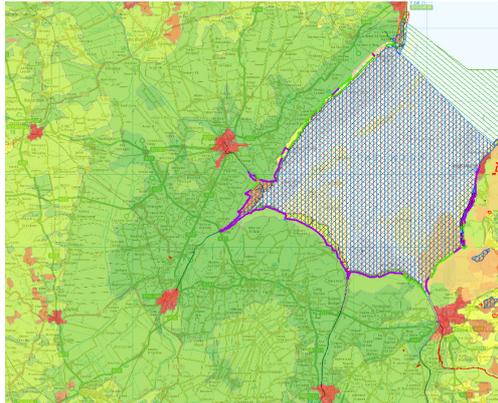




Shoreline Management Plan for The Wash (UK) -
Agriculture and habitats in the balance



Jaap Flikweert



Key presentation aims:

- Explain essence of flood risk management in the UK
- Showcase example of dealing with uncertainty through adaptive management

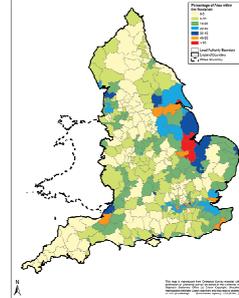
Current and future flood risk



Current level of risk

UK 2012 **Climate Change Risk Assessment**

- One in six properties in England + Wales (5.4M) at risk of flooding, of which half from sea or rivers
- Expected average annual damage: £1.2 billion to properties
- Not the whole story!
- Times 4 in 2105 if we don't invest more



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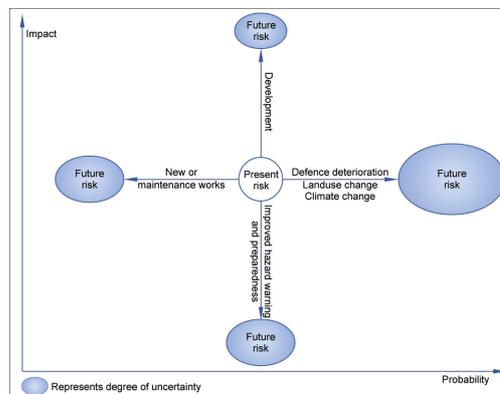
Flood risk management in England



Risk = Probability x Impact

Making Space for Water, 2008:

- manage the risk
- integrated portfolio of approaches
- reduce the threat to people and their property;
- deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit
- sustainable development



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Flood risk management in England



Roles and responsibilities:



- Defra sets policy
- Environment Agency has strategic overview and divides funding:
 - ~£800M in 2010
- Permissive powers for EA, Local Authorities and others

Core task of flood risk management →

Spend budget as effectively as possible to achieve:

- Minimum flood risk
- Maximum environmental, social and economic benefit

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Flood risk management in England



Spend budget as effectively as possible to achieve:

- Minimum flood risk
- Maximum environmental, social and economic benefit

In practice:

- Defra's Outcome Measures set direction
 - Benefit Cost Ratio (currently ~ 8:1 for schemes to get approval!)
 - Properties; Vulnerable households; Habitats
- Hierarchy of planning



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Shoreline Management Plans



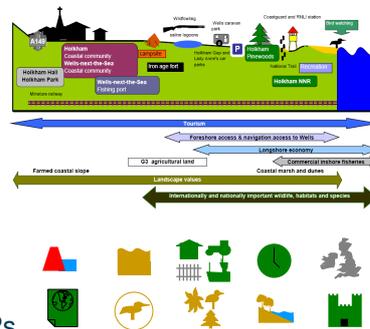
- Plan to determine best management for the shoreline
- Large area (22 plans in England & Wales); Long term (up to 2105)
- Partnership approach:
 - Lead authority: LA or EA
 - Partners: planners, statutory stakeholders, landowners
 - Elected Members fully involved
 - Public consultation



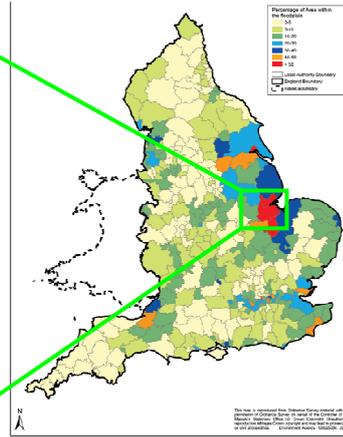
Shoreline Management Plans



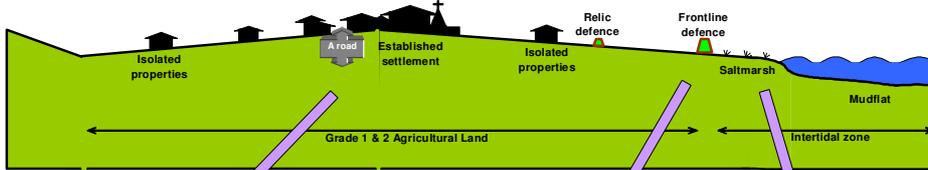
- Broad scale decisions:
 - Manage or not?
 - If yes: Hold / Advance / Realign?
- Aim to balance all partners' interest
→ Liaison with Land use plans
→ ICZM'ish
- Will be part of EU Floods Directive FRMPs



The Wash – Where is it



The Wash – What's it like



The Wash – Competing claims

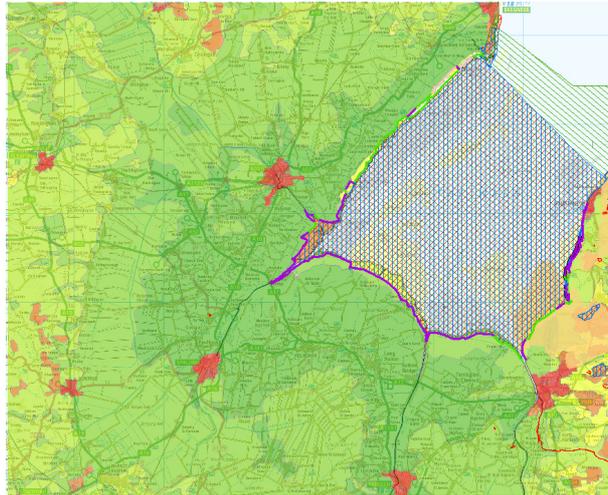


Habitats

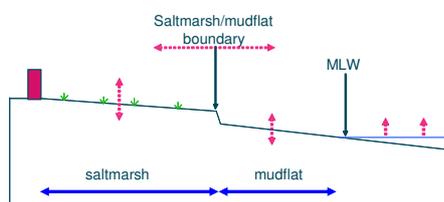
- Internationally important intertidal area
- All possible designations

Agricultural land

- 50% of England's 'grade 1' land
- Could become critical to UK food security



The Wash – Coastal processes



Currently & up to 2025:

- Accretion keeping up with sea level rise →
 - Sea defence needs raising at SLR pace
 - Habitat areas constant

Accretional future:

- Continuation of current trends

Erosional future:

- Lower and narrower saltmarsh →
 - Higher waves → much higher defences
 - Loss of intertidal habitat

The Wash – the Big Decisions

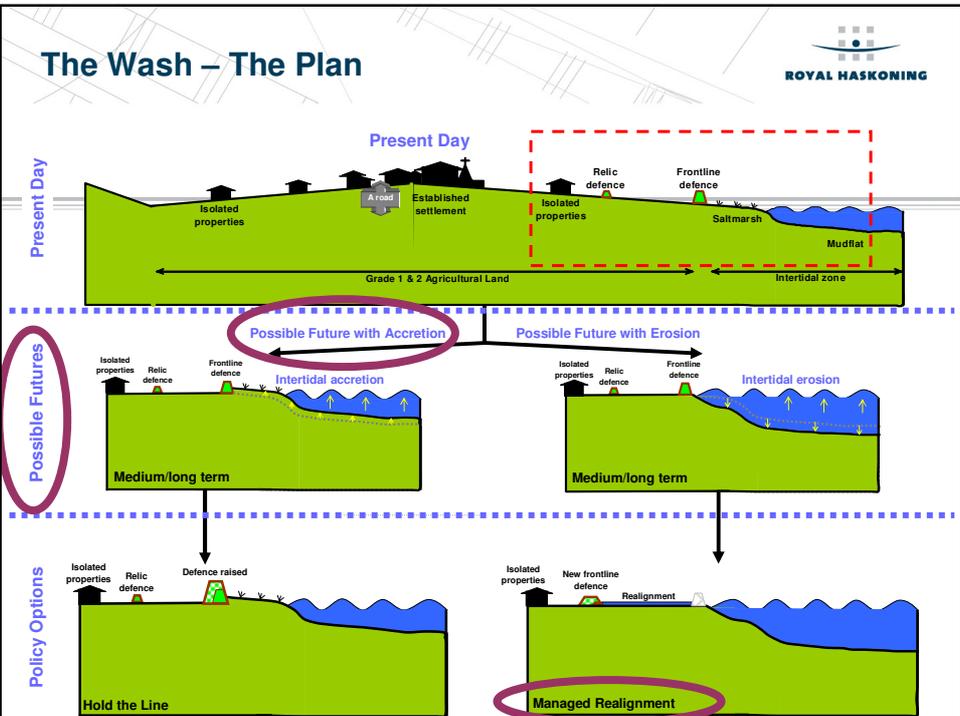


- Defences are essential
→ Continue to protect settlements and their hinterland



- ‘The big decisions’:
 - How to sustain flood defence
 - How to balance intertidal habitats & agriculture
 - How to deal with uncertainty:
 - → No regret? Precautionary? Conditional policies?

The Wash – The Plan



The Wash



- **What next?**
 - **SMP adopted by all partners, about to be formalised**
 - **Implementation of the SMP via the Action Plan:**
 - **Continue partnership working**
 - **Monitoring to confirm intertidal future**
 - **Continue to manage defences**
 - **Review in 5-10 years time → December 2015, 1st FRMP**

- **But:**
 - **Budget cuts**
 - **Localism**

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Shoreline management plan for The Wash



- Explain essence of flood risk management in the UK

Spend available budget as effectively as possible to meet government targets

- Showcase example of dealing with uncertainty

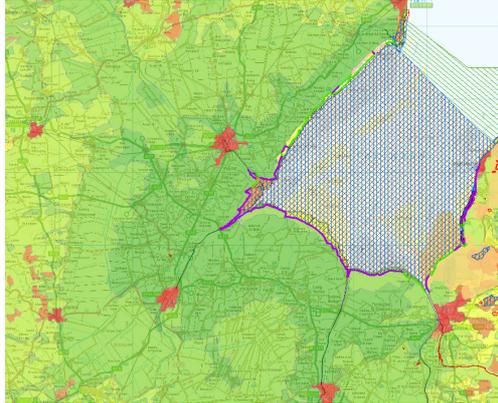
Adaptive management:

- No regret
- Monitoring to firm up long-term decisions

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