

What Next

The main objective of the group is to ensure access to East Head is maintained and a tidal breach is prevented. Event triggers have been defined by EHCIAG with recommendations of the appropriate actions to be taken in the relevant circumstances. The aim is to ensure timely response to events and to ensure that the objectives of the group are met.

In the first instance we intend to recycle approximately 2,000 tonnes of shingle/sand to immediately behind the hinge in order to bolster the existing beach and provide a backstop against overwashing and future erosion.

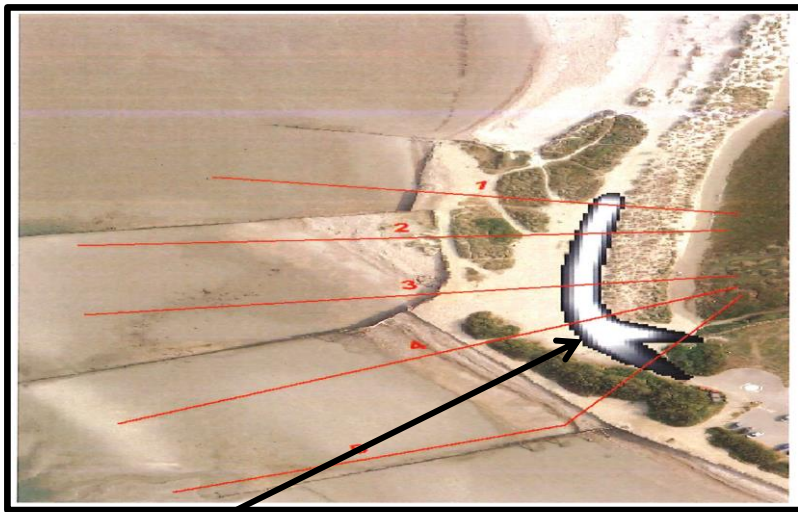


Figure 1 Approximate Location of Proposed Recycled Material

Contact

David Lowsley

Senior Engineer

Chichester District Council

East Pallant House

Chichester, PO19 1TY

Tel: 01243 534645

Email: coastalmanagement@chichester.gov.uk

EHCIAG

East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group East Head Adaptive Management



Advising on Coastal Defence Policy

Current Situation

The sea defences have been in place for almost 50 years and elements such as the breastworks and gabions are reaching the end of their useful life. These changes trigger the start of a new phase in East Head's Evolution.

Coastal experts consider that current hard engineered defences inhibit the ability of the coast to adapt naturally to coastal processes and compromise long term stability.

The Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy 2009, developed by Chichester and Arun District Councils and the Environment Agency identified "Adaptive Management" as the preferred management policy.

Adaptive Management

"The aim of Adaptive Management will be to preserve the social, economic, environmental, navigation and amenity value of East Head to the community for the life of the Strategy. The emphasis will not be on trying to lock the feature in its present size, shape and location, nor should it be encouraging orientation in a pre-determined direction"

East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group (EHCIAG)

EHCIAG was established to develop strategic, long term and sustainable coastal defence policy for the area of East Head. The group is chaired by the Coast Protection Authority (Chichester District Council); other members are Cakeham Manor Estate, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Environment Agency, FG Woodger Trust, National Trust, Natural England, West Wittering Estate and West Wittering Parish Council.

The Challenge

There is a finite amount of sediment within the harbour entrance complex. Expert predictions are that the present accretion phase is likely to come to an end soon.

The alignment of the breastworks at The Hinge represents a discontinuity in the coastal frontage. This leads to instability and erosion of the lower foreshore and adjoining frontages, a process known as terminal scour.

East Head is also covered by a number of designations including: Nationally as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and internationally designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Adaptive Management helps us fulfil our obligations to ensure these designated areas are not damaged.

What Has Been Done

- In 2005 12,000 tonnes of shingle and sand was recycled from the northern end of the spit to reconstruct an area of the neck which had been overwashed.
- In 2009 9,000 tonnes of sand and shingle was recycled from the northern end of the spit and placed immediately behind the hinge to reduce the risk of a tidal breach.



- Damaged gabions were removed between groynes C23 and C24 allowing a more natural beach profile to develop
- Planking was lowered on groyne C22 to allow onward movement of shingle and raised on C24 to retain shingle.