

Why can't we complete the urgent works?

As we have expressed, the Environment Agency consider that the 'urgent works' are complete. The Mott MacDonald scope was to provide a design for a 70-100m rock linear length of rock armour protection and states the geometry of the structure would be defined within the practical constraints of the total volume of rock available and achieving the minimum length of 70m. We were unable to provide a longer length of protection as we could only afford that amount of rock with the funding available. Therefore it was best positioned to offer the most protection.

As discussed any new works, as the rock is a known entity, would be classed as planned works and need to go through all the normal consents and processes. The normal period to proceed through all consents is about 7 months. The rock is likely to take a minimum of 9 months to arrive and cannot be ordered until the funding and consents are in place so cannot be done in parallel. This means there would be nothing in place inside 16 months and that is without any contingency for delays.

We are currently progressing Peter's suggestion of meeting with the Environment Agency and will update on progress.

Why hasn't CPE submitted the OBC for the rock berm scheme?

To attract funding, any scheme must have gone through all the necessary consents and feasibility studies to end up with a design required for an outline business case (OBC) which is the work that we have complete with Mott MacDonald.

However, to successfully submit an OBC, full partnership funding must also be in place. Unfortunately, the scheme has been unable to attract the partnership funding required. The cost of the proposed berm is now estimated to be approximately £11m. The maximum funding available from the Environment Agency has been estimated at only £492k GiA. Without the funding gap being closed an OBC submission would be rejected. Therefore we had progressed as far as we could.

Why are we talking about more studies?

As identified above the problem is funding. We stand a better chance of successfully approaching larger investors such as Infrastructure providers if we can provide them with a stacked benefits cost analysis.

We know what we can't do and haven't got so we are focusing on positive actions we can do to support the community.

We have been working behind the scenes on completing the FCERM7 form that is required to apply for the funding to enable us to complete this analysis. We will update the community with the outcome of the application which is expected to be around 2 months.

What about the residents who are worried about losing their homes?

As a local authority we of course must plan for the worst-case scenario should the above measures not arrive in time. We are working on an emergency plan for Pakefield which includes housing support measures. We continually monitor the frontage in liaison with ESC building control and will contact residents individually if the erosion exceeds safe limits for occupation.

We are also exploring how we can use funding from the [Resilient Coasts](#) project to deliver practical and financial support. The Resilient Coasts project is one 25 successful pilot projects chosen for the government's Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP) which is part of the government's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England. See [Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme](#) for full information.

CPE is actively working on the opportunities that can be developed through this programme during 2024 for Pakefield. We will be engaging with the community as these options are developed and approved.