



Project

Lowestoft Economic Assessment of Flood Risk Alleviation Schemes

Location

Suffolk, UK

Client

Waveney District Council

Expertise

Wider Economic Benefits

Turning the tide towards economic renewal

Our expertise in modelling wider economic benefits and the unique ability of TEAM to provide clear and quantifiable economic indicators helped build the case for flood defence works that will reduce the risk of economic devastation and secure redevelopment which will provide long-term prosperity for Lowestoft.



Benefits of investment in flood defences

2,500

Number of properties at risk of flooding by 2110 without flood alleviation works

Opportunity

Lowestoft is located in an area vulnerable to flooding, with recent floods in 2007 and 2013 causing widespread damage to properties and business, threatening the economic future of the area. The Port of Lowestoft and Lake Lothing have been identified as key locations for redevelopment that will drive future economic growth. Essential to delivering on these ambitious plans was building a robust case for investment in flood alleviation and mitigation works that would protect the site for years to come. However, existing methods for assessing economic impacts do not successfully capture the wider economic benefits of investment in flood defences.

Solution

Utilising Mott MacDonald's in-house Transparent Economic Assessment Model (TEAM), our Economic and Social Development team were able to provide a unique evidence base of the site's economic footprint by modelling land use to estimate the levels of direct, indirect and induced jobs in the area that were linked to economic activity at the site.

Outcome

Our unique approach successfully identified that the economic footprint of the study area was substantial, accommodating 10,900 direct jobs and contributing £0.5bn GVA per annum. Doing so demonstrated that the importance of the flood risk was enhanced by the area's prominence within the local and wider economy, strengthening the case for investment. By also considering future development at the site, TEAM enabled us to model the potential future economic footprint of regeneration protected by secure flood defences, identifying that the area could provide long term growth and employment opportunities for residents, potentially accommodating 14,400 direct jobs and generating £0.7bn GVA per annum.

