

Flood Risk Assessment for proposed Northney Coastal Path

The existing bank and narrow footpath is well worn and in many places at or below the level of some of the predicted high spring tides. When the pressure is low and wind and wave action higher, then overtopping of the existing bank as it stands is inevitable. At present we have flood warning signs which can be opened up at the appropriate times to warn both vehicles and pedestrians. In the short term this helps, but we have felt in the long term if the pathway is to be made safe then, it should also be raised sufficiently above the expected high tides to prevent all but the most exceptional circumstances.

Some of the existing levels on the bank are below 3m Ordnance Datum giving us a likelihood of overtopping at least three or four times a year. On exceptional high tides the the whole of Northney can be cut off for some time, from both vehicular and pedestrian access. A recent 6.1 metre tidal surge, (giving an approx height of 3.4 OD), did in fact cut off the hotel, Marina and the whole of Northney for several hours.

With this information in mind we have looked at reducing the risk from flooding to this section of the Island, by raising the existing bank sufficiently to prevent overtopping within the present extremes. To reduce the risk further and raise the bank to a suitable level to eliminate flooding in the foreseeable future would impact on the shore line, by implying a much larger bank. This would affect the shore line, impacting on the bird and wild life, which the Environment Agency and Natural England are protecting. So a level that will increase the safety of pedestrians and vehicles, but still not impact the special protected sites, has been selected and approved in principal by many governing bodies, with whom we have held discussions over the years.