

Environment and Community Panel

3rd September 2024



Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk

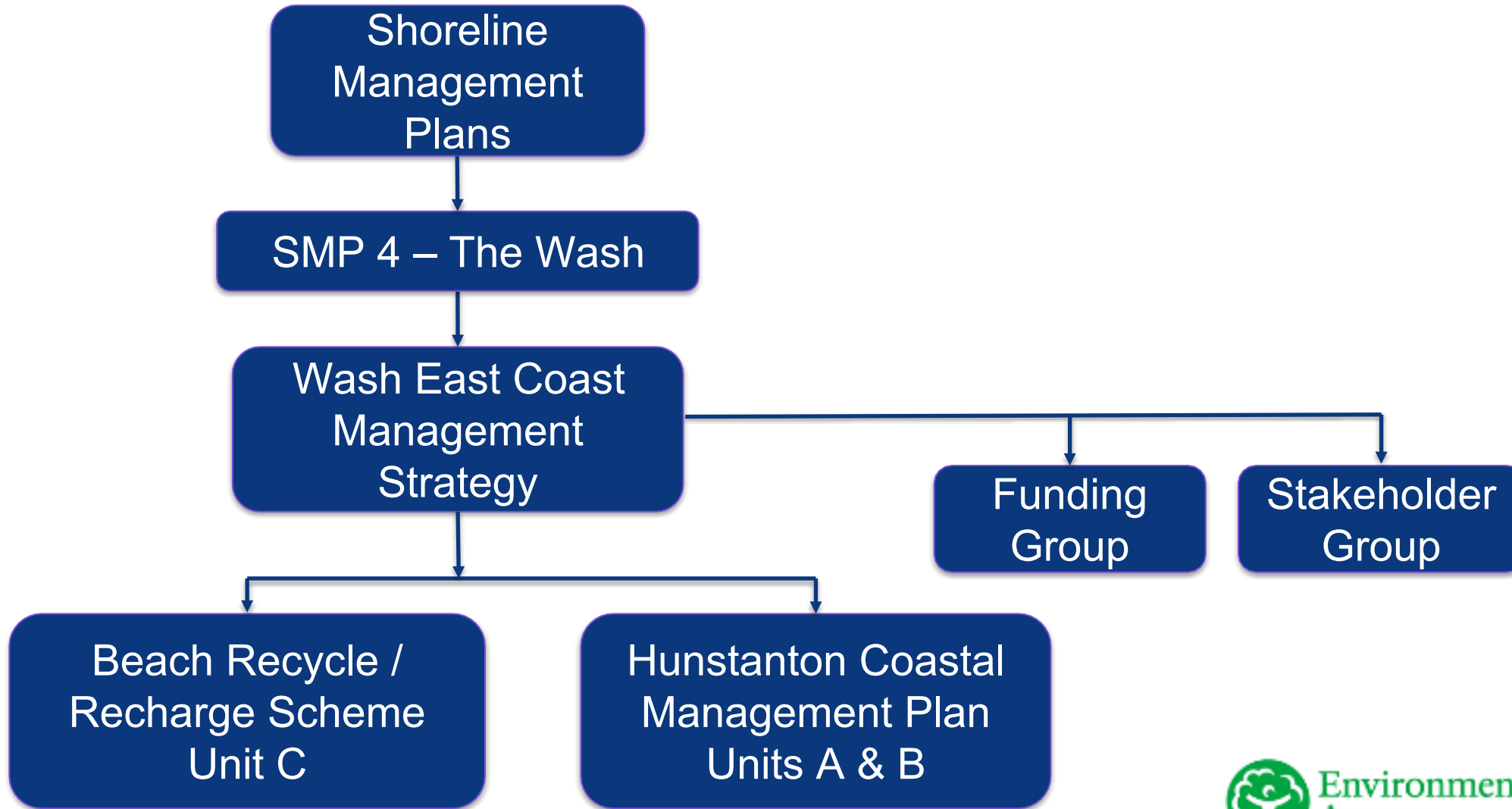


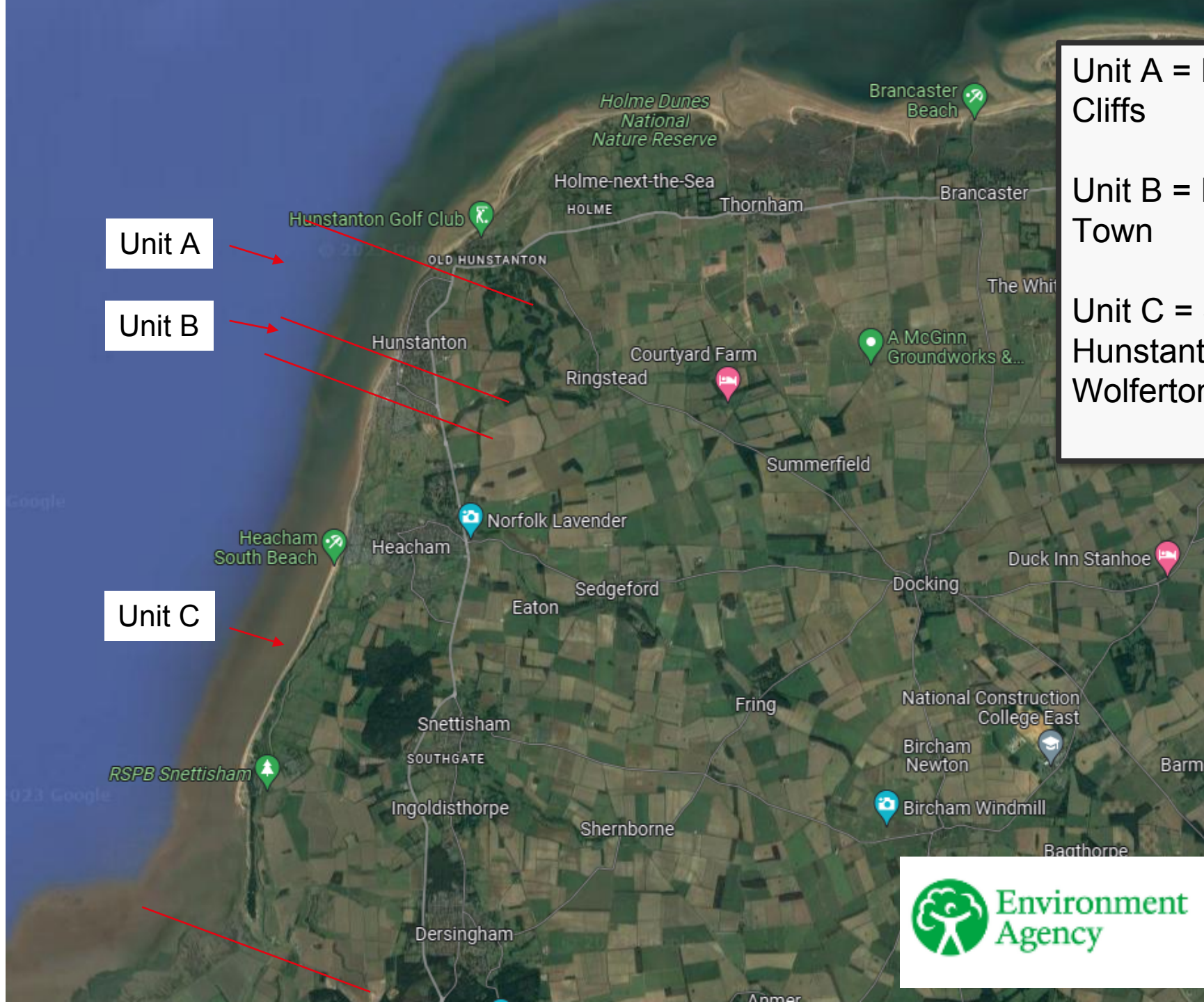
6. South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek (Unit C) Update

Phil Hulme and George Fuhrmann



Policy Hierarchy





Unit A


Unit B

Unit C


Unit A = Hunstanton Cliffs
Unit B = Hunstanton Town
Unit C = South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek




Defences (EA maintained)

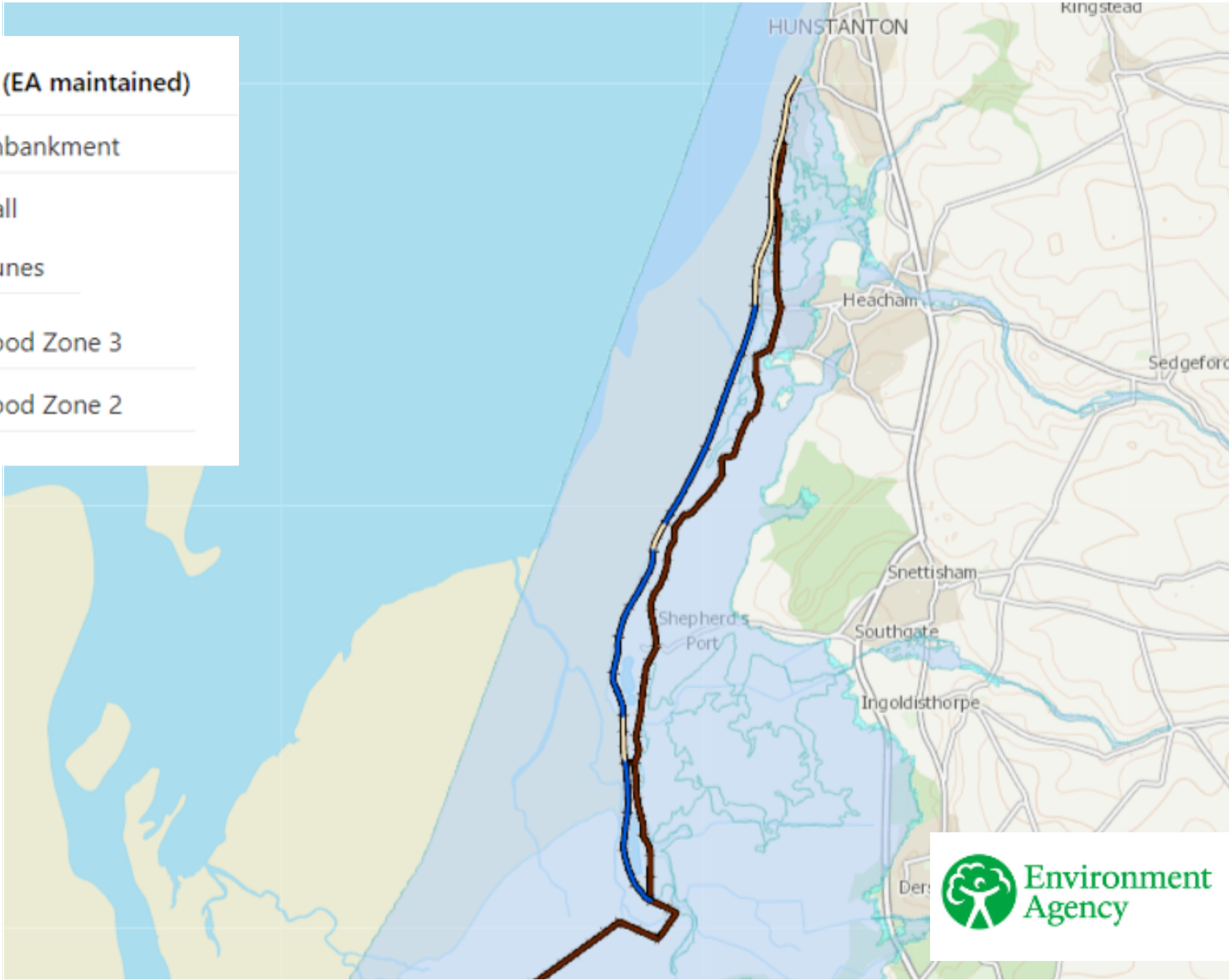
 Embankment

 Wall

 Dunes

 Flood Zone 3

 Flood Zone 2



SMP 4 Polices & Timeline

HLT = Hold the Line
NAI = No Active Intervention
MR = Managed Realignment

Unit Area	Up to 2025	2025 to 2050	2050 to 2100
A – Cliffs	NAI	NAI	HLT
B – Hunstanton	HLT	HLT	HLT
C – South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek	HLT	HLT/MR/NAI	HLT/MR/NAI

Current Management Approach

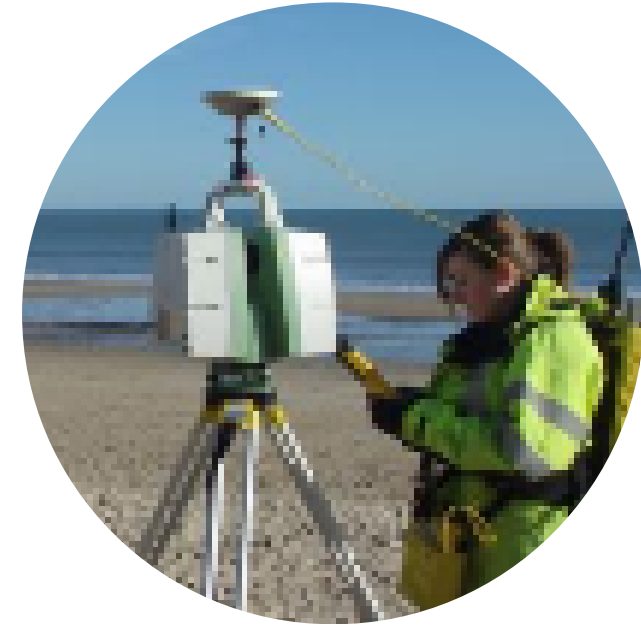


Annual Beach Recycling



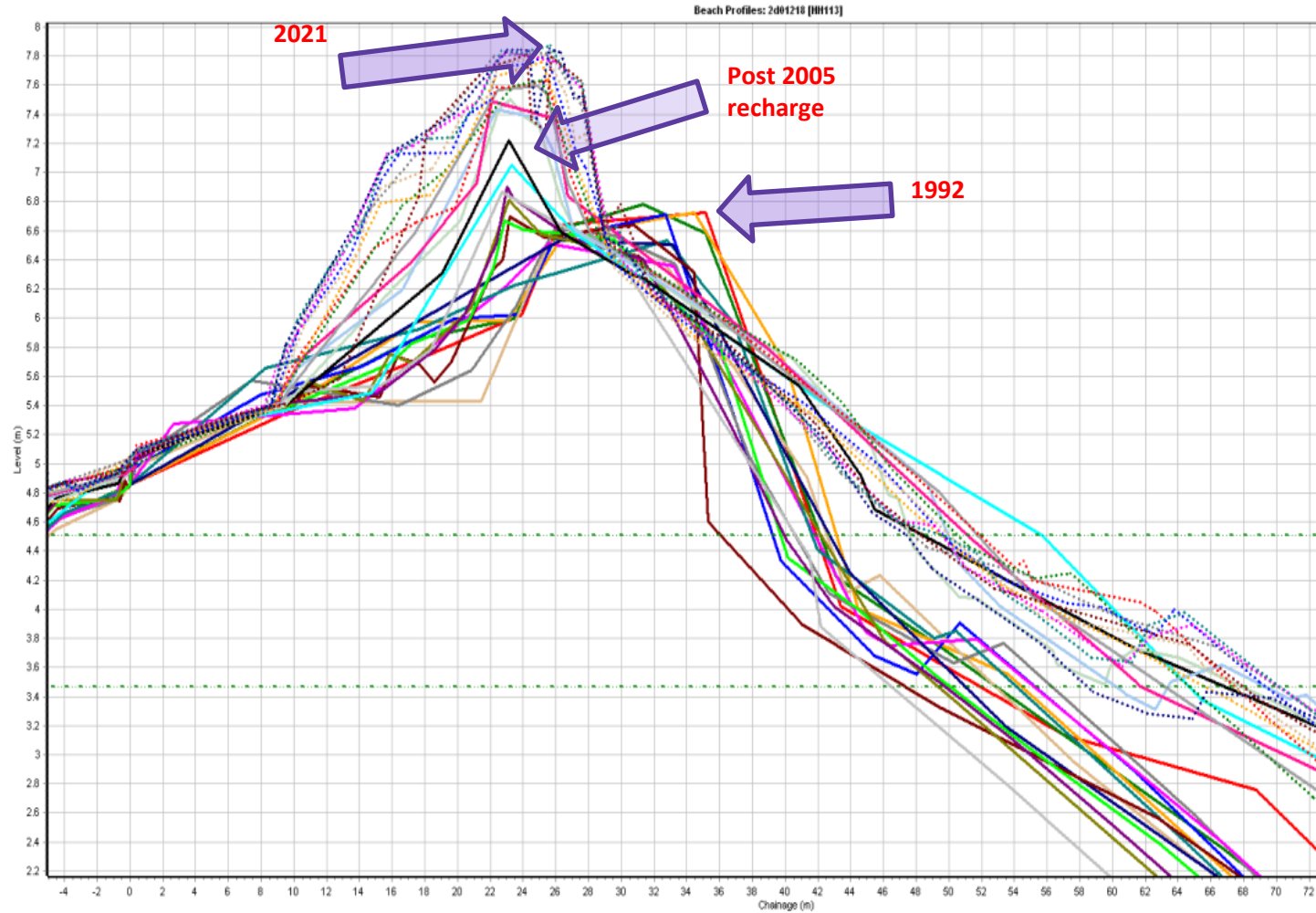
Intermittent Beach Recharge

(1992 & 2005)



Ongoing beach monitoring

Challenge 1: Ridge Mobility



1992-2021 close-up of dune crest



Challenge 2: Beach Recharge

- A small beach recharge was forecast for the near future.
- The initial planning has identified key challenges:
 - Cost
 - Technical feasibility
 - Environmental limitations
- At this time, beach levels are stable and therefore a recharge is not required.
- The recharge project has been stopped but recycling is continuing

What this meant for us

We had likely reached a trigger for change in our flood risk management approach on this stretch of coastline.



Unit C Initial Assessment



Unit C Initial Assessment

Key conclusions

- The WECMS economic trigger for change has been met.
- Annual beach recycling continues to be effective and sustainable.
- Human activity and damage on the ridge needs to be limited to allow it to perform its flood risk function.
- Sand continues to accumulate behind the crest of the ridge; this is likely to continue.
- The WECMS environmental and evacuation triggers have not been met.
- A full review of the strategy is required to determine the future management approach for Unit C.

WECMS Review

Undertaking a full review of the WECMS will be a complex and time-consuming process due to the wide range of factors which each need to be considered in detail. This includes:



The standard of protection provided by the defences



Coastal processes



Computational modelling



Consideration of a wide range of options and their potential technical feasibility



Stakeholder engagement



Environmental impact assessments



Funding calculations



Climate Change Allowances



WECMS Review Timeline



Now – April 2025

Prepare for WECMS review:

- Secure funding
- Continue writing the business case
- Update coastal modelling for the area

Protect the ridge:

- Repairing existing damage where possible
- Continue enforcement on the shingle ridge
- Continue engaging with stakeholders, including advice to minimise footfall on the ridge
- Continue to support KLWNBC with planning applications in the area

Ongoing maintenance:

- Continue beach recycling and annual monitoring

April 2025

Begin WECMS review

2027/2028 onwards

- Begin SMP policy update
- Implement the new WECMS strategy

Engagement

- Media interviews – 30th July
- Cabinet briefing – 31st July
- Wash East Coast Management Strategy – Stakeholders Forum – 1st August
- RFCC member briefing – 1st August
- Snettisham Shingle Ridge drop-in event – 8th August
- Heacham Shingle Ridge drop-in event – 9th August
- E&C panel update – 3rd September
- RFCC – 17th October

Key takeaway messages

- The challenges are unique and complex.
- We are actively progressing a solution through the upcoming WECMS review, but nothing has been predetermined.
- We want to work with the community and other partners throughout the process.
- As the primary defence, damage to and human activity on the ridge needs to be limited to allow it to perform its flood risk function.
- In the meantime, beach recycling is continuing.