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## Ipswich Flood Defence Management Strategy Study

October 2002



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The Environment Agency is the leading public body protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales.

It's our job to make sure that air, land and water are looked after by everyone in today's society, so that tomorrow's generations inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

Our work includes tackling flooding and pollution incidents, reducing industry's impacts on the environment, cleaning up rivers, coastal waters and contaminated land, and improving wildlife habitats.

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## Introduction

Ipswich is situated in Suffolk where the Rivers Orwell and Gipping meet (Figure 1). The rivers run through the centre of the town, through industrial and residential areas and the port. Our study area extends from Norwich Railway Line Bridge downstream to the Orwell Bridge, where the estuary widens. A map of the study area is shown on page 3.



Figure 1 Location of Ipswich

# What is a Flood Defence Management Strategy?

The Environment Agency are responsible for flood defences in Ipswich. The Government encourages operating bodies such as the Environment Agency to consider flood defence in an integrated and sustainable way by looking at the whole river system rather than individual sections. A long-term plan, known as a flood defence management strategy, is developed and sets out the policy and objectives for flood defence taking into account a broad range of local interests and issues. Within this framework we can make decisions about providing the most appropriate flood defences and this approach allows us to manage the whole flood defence system more effectively.



Failed defence at Velocity Control Structure

# Why are we developing a Strategy for Ipswich?

Within Ipswich there are flood defences which protect the town on both sides of the rivers for a total length of 11km. There are also five river control structures crossing the river channel that regulate river water levels and the amount of water passing through them. The majority of the flood defences were constructed some 20 to 25 years ago and are at or nearing the end of their useful life. Some sections of the flood defences require renewal in the next five years.

The Environment Agency, prompted by growing concern over several flood susceptible areas in Ipswich, commissioned the development of a flood defence strategy.

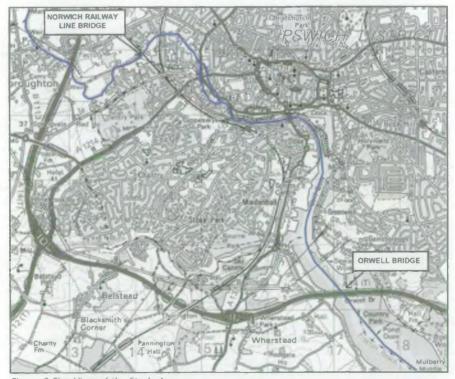


Figure 2 Plan View of the Study Area

## What is the Approach to the Study?

Work on the study so far has focussed on fully defining the flood defence problems in Ipswich and identifying key issues relevant to these. We are now entering the phase of the study aimed at the analysis of options and the identification of a preferred Strategy. This will be based upon an evaluation of the options against a range of Strategy objectives that include technical, environmental and economic considerations.

In order to keep the residents of Ipswich and other interested parties informed of progress and allow input to the development and selection of Strategy options we intend to undertake consultation at the key stages shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Outline of the Consultation Process

Purpose of Consultation	Proposed Issue Date
Introduction to the study	October 2002 – this document
Comment on potential Strategy options	December 2002
Identify preferred Strategy	February 2003
Conclusions of the study	June 2003

## **Ipswich Steering Group**

A Steering Group has been set up to provide guidance and information about local issues and initiatives. The Steering Group is made up of representatives of the Borough and County Councils, EEDA, ABP Ipswich, English Nature, Anglian Water and DEFRA. It is believed that this close working relationship will result in a Strategy that will benefit everyone affected by flood defence issues in Ipswich.



Stokebridge Wharf

# Who will be consulted about the Study?

The following groups will be contacted during the present and future consultations.

### **Statutory Consultees**

- Babergh District Council
- Countryside Agency
- Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs
- Department for Transport
- English Heritage
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Mid Suffolk Borough Council
- Office of Deputy Prime Minister
- Suffolk County Council

### **Non Statutory Consultees**

- Anglian Water
- · Associated British Ports, Ipswich
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- British Canoe Union
- British Trust for Ornithology
- Eastern Sea Fisheries Commission
- East of England Development Agency
- Fox's Marina

- General Public
- Gipping Angling Preservation Society
- Greenways Project
- Inland Waterways Association
- Ipswich Canoe Club
- Ipswich Waterfront Steering Group
- Local Conservation Groups
- Local Chamber of Commerce
- National Grid
- Neptune Marina
- Orwell Country Park
- Persimmon Homes
- Railtrack/Network Rail
- River Action Group
- RSPB
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- Sustrans
- Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust

## **Consultation Contact**

If you have any queries or issues you wish to discuss, please contact:

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