

Interactive comment on “Estimating the long-term historic evolution of exposure to flooding of coastal populations” by A. J. Stevens et al.

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This is a well written and interesting paper exploring the changing nature of hazard and exposure related to coastal flooding in two cities in the Solent region. As highlighted, the relative importance of exposure and vulnerability has been far less studied than the influence of potential future increases in the hazard (due to sea level rise).

The results from this research highlight the importance of accurately representing the exposure when attempting to define flood risk. It seems, therefore, in resource limited situations, prediction of future risk (and therefore determination of the most efficient use of resources) must account for the fact that future changes in exposure will vary spatially and temporally. Smith, A. M. (2015) found similar results when considering

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fluvial flood risk and also highlighted that the accurate estimation of vulnerability was potentially as important as the change in future hazard.

I am interested to know if the authors: 1) Expect the results to be the same if the return period considered was altered? 2) Expect there to be many areas around the UK where the reverse trend might be found? 3) Believe it is possible to accurately predict the future changes in population dynamics across the UK in order to more accurately predict exposure (and therefore risk)?

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