

Exeter flood defences

Example Investigation title: Strategies to reduce flood risk at Exeter Quay

Location: Exeter's historic Quay, on River Exe in Exeter

Logistics: Local parking available on west side of River Exe, for coaches and minibuses (pay). Public toilets on east side of river. Public access to both banks on riverbanks. Range of places to get food. River is deep and often fast flowing and is not suitable for measuring instruments at this site.

Equipment: not applicable

Data Collection opportunities: Photos of flood defences. Interviews with visitors. Interviews with shop owners/traders might be possible if arranged in advance. Attitude surveys. Views of stakeholders.

Data presentation/analysis opportunities: Proportion of people interviewed satisfied/dissatisfied with flood defences.

Evaluative issues: How successful are new flood defences against various criteria.

Further information: Contractors BAM Nuttall

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/bam-mott-jv-starts-32m-exeter-flood-protection-work>

<https://ejmcgrath.co.uk/project/flood-defences-exeter/>

Devon Live <https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/latest-exeters-massive-32m-flood-2086418>

Other comments: This is a very accessible site and a walk around the area could be done in 60-90 minutes depending on amount of data collection. Site includes several places suitable for lunch break. Site can get very busy from April until August, and fieldwork groups would need to be aware of the needs of the public.



New pedestrian bridge with flood gate beneath to enable control of flood water out and into the Mill Leat which runs through the residential area of Shilhay.

The new defences were used in December 2019 and February 2020 when high river levels following heavy rain threatening the businesses of Exeter Quay



New flood gates at the downstream end of the Quay protected area, outside the Waterfront Pizza restaurant. Upstream from here, removable steel flood barriers can be slotted into pillars when high river flows are likely. Businesses downstream will rely on flood proofing techniques and individual building protection.



Re-wilding of the 1970s Marsh Barton flood relief channel, with new year-round meandering river created. During normal flow, most river water follows the main River Exe channel which is behind the trees on the left of this picture. When a flood occurs, water pours over a spillway and fills up the flood relief channel, which doubles the capacity.