

Fleetwood and Copse Brook Flood Risk Management Scheme

Newsletter August 2025

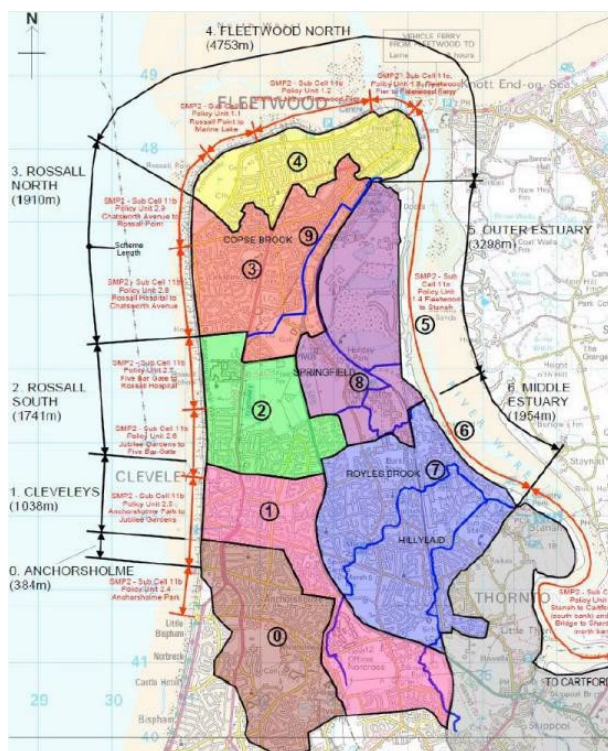
Scheme Background

The 2013 Wyre Urban Core Strategy sets out how the local council, the Environment Agency's and Wyre Council's plan to manage flood risk for Fleetwood and the Wyre peninsula. It explains our plans to reduce flood risk to a 0.5% (e.g. 200 to 1) chance of flooding in any one year for the next 100 years.

The Low Lying dish shaped topography of the peninsular means that large areas of Fleetwood are susceptible to tidal flooding from multiple locations. Coastal schemes at Anchorholme, Cleveleys and Rossall reduce flood risk around much of the peninsula. However, modelling data shows that the undefended frontage on the River Wyre at Jubilee Quay has a higher risk of flooding. This risk will increase due to climate change.

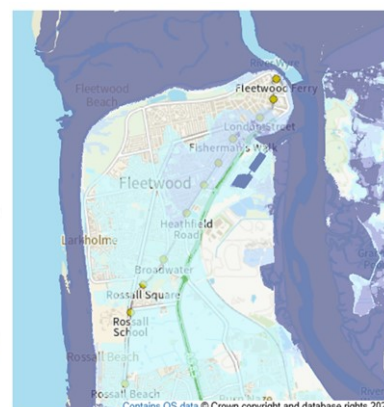
The flood plain around the peninsula is interconnected. This means that some areas that benefit from a flood scheme are still at risk of flooding due to the undefended frontage at Jubilee Quay.

There is also tidal flood risk via the outfall of Copse Brook at Fleetwood. Previous investigations carried out showed that the outfall flaps and quayside are in poor condition. Failure of this outfall would result in significant inland flood risk from the sea.



Wyre Urban Core Strategy Sub Units (Extract from Wyre Borough Council Wyre Urban Core Strategy 2013)

Flood Risk In Fleetwood from Rivers and Sea



Flood history

The Wyre Peninsula and Fleetwood have a history of flooding. Tidal flooding causes by far the greatest impact, with the most recent major tidal flood events occurring in 1927 and 1977.

The 1927 tidal flooding swamped the defences at Fleetwood. A breach in the Rossall defences on the western side of the peninsula resulted in flood depths of up to 3.65m within the town. The flood claimed the lives of six people, including three children.

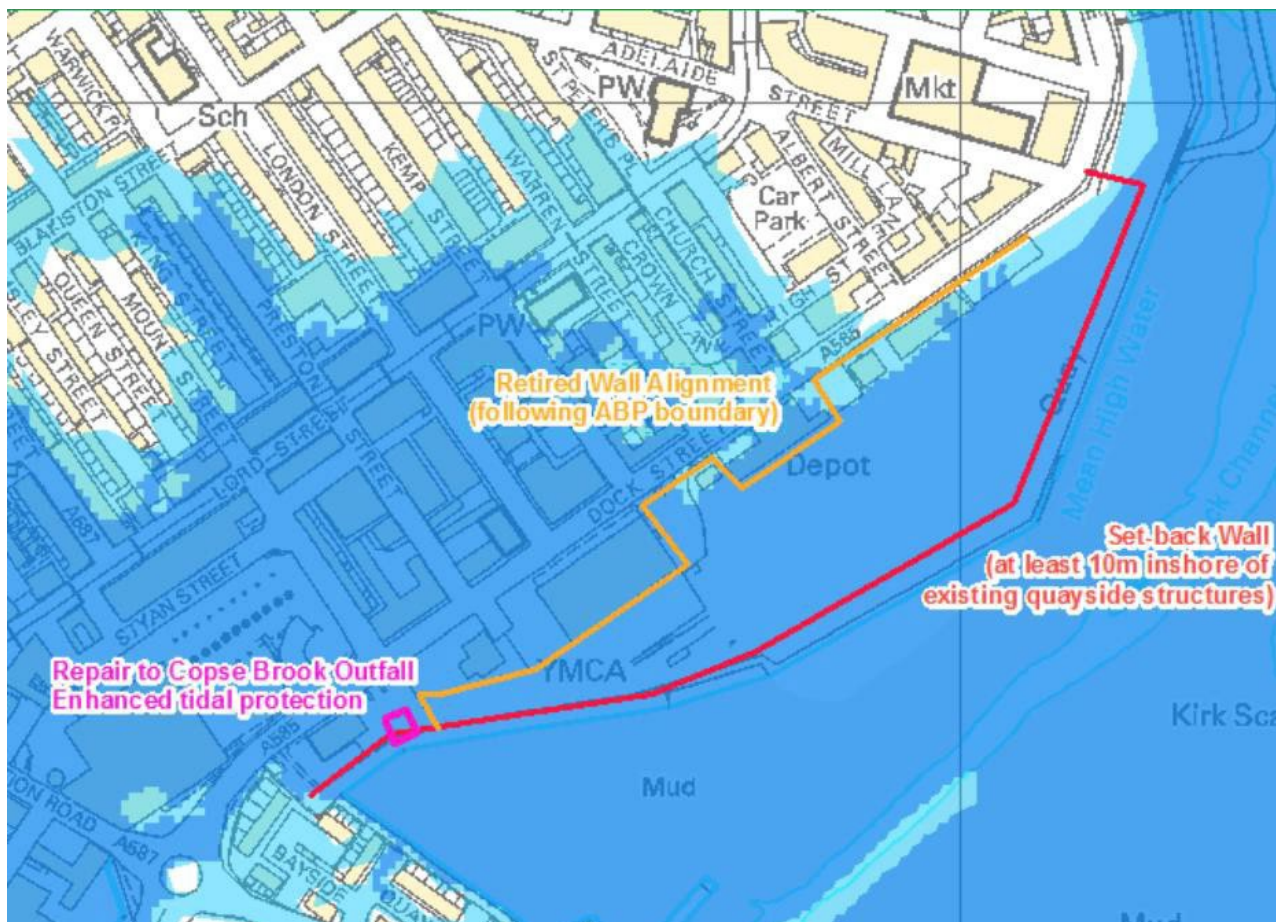
Over 1,200 homes were seriously damaged, badly affecting over 45% of the people living in the area.

In November 1977, a tidal surge again overtopped the defences and resulted in breaches of the defences at Cleveleys and Rossall. Flooding of 1,800 properties occurred with recorded flood depths of more than 1m.

Fleetwood Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme

Fleetwood and Copse Brook is a tidal flood risk management scheme (FRMS) along a section of the Wyre Estuary frontage before it reaches the Irish Sea. Flood risk in this location is from tidal overtopping of the quayside and rapid inundation of sea water into Copse Brook.

A new flood defence, from the northeast end of Dock Street towards the southwest end of Bridge Road, is needed to reduce tidal flood risk to people and properties in Fleetwood.



Above: Plan showing 2 different possible alignment options for the new Flood Risk Management Scheme. The final design will likely follow an alignment in between the two.

The appraisal of Flood Risk Management Schemes requires a phased approach. We have already completed our Outline Business Case where we developed a range of options for protecting Fleetwood, and in 2027 will move onto the Full Business Case. This is when we consider the detailed design elements of our preferred option including its construction type, alignment and finish. Partners and members of the public will have the opportunity to provide their thoughts and opinions and where possible, we will use this to inform our design.

Project Timeline



***Dates are indicative and based on current programme**

Our Future Coast - Fleetwood

In our Outline Business Case the Environment Agency presented an option that included replacing a section of steel sheet piling at Jubilee Quay. This was included as the existing sheet piling is believed to be in a poor state and could not be relied upon to provide the stability required to construct a flood defence behind it.

Since submitting our Outline Business Case, we have continued to engage with partners and understand that alternative methods of stabilising the quayside are available.

Working with the Our Future Coast Project, we will also be considering the option to stabilise the existing quayside through the creation of saltmarsh in front of the sheet piling.

This could provide us with the same level of assurance that should the quayside fail, the new flood defence would not be put at risk. More information on the project can be found at [Our Sites | The Flood Hub](#)

Creating saltmarsh could also deliver wider Environment Agency ambitions including:

- dissipating wave energy during flood events.
- offering a lower carbon solution to sheet piling,
- offering a more sustainable solution into the future - sheet piles have a limited design life so will require eventual replacement,
- providing habitat for birds and aquatic life,
- removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere - saltmarsh vegetation is very efficient at removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it within the marsh.

Our project team will compare and consider the various options available.

Scheme Benefits

The scheme will support the regeneration of Fleetwood, specifically the quayside area - providing better linkages between the town centre, waterfront, outlet village and marina. The alignment of flood risk management and regeneration objectives for Fleetwood are key aspects of this scheme.

We are working closely with partners to achieve a scheme that will provide multiple benefits to the community. Some of these are listed below:

- Flooding can kill. A tidal flood defence scheme (including Copse Brook outfall improvements) will reduce the flood risk to people in Fleetwood and at least 3,095 residential and 447 non-residential properties.
- The area to benefit from the scheme falls within the highest level of social deprivation. The scheme will provide around £123million in economic benefits over 100-years from reducing flood risk.
- The proposed scheme will provide a consistent standard of protection to the area and be in line with the recommendations of the Wyre Strategy. We will plan for increased flood risk from climate change in the scheme design.
- The salt marsh creation option has benefits for sustainability, carbon reduction and biodiversity.

Communications

Although Flood Risk Management is our priority, we also place great importance on the needs of the community and will ensure any proposals are acceptable to the community, business owners and stakeholders. We will engage with the community and other stakeholders, providing updates via newsletters and public drop in events where people can talk to partners about the proposals.

Flood Hub page launch

We have launched a new page for Fleetwood on our North West flood resilience website "The Flood Hub". Check out the website to find out more about our flood management work in Fleetwood: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/Fleetwood>



Contacts

If you have any questions about the information in this newsletter please contact:

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If you would like to arrange a call with one of our project team please call our national Customer Services Centre on 03708 506 506 and ask to speak to someone regarding the Fleetwood Scheme.