R&D effort in this field. The time is now right to look at the strengths and weaknesses of that programme and to recommend any changes that are necessary for the future.

The project has benefited the Environment Agency as a whole by independently scrutinising the current arrangements for managing the Programme and identifying/prioritising research needs. This is a key area for the EA as Flood Risk Management accounts for approximately half of its expenditure. The review will help drive the underpinning of this business area with sound science, tools and techniques, and assist in aligning this science area with the Science Strategy.

### Results of R&D project

The Review has concluded that the Joint Programme has generally been a success and is a considerable improvement on the previous independent programmes. It has delivered a wide range of useful outputs, aimed at both practitioners and researchers.

The following key changes were recommended:

1. Greater emphasis to be placed on the delivery of the R&D results and their uptake by end-users.
2. That the thematic structure is rationalised.
3. In this restructuring, it was concluded that the Programme should continue to sponsor critical research in the Fluvial, Estuarine and Coastal Processes field, but not within a theme of its own

and that the Research Councils should be more actively encouraged to commission further research in this processes field.

4. That the research management arrangements should be refined.
5. That the annual budget for the R&D Programme should be increased significantly.

This Summary relates to information from Project SC040026. Findings are reported fully in the following output(s):-

### Science Report SC040026/SR

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protect and manage the environment as effectively as possible.

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