

**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 Wednesday, 21st May, 2025  
at 4.00 pm in the Room at Valentine Road, Hunstanton and on Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Squire – Borough Council (Chair)  
Dave Robson – Borough Council  
Jade Kite – Borough Council  
Councillor Parish – Borough Council  
Paul Bland – Heacham South Beach Owners Association  
Matt Jones – Wash Landscape Partnership  
Councillor Corby – Hunstanton Town Council  
Andrew Murray – Hunstanton Society

**PRESENT VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS:**

Alastair White – Natural England  
George Fuhrmann – Environment Agency  
Phil Hulme – Environment Agency  
Ed Tooth – RSPB  
Councillor Berns – Snettisham Parish Council  
Michael Burton – Borough Council  
Kelly-Ann Willson – The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership  
Rob Wise – NFU  
Ian Devereux – Local Stakeholder

		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b><u>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</u></b>  The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Those present introduced themselves.	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b>  Apologies for absence were received from Derrick Lloyd – Hunstanton Chamber of Trade, James Albone – Historic England, Katy Owen – Norfolk Coast Partnership, Matthew Moore – Anglian Water and Will Fletcher – Historic England.	
<b>3</b>	<b><u>MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING</u></b>  The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.	

4	<p><b><u>HUNSTANTON CLIFFS (UNIT A) UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit A, as attached.</p> <p>Information was provided on the 2024 annual survey of cliff erosion, and it was explained that this was complete, and a report of the outcomes had been published on the Borough Council's website.</p> <p>Officers explained they were applying for the funding this year and would commence monitoring every other year instead of annually from the next financial year with the provision to having coastal monitoring following a storm event should the need for it arise and this was the proposal going forward.</p> <p>It was explained the cliffs were eroding at the same rate and therefore continuing to monitor it annually would not provide any more information.</p> <p>Councillor Squire asked for clarification around the biennial monitoring and officers explained within the funding application there was provision for coastal monitoring following a storm event should it be required.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Parish, officers explained they had removed part of the redundant cliff fencing in November 2024 and that they were looking at doing something again during a similar time period this year.</p>	
5	<p><b><u>HUNSTANTON TOWN (UNIT B) UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit B, as attached.</p> <p>Officers explained they would continue to monitor the beach levels along the North Promenade.</p> <p>The works which were undertaken during the 2024/2025 financial year were highlighted.</p> <p>Officers summarised some of the repair works which were due to commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025 and the works would take 3 ½ weeks to complete.</p> <p>It was noted they were still waiting for the final report of the outcomes from the geotechnical investigations.</p>	
6	<p><b><u>SOUTH HUNSTANTON TO WOLFERTON CREEK (UNIT C) UPDATE</u></b></p>	

	<p>Officers delivered a presentation providing an update on Unit C, as attached.</p> <p>Officers explained the Unit C Initial assessment concluded that a beach recharge for 2025 would be unaffordable.</p> <p>It was explained officers were currently going through the process of updating the Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS) to determine the future approach for Units C, B and A.</p> <p>It was noted that although the economic trigger had been met, the environmental and flood evacuation triggers had not been met.</p> <p>Officers explained that the WECMS review would need to go ahead over the next couple of years. An updated timeline was shared, and the two phases were outlined. It was noted the WECMS review would begin in September 2025 instead of April 2025.</p> <p>Officers advised they would be engaging with Stakeholders throughout the process.</p> <p>In response to comments from Councillor Parish in relation to the use of electric bikes at South Beach, Heacham and damaging the dunes, officers advised him to email the Environment Agency or Enforcement so that it could be looked into further.</p> <p>In response to comments and a question from Rob Wise in relation to the consultation from central government on funding mechanisms and formulas, officers encouraged the Stakeholders to keep an eye out for the Defra consultation which would be coming out early June 2025. Officers confirmed they would circulate the link to the consultation to Stakeholders.</p> <p>In response to a question from Matt Jones, officers explained they had secured funding for half of phase one, and they were in the process of putting the bid in for the upcoming years.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Squire, officers explained there had only been two cases of enforcement since the last Stakeholder Forum and were still issuing out warnings but reassured they were ready to take steps further if necessary. Officers added they were doing a good job at preventing any future damage.</p>	PH
7	<p><b><u>WECMS FUNDING GROUP UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Officers provided information on the annual beach recycling for 2024/2025, as attached.</p>	

	It was explained annual beach recycling had completed between February and March 2025 and the total cost of the works was £122,762.09.	
<b>8</b>	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>Andrew Murray asked if there had been any change to the rate in erosion. Officers confirmed the rate in erosion was still the same.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>To be scheduled for September/October 2025.</p>	

**The meeting closed at 4.41 pm**

# WECMS Stakeholder Forum

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Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (4pm to 5:30pm)

Hybrid Meeting (Valentine Road, Hunstanton and Microsoft Teams)

Minute Item 4



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# 1. Welcome & Apologies



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## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting



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# 3. Matters Arising



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# 4. Hunstanton Cliffs (Unit A) Update

Jade Kite and Dave Robson



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# Hunstanton Cliffs Update

- 2024 annual survey of cliff erosion completed and report of outcomes published.
- 4-years of Local Levy funding allocation towards the production of report of outcomes by BGS has now ended (March-2025).
- <sup>o</sup>2024 annual report suggested frequency of survey / report of outcomes could be reduced from annual to every 2-years, with a provision for post storm monitoring when required.
- We are now working with the EA to submit a new bid for Local Levy funding for biennale monitoring.



# Cliff top fence signage

- New health and safety signage design produced.
- The new signs will be installed every 100m  
→ along the 1.5km length of cliff top fence.

New sign design

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**Danger**  
**Cliff edge**



**Stay Out**

Current signs



# 5. Hunstanton Town (Unit B) Update

Jade Kite and Dave Robson

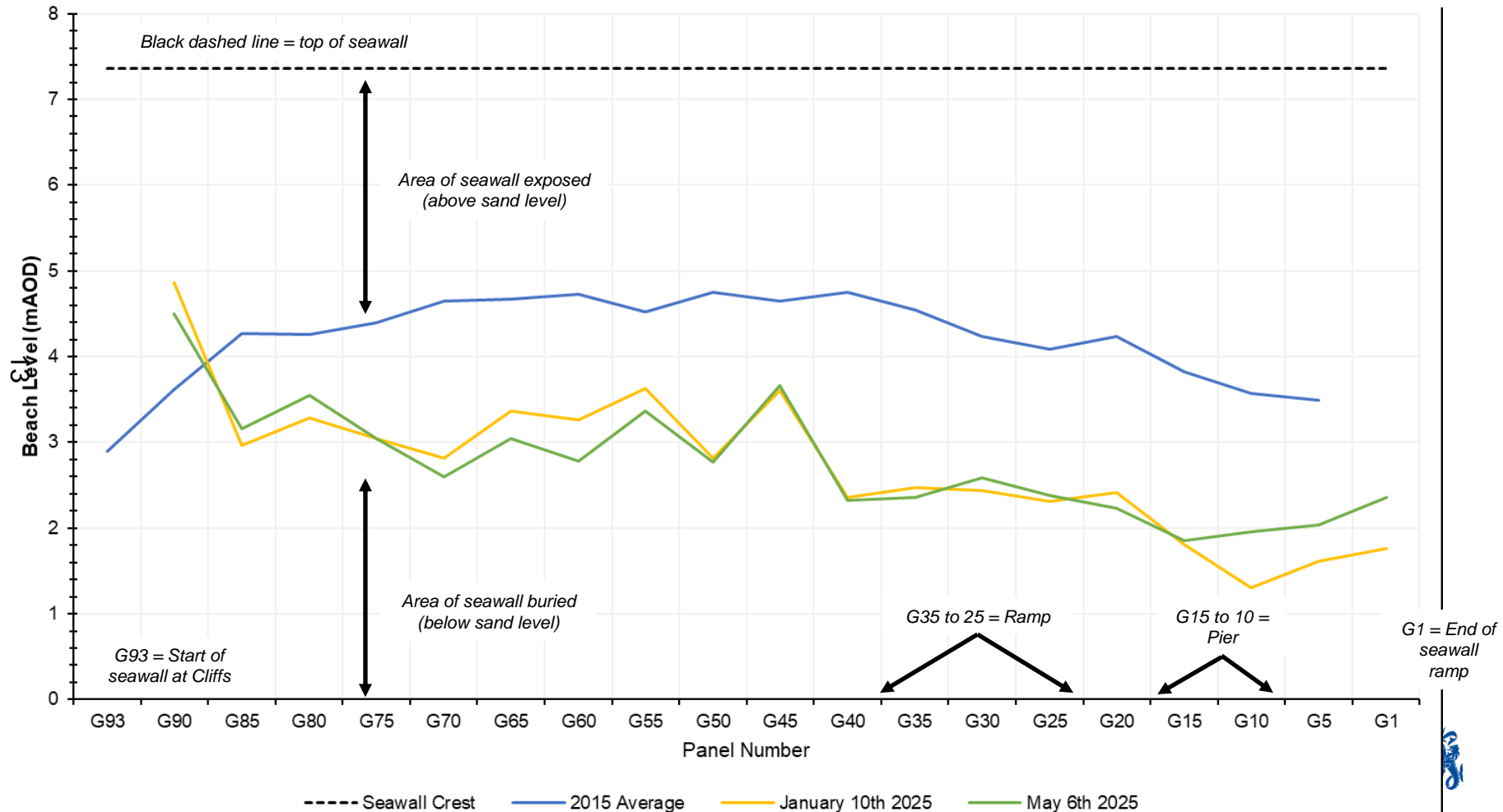


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# Section G Beach Levels

Coloured lines = Height of beach material against the base of the seawall



# 2024-25 financial year works

Defence Element	Repair Summary	Cost	Status
Hunstanton Cliff Report (2023)	Additional work to report – <i>carried forward from last F/Y</i>	£3,207.42	Complete
Handrail	Repair to handrail following storm damage	£230	Complete
Technical advice retainer	Coastal engineer retainer fee	£1,666.34	Complete
LGA Coastal SIG Subscription	Subscription fee	£500	Complete
Seawall, promenade, wave-return wall, slipways, steps & timber groynes	Summer 2024 concrete repairs, sealant repairs and H&S works to timber groynes.	£60,083.60	Complete
Handrail	Extension of handrail on slipway (H&S)	£3,465	Complete
Handrail	Replacement of handrail on promenade (H&S)	£17,836	Complete
Gaywood River Study	IDB study of Gaywood River flood management measures	£10,000	Paid
Hunstanton Cliff Report (2024)	Annual report of cliff erosion (50/50 funded by local levy)	£10,087.24	Complete
Hunstanton Cliffs	Removal of redundant concrete fence posts and fence wire.	£8,797.50	Complete
Beach access steps & handrail	Extension of beach access steps and handrail near pier head building.	£6,870	Complete
Navigation marker	Reinstatement of navigation marker 9	£1,590	Complete
Concrete Groynes	H&S removal works to concrete groynes 7, 8 and 9	£30,324.42	Complete
Navigation markers	Remedial works to navigation markers 1-5 and 15	£12,235	Complete
Concrete Groynes	Full removal of concrete groynes 6, 7, 8 and 9.	£30,631.56	Complete
<b>Total spend for 2024-25 financial year was £192,480.49</b> <i>(including £5,043.62 of local levy funding)</i>			



# 2024-25 financial year works

Before removal



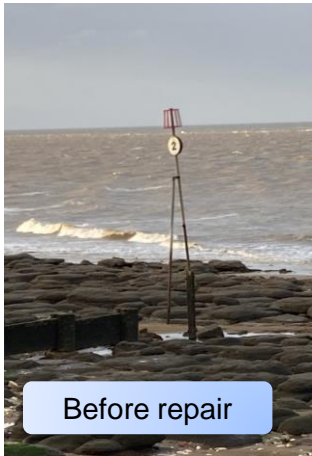
During removal



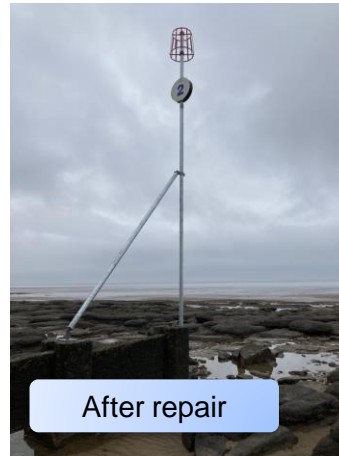
After removal



Before repair

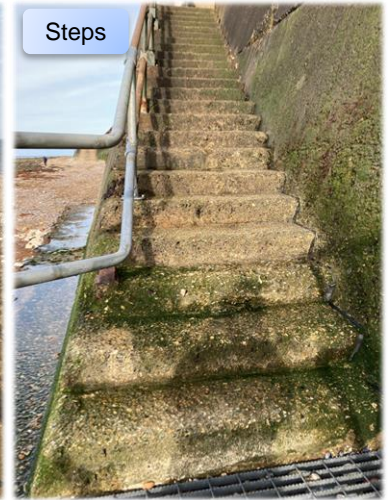


After repair



# 2025 Asset Inspection

- H&S inspection of all concrete and timber groynes completed in January.
- Annual T98 asset inspection of concrete defences completed between February and March.
- Outcomes of these inspections have informed repair requirements for Summer 2025.



Some examples of what we inspect



# Summer 2025 Repairs

- 54 repairs to concrete defences
- 32 H&S works to timber groynes
- Works due to commence on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and will take 3 ½ weeks to complete
- Cost is £80,016.58

Defence Section	Works Required Spring 2025
Section A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x1 patch repair on prom</li> </ul>
Section B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x4 patch repairs on prom</li> <li>• x1 sealant repair on prom</li> </ul>
Section C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x4 patch repair on prom</li> <li>• x1 patch repair to wave-return wall</li> </ul>
↙ Section E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x6 patch repairs to blockwork seawall</li> <li>• x22 replacement of mortar joints on blockwork seawall</li> <li>• x2 patch repairs on prom</li> <li>• x2 step re-casting</li> </ul>
Section F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x2 patch repairs to slipway</li> <li>• x2 patch repairs to seawall</li> <li>• x3 joint sealant replacement to wave-return wall</li> <li>• Asphalt repairs to cracking on prom</li> </ul>
Section G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x5 step re-casting</li> <li>• x4 step patch repairs</li> <li>• x3 patch repairs to seawall</li> </ul>
Timber Groynes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• x31 H&amp;S works to timber groynes</li> <li>• Removal of Victorian breakwater remains</li> </ul>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86 REPAIR / H&amp;S WORKS REQUIRED</b>



Examples of areas requiring repair

# Floodgate Maintenance

- RFQ issued for floodgate 'health check' of functionality
- This will include:
  - Visual inspection of functionality
  - Greasing of hinges, fastenings and locking mechanisms
  - Any routine repairs (as required)
- Anticipate all works to be completed by mid-July



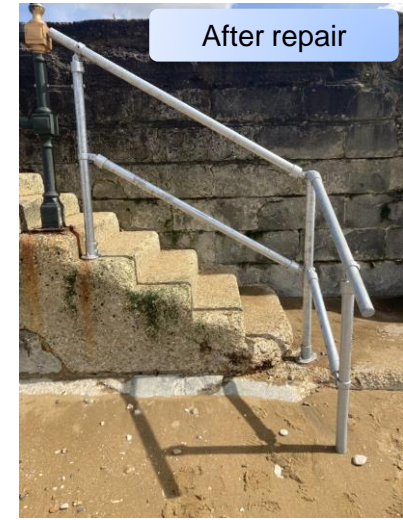
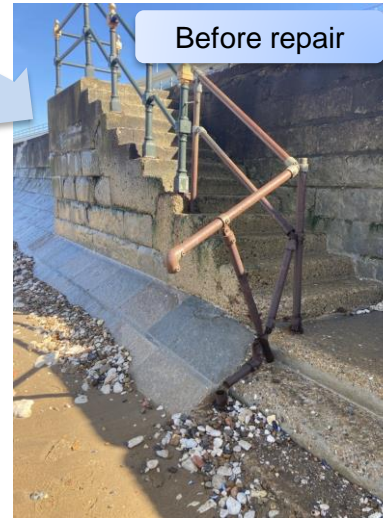


# Handrail Repairs

- Replacement of damaged handrail on beach access steps following March spring tides completed. Cost £1,168.

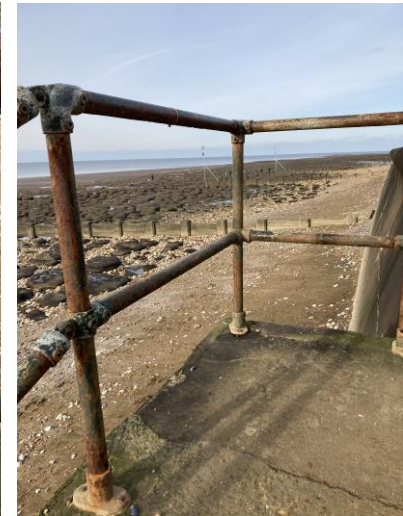
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Handrail (near waterside bar) replacement works following spring tides



- Partial replacement of another handrail required.
- Cost TBC.
- Will be completed in the summer

Handrail which requires replacement (middle of north prom)



# New Floodgate Signage

- New public safety signage has been installed on all floodgates.



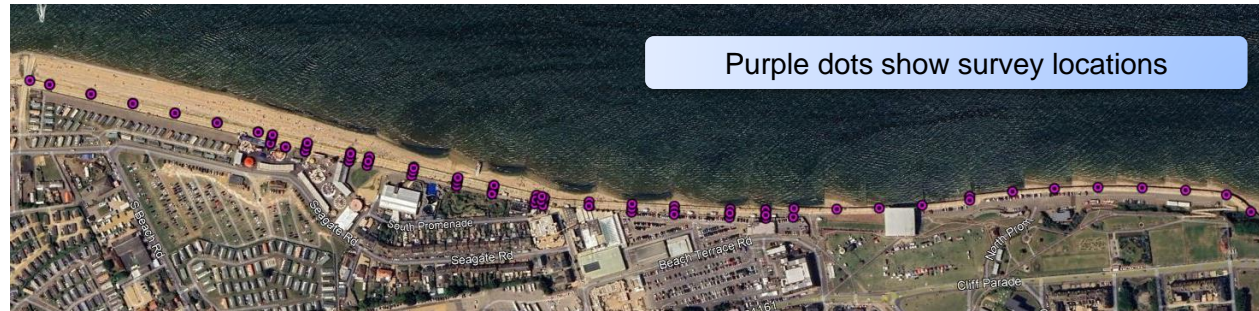
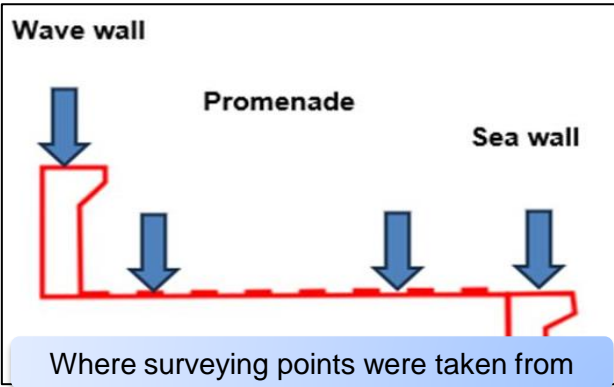
# Structural Stability Monitoring

- Establishment of monitoring & control points for very high accuracy (mm) structural stability monitoring completed.
- Baseline survey completed and outcomes received.
- Working to establish frequency of repeat surveys going forward.



Date & Time: Wed Dec 11 10:53:47 GMT 2024  
Position: E 0567103 / N 0341285  
Altitude: 5m  
Datum: WGS-84  
Azimuth/Bearing: 022° N22E 0391mils (True)  
Zoom: 1X  
Section G

Photos of how the survey being undertaken





# Geotechnical Investigations

- On site investigations completed last year
- Awaiting final report of outcomes



GPR survey



FWD survey



Trial pit excavation



# 6. WECMS Funding Group Update



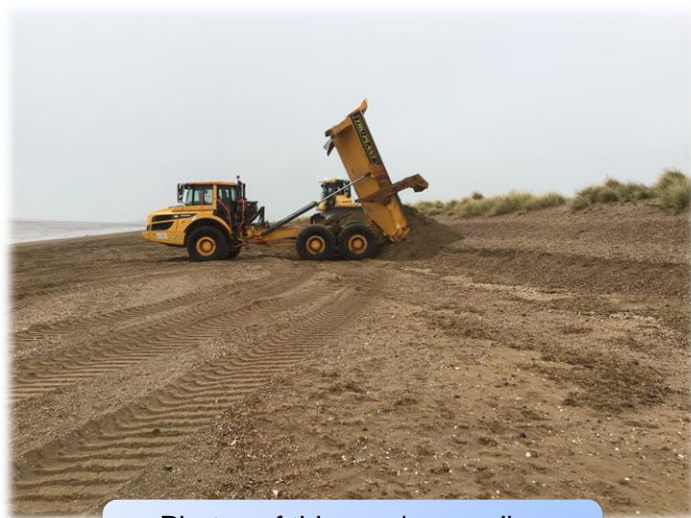
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# Beach Recycling

- Annual beach recycling was completed between February and March 2025.
- Cost of works was £122,762.09

Source	Cost Contribution
FCERM GiA (Environment Agency)	£49,899.99
BCKLWN	£5,000
Beach Huts	£1,080.00
Anglian Water	£20,000
East Wash Coastal Management Community Interest Company	£44,056.54



Photos of this year's recycling works being undertaken





# 25 7. South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek (Unit C) Update



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# Unit C Initial Assessment conclusions (2024)

- The Unit C Initial Assessment has concluded that should a beach recharge be required in the coming years; the cost will exceed funding limits. This means that the economic trigger for change, as set out in the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy, has been met.
- As the primary defence, the shingle ridge needs to be protected.
- The annual beach recycling continues to be effective and sustainable
- To the south of Heacham, sand has continued to accumulate behind the crest of the ridge towards the line of properties situated there and will likely continue to do so.
- The need to review the management approach due to adverse environmental impacts or unacceptable level of flood evacuation has not been reached.
- A full review of the strategy is required to determine the future management approach for Unit C.

# 1. WECMS Review

Undertaking a full review of the WECMS will be a complex and time-consuming process due to the wide range of factors which each need to be considered in detail. This includes:



**The standard of protection provided by the defences**



**Stakeholder engagement**



**Coastal processes**



**Environmental impact assessments**



**Computational modelling**



**Funding calculations**



**Consideration of a wide range of options and their potential technical feasibility**



**Climate Change Allowances**



**Environment  
Agency**

# WECMS Timeline

## Now – April

### Prepare for WECMS review:

- Apply for funding and start writing the business case
- Update coastal modelling for the area

### Protecting the ridge:

- Repairing existing damage where possible
- Continue enforcement on the shingle ridge
- Continue engaging with residents, stakeholders and visitors, including advice around minimising footfall on the ridge

### Ongoing maintenance:

- Continue beach recycling and annual monitoring

**April 2025**

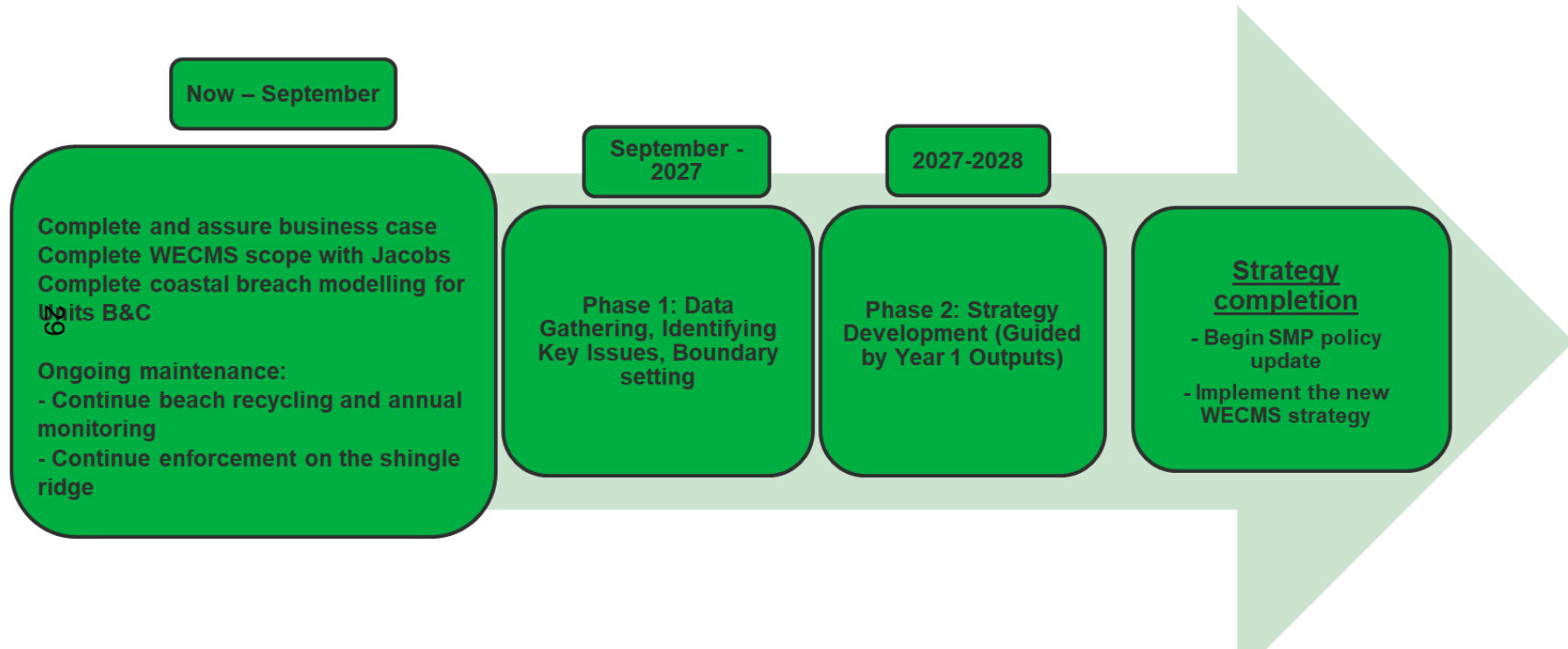
Begin WECMS review

**2027/2028 onwards**

- Begin SMP policy update
- Implement the new WECMS strategy



# Updated WECMS Review Timeline 2025



# Year 1: Data Gathering, Identifying Key Issues, Boundary setting September – September to 2027

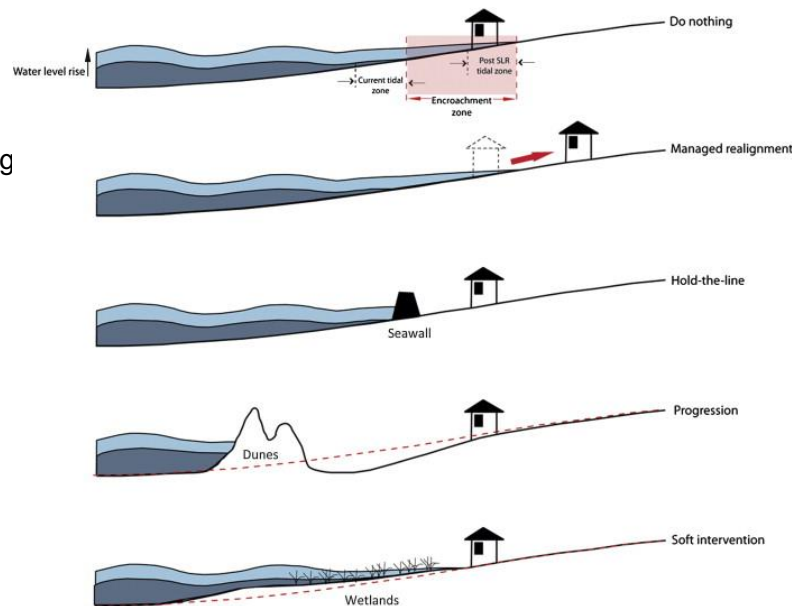
- Identify opportunities for broader benefits (economic, environmental, social).
- Recognize key constraints that may influence risk management options.
- Present a clear understanding of geomorphological and sediment processes, as well as expected coastal changes.
- Develop a comprehensive long list of potential options for Year 2.
- Engage with stakeholders throughout the process.
- Conduct high-level assessments and asset surveys to evaluate risks (failure, overtopping, undermining, and residual life) for:
  - o Hunstanton seawalls
  - o Heacham seawalls
  - o Heacham to Snettisham Shingle Ridge
  - o Shepherds Port seawalls

# Year 2: Strategy Development (Guided by Year 1 Outputs) 2027-2028

- Develop a short list of viable options.
  - By assessing the relative merits of each option, using a comparison of costs and impacts to identify a short-list of those considered most promising
- Compare and evaluate the shortlisted options.
  - Quantify and value the significant impacts, including environmental, coastal processes, wider business/economy etc.
- Select the preferred options.
- Engage with stakeholders for feedback and input.
- Draft and produce the final strategy documents.



Stakeholder engagement



32 **Any Questions?**



# 8. Any other business



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