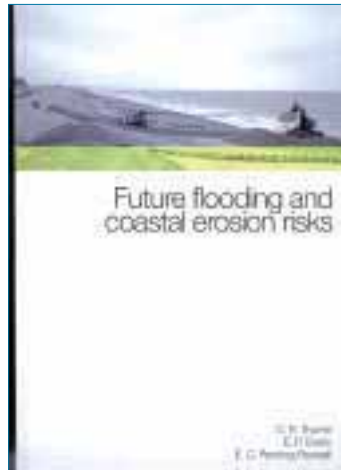


BOOKS/PERIODICALS REVIEWED



Future Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risks EDITED BY COLIN R THORNE, EDWARD P EVANS AND EDMUND C PENNING-ROWSELL

Published by Thomas Telford Ltd, 1 Heron Quay, London E14 4JD, United Kingdom. 514 pages. Hardcover. Price: £ 95.00

In 2002, the UK Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir David King, commissioned the Foresight Project on Flood and Coastal Defence. This project sought to address a number of issues surrounding how the flood risk might change and how government and the private sector might best respond to future challenges.

The original study was executed by around sixty leading experts over a period of twenty months. Three of these experts, Colin R Thorne, Edward P Evans and Edmund C Penning-RowSELL, are the editors of this book. They have presented here a detailed version of the background work that led to the publication of the originally commissioned Future Flooding Report. This report concluded that:

- Flood risk would continue to rise to unacceptable levels;
- Those risks had to be tackled on a broad front; and
- Hard choices would have to be made regarding where to direct investments.

More importantly for the engineering world in general, the work carried out established a new paradigm for future work, and with the issues of flooding and flood prevention continuing to be in the headlines worldwide, the widespread interest in this subject continues. It is, thus, appreciated and appropriate that the publishers have taken the trouble to make this valuable record available to a broader audience by issuing this book.

The book is divided into eight parts, as follows:

- Part 1 Introduction
- Part 2 Drivers of flood risk

- Part 3 Assessment of drivers and risk
- Part 4 Coastal erosion drivers and risk
- Part 5 Responses to future flood and coastal erosion risks
- Part 6 Assessment of flood risk responses
- Part 7 Sustainability and governance
- Part 8 Synthesis

The first part gives a general overview of the research project undertaken and its political and scientific context. This is followed by a fairly detailed description of the methodology adopted for the project, both its conceptual framework and a number of key aspects, such as scenarios for climate change and socio-economic evolution. Part 1 concludes with a review of the environmental impacts of flood risk management, changes in flooding and the significance of changes in flood management.

The second, and largest, part is devoted to the drivers of flood risk. These encompasses climate change, catchment land-use and changes, river processes, human behaviour, socio-economic drivers (including cities and science), coastal processes, urban change and other flood risks such as groundwater flooding. The part finishes with a discourse on the comparable importance of all these drivers in terms of their impact scoring, ranking and uncertainty. In Part 3 these drivers are evaluated on a national basis for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Part 4 is devoted to coastal erosion, as apart from general coastal processes (covered in Part 2), and coastal erosion risk. In Part 5 the responses to future flood and coastal erosion risk are examined in detail. This part covers such subjects as managing the rural landscape, responding to future intra-urban floods, flood event management, reducing flood losses, river engineering responses, and coastal flooding and erosion management. The part concludes with another chapter on scoring, ranking and the examination of uncertainty and sustainability. Part 6 deals with an assessment of the flood risk response in England and Wales.

The final two parts cover the sustainability of responses and their governance, and a synthesis giving strategic responses. The book is well set out with illustrations, tables and text boxes and the whole has, as one might expect from an eminent trio of editors, been clearly structured and seamlessly integrated. This is clearly an invaluable reference for anyone interested in the subject of flooding, responses to flood risk and their future management.

The book is available from Thomas Telford Publishers at www.t-telford.co.uk.

NICK BRAY