

# Sidmouth Coastal Scheme

## The Story so Far



Wave overtopping at the Town Frontage.

### Coastal Flooding History

Wave overtopping along the town front is increasingly becoming a major source of flood risk to the community and commerce at Sidmouth. Successive coastal flood defence measures over the past 200 years have sought to progressively manage this risk.

1825-1826: Timber groynes and breastwork built.

1835: First seawall built.

1917-1919: Seawall repaired and extended.

1918: River Sid training wall replaced with structure that acted as terminal groyne.

1957: Seawall and promenade built to protect Connaught Gardens.

1991: Sidmouth Coast Protection Scheme Phase 1 encased old seawall, build low level rock apron and removed timber groynes.

1993: Rock revetment placed along frontage as emergency works.

1994: Rock revetment placed in front of 1957 Connaught Gardens seawall.

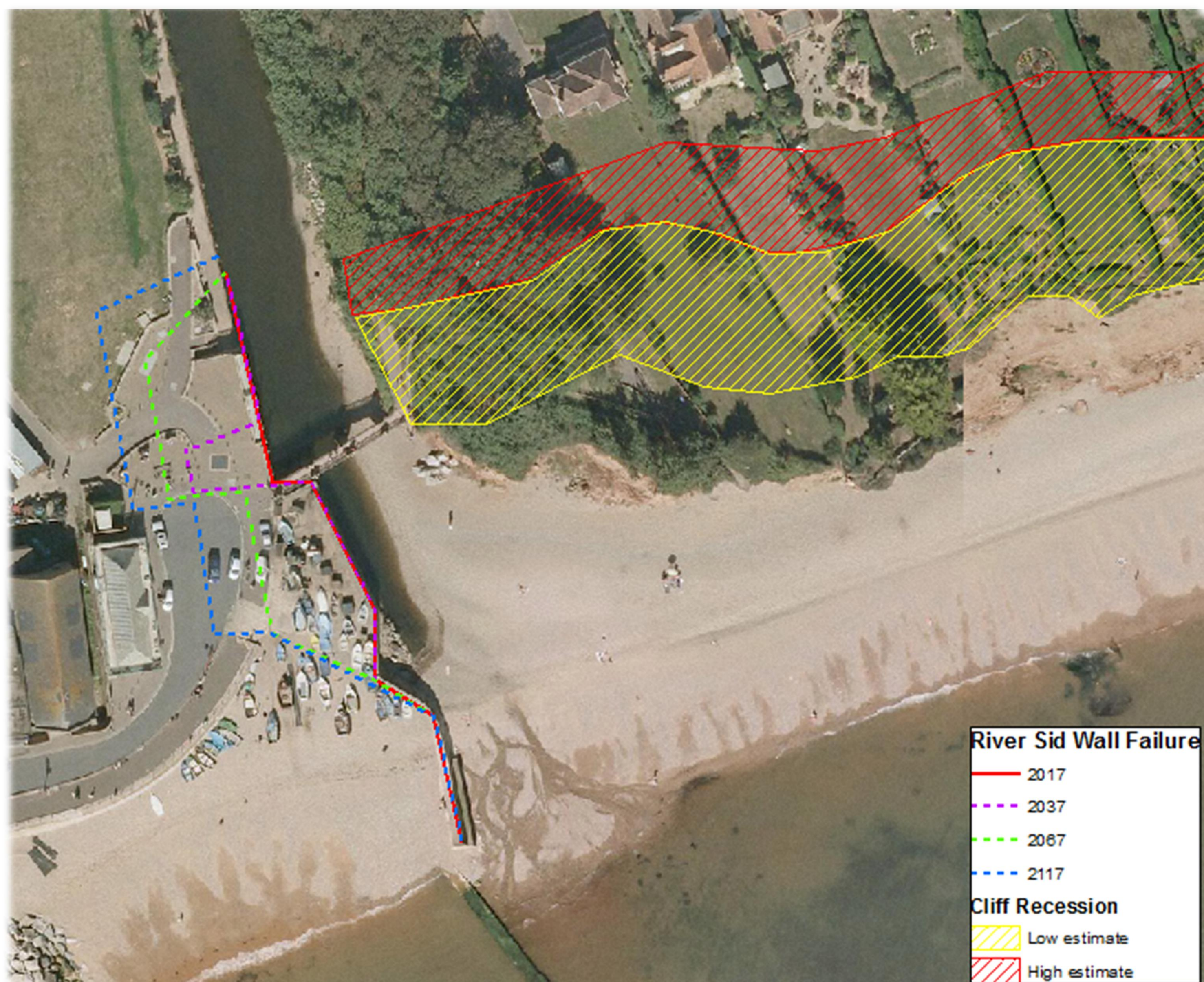
1995: Sidmouth Coast Protection Scheme Phase 2 built. This included 2 offshore breakwaters, 2 rock groynes (York and East), and Beach recharge (buried rock revetment built in 1993).

1999: Clifton Walkway built.

2000: Sidmouth Coast Protection Scheme Phase 3 completed. This included construction of the Bedford groyne and some beach sediment recycling along the frontage.

2015: Beach recycling operation to re-distribute beach sediment along the Sidmouth Town frontage.

2016-2017: Beach Management Plan developed to look at options to improve defences.

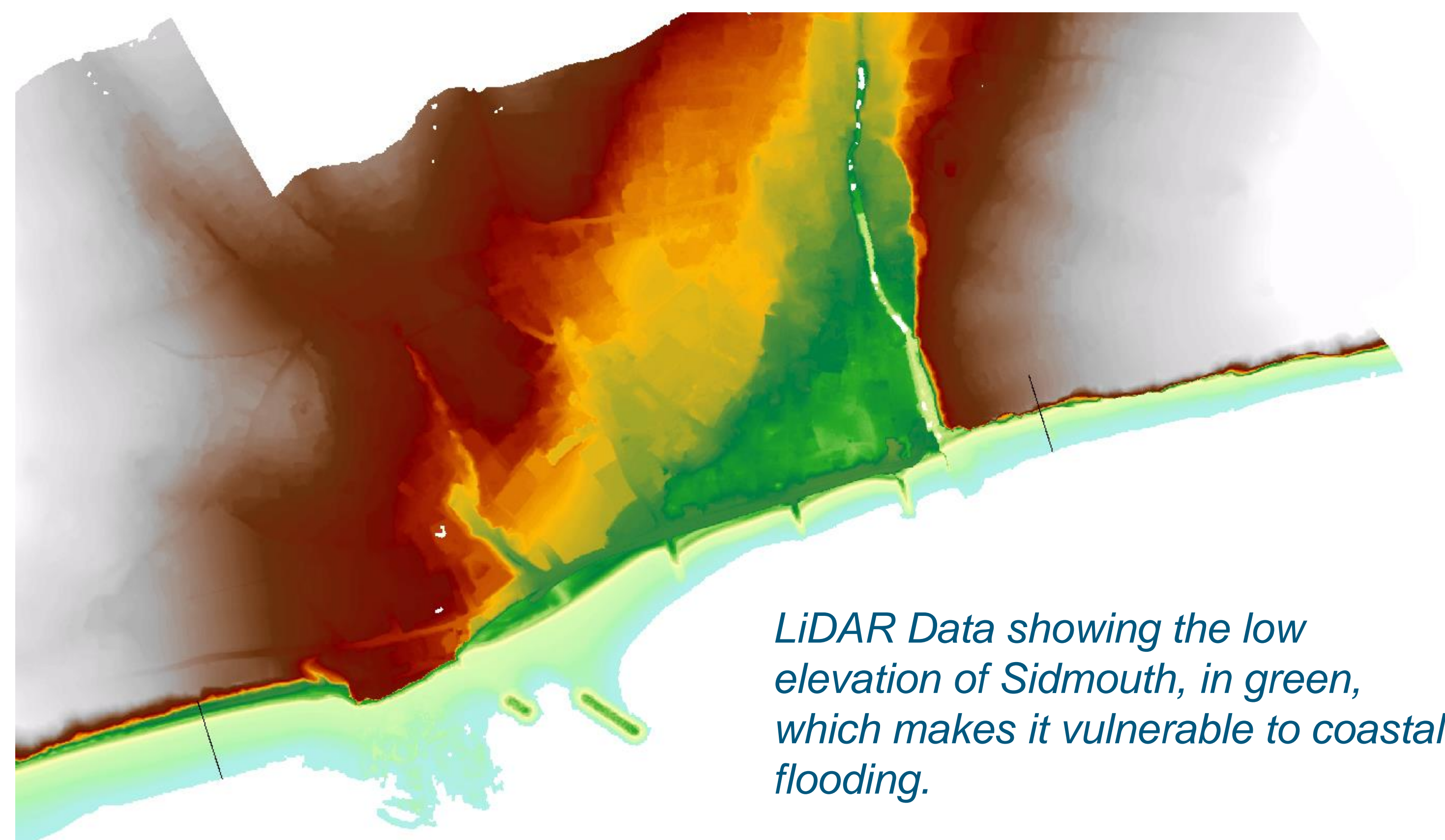


### What is the Problem?

Changing conditions such as increasing storms, rising sea levels and change in the beach position mean that further works are required to the sea front to maintain protection of the town from storms. The recession of the cliff at East Beach is also of concern to properties along the cliff top. The loss of material (sand and shingle) from the beach means that less energy from storms is absorbed before hitting the existing defence walls. Wave overtopping during high tide can lead to localised flooding in the town. This is exacerbated by the relative low land levels of the town behind the sea front leading to ponding of flood water.

### Scheme Aims

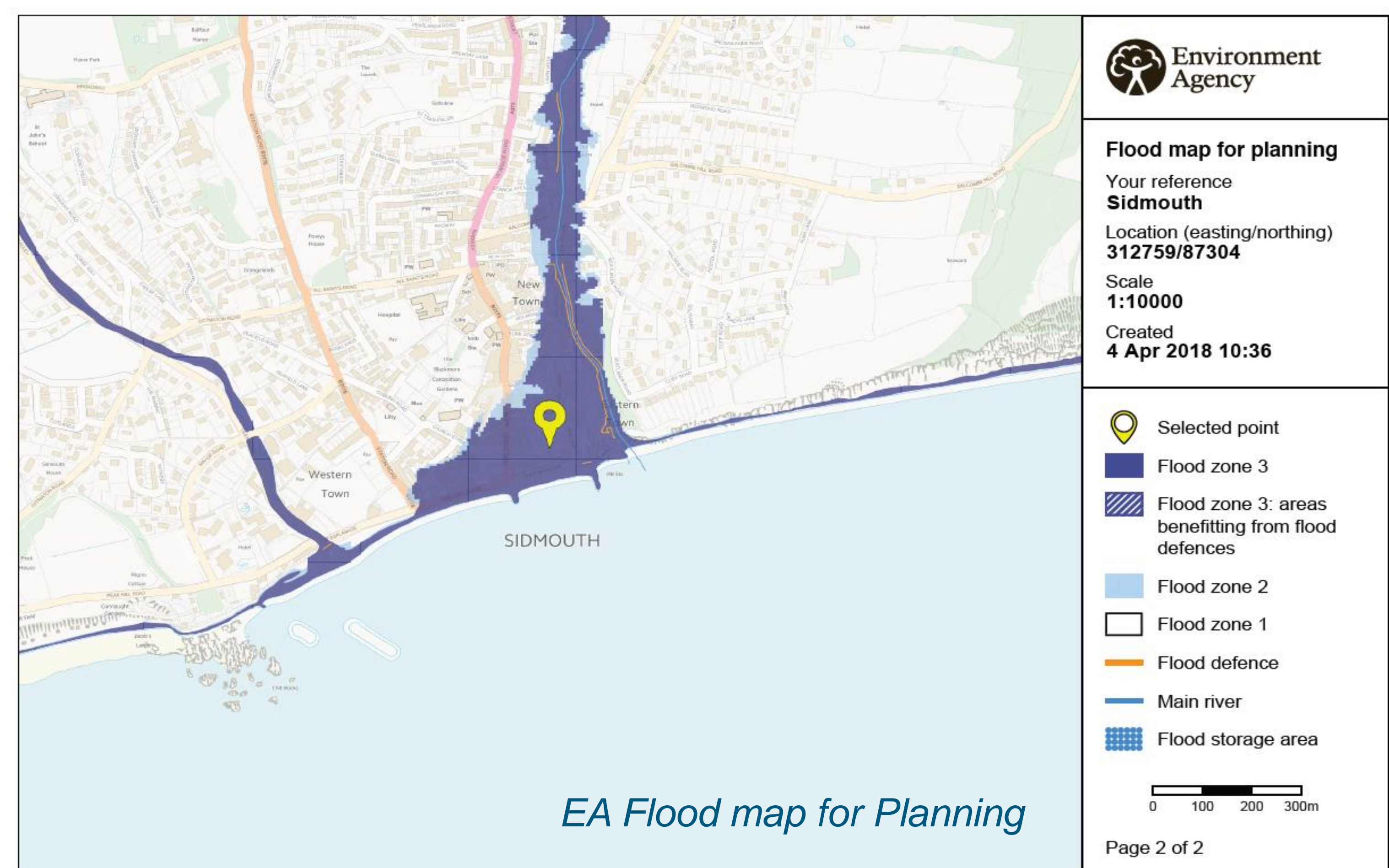
- Maintain the Standard of Service of Coastal Protection to the Town.
- Reduce the rate of cliff erosion to the east of the River Sid (East Beach).
- Carry out these aims in an integrated and sustainable way.



### The Steering Group

To ensure that the BMP and the scheme aims considered the range of stakeholders involved, a steering group was set up by East Devon District Council (EDDC). The steering group meet at key points during the project, where the technical analysis can be explained, queries can be raised and actions agreed to take forward. This group consists of :

- East Devon District Council
- Cliff Road Action Group
- Vision Group for Sidmouth
- Sid Vale Association
- Sidmouth Sailing Club
- Local Fishermen
- Sidmouth Lifeboat
- Sidmouth Town Council
- Devon County Council
- Natural England
- National Trust
- Jurassic Coast Team
- Environment Agency
- South West Water



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<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map>