

**7 ACTION PLAN**

A COMPANY OF



**ROYAL HASKONING**



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## 7.1 Introduction

This section outlines further investigation, studies or works which need to be carried out or developed in order to implement policies for each area. The action plan also identifies the monitoring required; in part from the identification of investigations and studies mentioned in Section 4. It also provides a tool for the operating authorities to manage the coast in an effective manner and to feed back into the shoreline management process. The rationale for both undertaking further investigation and studies and that of monitoring is discussed in sections 7.2 and 7.3, respectively, below.

### 7.1.1 Investigations, studies and works.

Actions to be taken forward in the plan have been categorised by nature of the task required, who is responsible for initiating the action and who the key partners involved are. An indicative cost is also shown in the table, together with an indicative timescale by when the action should be undertaken. While the degree of urgency may in one way be assessed from consideration of all issues (i.e. in terms of the significance of the issue being addressed), a more absolute urgency also arises from the possibility of being too late. This can arise from the timescale of potential loss (i.e. there is little point in investigating how loss may be avoided once loss has actually occurred). Equally, urgency may arise in terms of integrated decision making (i.e. the need for decisions on risk management needed to inform or be developed alongside land use planning). Some actions may be reliant on other investigations and have therefore been linked in the plan.

It should be noted that the requirements of the Water Framework, Habitats and Birds Directives are statutory and are assumed to act as a defining framework for activities as other legal obligations. They are not, therefore, included in the defined outcome measures. However, where relevant these issues are identified within the SMP assessment of policy. The Appropriate Assessment has identified preventative measures, aimed to avoid impacts on Natura 2000 sites. For example, at Easton Broad, by the second epoch there will be a need for compensatory habitat. In order to plan for this, there needs to be monitoring and management of this site in the short term. Similarly at East Lane and the mouth of the Deben, it is essential that there is ongoing monitoring given the uncertainties associated with the behaviour of the coast at these locations. The Action Plan has identified the need for these mitigation and monitoring requirements to assist authorities with future integrated coastal management.

### 7.1.2 Monitoring

Monitoring is an essential element of good coastal management. However, it is equally important that the purpose of monitoring is clearly understood:

- providing justification for expenditure,

- to ensure that there is an overall coherence between different aspects of the monitoring process, ensuring maximum value is being obtained,
- from the above, scoping what actually needs to be done, and
- in being able to assess whether the overall programme or specific aspects of monitoring is providing the information required, and providing justification for further actions and expenditure.

In considering these, it may be seen that there are different scales of monitoring. It has been identified that there may be a general steepening of the nearshore area<sup>1</sup> over sections of the coast at Southwold, and over the Felixstowe frontage. Understanding this process, particularly in association with sea level rise, and assessing whether this process is more widespread, affecting the whole coast, may best be monitored at a regional scale. This would provide common information feeding into local management at the coast. Other processes, such as changes in wave climate or sea level rise may similarly be seen to be important at a regional scale, as might examination of the nearshore sediment processes.

In contrast, direct assessment of defence condition, local beach levels or, ecological impact may need to be considered at a local level, providing direct information in management of risk in specific areas (although also providing still a broader picture of change and need at the regional or even national scale).

In general, therefore, there is:

- Regional Level Monitoring,
  - providing an understanding of underlying processes acting at the regional scale,
  - identifying long term trends in relation to the whole coast
  - providing context within which local scale change may be assessed
  - assessing eco-system behaviour and integrity
  - cost effective management of data collection, storage and utilisation where appropriate over the region.

It is also envisaged that there will be a need for regional scale collation, storage and dissemination of data and information collected or derived from monitoring at more a more local level. This function needs to be developed through the Coastal Group, acting as a group and drawing upon information provided by individual Group members.

- Strategy Level Monitoring
  - providing an understanding of underlying processes acting at the management area scale,
  - identifying trends in relation to the specific management areas,
  - identifying local scale impacts resulting from management,

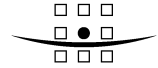
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<sup>1</sup> A landward movement of the nearshore contours, resulting in deeper water against the coast and increasing energy at the shoreline.

- assessing SMP2 policy, testing assumptions and addressing identified uncertainty.
  - developing general design data for use in developing solutions.
  - assessing general ongoing condition of defences and priorities for intervention.
- Defence Monitoring
    - identifying local variation and sensitivity of foreshore levels, establishing defence performance, condition, vulnerability, deterioration and maintenance.

The strategy level and defence monitoring relates directly to areas of flood and coastal erosion risk management and is sensibly maintained by individual operating authorities in relation to their specific functions and responsibilities. However, this clearly needs to be co-ordinated through the coastal group.

There will be overlap between levels of monitoring such that data collected at a strategic level may incorporate data required for monitoring of specific defences which may be aggregated to provide more general data required for strategic or national programming and assessment.



## 7.2 Action Plan

The action plan, combining studies, schemes, monitoring and discussion, is set out in this sub-section. In general it is the Operating Authorities who, even if not actually managing specific actions, will be promoting or ensuring actions are undertaken in a timely manner. These actions, summarising the information given for each management area (defined in Section 4) have, therefore, been grouped by Operating Authority. A brief overview of the need for these actions covering each Authority's area is given, further details being provided in Section 4. Where joint action is required between authorities or between authorities and other organisations, this is identified. Joint actions are repeated in sections covering the area of any other authority involved with that action for completeness. As part of this, the SMP has attempted to provide a guide to both the timescale and priority for action, also identifying where actions need to be co-ordinated between organisations and with an indicative cost.

Following completion of the SMP, the Action Plan database will continue to be managed by each authority. It should be noted that as time progresses, the plan may be updated to take into consideration new information that becomes available.