

*Introducing the*

# The RISC-KIT Project on the North Norfolk coast



The RISC-KIT project is a large EU-funded project, which aims to improve how we manage flood risk along our coasts. It will be working at ten sites throughout Europe, and the UK site is the North Norfolk coast.

The project will develop a state-of-the-art toolkit to enable people to better understand how we can reduce the risk of flooding, and how we can prepare for and deal with flooding if it occurs.

The first stage of the project involves a fact-finding mission. We will be gathering information on how the coast is managed currently to reduce the risk of flooding, and the different ways that people, organisations and councils prepare for major flood events.

## **About the EU RISC-KIT project**

The EU RISC-KIT project (Resilience Increasing Strategies for Coasts - toolKIT) is a large European Union funded research project working in several European countries. The project aims to create methods, tools and management approaches that can help reduce risk and increase resilience to major coastal flooding events. The RISC-KIT project will create a toolkit for coastal managers and decision-makers, which will be open source and freely available. The toolkit will consist of four parts.



The first part of the project will look at the types of risks affecting coasts, and the range of measures available to reduce these risks. This part of the project will also work on creating a coastal risk assessment framework to enable users to quickly assess which areas are most at risk from coastal hazards.



The second part will explore the contributions of early warning systems and decision support systems to ensuring that the best course of action is taken when a storm is on its way. The project will produce quantitative high-resolution information that can feed into these systems.



The third part will be a web-based management guide, which will offer information on a variety of disaster risk reduction measures. These risk reduction measures will aim to be innovative and cost-effective. Some of them may be



ecosystem-based, i.e. they will explore when and where natural ecosystems, such as saltmarshes and sand dunes, can help to reduce risk at the coast.

The fourth part of the project will provide a coastal risk database, tailored to the different locations where the project has been working. This database will include current and historic information about storms and flooding, and their effects on people, businesses and the local economy.

### **The RISC-KIT project on the North Norfolk coast**

The U.K.'s North Norfolk coast has been chosen as one of the case study areas for this project, because this is an area where academic research and practical coastal management are already well-developed. The project aims to compliment existing knowledge and contribute to improving our understanding about how best to manage risk in this complex coastal system.



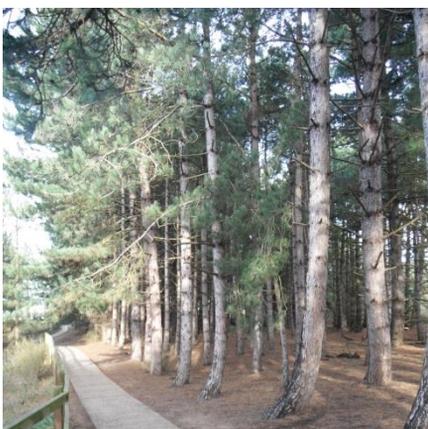
Initially we will review existing risk management plans, both at a national scale and at the local scale along the North Norfolk coast. As part of this, we will be collecting information about past flooding events, the current management of the coast, contingency plans in case of major flooding, as well as the views of local people and businesses on these topics.



Another part of our work will be to develop a range of indicators to assess coastal vulnerability. Along the North Norfolk coast, we will focus particularly on indicators related to coastal ecosystems. We will also contribute to an assessment of coastal hazards in the southern part of the North Sea.



A third part of our work will be looking at measures to reduce risk on the coast. We aim to identify existing measures and to contribute to the development of new measures that help prevent or reduce coastal flooding, and help people to prepare for and recover from flooding if it occurs.



We are currently at the beginning of this project, and are just starting to make contact with a range of local people and organisations to better understand the current situation.

### **Contact information**

We welcome everyone's input to this project, so please do get in touch with us with your views, or if you would like to know more about what we are doing. Call us on 01223 766565 or e-mail Tom Spencer at [ts111@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ts111@cam.ac.uk) or Anna McIvor at [alm1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:alm1000@cam.ac.uk).