



Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme

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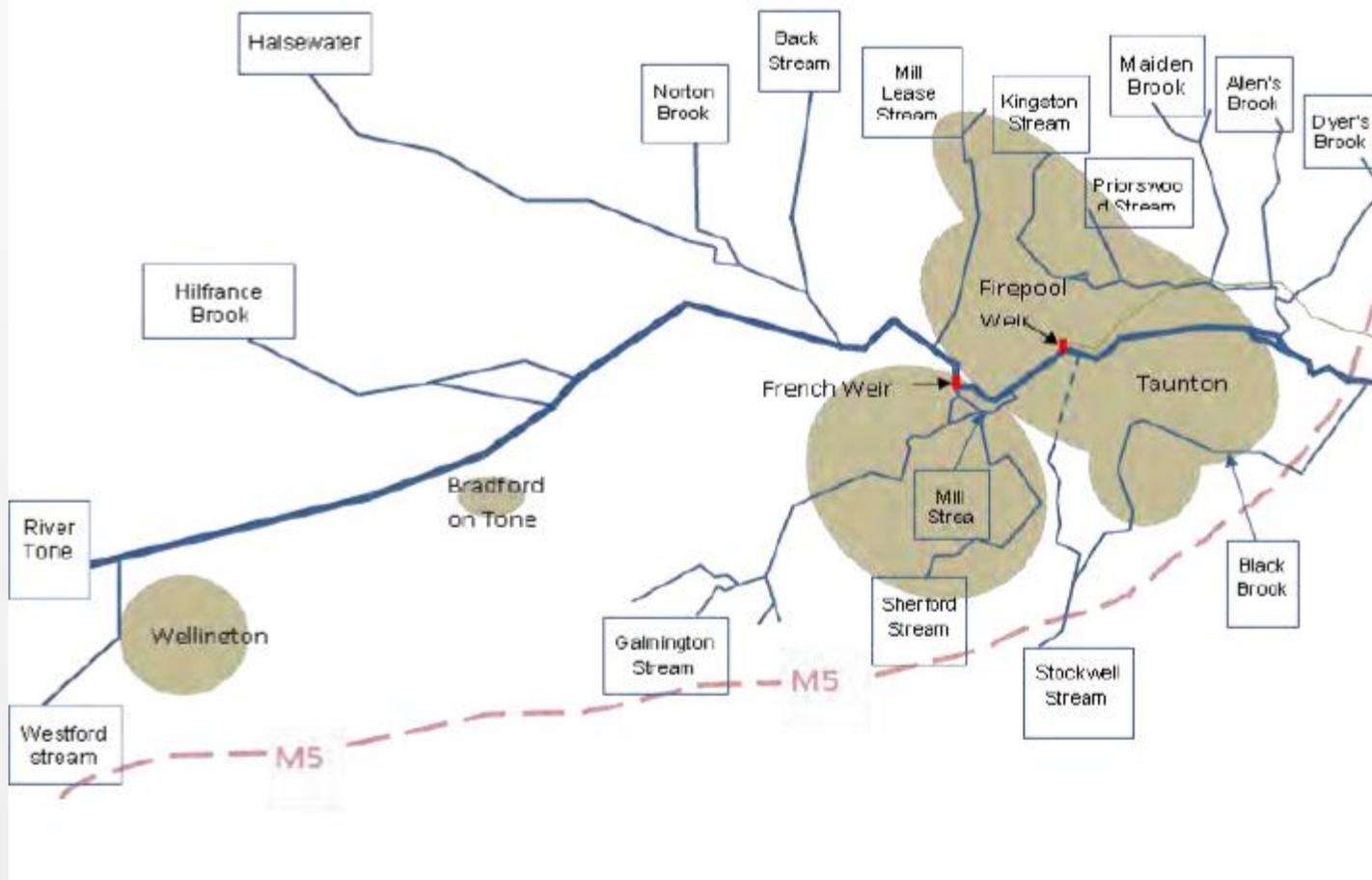
David Crowson, Sustainable Development Manager, Environment Agency Wessex

Project Background

- ▶ In 1960, Taunton suffered a severe flood from the River Tone and tributaries which affected a considerable area of the town centre, particularly the North town and Station Road areas. More than 360 houses, shops and business premises were flooded.
- ▶ Response was town centre flooding scheme built by Environment Agency predecessors. Old defences ‘topped up’ in the late 1980’s and now subject to on-going repairs and maintenance. Came close to over-topping in 2000 and 2012.
- ▶ Climate change suggests a return to the 1960’s flooding if we don’t do something about it
- ▶ Climate change threatens many existing homes and businesses but also some of the key growth/regeneration sites in the town

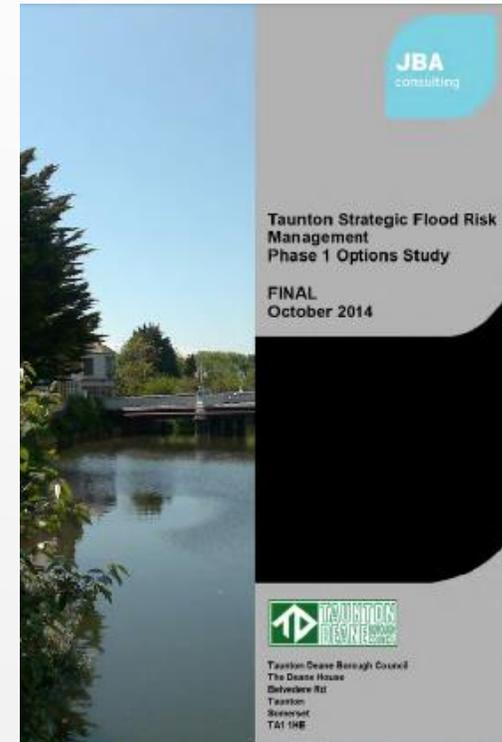


River Tone Catchment

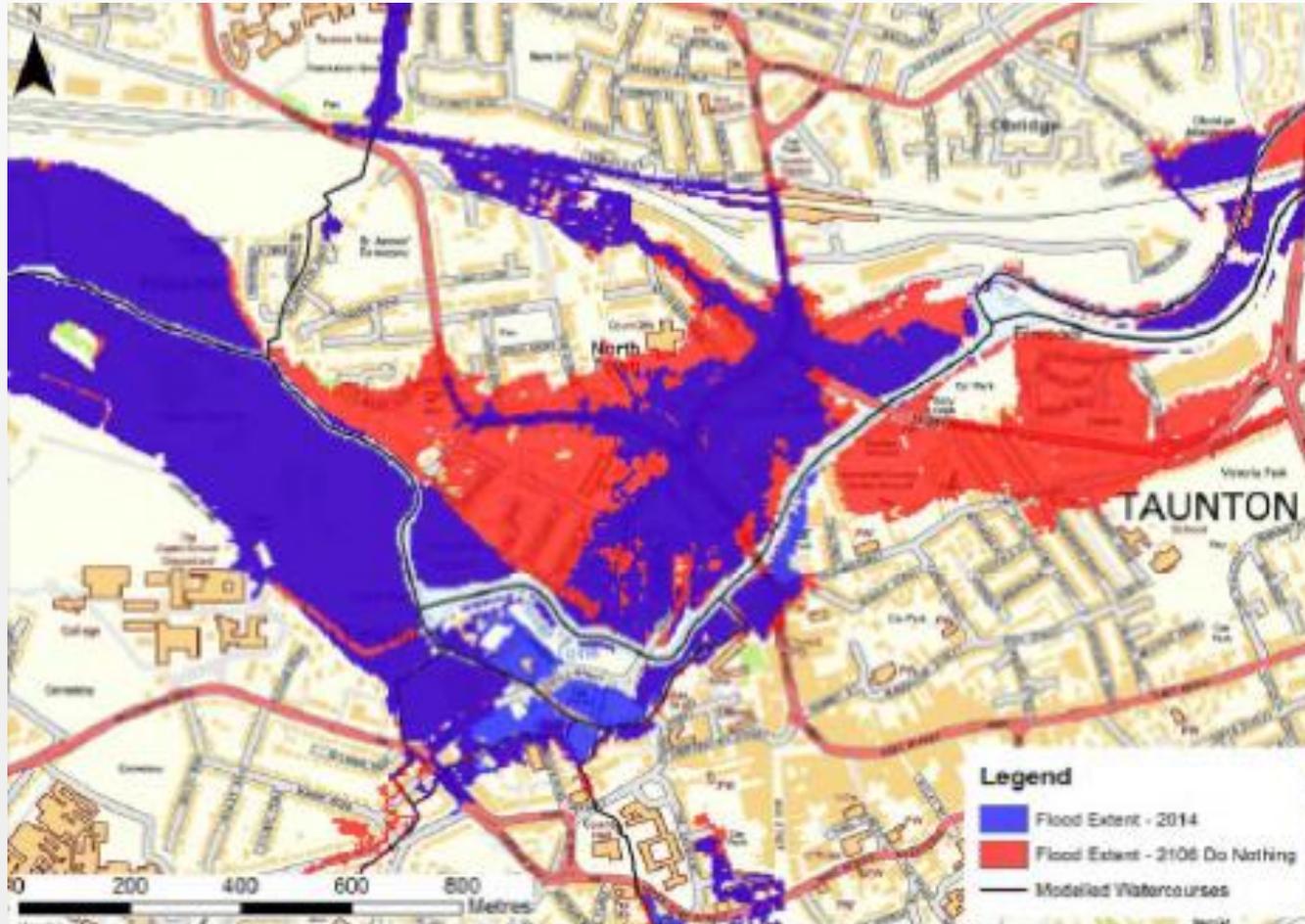


Phase I – Options Investigation Study

- ▶ Options report commissioned by TDBC and EA to examine preliminary options to address the projected flood risk in the town
- ▶ Involved detailed hydraulic modelling of River Tone to produce a new detailed 'Taunton Model'
- ▶ Preferred option involves the potential to create large flood storage area upstream of Taunton – 'super pond' concept in combination with various other smaller improvements including works on the tributaries flowing into the River Tone
- ▶ The study also showed that new development will not materially affect flood risk downstream of the town centre, provided that the appropriate storage options are implemented.



Implications of 'Do Nothing'

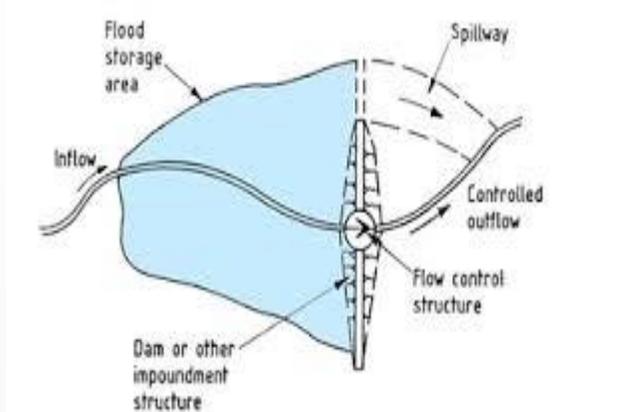


- ▶ **Do Nothing - number of properties affected by flooding will increase from 972 (existing) to 2475 by 2066**
- ▶ **Growth opportunity severely restricted**

Benefits of the Scheme

This scheme will facilitate planned development in Taunton and elsewhere in the River Tone catchment area, enabling:

- Creation of **849 homes in Taunton Town Centre**, together with 3,500 new homes at Monkton Heathfield Urban Extension
- Approx. **2000 new jobs in Taunton town centre**,
- Estimated **3500 new jobs** at new employment sites at Monkton Heathfield, Bathpool and Creech Heathfield,
- Proposed new strategic employment site near M5 Junction 25 which will create up to **4000 new jobs**
- **Protection for existing residential and commercial properties**, including major large employers such as Viridor, Debenhams, and the UK Hydrographic Office,
- **Mitigation of the effects of climate change and providing extensive flood alleviation** along the River Tone through Taunton, whilst safeguarding against any adverse flood risk impacts further downstream into the Levels and Moors area.



Spatial Policy

Government Policy Paper:

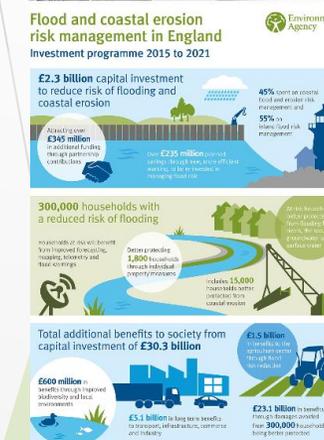
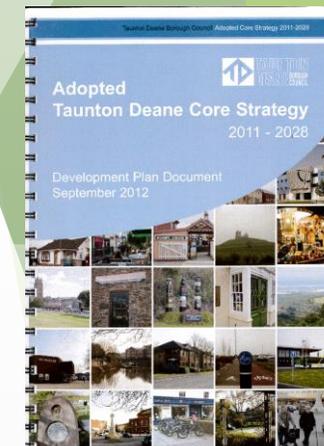
- ▶ Programme of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Schemes (August 2015)
- ▶ This scheme is specifically mentioned in the Government's list of flood alleviation projects. Governments commitment to reduce flood risk to more than 300,000 households by March 2021.

Taunton Deane Borough Council:

- ▶ Adopted Core Strategy Policy CP8 Environment
- ▶ Taunton Growth Prospectus & Taunton Town Centre Re-Think
- ▶ Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (May 2011, JBA Consulting)
- ▶ Infrastructure Delivery Plan (June 2011, Three Dragons)
- ▶ Somerset Levels & Moors 20 Year Flood Action Plan (March 2014)
- ▶ Community Infrastructure Levy 123 List (April 2014)

Environment Agency:

- ▶ Environment Agency Catchment Parrett Flood Management Plan (December 2009, Policy Option 5)
- ▶ Emerging Flood Risk Management Plan



Next Steps

- ▶ Setting up project team and governance (including MOU and roles/responsibilities for partners)
- ▶ Seek additional funding (current GD3 bid to LEP expected outcome Jan '16)
- ▶ Commission detailed investigations for Phase 2 – Archaeology, Ecology, Ground Investigation, etc
- ▶ Scoping of wider options that could work in combination with the large (superpond) flood storage area & define phasing of delivery
- ▶ Consultation and engagement
- ▶ Landowner negotiations
- ▶ Planning approval and permits
- ▶ Production of tender documentation for Phase 3 delivery
- ▶ Delivery of Strategic Flood Alleviation Improvements Scheme by 2021

