

Section 3

EXISTING OBJECTIVES

HALCROW



EXISTING OBJECTIVES FOR LOWESTOFT TO HARWICH

There are many statutory and non-statutory bodies involved in the management of the coast between Lowestoft and Harwich, most of whom work to a set of management objectives. These bodies are listed below. Their objectives have been taken into consideration during the preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan in order that they are not compromised.

There are several national and local bodies involved in management whose objectives relate to the whole or majority of the subcell coastline. These bodies and their objectives are set out below. Other objectives of bodies whose responsibility covers only part of the Plan area are dealt with at a Process Unit level in Section 4.

STATUTORY

1. Suffolk County Structure Plan. June 1995

Suffolk county Structures Plan Policies relevant to the Shoreline Management Plan are:

a	The County Council	CS11	Conserving the Environment
b	The Environment	ENV4 ENV7 ENV11 ENV12 ENV15 ENV16 ENV17 ENV20	Protection of Countryside/coast Conservation of Designated Landscapes Renewable Energy Development Protection of Agricultural Land/Woodland Flood Risks Flood Defence Conservation of Ecological Assets Conservation of Archaeological Assets
c	The Economy	ECON10 ECON11 ECON12	Tourist Facilities and Accommodation Tourist Accommodation in Settlements Tourist Accommodation in the Countryside
d	The Economy	REC3 REC4	New Recreational Facilities in the Countryside Berths and Moorings
e	Minerals	MP2	Marine Dredged Sand and Gravel

2. Waveney Local Plan. January 1994 and Report of Suggested Changes July 1994.

The Environmental Objectives of the Local Plan are as follows:

- a To improve the built and natural environmental of the Plan area.

- b To safeguard and protect important natural and historic features within the Plan area.
- c To safeguard and protect the natural quality and beauty of the Suffolk Countryside

From the objectives the environmental Policies and Proposals are developed, of which those below are considered of reference to the SMP.

ENV1	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coast
ENV4	Strategic Gaps
ENV5	SSSI's, SPA's, Ramsar Sites, and National nature Reserves
ENV6	County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves
ENV7	Protection of natural Features
ENV9	Proposed Local Nature Reserves
ENV11	Tree and Hedgerow Protection
ENV15	Coastal Erosion or Flooding
ENV16	Coastal protection
ENV17	Mineral Extraction off the Coast
ENV18	Coastal Erosion Risk Zone
ENV19	Shoreline Management Strategy
ENV20	Coastal Flood Risk

3. Suffolk Coastal District Council Local Plan -Adopted Document 1994

The environmental objectives of the Local Plan of relevance to the SMP are as follows:

- (vi) To co-operate with statutory undertakers and other agencies in improving existing and implementing new working practices which recognise the special qualities of the built and rural environments.
- (x) To protect and enhance areas of high landscape quality, particularly those designed as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Special Landscape Areas, from the effects of development.
- (xi) The need to protect and enhance sites of nature conservation interest.

The Local Plan policies considered relevant to SMP are set out below:

LP 7	Development of Archaeological Sites
LP 11	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
LP 13	Wildlife and Habitats
LP 14	Designated Areas and habitats
LP 75	Areas of Risk from Flooding
LP 78	Coastal Instability
LP 79	Areas Prone to Coastal Erosion
LP 80	Sea Defences
LP 94	Marinas and Other Development
LP 95	Land Based Water Related Facilities
LP 96	Legal Agreements

4. Environment Agency (EA)

The EA (previously the National Rivers Authority) is responsible for a wide range of regulatory and statutory duties connected with the water environment, including responsibility for flood defence. The principal aims of the EA in relation to flood defence are to:

- a) provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and from the sea;
- b) provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

The Environment Agency aims to provide defence that is economically, technically, and environmentally sound. To assist with Agency planning Local Environment Action Plans (LEAPs) set out the overall work programmes based on catchment areas. The Shoreline Management Plan will advise future LEAPs and the programming of flood defence projects.

5. English Nature

English Nature (with Suffolk Wildlife Trust) will seek to halt and reverse the loss of coastal habitats and natural features resulting from coastal squeeze and from the disruption of natural sedimentary systems.

Further objectives supporting this are.

- a) To encourage the development of a binding and effective strategy for coastal protection and flood defence which is related to recognised coastal geomorphological processes and which effectively reconciles interests within the sub-cell with the needs of nature conservation.
- b) To maintain and enhance the coastal habitats and biodiversity of existing sites of nature conservation importance.
- c) Encourage the creation of new habitat through the application of 'soft' engineering techniques and managed retreat.
- d) English Nature will favour the unrestrained operation of natural coastal systems, except where either:
 - there is an overwhelming case for safeguarding a habitat or feature that is irreplaceable.
 - the local natural systems have been so disrupted, or the site is so constrained that there is little prospect of establishing an area locally of equivalent ecological value to the present area of interest.
- e) Encourage the reinstatement, wherever possible, of natural systems which have been disrupted in the past.
- f) Endeavour to compensate for habitat loss caused by the process of coastal squeeze and safeguard sites for the future, through the identification, creation and management of replacement areas of habitat within Subcell 3C.

6. Crown Estates

The Crown Estate owns much of the foreshore and seabed around the UK. As owners they seek to safeguard the foreshore and seabed, helping the demands of conservation, development and recreation. The Crown Estate seeks to:

- a) refuse to grant dredging licences unless approval is given by the Department of the Environment
- b) provide financial support for research into dredging and related issues.
- c) co-operate with and support marine conservation bodies, complying with requests to designate areas as SSSI's and Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs)
- d) extend the amount of foreshore under lease to conservation bodies for long term management at nominal rents, particularly when these areas are part of the Heritage coast.
- e) carefully consider proposals for marine developments and require measures for enhancement of the environment or provision of wildlife habitats where appropriate.

Locally there are three management plans of relevance to the SMP. These are the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Management Plan, and the Suffolk Coastal DC and Waveney DC Local Plans. All three have numerous policies and objectives which directly affect shoreline planning. The policies of the two local plans will be considered under the Process Units which they effect, ie BEN for Waveney and MIN, ORF and FEL for Suffolk Coastal DC. The Coast and Heaths AONB covers parts of all four process Units and thus is primarily considered here, as covering the whole plan area, although some more specific policies will be considered under the process Units to which they apply.

7. Countryside Commission

The Countryside Commission is responsible at a national level for the designation of countryside areas for their landscape value. The Commission designates Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and defines Heritage Coasts, and guides local bodies on the management of such areas (such as the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB). Policies are established for both designations, the main objectives of which are:

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (CCP 356)
"Their primary purpose is the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, which includes protecting flora, fauna, geology and landscape features".
- Heritage Coasts in England (CCP 397)
"The purpose of Heritage coast definition is to focus attention on the management of our finest undeveloped coasts where the needs of conservation, pressures of recreation and problems of pollution need to be considered in a coordinated way".

8. Suffolk County Council Archaeology Section

Background

The existing archaeological knowledge of the coastal belt is the result of chance finds and reports; there has been almost no systematic archaeological field survey. The known sites represent only a fraction of the actual amount of preserved and buried remains of the archaeological heritage (studies elsewhere in the county suggest less than one tenth).

Objectives

- a) Preservation of nationally important sites in situ. This will involve both sites which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and such others which are judged to be of Schedulable quality. The importance of preservation is inherent in the Scheduled Ancient Monuments Act and endorsed and explained in PPG 16.
- b) The recording by survey and excavation of other sites of archaeological importance which will be lost to inundation, erosion or sea defences.

These objectives cannot be fully realised without adequate systematic survey to identify and assess the importance of the totality of archaeological sites in the zone liable to be inundated or eroded.

- c) Undertake "desk-top" assessment of the threatened area by collecting existing sources (eg historic documents, maps and aerial photographs).
- d) Using the results of (c) above, specify a programme of field evaluation for the threatened area., This may involve techniques such as field walking, trial trenching, geophysical survey, aerial survey.
- e) Development of a defined policy for preservation in situ and for recording (eg by archaeological excavation) (a & b above)
- f) Provision for a management strategy for those sites to be preserved.
- g) Provision for the recording programme. It will be particularly important to provide adequate advanced time-tabling of such projects.
- h) Provision of a programme of monitoring during destruction for sites which fall below the criteria for a & b above, and are consequently abandoned to nature.

NON-STATUTORY

1. Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has the same objectives as English Nature, as summarised on Page 3/3.

2. Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

As well as their general role for conservation of birds and their habitats, the RSPB also manage four Reserves in the SMP area. The objectives of the RSPB in this area are:

- a) Areas proposed or designated as Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation (under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives) should be protected in terms of area and habitat quality.
- b) Where it is not technically feasible to achieve a) above then the habitats likely to be lost or degraded should be replaced (in areas secure from salt water incursion for freshwater habitats).

RSPB have requested a standard statement concerning habitat loss in the light of new European Directives on the protection of wild birds and their habitats. To this end, the following represents the agreed statement generated to satisfy their needs for SMPs:

"Where preferred strategic options are likely to involve net habitat loss such losses must be addressed and replaced as necessary as part of the implementation phase if that option is to be environmentally sound and sustainable. This would ensure that the SMP as a whole is sustainable, is consistent with the spirit of the Habitats Directive, contributes to the Government's biodiversity targets and, where relevant, contributes to SMP targets for intertidal habitat creation".

3. Suffolk Coast And Heaths Management Plan (Oct 1995)

This Management Plan for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, stretches from Kessingland to North Felixstowe and also covers the Stour/Orwell Estuary.

Objectives

Strategic management objectives for whole plan area:

- i) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, in particular the varied landscape, wildlife and historic value.
- ii) to take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry, tourism, the ports and other industry and of the economic and social needs of local communities. Particular regard should be given to promoting environmentally sustainable forms of social and economic activity;
- iii) to facilitate the quiet enjoyment of the area so far as this is consistent with the needs of conservation, agriculture and forestry;
- iv) to promote understanding of the area and the need for its conservation;
- v) to promote and co-ordinate management amongst all users which makes the best use of resources and minimise conflicts;
- vi) to encourage local participation in the management of the area.

From the strategic objectives, the following policy objectives from the AONB Plan are of relevance to the Shoreline Management Plan.

Conservation

- C6 To encourage all agencies to pay particular regard to restricting inappropriate development in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- C7 Proposed major development in or adjacent to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty must be in the national interest and with no alternative location. They should be accompanied by appropriate amelioration of benefit to the landscape and wildlife value of the area.
- C9 Provide landscape enhancement schemes with all major development proposals.
- C12 Implement a programme to remove, relocate or reduce the visual impacts of prominent coastal eyesores.
- C21 Integrate environmentally sustainable recreation and commercial activity with the conservation of estuarine landscape and wildlife.
- C22 Encourage the preparation of integrated management plans for estuaries.
- C32 Conduct surveys of archaeological sites under threat of coastal erosion and in the intertidal areas of estuaries.
- C34 Prepare a management strategy for coastal archaeology.
- C40 Support local authorities and landowners to keep all beaches litter free and to control dog fouling with priority given to amenity beaches.
- C41 Ensure that high regard is paid to visual and environmental consideration in the planning and design of coastal defence works.
- C42 Seek the use of natural coast defence processes and soft engineering solutions wherever possible.
- C43 Seek the creation of areas of landscape and wildlife interest in planning for sea level rise.
- C44 Seek the re-routing of public rights of way which are made impassable as a result of sea erosion.
- C45 Support the Environment Agency District Councils and MAFF in developing an integrated approach to coastal defence and protection and preparation of Shoreline Management Plans.
- C46 Seek the co-operation of the Crown Estate Commissioners and harbour Authorities to fully take into account the impact of marine ecology, archaeological sites, fishing interests and coastal processes in controlling marine aggregate and dredging operations.
- C47 Support greater research and monitoring of the impact of dredging activity on the coastal and estuarine processes.

Recreation

- R7 Implement measures to manage access appropriate to sensitive areas.
- R16 Develop, extend and maintain the Suffolk Coast path and the Essex Way.

- R26 To further explore sites suitable for use by Personal Water Craft and measures to control use in appropriate places.
- R27 Co-ordinate use of waterspace and integrate with conservation management on all estuaries.
- R28 Develop a management plan for the Orwell and Stour Estuaries.
- R29 Establish estuary forums of user and other interests to pursue integrated management of all the main estuaries.

Awareness

- A1 Promote greater awareness and increased understanding among local people, local authorities, the main agencies and key decision makers, in order to encourage greater commitment to the conservation of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- A3 Develop improved liaison and co-operation between the main agencies and other bodies influencing the management of the coast and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.