

Forres (River Findhorn & Pilmuir) FAS

General Philosophies

October 2012

Scheme Overview

- The River Findhorn has a long history of flooding with the last major flood event being in 1970
- Flooding also affects the Pilmuir area of Forres
- Computer modelling shows the existing flood defences provide less than a 1 in 25 year defence standard
- This scheme was chosen as the most sustainable option for flood alleviation in terms of environmental impacts, costs and on-going maintenance requirements
- The scheme has been designed to provide Forres with a 1 in 200 year standard (plus climate change) of flood defence and construction is due to be completed in the spring of 2015



Visual impression of Bend One before sediment excavation (left) and after (right)
(location: left hand bank upstream of the railway bridge)

Key elements of the scheme

- The lowering of ground levels on three bends of the river and re-opening of the Back Run through sediment excavation to increase flood plain capacity
- The construction of flood embankments and the Pilmuir Drainage Channel to divert flood waters away from built up areas



During the 1956 flood the river level was only a few metres below the railway bridge

Scheme Principles

- No work is to take place within the river itself in order to preserve the existing habitat
- The works have been programmed to ensure the existing flood defence standard is not reduced during the construction period by working progressively from downstream to upstream
- After completion The Moray Council will maintain the scheme