

Resource 7: Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea strategic short list options summary

NAISH CLIFF AND BARTON ON SEA – SMZ 4

Background

SMZ 4 (Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea) includes settlement of Barton on Sea and the currently undefended stretch of coastline at Naish Cliff. There is only one ODU in this zone, ODU 14, and the main risk facing this area is from erosion.

SMZ 4 is characterised by steep topography and an active cliff face that is environmentally designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The cliff in this area is a complex cliff and when undefended it erodes from the combined influence of sea erosion of the cliff toe and groundwater induced instability that can cause land sliding. The groundwater levels in the area are linked to rainfall.

It is not always possible to completely stop the cliff top receding here due to the complex nature of the cliff geology.

Strategic Options

The Strategic Options for managing the erosion risk in this SMZ include:

Do Nothing: a hypothetical baseline scenario whereby maintenance and activities are stopped.

Do Minimum: undertake reactive, small scale maintenance to the existing defences and remaining drainage system to extend the service life of the defences where possible.

Maintain: undertake reactive, small scale maintenance to the existing defences and remaining drainage system to extend the service life of the defences where possible.

Strategic Options (continued)

Improve: upgrade the existing defences and drainage or construct new defences and drainage to reduce the erosion risk. The intent of this option would be to minimise future cliff top recession, but it is acknowledged that completely stopping the cliff top from eroding may not be feasible.

Managed Realignment: transition the coastline to a more sustainable position over time, but control this process through the provision of new defences at key locations. In achieving a new coastline position, erosion in some areas would be limited, but in other areas more significant erosion would occur. This option would align with the Shoreline Management Plan policy for the area, and it is likely that the western part of this zone would experience the greater amounts of cliff top recession.

Adaptation / Resilience: adapt to the risks caused by coastal erosion through planning policies and community level resilience measures.

Short List of Local Measures

To implement the different Strategic Options, a range of measures / defence types could be implemented at the local level.

A proposed short list of measures at ODU 14 has been identified based on the results of the multi-criteria appraisal. The proposed short list for each area is shown in the table to the right of the map below.



Short List of Measures

ODU 14 - Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea:

- Maintenance - repair / refurbish
- Beach recycling
- Beach nourishment
- Rock groynes
- Rock revetment
- Cliff slope stabilisation and drainage



Produced in collaboration with Geography Southwest (<https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/>) and the project partners.

