

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

THE WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

**Minutes of the Meeting of the above held on Thursday, 21st September, 2023
at 2.00 pm in the Room at Valentine Road, Hunstanton and on Microsoft Teams**

PRESENT:

Councillor Squire – Borough Council (Chair)
Paul Bland – Heacham South Beach Owners Association
Ian Devereux – RFCC
Catherine Harries – Environment Agency
Phil Hulme – Environment Agency
Jade Kite – Borough Council
Andrew Murray – Hunstanton Civic Society
Councillor Parish – Borough Councillor
Dave Robson – Borough Council
Michael Ruston – Hunstanton Chamber of Trade

PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:

Tim Baldwin – Borough Council
Michael Burton – Borough Council
Councillor Corby – Hunstanton Town Council
Councillor de Whalley – Borough Council
Lorraine Gore – Borough Council
Geoff Hall – Borough Council
Philippa Sillis – Borough Council
Vanessa Gouldsmith – Natural England

APOLOGIES:

Will Fletcher – Historic England
Councillor Jamieson – Norfolk County Council
Matthew Moore – Anglian Water
Tamara Rowson – Natural England
Rob Wise – NFU

		<u>ACTION</u>
1	<u>WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES</u> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present introduced themselves.	
2	<u>MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING</u> The notes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct	

	record.	
3	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>There was none.</p>	
4	<p><u>HUNSTANTON CLIFFS (UNIT A) UPDATE</u> (Pages 6 - 46)</p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit A, as attached. Information was provided on the Annual Cliff Monitoring and it was explained that final reports would be shared with the Stakeholder Group once available. It was noted that at the moment there was no change to the erosion rates.</p>	
5	<p><u>HUNSTANTON TOWN (UNIT B) UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit B, as attached, which included work carried out during the previous financial year and work scheduled for 23/24, which included health and safety works.</p> <p>An update on upcoming work and investigations was provided and it was explained that some of the investigatory work would require licences and assent from Natural England and the Marine Maritime Organisation (MMO). It was anticipated that the investigation work, which would include Ground Penetrating Radar surveys of the promenade, trial pits at the base of the seawall and LiDAR stability monitoring would take place from Spring 2024.</p> <p>In response to questions from those present it was explained that a part of a concrete groyne had been removed because it was damaged and Stakeholders were referred to the Jacobs report which had agreed that the groynes would just be subject to health and safety repairs going forward.</p> <p>Ian Devereux commented that it seemed as if the level of work was greater than previous years and asked if this was due to sea level rise, tidal surges, or the aging structures. Officers explained that there was always some post storm damage and there had been a number of storms and high tides over the winter period. Costs of materials and supplies had increased which had a knock on effect on the budget and most of the work was due to natural wear and tear. The conditions survey would identify future work required and it was noted that the Coastal Management Plan was still being followed.</p> <p>In response to a question from Michael Ruston, the group was reminded that work was focussed on flood defence and aesthetics was not a consideration. In response to questions about concrete groyne slabs it was explained that they were held in place by internal</p>	

	<p>steel reinforcements so could not be removed and placed into other concrete groynes and the groynes were too short and low to be effective at catching sediment moved long shore drift even if it was occurring along the frontage. The accretions at the concrete groynes 1 to 3 were from the cliffs.</p>	
6	<p><u>SOUTH HUNSTANTON TO WOLFERTON CREEK (UNIT C) UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit C, as attached. Detail of the policies in place were provided.</p> <p>Catherine Harries provided information on the Shingle/Sand Ridge and it was explained that the current management approach was annual beach recycling, intermittent beach recharge and ongoing beach monitoring.</p> <p>It was explained that there were issues with the ridge in that residents were excavating the crest and the side of the ridge which impacted the structural integrity of the ridge.</p> <p>In terms of the recharge this had been programmed for 2025/26 and at present beach levels were stable meaning recycling could continue, however in planning for the future issues had been identified such as the increase cost, technical feasibility and environmental limitations of the beach recharge, meaning that the project had been paused and the flood risk management approach for this stretch of coastline would be reviewed.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about future approaches and how planning applications were dealt with. Catherine Harries explained that planning policy was outside of her remit and the Environment Agency was a statutory consultee for planning applications. The Environment Agency had to consider the impact a breach in defences would have on properties in the area.</p> <p>Councillor Parish referred to the shingle ridge and asked if it would be replaced where excavation had taken place. It was explained that reinstating it was challenging as it was a natural process, bound together with vegetation. It was also difficult to get plant into the area, however options were being looked at. The Environment Agency would use available powers to take action on those damaging the shingle ridge and had carried out a leaflet drop in the area as well as regular patrols in the area.</p> <p>Those present discussed the importance of getting information out to the right people and Councillor Bland agreed to assist in circulating information to the South Beach Property owners if required.</p>	

7	<p><u>WECMS FUNDING GROUP UPDATE</u></p> <p>Officers provided information on the Annual Beach recycling, as attached and it was explained that there were additional monitoring and licence costs included this year, which were due every five years. It was noted that the Environment Agency liaised with the RSPB every year.</p> <p>It was explained that the current business case covered the period to 2031, they a further approval process would be required.</p>	
8	<p><u>BATHING WATER</u></p> <p>Information was provide on the actions that had been carried out by the Environment Agency in respect of Heacham Bathing Water Quality, as attached. Further sampling would take place to cover a wider area and work had been carried out with residents, including visits and inspections of properties.</p> <p>The group discussed how old residential sewage systems could impact the bathing water quality and that this should be a consideration for future planning applications and Environment Agency conditions for discharge.</p> <p>The group also discussed how reliable visual inspections of properties were and it was explained that this issue could be discussed further at a meeting scheduled between the Borough Council and Environment Agency. It was also noted that officers from the Environment Agency were scheduled to attend a future meeting of the Councils Corporate Performance Panel to provide Councillors with an update on Bathing Water Quality.</p> <p>Those present felt that sewage systems should be thoroughly checked as aging systems could be damaged and leaking.</p> <p>It was explained that a boat would be taken out into the Wash so that sampling from further out could be obtained. Lorraine Gore requested that officers from the Borough Council and Environment Agency liaise regarding sampling opportunities as this could link up with shellfish bed sampling.</p> <p>Those present noted that there had been an Anglian Water discharge notice following the recent heavy rain which would temporarily affect water quality.</p>	
9	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Ian Devereux explained that over the summer he had been involved</p>	

	<p>in a review of Shoreline Management Plans for England to establish a baseline for the implications for future years and a report would shortly be published online.</p> <p>Councillor Corby informed those present that a meeting was being held in Hunstanton Town Hall on 20th October at 7pm to meet with the organisation behind the Wash Barrier proposals.</p>	
10	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>To be confirmed.</p>	

The meeting closed at 3.44 pm

WECMS Stakeholder Forum

Thursday 21st September 2023 (2pm to 3:45pm)

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



1. Welcomes & Apologies



2. Minutes of Last Meeting



3. Matters Arising



4. Hunstanton Cliffs (Unit A) Update



Annual Cliff Monitoring

- Annual terrestrial LiDAR survey completed in April 2023.
- Data now with BGS who are producing report of outcomes.
- First draft of this years report due mid-October.
- Report will roll out trigger level pilot for all of the cliffs and assess the distance of the cliff top fence from the cliff edge.



5. Hunstanton Town (Unit B) Update



2022/23 Financial Year Budget & Works

Defence Element	Repair Summary	Cost
Floodgates	Preventative maintenance inspection.	£2,064.00
Rock Shop Ramp	Concrete repair.	£10,657.00
Navigation Marker 6	Replacement of marker element (brace).	£2,254.00
Navigation Marker 14	Replacement of marker element (brace).	£1,240.00
Navigation Marker	Replacement of numbered markers (x5).	£1,780.00
Blockwork Seawall	Reinstatement of missing / damaged mortar joints.	£28,605.68
Outfalls	Jetting & survey of BC promenade outfalls.	£1,095.00
Technical advice retainer	Coastal engineer technical advice retainer.	£1,666.33
Outfalls	Replacement of outfall grate.	£486.00
Promenade	Concrete repair.	£862.34
Asset Inspection	Visual asset inspection survey of all coastal defences.	£6,825.00 (½ payment)
Navigation Marker 1	Re-orientation of marker.	£1,180.00
n/a	LGA Coastal SIG Subscription.	£330.00
Floodgates	Routine maintenance (e.g. seal replacement).	£5,230.00
Navigation Marker & Concrete Groyne	H&S works following March high tides.	£380.00
Total spend was £64,655.35. £14,510.00 of work was carried forward into the next financial year.		

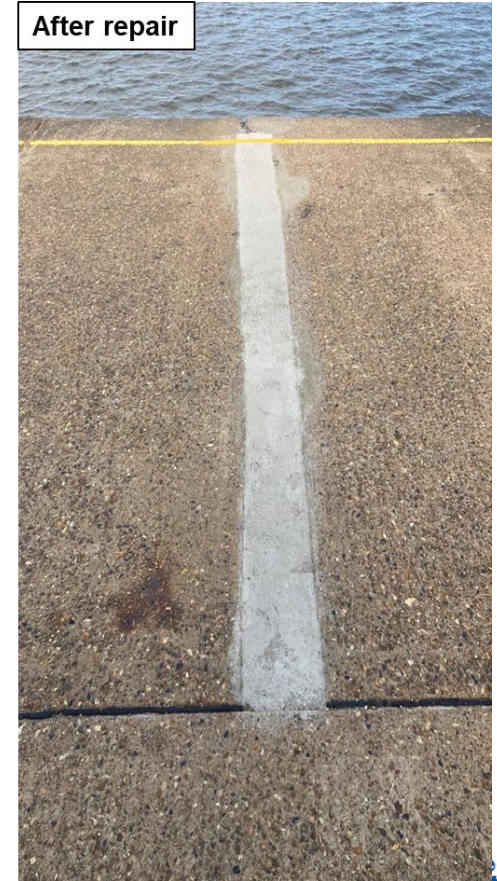
2023/24 Financial Year Budget & Works

Defence Element	Repair Summary	Cost
Asset Inspection (<i>work carried forward from last financial year</i>)	Visual asset inspection survey of all coastal defences.	£6,825.00 (1/2 payment)
Outfalls (<i>work carried forward from last financial year</i>)	Additional jetting and replacement of seized drain covers.	£1,905.00
Navigation Markers (<i>work carried forward from last financial year</i>)	Powder coating of all marker beacons.	£5,780.00
→ Technical Advice Retainer	Coastal engineer technical advice retainer.	£1,666.33
n/a	LGA Coastal SIG subscription fee.	£500.00
Promenade, slipways, seawall, concrete groynes.	x37 repairs following high tides in February and March.	£53,935.98
Groynes	Health and safety works.	£8,667.10
Navigation Marker 6	Reinstatement of collapsed marker.	£1,845.00
Navigation Marker 16	Replacement of numbered markers.	£380.00
Promenade, seawall, rear-wave wall, slipways	x45 repairs to be completed in the autumn.	£84,051.68
Total spend so far this financial year is £165,556.09		

**June / July 2023
Repairs:**

Concrete patch repair to
promenade – Section E

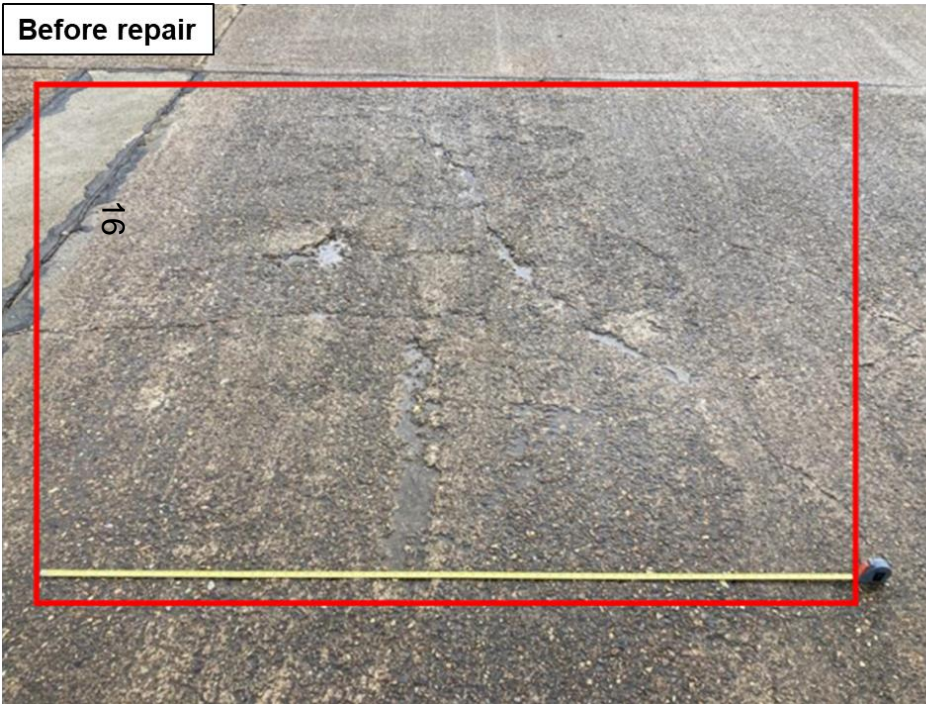
Repair cost ~ £1,300.00



June / July 2023 Repairs:

Concrete patch repair to promenade – Section E

Repair cost ~ £4,000.00



**June / July 2023
Repairs:**

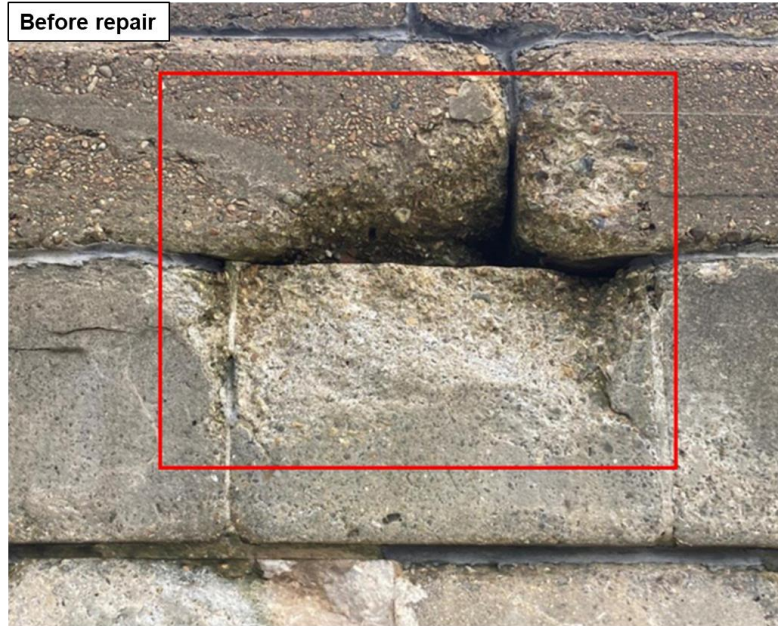
Concrete patch repair
to beach access steps
– Section E

Repair cost ~ £4,350.00



June / July 2023 Repairs:

Replacement of
blockwork element
– Section E



June / July 2023 Repairs:

H&S works to concrete groyne 8.

Before

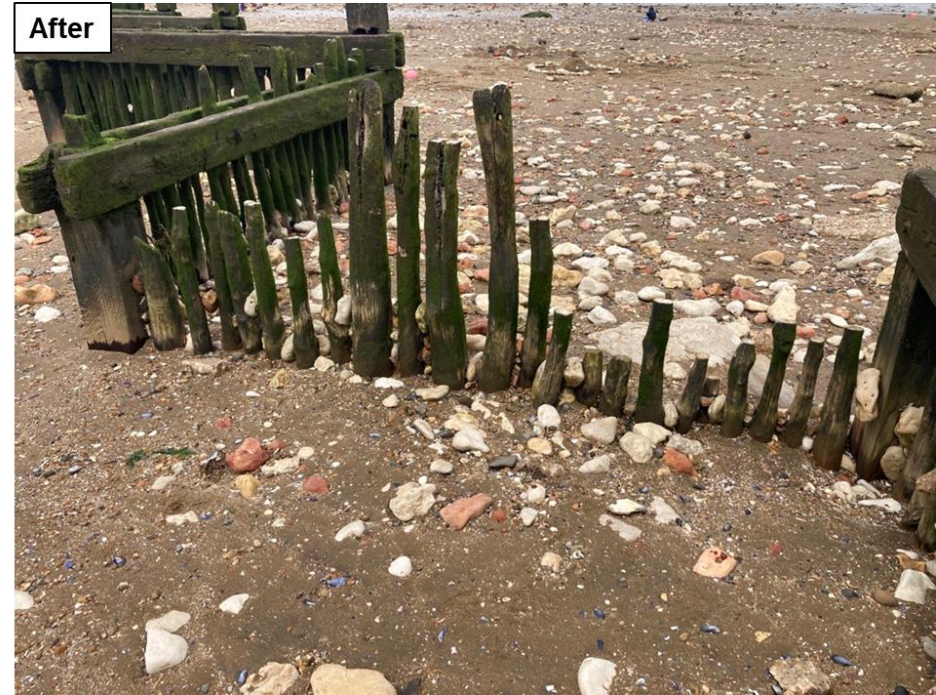
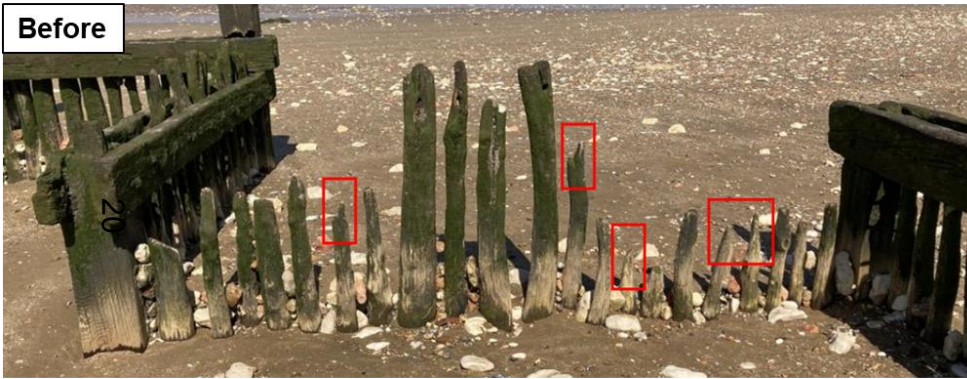


After



June / July 2023 Repairs:

H&S works to timber groyne 10.



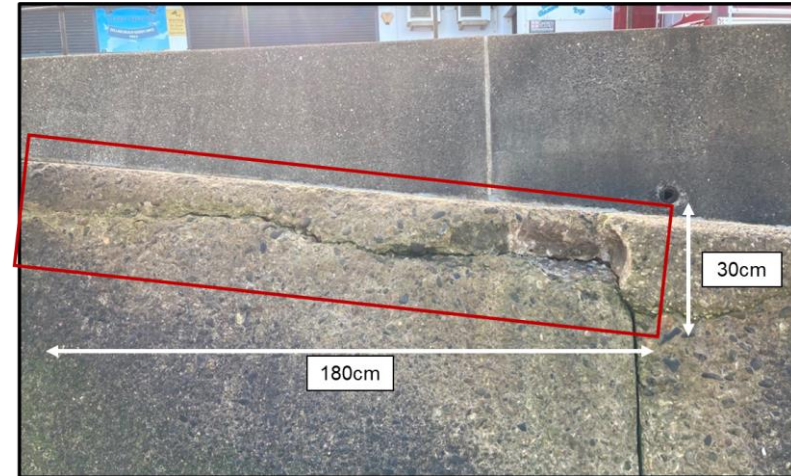
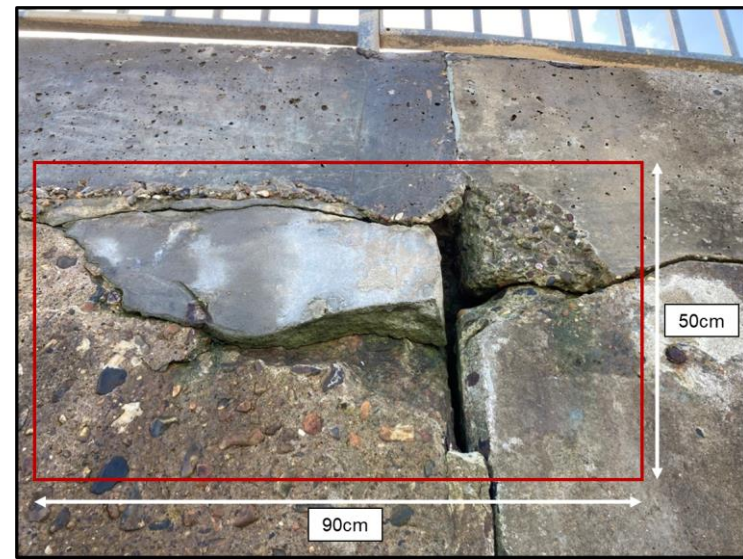
H&S Repairs to Promenade

- A number of trip hazards have been identified on the promenade.
- Temporary 'cold lay' repairs have been completed to alleviate trip hazards.
- Permanent concrete repairs will be completed in spring 2024.



Autumn Repair Package

- x45 repairs to promenade, seawall, rear-wave wall and slipways.
- Contract awarded to Southbay Civils.
- Works will commence in October and commence before the end of November.
- Works will cost £84,051.68



Upcoming Works

- Asset inspection survey recommended undertaking additional investigations to confirm asset condition.
- Additional investigations include:
 - Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of promenade
 - Trial pits at the base of seawall sections C to G
 - LiDAR stability monitoring
- Currently writing specifications and expect to go out to tender in October.
- Anticipated works to take place from Spring 2024.

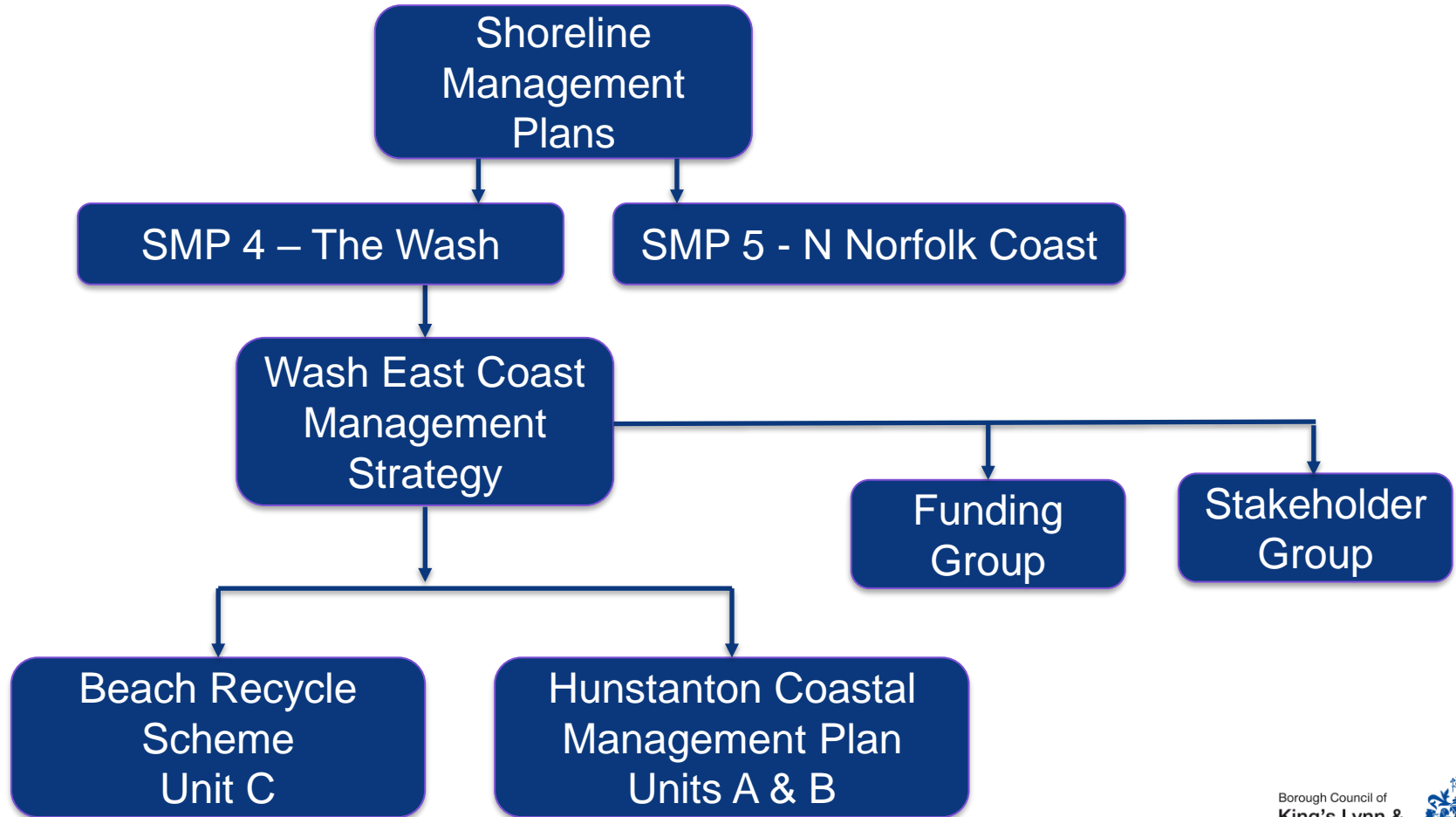


24 6. South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek (Unit C) Update

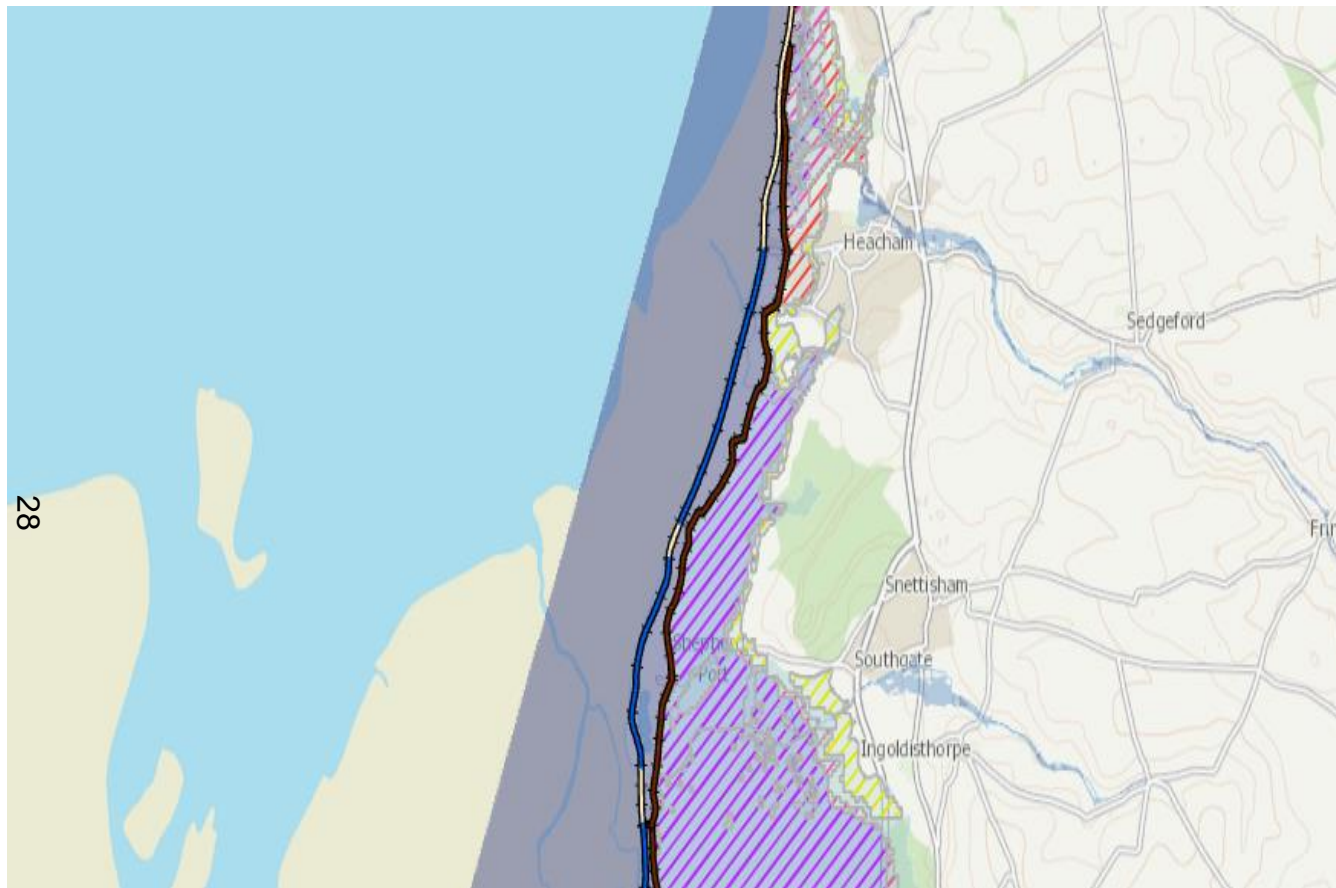


Policy Hierarchy









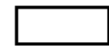
Defended area



Flood zone 3



Flood zone 2



Flood zone 1



Flood defence



Main river

Great Ouse
Council of
Great Ouse
East Norfolk



SMP 4 Polices & Timeline

Unit Area	Up to 2025	2025 to 2050	2050 to 2100
A – Cliffs	NAI	NAI	HTL
B – Hunstanton	HTL	HTL	HTL
C – South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek	HTL	HTL/MR/NAI	HTL/MR/NAI

HLT = Hold the Line

NAI = No Active Intervention

MR = Managed Realignment



Unit C – Shingle/Sand Ridge

Catherine Harries and Philippa Hulme

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Current Management Approach

The current management approach is:

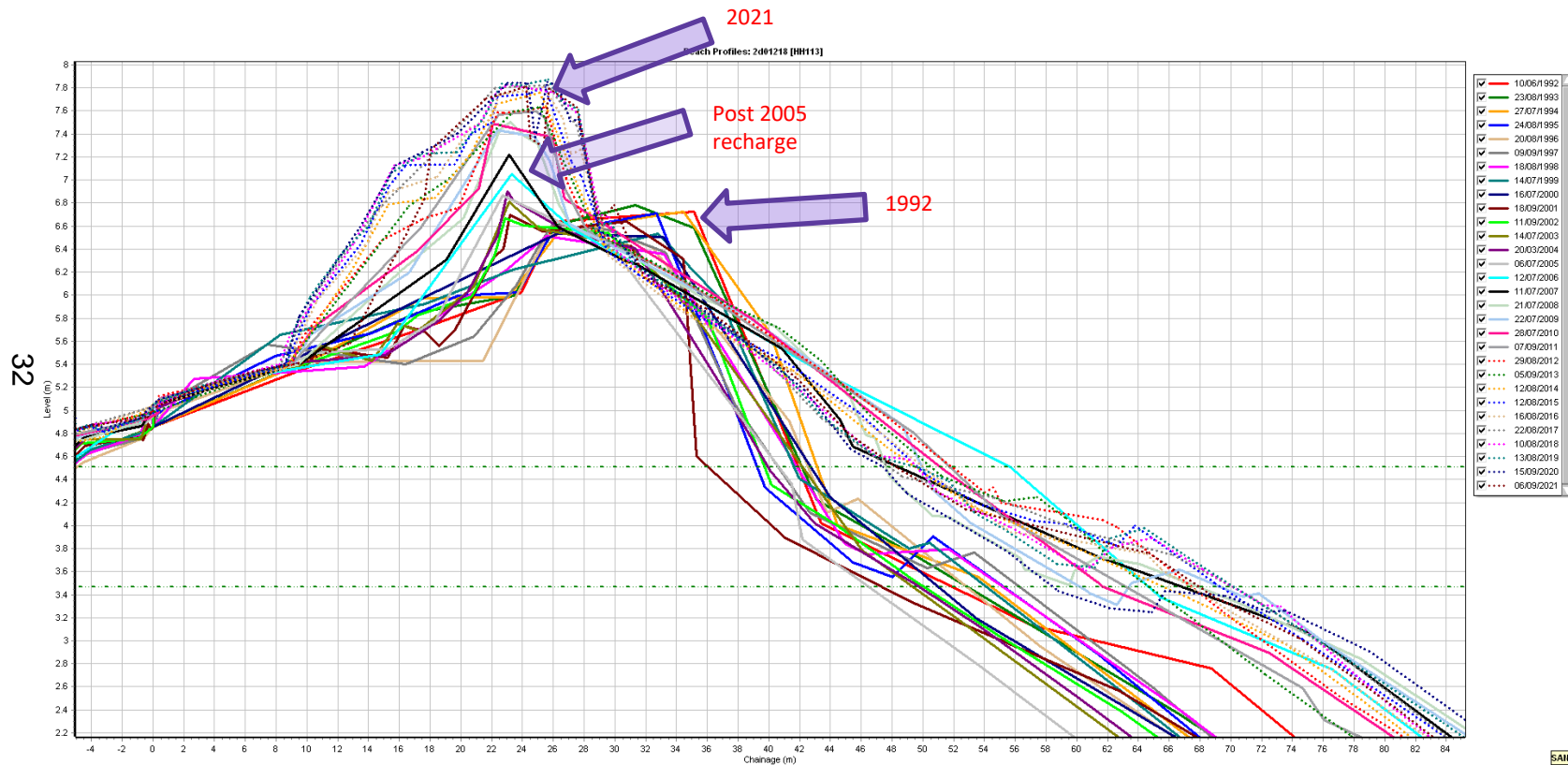
- Annual Beach Recycling
- Intermittent Beach Recharge
- Ongoing beach monitoring

This has been the case for a number of years and more recently supported by WECMS.

There are a couple of items to discuss.



Challenge 1: Ridge Mobility



1992-2021 close up of dune crest

- Residents are excavating the crest and the side of the ridge.



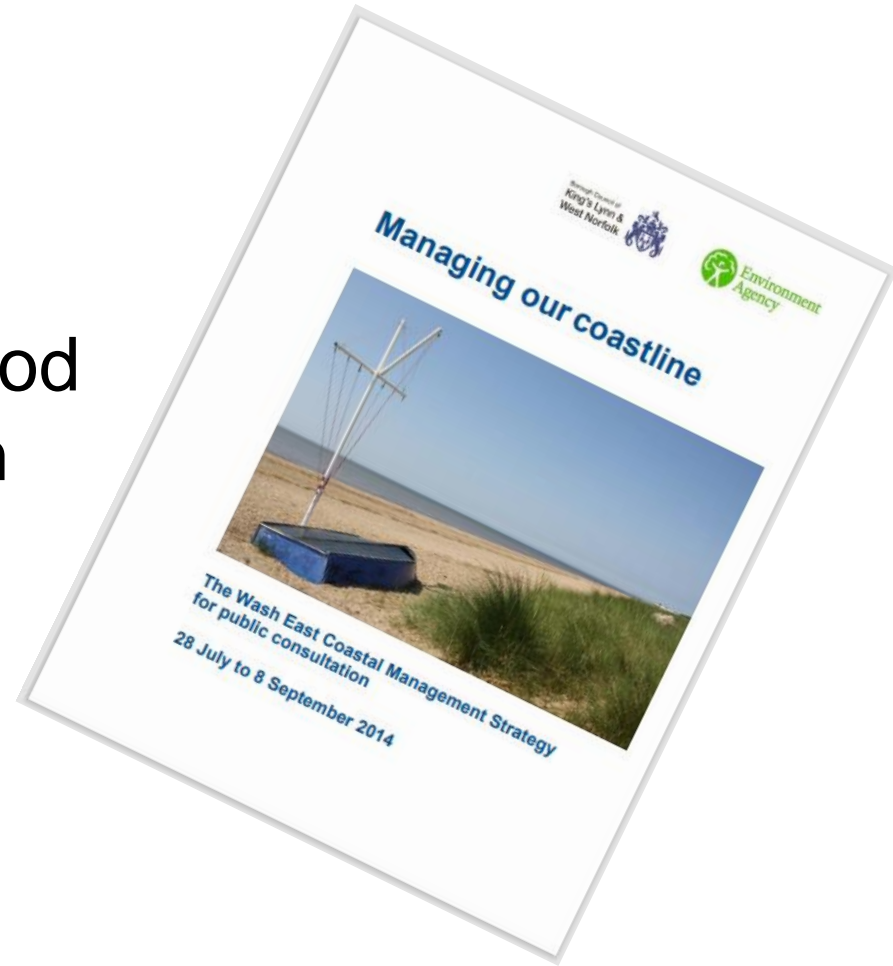
- Unbeknown to some residents, this is increasing the flood risk.

Challenge 2: Beach Recharge

- A small beach recharge was forecast for the near future.
- At this time beach levels are stable but we're planning ahead
- The initial planning has identified key challenges:
 - Cost
 - Technical feasibility
 - Environmental limitations
- This project has been paused.

Where we are now

We have likely reached a trigger for change in our flood risk management approach on this stretch of coastline.



Current EA Activities

We are working with leading coastal engineers to assess the triggers identified in the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy and in parallel we are:

- Continuing with the annual beach recycling.
- ∞ We are more visible in the area, engaging with the community to ensure the value of the ridge is known and enforcing against excavation where necessary.
- Working closer with KLWNBC on planning applications.
- Identifying the procurement routes to undertake a full review of the WECMS, should it be necessary.
- Shoreline Management Plan Refresh.

Key Messages

- The challenges are unique and complex.
- Beach recycling is continuing.
- 37
• We are actively progressing a solution but nothing has been predetermined.
- We want to work with the community and other partners throughout the process.

Timeline



July 2023

- SLT Briefing & Portfolio Holder update (11th July)
- Set up project team between BCKLWN & EA
- Jacobs start technical report

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August 2023

- Cabinet Briefing (2nd August)
- Ward members briefing (22nd August)
- Develop joint Comms Plan between BCKLWN & EA

September 2023

- WECMS Stakeholder Forum (21st September)
- Funding Group Meeting (28th September)

⁴October 2023

- Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (19th October)

April 2024

- Review completed technical report
- Feed in to RFCC and start WECMS policy review
- WECMS Stakeholder Group
- Funding Group Meeting
- Feed in to Planning Policy

7. WECMS Funding Group Update



Annual Beach Recycling

- This years annual beach recycling was completed in February.
- 43 455 loads of beach material was moved.
- Total cost of this years recycling was £117,644.
- Beach recycling will continue to take place next February / March as planned.



Funding Source	Amount
Grant in Aid (GiA)	£56,280.37
Anglian Water	£20,000
CIC	£31,732.34
BCKLWN	£5,000
Beach Huts	£1,110
Surplus Funds	£3,521.29
Total Cost	£117,644.00

8. Bathing Water



ACTIONS

- MST sampling & additional water sampling.
- Additional water samples organised with a boat - sampling points going out nearly 6km from Heacham slipway.
- 45 • Identification of further sampling points on Heacham River (Water Quality Commission Report).
- Wash meetings with L&W team leaders, discussing potential for more sampling at the Ouse and Nene.
- Pollution prevention visits.
- ARIO team undertaking relevant farm visits.
- Briefing note produced for MP/council/public guidance.



9. Any Other Business (AOB)

