

Elmer coastal defences now complete

Press release

Elmer scheme will better protect 325 West Sussex properties from flooding.



Elmer flood scheme seen from the coastal path

The Environment Agency in partnership with Arun District Council and Elmer Sands Limited has completed major coastal defence works at Elmer in West Sussex.

This new flood scheme will better protect 325 properties from flooding. It has cost £5 million and a further £3 million will be spent on maintenance over the next 50 years. Funding for the scheme is from the UK Government, Arun District Council and Elmer Sands Ltd.

During construction 20,000 tonnes of rock were used to improve the existing rock revetment and 12,500 cubic metres of shingle were recharged across the defences. A new boat ramp for Elmer Boat Club was also constructed.

To mark the occasion the Environment Agency hosted a virtual opening ceremony on Monday 22 June using Microsoft Teams.

Emma Howard Boyd, Chair of the Environment Agency, said:

While the coronavirus has changed so much this year, flooding and coastal erosion have not gone away. Throughout the recent lockdown, the Environment Agency continued working on flood schemes while following government guidance and safe working measures. This new £5 million flood scheme will better protect 325 properties in Elmer, and is an example of how we work with partners to make communities more resilient to the escalating impacts of the climate emergency.

John O'Flynn, Environment Agency Operations Manager, said:

We realise the inconvenience that this work may have caused our local neighbours, especially during this lock-down period. We would like to thank them for their co-operation and the understanding throughout the work.

In carrying out this critical construction during the coronavirus outbreak, our contractors followed guidance from Public Health England to work safely on construction sites. The safety of our staff, partners and the communities we work is always our priority.

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[Safeguarding directions for High Speed 2 Phase 2a](#)

Motions to revive the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Bill, known as the Phase 2a Bill, have now been passed in each House, and the Bill was re-introduced on Tuesday 3 March. I look forward to the progression of the Bill as it nears its final stages.

I am today publishing revised [safeguarding directions for the whole of the Phase 2a route](#). These safeguarding directions reflect the amendments (and therefore land requirements) that have been made to the hybrid Bill by the House of Commons as it passed through the Select Committee.

Through these revised safeguarding directions, the government has protected land that we anticipate at this stage will be needed to build Phase 2a of HS2 and where there may otherwise be a risk of conflicting development.

Planning restrictions put in place following the issue of previous safeguarding directions have been removed where we no longer expect to need that land.

Crucially, issuing revised safeguarding directions gives people affected more clarity on the route and allows eligible property owners to access statutory blight compensation.

Under the statutory blight regime, qualifying property owners are able to apply to sell their home or small business to the government from the time that their property is subject to safeguarding directions.

In addition to statutory blight compensation, the government has implemented a package of [non-statutory property compensation schemes](#) that go above and beyond what is required by law. The schemes are open to qualifying property owners across the 3 phases of the HS2 route including Phase 2a. They will be

in place until 1 year after each phase of HS2 is operational.

I want to ensure that those living near the route receive the right support at all stages of the project and that those affected are properly compensated and treated with compassion, dignity and respect.

Copies of these safeguarding directions will be laid in both Libraries of the House.

Regulatory reforms in Financial Services

News story

Details on the UK's continued commitment to high regulatory standards for the financial services sector post-EU withdrawal have been published today.



The UK has set out how it intends to approach a range of important regulatory reforms in the process of being implemented at the international and European level. Now the UK has left the EU, the UK will make its own decisions about the rules governing its world-leading financial sector, and the plans confirmed today ensure that the UK financial sector will continue to be underpinned by a commitment to the highest international standards.

These include reforms to update UK prudential requirements, maintain the soundness of UK capital markets, and manage future risks. In particular, the government is announcing how it intends to legislate for updated prudential rules to reflect international Basel standards and a new regime for investment firms, publishing a consultation on the transposition of the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive II (BRRDII), and announcing a review to improve the prudential rules for insurers.

The details published today will provide clarity to financial services firms and demonstrate the UK's continued commitment to the same high standards of

regulation in the context of ongoing equivalence discussions with the EU.

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury & City Minister, John Glen, said:

The financial services sector plays a crucial role in supporting the wider economy, creating jobs across the UK, supporting SMEs, contributing taxes, driving regional growth and investment, tackling climate change and embracing technology and innovation. It has also been at the forefront of our response to the economic impact of Coronavirus.

Now we have left the EU the UK is making its own decisions about regulation. There will be changes to some of the details, but our values as an open, global, responsible financial centre are staying the same. The best rules for Britain are those that maintain or enhance the world-leading standard of regulation that has underpinned our success to date.

A series of written statements, a policy paper, and a consultation have been published today, detailing these changes:

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[Five Eyes Defence Ministers' Meeting](#)



The defence ministers from the Five Eyes nations (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States) met via videoconference on 22-23 June.

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to advance defence and security cooperation on matters of common interest to support and defend a stable, rules-based, global order, that is increasingly being challenged.

Ministers recognised the role of regional partners and institutions in shaping globally and across the Indo-Pacific a stable and secure,

economically resilient community, where the sovereign rights of all states are respected.

Ministers discussed new opportunities for Five Eyes partners to further strengthen their relationship, build resilience, address challenges to international rules and norms and advance cooperation across key lines of effort in an increasingly complex and challenging geostrategic environment.

Ministers committed to meet regularly as part of efforts to address existing and emerging security challenges, and to advance their shared values of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights.

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[Environment Agency warning to keep away from Dowdeswell reservoir](#)

Press release

The weather may have turned sunny but that doesn't give sunbathers, picnickers and swimmers the go ahead to access Dowdeswell reservoir near Cheltenham.



Keep away from Dowdeswell reservoir near Cheltenham

The Environment Agency, which owns the reservoir, is warning members of the public to stay on the nearby footpath and not enter the private land where the reservoir is situated under any circumstances.

The area is fenced off to members of the public and, despite signs informing them that the area is private and swimming is strictly forbidden, CCTV footage has revealed sunbathers and people picnicking on the banks of the

reservoir, and bathers in the water.

They accessed the area from a footpath on the other side of the wall to the reservoir by climbing over the wall. Gloucestershire Police are aware and will be monitoring the site, and the Environment Agency will continue to check the CCTV.

Water in reservoirs is very cold, much colder than the sea or a river. Water in reservoirs is so cold that it causes cold-water shock which can immobilise your arms and legs which means you won't be able to move them to stay afloat. It can also cause hypothermia which can kill.

Reservoirs are also big storage tanks for water which have equipment under the surface which sucks the water to the treatment works. If you are in the water when the equipment starts, you will be dragged deep below the surface.

Anthony Perry, Operations Manager West for the Environment Agency, said:

Swimming in reservoirs is very dangerous which is why the area is fenced off from the public and clearly signed. The water is deep and can contain hidden hazards so could cause serious injury. Entering the water is a risk to people's lives.

Due to numerous reports of people accessing the area by climbing over the wall, we have installed CCTV cameras as a further deterrent. The police are also aware and will be monitoring the site.

There is a public footpath the other side of the wall to the reservoir which walkers are welcome to use, but people should not scale the wall. All areas around the reservoir are private and out of bounds for all except our own staff and the emergency services.

Notes to editors

- Dowdeswell reservoir is located off the Old Bath Road, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
- Many coastal waters and a few inland lakes known to be popular swimming locations are designated as bathing waters. Bathing waters are monitored and protected from sources of pollution known to be a risk to bathers' health. The Environment Agency monitors over 400 [designated bathing waters](#) in England between May and September, and each is given an annual classification of Excellent, Good, Sufficient or Poor.