

**Questions & Answers Sessions**  
**at**  
**Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) Public Meetings**  
**9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 - Mundeford & Poole**

**Mundeford**

**Presenters:**

Dave Harlow (DH) Bournemouth Borough  
Andy Bradbury (AB) New Forest District Council & Channel Coastal Observatory  
Nick Cooper (NC) Royal Haskoning  
Greg Guthrie (GG) Royal Haskoning  
Justin Ridgewell (JR) Royal Haskoning  
Richard Caldow (RC) Natural England



**Q1.** Do the experts understand why, if in 1888 it was reported that Highcliffe cliffs were overgrown, yet now the opposite is the case? The deterioration seems to date from about 1960.

**Answer by AB:** The loss of vegetation on the cliffs at Barton on Sea and at Highcliffe is most likely caused by ground water. The cliff has perched water tables near the top and about 30 metres down. This type of erosion is more to do with cliff instability than erosion by the sea.

**Added comment by DH:** Similar problems are experienced at Bournemouth which are instigated by rainfall. There tends to be cycles of erosion.

**Q2.** Given the overwhelming threat of the economics of genocide on our overheating planet, how would you encourage the people here to decarbonise our society (e.g. air show & air travel is sending the wrong signals).

**Answer by GG:** In considering the options for any coastal scheme the lowest energy option in terms of overall construction would always be to do nothing. In assessing various options the relative effect of the schemes would need to be considered.

**Q3.** Professor Bradbury told us about the erosion at Milford on Sea. Over the last two years the shingle beach in front of my beach hut has dropped by at least 4 feet. It can be a dangerous fall from the promenade to the beach. We have heard that new dredging is now proposed off the Needles. My question is - will this dredging (by creating a new hole) make the beach erosion at Milford much worse?

**Answer by AB:** Dredging is very well regulated. Extensive investigations and research has taken place into what happens on the coast in response to dredging. If there are considered to be any cause for concern then no licence is given. If there are any effects on the coast then they are absolutely minimal.

Q4. Are the panel aware that the sea level rise over the period stated is only 59cm not as shown on your graph.

**Answer by NC:** The information presented in the slide was in accordance with the DEFRA<sup>1</sup>. Although the actual rise may be less than this prediction, and this is confirmed by evidence from tide gauges, the rise is significant. New guidelines are expected in the spring of this year.

Q5. Are the panel aware that there has been no increase in temperature over the last 10 years?

**Answer by NC:** I can't really comment on that but we are looking at the trends and certainly between the 1970's and 1980's there has been a slight increase.

**Added comment by DH:** The SMP will be considering these aspects and this will be reviewed every 5 or perhaps 10 years.

**Added comment by GG:** Yes, there is uncertainty and there will be a range of prediction. What we are looking for are robust solutions for a number of scenarios over the next 100 years.

Q6. There are lots of different structures: has research been done looking at other methods?

**Answer by DH:** The SMP will consider what policies are appropriate and whether we are going to hold the line. How that policy would be achieved would be the subject of a strategy study and there may be a number of options that could be considered.

Q7. Who makes the decision as to what is protected?

**Answer by JR:** The SMP only develops the policy for a length of coastline. The type of structure that may be appropriate to meet that policy is undertaken in a strategy study. In any particular situation any defence would have to be prioritised on the basis of need and economics.

Q8. Vince May asked about the involvement by insurance companies and suggested we needed more offshore breakwaters or possibly reconstruct the ridge between Old Harry Rocks and the Needles.

**Answer by DH:** Where the coast needed protection strategy studies would consider off shore break waters as one option.

**Added comment by AB:** National coastal erosion risk mapping is currently being carried out by Halcrow and this will go through the ABI<sup>2</sup>. It should be available in about November next year. The EA will post it on its web site in the same way as the flood maps.

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<sup>1</sup> DEFRA - the government Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs

<sup>2</sup> ABI - Association of British Insurers

**Added comment by GG:** Regarding the offshore breakwaters: we need to consider how these might affect the inshore wave climate and the movement of sediment and everything else including funding. We may need to pull in other funding and consider this through the 3 epochs.

**Q9.** Considering the economics and the culture of trying to get maximum value out of development. How will this be achieved on the coast?

**Answer by GG:** We have to look at what is valued on the coast and see how the coast can be managed picking up all the values including development values.

**Q10.** The beach recharge at Bournemouth has destroyed the beach.

**Answer by DH:** The particle size of the material used for the recharge is the same size as has always been put on the beach.

**Q11.** How will you ensure that your plan will be democratic?

**Answer by DH:** There are five local authorities involved and each has a member portfolio holder representative on the group. The final SMP document will also have to be formally adopted by each of the member authorities.

**Q12.** Cllr R. West: Perpetual beach recharge is not an option as there is a limited purse. Planning should look at more sustainable solutions in the long term.

**Answer by DH:** SMPs are not statutory documents but the information in them is there to feed into the planning system so that we should have better planning in the future.

**Answer by GG:** We have to consider the economics and whether there is likely to be a funding shortfall. We have to think of what we want and how we will tackle it in the future. We have to explain that if the community can't afford it then these are the consequences which will be suffered.

Ends.

## Poole

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Richard Caldwell (RC) Natural England

**Q13.** Will the SMP consider butterfly conservation?

**Answer by RC:** The SMP will consider and assess the risks to habitats including grassland habitats which are important for butterflies.



Q14. Could wave energy be used to create power and thereby reduce the wave energy reaching the shore?

**Answer by GG:** Capturing wave energy is not easy and one of the difficulties is building structures that can cope with extreme weather events. Any effort in reducing wave energy could have detrimental effects on sediment movement and these could be detrimental to adjacent sections of coast. The SMP has to look at all impacts.

Q15. With the effects of rising sea level increasing the risk of flooding in extreme events, has consideration been given to a barrier?

**Answer by JR:** We are at an early stage in the process and at this stage we are only looking at the policies. We will look at innovative techniques within the strategy and how they might be funded.

**Answer by DH:** This is only a review of the previous SMP and strategy. We are already planning another strategy once this review is complete.

Q16. I am concerned about the effect the beach recharge scheme has had on the commercial shell fishing. Everything is covered in fine sediment up to 3-4 miles out.

**Answer by AB:** We have a bathymetric monitoring programme 1km offshore which should provide some useful information but not out to 3-4 miles

**Added comment by DH:** The fine sediment only represents about 2-3% of the recharge material. It might not be from the recharge but fine material from the harbour. We will investigate this further.

**Added comment by GG:** The information you have about the location of fine sediment would be useful and valuable to the study.

**Added comment by RC:** On land environmental protection is streets ahead of that of the sea but this situation will be looked at in the future for marine protected areas

Q17. Small streams and clay lenses appear to be responsible for causing slips in the cliffs. Is this being investigated?

**Answer by AB:** The mechanisms of land sliding will be assessed in the SMP. However, currently there are no government grants available for dealing with land instability issues.

**Added comment by DH:** The formation of the chines in the Bournemouth cliffs is thought to be due to the coast retreating and the streams cutting down in the soft geology.

Q18. A lot of the flooding problems we experience seem to be due to pipe sizes being too small but planners are still allowing development in areas prone to flood. Are we working with the water authorities regarding pipes sizes?

**Answer by NC:** This is being looked at through the Pitt Report which was commissioned by government following the 2007 floods. It aims at providing

better integration between surface water and river flooding. Certainly pipe capacity is an important aspect.

**Added comment by AB:** Where coastal flooding is concerned we would discourage building or development in that area.

**Added comment by MG:** The government has recently produced a planning policy statement, PPS25 Development and Flood Risk which requires new development to be outside the flood plain and requires developers to design surface water drainage to much higher standards, normally 1-in-100 years plus an allowance for climate change. This can be achieved by much larger soakaways than used to be the case, or by attenuating flows before discharge into the sewers.

**Q19. Have you looked into dredging of the harbours and off the Isle of Wight?**

**Answer by AB:** We consider this on a case by case basis taking into account the environmental and specific conditions to determine the impacts. However, the system is very robust and well regulated but if it were considered that there might be an adverse effect then consent would not be given.

**Q20. How will climate change affect the future and how certain are you about the data?**

**Answer by NC:** The best information we have is based on the UK Climate Impact Programme. This is being considered over 3 tranches - 1998, 2002 and in the spring of this year.

**Added comment by AB:** Regarding flooding from the sea this is particularly influenced by tidal surges and wind direction but there is a great deal of uncertainty. In general the probability is that there will be higher rainfall in winter, less rainfall in summer and more stormy conditions. There is plenty of information freely available on this.

**Added comment by GG:** The more information we have the better will be our prediction and all the time the information is getting better.

**Q21. What consideration will be given to making decisions regarding planning, the environment and economics?**

**Answer by GG:** We will be considering all the issues and identifying the risks. We will then consider how all these issues could be managed, explain how this can be done and the consequences of the decisions.

The SMP is a non statutory document but it advises the planning system and will therefore feed into the Regional Spatial Strategy and the Local Development Framework.

**Added comment by DH:** To ensure a democratic system we have an elected member's forum with a Councillor from each member authority. The final plan will be adopted by each authority.

**Q22. Is it really worth looking at 50 - 100 years?**

**Answer by DH:** Yes, because decisions being made now have a long term impact on our approach to managing the coast in the future.

**Q23. How seamless will this plan be with the plans for the neighbouring lengths of coastline?**

**Answer by DH:** It should be very seamless. Members of this group are also involved with the adjoining groups: Andy Bradbury is on the Solent group and Mike Goater is on the Durlston Head to Rame Head group

**Q24. The salt marsh in the harbour is dying and as sea level rises there will be more loss of salt marsh. How will this be addressed?**

**Answer by RC:** There is currently a proposal to remove the tide banks at Wareham and this would provide an area where new salt marsh could be created. There are complications in doing this as some of the area already contains a protected freshwater lagoon which would then be lost. This would need to be taken into consideration. As far as the die back is concerned there are a variety of reasons for this which are not related to sea level rise.

**Added comment by AB:** The die back of Spartina in Poole Harbour is less than elsewhere.

Ends.