



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Managing the coastal historic environment

Peter Murphy, Coastal Strategy Officer,
Maritime Archaeology Team

Coasts are dynamic but historic assets are fixed



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**Rotational failure of till cliff,
Aldbrough, Holderness, 2005.**



**Imminent permanent breaching of beach
barrier, Covehithe, Suffolk, 2007.**

Lower Palaeolithic: East Anglian coast c. 900,000 BP – the earliest evidence for hominins in Northern Europe



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Happisburgh, Norfolk. July 2010. Parfitt, S. A. *et al. Nature* 466, 229-233 (2010)
Hominids inhabiting a Boreal environment before the last polarity reversal (780Ka)

Salterns



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Bronze Age salt-evaporating hearth: South Woodham Ferrers, Essex. Photo: T.J. Wilkinson.



Medieval palaeochannel and slooping mound, South Wootton, Norfolk.

Transformation: medieval and later embankment – by far the most extensive earthworks in England.



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Heacham, Norfolk: the Late Saxon Sea-Bank.



Clifton Marshes, Ribble Estuary, Lancashire

Maritime structures



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Burnham Low Lighthouse, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, 1833.



Charlestown Harbour, Cornwall

The archaeology of fun



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Cromer Pier, Norfolk, 1822-1899.



Dovercourt, Essex: caravan site, from mid- 20th century



Regency Square, Brighton : 1818-1828



Hastings, Sussex: carousel, early 20th century

SMP Policy Options



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- Hold the line
- Advance the line
- Managed realignment
- No active intervention

Managed Realignment and No Active Intervention are of greatest concern.

No Active Intervention: Happisburgh, Norfolk



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From Consultation Draft of SMP2



The EH Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys



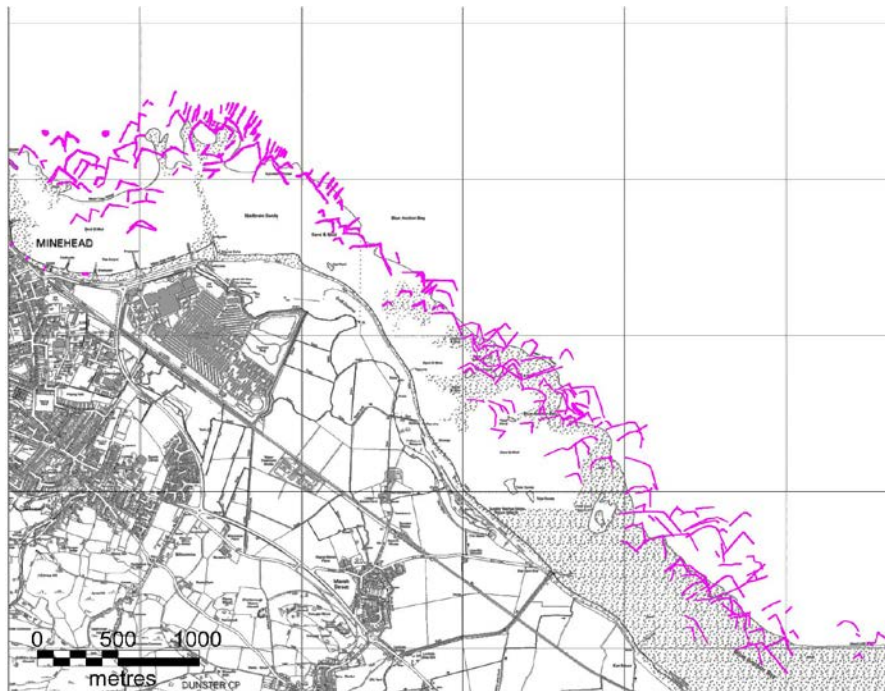
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- **Phase 1. Desk-based Assessment.** Draws on data from aerial photographs, LiDAR survey, historic maps, HERs, the NMR and other sources. Data are captured in a GIS with supporting data-bases, to nationally agreed data standards.
- **Phase 2. Field Assessment.** A rapid walk-over survey, designed to verify records from Phase 1, locate and characterise site types not visible from the air, and to assess significance and vulnerability.
- Surveys are now underway or completed on the east coast from Berwick Links to the North Foreland, from the Solway Firth to the Dee, along the English Severn shore, around the Isles of Scilly and Wight, and on the Dorset coast.
- Reports completed so far available on the EH website: search for 'RCZAS'.
- Sites identified as significant and at risk may be recorded in more detail, but the priority now is national baseline coverage.

Example of RCZAS results: fish traps in north Somerset



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Fish traps imaged from aerial survey near Minehead



Stone fish trap at Dunster, August 2010

Recent archaeological mitigation



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Seahenge 1 excavation, Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk



Blakeney Chapel excavation, North Norfolk



Seahenge 2, on-going monitoring and recording



Beckfoot, Cumbria, Roman cemetery evaluation

Options for standing buildings



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- Protection by means of hard or soft defences. This might be indefinite, or for a pre-defined time period (20, 50 or 100 years, subject to periodic review).
- Recording, followed by controlled abandonment, where appropriate with removal of culturally significant contents or components for use or display elsewhere.
- Recording, followed by controlled dismantling/demolition and re-location to a sustainable site.

**The Clavell Tower, Kimmeridge Bay
relocation - £898,000 (from the Heritage
Lottery Fund and other sources).**



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EH Coastal Estate Risk Assessment (CERA) – properties in the Solent: 54 Properties of 411 in total at risk.



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Hurst Castle



Portchester Castle



Yarmouth Castle



Osborne Estate: the Queen's Alcove