

Eastern Rother Tidal Walls Scheme (ERTWS)

The Environment Agency has been working to improve the flood defences of the vulnerable coastline between Folkestone and Cliff End, Fairlight. This has coincided with central government's pledge to provide financial support for the long-term management of this coastline. The overall project is designed to protect up to 20,000 homes and businesses in the Romney Marsh area.

The section of most concern to Rye is the part known as the [Eastern Rother Tidal Wall scheme](#). This will mitigate flood risks on the eastern side of the Rother from Rye Harbour to Scots Float, by raising the earth banks along this stretch.

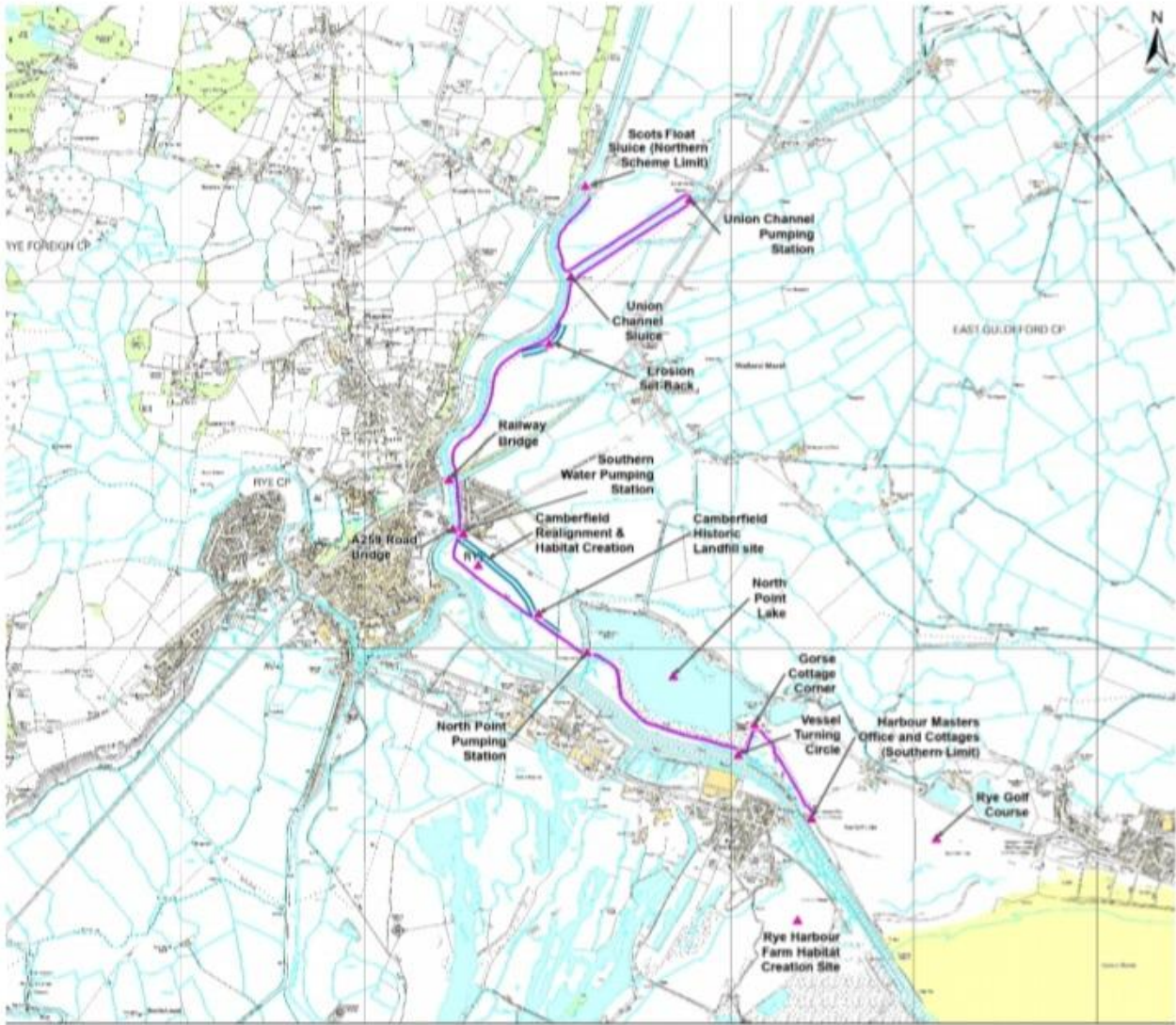
The agency intended to plan a public exhibition at the former Freda Gardham School to reveal a project, but Covid 19 prevented that.

At some £15 million. the Agency has said that funding is not guaranteed but "we will seek contributions from key beneficiaries to increase the likelihood of priority schemes being eligible for government funding".

The intention of this project is to "hold the line by improving and realigning the earth walls to improve the standard of protection. This would upgrade defences to combat long-term sea-level rise" and realign some of the defences. Part of the familiar walkway , much loved by dog walkers and others, will be realigned, before bending back towards the Rother. This realignment is seen as the best way to handle the engineering challenge of countering erosion on the sharp bend below the Monkbretton Bridge, while preventing silt building up against the fishing quay, as well as enhancing the conservation interests of the river habitat.

The RTWE frontage runs through the town of Rye in East Sussex. The 5km frontage begins at Scots Float Sluice at Houghton Green (just north of the confluence with the Union Channel) and then runs south through central Rye to Rye Harbour. The figure below shows the application site and main location of the proposed works along the frontage.

Figure 1.1 Location of scheme and proposed works





The Agency has prepared a business case for the remaining work of the project. AS a member of the Southern Region Flood and Coastal Committee, I have lobbied for inclusion of this work in the core programme.

At this stage, it remains unclear when implementation will start, but we will be pressing on behalf of the community.

This important flood defence scheme will not only increase protection for the dwellings in New Road and Kings Avenue, but is linked to the future final disposal and development of the former Freda Gardham School site, now perhaps by Martello Developments. The Agency hopes to secure some contributions to offset some of the costs of the river defence project.

ATBK PhD

For RNPSG and REACT

16 September 2020