

Cuckmere workshop 3rd June 2010

Clarification points by R Traynor Jacobs

Saltmarsh predictions

Then saltmarsh predictions within the Strategy are discussed in the SEA Environmental Report, Section 8.2.23 with figures 8.1 and 8.2 showing the predicted extents of Salicornia (Glasswort) and Halimione (Sea Purslane) respectively.

The Historical Trend Analysis and channel regime assessment (April 2005) also considered the effects on the flood plain levels caused by the creation of the 'new cut' stating (Section 6.2.1):

'By cutting off the floodplains the accretion of the floodplains (saltmarshes) has been stopped. The height of the floodplain would have probably been between 0.5-1m above current elevations based on the elevation of saltmarsh within the channel if the floodplain had been left within the system.'

The option of raising the flood plains using imported material from Newhaven is discussed in the SEA Environmental Report Appendix 6 Rejected scenarios Section 4.3. The use of a tidal exchange system (allowing the land to flood and then the sediments to settle out before allowing the water to flow back out of the system as a means of raising land levels) is discussed in section 4.2

The Defra/Environment Agency saltmarsh management manual I referred to can be found at:

<http://www.saltmarshmanagementmanual.co.uk/>

Cultural Heritage

This is summarised in the SEA Environmental Report Appendix 5 Cultural Heritage. There was a lot of discussion regarding WWII defences at the meeting. The strategy studies made reference to various reports and surveys which included reference to a study by William Foot (2001) undertaken for English Heritage to specifically consider the WWII defences. The SEA built upon the existing historic landscape survey of 1999 N. Bannister.) Further specific surveys including boreholes (Development Archaeology Services, 2004) along with a walkover landscape survey (Archaeology South East, 2004) were undertaken.

Climate Change

The Strategy allowed for a sea level rise rate of 6mm per year (The then current guidance figure from Defra for the South East). Climate change rates were revised by Defra in October 2006 to:

4mm a year up to 2025

8.5mm a year 2025-2055

12mm a year 2055-2085

15mm a year 2085-2115

The rates are now the ones used in considering all planning applications in accordance with Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 – Development and Flood risk
Details can be found at
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/policy/guidance/fcdpag/fcd3climate.pdf>

PV costs

The costs were shown in the presentation as both cash and as Present Value (PV).
Cash costs are the total of all costs. PV costs present the value of a stream of benefits or costs over time when discounted back to the present time.

The discounting factors used are those set by Defra and Treasury guidance:

3.5% per annum for Years 0-30

3.0% per annum for Years 31-75

2.5% per annum for Years 76-99

(Defra, March 2003. Revisions to Economic Appraisal Procedures arising from the new HM Treasury “Green Book”)

Landscape how dealt with?

The background to the landscape assessment is included within the SEA Environmental Report Sections 5.4 and is presented in assessment of environmental effects in section 8.

The effects of changes to visitors were considered within the ‘Cuckmere Haven: Assessment of the potential impacts of managed realignment’ (2005) commissioned by English Nature (now Natural England) and undertaken by Risk Policy Analysts (RPA). This study was then referenced within the Cuckmere Estuary Strategy.

Likely changes to West Beach

The likely evolution of the beach under the differing scenarios is included within the PAR Appendix E Scenario Description tables. This discusses the short, medium and long term for all the strategy options.

The Historical Trend Analysis and channel regime assessment (April 2005) Section 5.1.2 provides an historical background to the beach development.

The SHINGLE modelling report (2005) provides the background analysis.

Time periods - used in strategy

Short 0-20 years

Medium 20-50 years

Long 50-100 years

Channel width and regime modelling

The regime modelling looked at how an idealised channel would develop and what would be its equilibrium width. This shows whether the existing channels are likely to be to erosive (if too narrow) or accretive (if too wide). Details of this are include within the ‘Historical Trend Analysis and channel regime assessment’ April 2005, section 7.4 which shows the predicted widths compared to the actual widths for a variety of scenarios including both neap and spring tides and considers the impacts of climate change