

East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

7th March 2024 - West Wittering Estate

Present:

Dominic Henly (DH)	Chichester District Council
Max Ambrose (MA)	West Wittering Estate PLC
Jamie Byrne (JB)	West Wittering Estate PLC
Patrick Silcocks (PS)	West Wittering Estate PLC
Angela Marlow (AM)	Natural England
Lee Walther (LW)	National Trust
Stuart Dobbin (SD)	Woodger Trust (Site visit only)
Keith Martin (KM)	West Wittering Parish Council
Patrick Byrne (PB)	Cakeham Manor Estate
David Lowsley (DL)	Independent Expert
Uwe Dornbusch (UD)	Environment Agency
Peter Hughes (PH)	Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Apologies :

Nicolette Pike	West Wittering Parish Council
Jonathon Potts	Portsmouth University
Richard Austin	Chichester Harbour Conservancy

1. Site Visit to East Head

The group visited the EHCIAG, walked from Groyne 19 to 24.

2. Changes / update from WWE

MA briefed the group –

Groyne 19-20 the tide has started to eat away at the shingle bank as the shingle moved further west along the beach. This has exposed gabion baskets 2 rows high, and the tide has started to washout the shingle and bank at the western end of this bay.

Groyne 20 to 21 and 21 to 22 have merged into a shingle section, with no hard infrastructure in-between. The Eastern part of this has seen the coast roll back 3-4 metres but the level of the beach has dropped significantly, this section of beach is rising and falling, depending on the weather and tides.

The western part of this section is now a relatively stable section of shingle beach.

West from Groyne 22 -24 the beach has a healthy store of shingle which is spreading along the front of East Head.

3. Next Steps – Action / Monitoring

Groyne 19 – 20

The top layer of gabion baskets will be removed for safety reasons leaving the lower layer in place, this section, the footpath will be graded, to allow walkers to walk down on to the beach from the top, currently it's not possible to walk down. Sand may be used from sand moving to assist with covering the remaining gabions.

DH and MA to explore the possibility of getting the required permits to move shingle from Cakeham to this area, we would then have this as an option ready if it ever required. This would be supported by Natural England.

Groyne 20

The uprights at groyne 20 are potentially disturbing the wave pattern at high tide causing material from the bank immediately behind the groyne to be washed out, two piles are to be removed along with the associated planking with the remainder of the groyne outside this section to be retained.

Groyne 20-22, the beach will be reprofiled along with the deposit of sand to make it safe for summer. The drain outlet is to be left unaltered as the beach is dynamic and it's unlikely that it has settled into a stable alignment just yet (could move forward or back).

Groyne 22 – West – Continue to monitor but with no further action proposed at this time.

KM asked if the project is still on track to form the natural curved beach?

DL replied Nothing has been seen that would suggest we are off this track and there is nothing seen to date of concern.

4. Public Engagement

KM raised concerns regarding available up to date online information. National Trust have been unable to use their national website for local projects, West Wittering Estates website is up to date, but it may be difficult to find. LW has a draft document that can be used by all organisations. WWE agreed to share the document. KM/LW/MA to work on an "up date" and ensure this is best shared locally.

5. AOB

Date of Next Meeting

Next Meeting March 2025 TBC