

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

**J.M. Brown (Editor)**

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Collecting historic information on coastal defence types and their condition is often challenging. Quantifying any defence degradation with time and the influence on a structure's fragility also adds complication when determining the historic flood risk. Within the manuscript you have clearly acknowledged the limitations of the present study with statements such as:

“The lack of historic data on flood defences makes a temporal study of risk evolution including defences time unfeasible.”

“The evolution of the effectiveness of flood defences is an area for further study as when combined with exposure, it allows estimate of changing flood risk.”

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You have also stated why you adopt your current approach with the introductory statement:

“The study area has been zoned for flood “risk” by the UK Environment Agency for a 1 : 200 year extreme event assuming that no flood defences are present (Fig. 2c). In this study we continue to use the worst case undefended scenario in consistency with current management practices.”

In response to reviewer #1 would you be able to provide supporting evidence of studies and/or management practises alongside the introductory statements to justify your approach?

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Interactive comment on Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., 3, 1681, 2015.