

Location reference: Overstrand

Policy Unit reference: 6.06

SUMMARY OF PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The whole length of cliffs between Cromer and Mundesley provide a vital source of beach sediment area for much of the SMP frontage. Therefore maintaining this sediment input and transport along the coast is a key long-term aim. However, historic defence construction at Overstrand has already formed a significant promontory, and this will have an increasing influence on the sediment drift to downcoast beaches if the present defence line is maintained, preventing approximately 20% of the entire SMP beach sediment budget from moving freely along the coast. Furthermore, there is not, at present, sufficient economic justification for new defences. Consequently, the long-term aim for this frontage is to allow the shoreline to retreat. However, there are a large number of socio-economic assets, which will be at risk under this approach. Therefore in the immediate future defences will be maintained as long as possible within existing economic justification, whilst measures are put in place, to manage this risk and mitigate the displacement of people and loss of property and facilities, in the medium-term.

Policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The policy option for the next twenty years is to continue to protect the village frontage through *initially* undertaking regular maintenance of the existing defences and repairing them when areas are damaged, where it is economical to do so. This is a hold the line policy option.

In parallel, however, investigations will be undertaken to identify technical options and establish an appropriate package of social mitigation measures, in preparation for the transition to the medium to long term policy option of managed realignment (see sections below). Only when such adequate mitigating social measures are identified to limit the impact on the lives of individuals and the community, would the change to a managed realignment policy option be implemented.

Should a more major failure of the existing defences occur, which could be within the next 20 years, the seawall would not be rebuilt as a permanent structure. However, wherever practicable, temporary structures that assist in delaying the erosion would be used (for example local placement of rock, beach recharge etc) to delay further damage whilst approaches to manage and mitigate losses are developed.

Overstrand already forms a promontory, and this will become more evident over this period as cliffs to either side erode. This will begin to restrict sediment from the north reaching beaches to the south, and may also cause a net loss from the system as sediment is moved offshore more rapidly.

Over this period, beaches will continue to become narrower and defences more exposed. The cliffs are inherently unstable and prone to failure through groundwater percolation; therefore those areas protected by only timber revetment will still be at risk of erosion. However, the extent of erosion is not predicted to result in the loss of properties during this period.

Due to the rapid response of this shoreline to erode and resume a natural position once defences are no longer in place, this shorter term policy option is not considered to be detrimental to the long-term Plan.

Medium-term:

This will be a transitional period, during which the defences will reach the end of their effective life. Once suitable mitigation measures are identified to limit the impact on the lives of individuals and the community, the coast should be allowed to retreat. This retreat will result in the loss of cliff-top properties and there may be justification for occasional intervention to help manage the retreat because of the large number of assets at risk and the need for measures to be in place to manage risk; therefore the policy option is managed realignment where the management may comprise of minor and temporary works to slow the rate of retreat. This will also allow for the removal of defence ruins, once social mitigation measures have been identified, or where temporary measures to slow erosion are landward of the old defences.

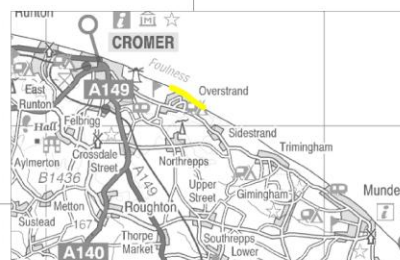
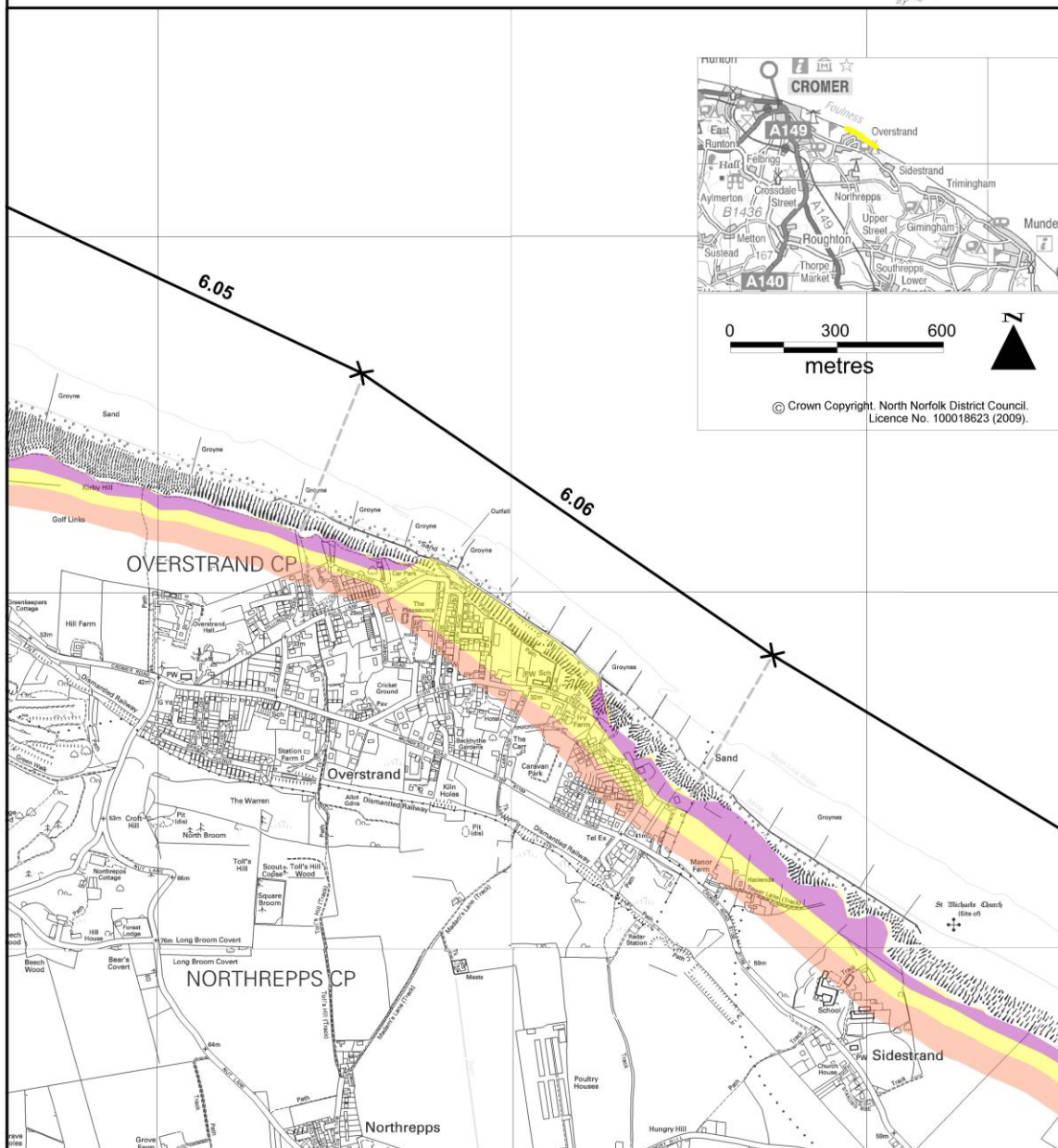
If it has not been possible to confirm acceptable social mitigation measures and/or if it can be shown that there are no long term detrimental consequences, defence measures that temporarily slow (rather than halt) erosion might be acceptable. These would need to be shown to be economically justified. It would also need to be shown that they would neither prevent the alongshore transport of beach sediment nor result in the further development of this area as a promontory, i.e. phases of retreat should be allowed for.

Long-term:

In the long-term the policy option is for retreat to ensure sediment supply to this and, importantly, downdrift frontages. This will deliver technical and environmental benefits, but a number of assets will be at risk. Therefore there needs to be a continuation of measures to manage losses, including erosion-slowing defences, and removal of defence ruins. The recommended policy option is therefore managed realignment.

Ultimately, the shoreline must be allowed to reach a point more in keeping with the natural position had it not been defended, which will then enable a beach to form. At this point it is expected that erosion rates will slow and management of the shoreline will be more easily achieved, through measures such as groynes, without being detrimental to other parts of the SMP frontage.

Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan Policy Unit 6.06: Overstrand



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metres

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FOR FULL DETAILS SEE RELEVANT POLICY STATEMENT

Indicative Erosion Zones Based on Current Policy Aims

- Indicative erosion zone up to 2025
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2105
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2055
- Policy Unit boundary

The above provides the local details in respect of the SMP-wide Plan; therefore the above must be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as presented in the preceding sections and Appendices to this Plan document.

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IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

Time Period	Property & Land Use	Nature Conservation	Landscape	Historic Environment	Amenity & Recreational Use
By 2025	Loss of less than 5 properties along the south of Overstrand, but also loss of gardens due to natural cliff failure behind defences.	No change from present condition.	No landscape objectives identified.	No loss of high importance heritage sites.	No loss of community facilities behind the defences, but potential loss of Jubilee Ground. Promenade maintained, but very narrow beach. Access to beach maintained. Loss of some of car park.
By 2055	Cumulative loss of between 20 and 60 houses and less than 10 commercial properties and associated infrastructure/ services. Loss of local road links. Loss of sewage pumping station.	Increased erosion may improve County Wildlife status.	No landscape objectives identified.	Loss of Grade II property: 'Sea Marge'.	Loss of promenade. Car park lost together with present access.
By 2105	Cumulative loss of between 60 and 135 houses and less than 10 commercial properties and associated infrastructure/ services. Loss of local road links. Loss of sewage pumping station.	Increased erosion may improve County Wildlife status.	No landscape objectives identified.	Loss of Grade II property: 'The Pleasance'.	Access and car park no longer present.