

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Update

East Lane: The significant erosion, experienced in January, to the north of East Lane, at the end of the existing rock revetment, has been mitigated through the rapid response of EA emergency works. This placed c70m of granite, extending the revetment. The Essex and Suffolk rock store which was utilised for this work has been restocked.

Bawdsey Cliff's frontage to the sea: The winter has brought further loss of beach height and erosion to the north of the sheet piling leading to some cliff collapse. Weaknesses in the piling are also a concern. Rapid action will be needed to avoid exacerbation of these issues.

Shingle Street: The retreat of North Weir point northwards continues; c700m has been lost in the last year or so. This exposes river walls to the open sea and the most northerly property is subject to increased risk. Monitoring continues given the dynamic nature of this area.

Longer-Term Development: A modelling study of the frontage by HR Wallingford, funded by the Crown Estate, has been delayed from the end of March, planned delivery date, to late May/ June. This may risk missing the opportunity for public engagement this side of the summer. If so, this puts back solution progress meaning that one or more winters will need to be faced with continued reliance on Emergency works. This in turn could require further modelling. It will be important to secure constructive, objective evidence to support management decisions as soon as possible to collectively explore solutions. An economic study of the value of the BCP area at risk has been completed and shared with SCDC.

Tim Green, April 2016