

EMAIL FROM DINA BEDWELL, PARISH CLERK, SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

To: Enquiries, Unit. Environment Agency >
Subject: Coastal erosion enquiry-Shotley Gate

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/920944/023_15482_Environment_agency_digitalAW_Strategy.pdf

To whom it may concern,

There is a section of foreshore on the Shotley Peninsula, the estuary on the River Stour, below the Heritage Park, which is very unique in the UK, in that it doesn't come under the auspices of the Environment Agency.

Some ten years ago the Shotley Parish Council, with the support of a local Community Group, raised enough funds to place a line of gabions on part of the eroding section. However, this was a temporary measure and the project was never completed due to difficulty in accessing funds and bureaucratic limitations.

I believe at the time there was an attempt to ask the local MP to apply for a process that would lead to this section being included in the EA's plan, which would open all kinds of doors from a funding and expertise point of view. But that was not progressed.

I would like to ask the following questions please:

Has the new Risk Management Strategy made provision for areas that are not under the auspices of the EA (I believe there are the only two in the country, the other one is a section of the River Thames). If so, I was unable to find it so could someone please direct me to the right section.

If the above does not apply, what process do we need to go through in order to be included and qualify?

Any assistance with this matter would be most appreciated.

Many thanks.

Kindest regards

Dina

RESPONSE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

To: Dina Bedwell <Parish.Clerk@shotleyparishcouncil.org>
Subject: RE: GE16631 Ref 210729/MT07 RE: Coastal erosion enquiry-Shotley Gate

Dear Dina,

Thank you for your email, which has been passed on to the Coastal Team in East Anglia.

I am afraid the new Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy does not address the boundary problem that is the root of this issue.

The issue centres on erosion and thus falls outside the scope of the Environment Agency. Furthermore the location lies upstream of the coast as defined by schedule 4 of the Coast Protection Act 1949. This legislation drew lines across 111 different estuaries in the United Kingdom. Number 17 is the one relevant to Shotley since it draws a line along the 1949 ferry route between Felixstowe and Harwich. Upstream of this line there is no funding for works to prevent erosion.

This part of the act has not been amended, and we are unaware of any plans to do so.

Apologies that the news is not more positive, but I hope this provides some clarification.

Kind regards,

Liz

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