

Response to Guernsey Press questions re size of flood bund 21-10-14

As an additional question, is Education able to give details on the size (particularly height) of the flood defence bund. I know residents are interested in how tall this is.

How much will this part of the project cost? I presume it should not be too expensive, as the minister did indicate that material from the old school will be used.

As part of the planning for the La Mare de Carteret Schools' site redevelopment, a Flood Risk Assessment was carried out by flood engineers Royal Haskoning DHV. The Flood Risk Assessment confirmed that the site and large areas of the neighbourhood will be affected by wave overtopping to the sea defences at certain wave, tide and wind conditions and that flood waters will naturally collect via the neighbourhood to La Mare de Carteret and that an earth bund should be provided to protect the school buildings. The provision of the bund will require small works to the Southern boundary to ensure flood waters do not adversely affect surrounding properties.

The bund would be a grass earth bank west of the new High School, running North - South. It would provide protection to the schools and provide additional flood benefits for neighbouring properties for a 1:50 year flood.

The earth bank has been included into the design and makes use of surplus material from the construction of the new schools, reducing the amount of material that would need to be taken to land fill. It is costed at approximately £360k, but this will be offset by the saving from not having to take material to landfill.

It will have a pathway along the top of it and will be graduated similarly to the grass mounds at the entrance to the Airport to provide space for people to sit. The bank would follow the ground levels to rise up from the existing ground level at the north end of the site to approximately 1.7m in the middle and then fall again to below 0.8m at the southern boundaries of the site.

It is proposed that a small number of properties to the Southern boundary would be provided with flood protection by way of a low wall on the school site. This will ensure flood waters held by the bund will not adversely affect neighbouring properties.

In addition sea defence works by the States are being planned for the Cobo Bay area and these will further improve flood protection to the schools site and wider neighbourhood.