



## Shoreham Flood Defence - Adur Tidal Walls

## Project Summary

The aim of this project was to provide protection to the historic harbour town of Shoreham-by-Sea in West Sussex. New and improved flood defences would be installed along the east and west banks of the river Adur to protect business, homes and infrastructure. The type of defence would take into account the impact of climate change and the desire to retain the linkage between the community and the water.

Protecting commercial and residential property and existing infrastructure including key transport links and corridors, would protect human life and enhance wellbeing. Jobs would be safeguarded, and businesses and local residents could be more confident in reduced flooding. This confidence would also filter out to businesses considering Shoreham-by-Sea a viable option to base themselves.



In addition, the project would seek to protect and enhance the ecological value of the river Adur estuary, preserve its heritage value, and maintain the interest of, and access to, the estuary for marine and recreational user groups and local residents.

**£6,000,000 Local Growth Fund**

## Project Achievements

Coast to Capital awarded £6 million of Local Growth Fund to this project. Match funding of £40.84 million was committed to the project by the delivery body, the Environment Agency and other Project Partners creating a benefit cost ratio of 1:11.32.

1.8km of flood defence was constructed on the east bank between Coronation Green and the A27 Road Bridge and 5.4km on the west bank between the river mouth and the A27. Resulting in a total of 7.2km of flood defences which now protects 2,328 residential and 169 commercial properties.

**7.2 km flood defence walls**

**2,328 homes and 169 commercial properties protected.**

The flood defences were built with future proofing in mind and therefore, the crest height can be increased by up to 1 metre without rebuilding the structures. This will reduce the carbon footprint and disruption associated with temporary works, if and when further improvements become necessary.



The delivery body worked closely with partners to enhance public realm where possible including the improvements made to the Shoreham Fort car park and access to the beach and the surface improvements to the Downs Link public right of way. Flood defences have also given confidence to expansion plans at Brighton City Airport and proposed improvements and developments to the A27.



## Project Benefits

The delivery body were committed to delivering as much social value to the area as possible. The construction workforce was local, creating and safeguarding jobs and reducing the carbon footprint associated with travel. The scheme also had apprentices from local colleges working on site, and school visits took place on a regular basis to give talks about working in construction.



Wherever possible materials were locally sourced and reflected the environment. Great attention was given to the look of the flood defences so that, especially in the conservation area they seamlessly blend with the environment. Flood glass was used instead of walls to improve views of the river.

Approximately 1.25 ha of intertidal habitat was created to replace and enhance any lost biodiversity. The Adur estuary contains a Site of Specific Scientific Interest, an RSPB nature reserve, conservation areas and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Construction work was mindful to protect this and not to disturb any wildlife more than absolutely necessary, in particular avoiding the disruption to feeding birds including the protected Ringed Plover.



Local people were regularly engaged to give updates on work and also get feedback which informed some design elements and initiated amendments. The delivery body worked particularly close with the houseboat community on design and with a local group on the relocation of the Shoreham memorial.

The scheme overall is thought to have unlocked large scale commercial opportunities and new homes. This will contribute to bringing new business to the area and creating a town that people want to move to and work locally.

