

## Comment Receipt

<b>Event Name</b>	Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan
<b>Comment ID</b>	EssSou8
<b>Response Date</b>	28/06/10 09:29
<b>Consultation Point</b>	Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan Consultation Overview ( <a href="#">View</a> )
<b>Status</b>	Submitted
<b>Submission Type</b>	Web
<b>Version</b>	0.1

**Which area(s) do you have an interest in?**

- . Landguard to Colne
- . Colne to Bradwell

**Do you understand the need for us to consider how to manage the impact of climate change and sea level rise as part of this flood and coastal risk management plan?** Yes

**Do you agree with the information that supports the proposed draft policies we have presented in this consultation?** No

**Please explain your answer.**

The information in the main sections is too brief to allow an informed judgement to be made. The appendices are impenetrable, and given they are only labelled A-M, it is not easy to find relevant sections.

**Do you agree with the draft policy options outlined in this consultation?** No

**Please explain your answer.**

Epoch 1 – no comments Epoch 2 – 2025-2055 Section D1b – Point Clear into St Osyth Creek The areas of fringing salt marsh in the front of these sections of seawall are small, and in parts, eroded back to the toe of the sea defence. Many of the sea walls here are armoured with the larger concrete slabs. The land behind is mainly a 9 hole golf course that supports the tourism industry at Point Clear, and unfarmed scrub and plot land. With continued salt marsh loss and relative sea level rise, we accept that this is a possible site for managed realignment. Section D2 – Howlands Marsh The area of fringing salt marsh in the front of these sections of seawall are small, and in parts, eroded back to the toe of the sea defence. Much of the defence here is armoured with either Essex block or larger concrete slabs. There is no doubt that these walls are physically compromised by the loss of foreshore sediments.

However, the land protected is predominantly nature reserve – freshwater grazing marsh. Coastal and floodplain grazing marshes are legally protected Biodiversity Action Plan habitats, and this site also supports a populations of water voles, a protected species. The Howlands Marsh site is an SSSI, and in addition contains a number of red data book species. Any decision to develop a managed realignment programme in this area would require compensatory actions to match habitat and species loss. Therefore additional costs would be incurred in conducting MR in this region, and these will need to be factored into any economic analysis. Section D3 – Eastmarsh Point We are aware discussions are underway with landowners to implement MR in this area prior to Epoch 2. Partnership members have expressed concern about movement of sediments down Brightlingsea Creek, particularly their effects around the harbour/marina and the costs (financial and environmental) of increased dredging and / or increased erosion in flag creek. Section D5 – Aldboro point Mainly agricultural land that would be lost to MR, but a large freshwater pond and surrounding habitat would also be lost. There is also an application submitted (to ECC) to erect a pier for gravel extraction from Thorrington Cross which includes planned saltmarsh creation in this area. Is an MR strategy for this area compatible with new aggregate infrastructure? Section D6a – Alresford Lodge No active intervention due to elevation profile of adjacent land. What will happen when the Wivenhoe Trail public footpath erodes? Will it be maintained on higher land? Section D6b – Wivenhoe Marshes Important freshwater grazing marsh, a UK BAP habitat, with large areas of reedbed, also a UK BAP habitat. There are also records of Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*) on this site, a species fully protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981). Therefore mitigation or compensation for any translocation would be required. A large concern relating to this section is the status of the Wivenhoe trail public footpath. This is heavily used by the local community and its loss is likely to generate extensive local opposition. Section D8a – Ballast Farm Quay Important commercial quay for gravel and sand extraction along with gravel and sand extraction pits on adjacent land. Redundant flooded pits could provide valuable freshwater habitat. There are concerns that MR on this area without clean-up of land could lead to large volumes of sand/sediment entering the estuary. Although if flooded to the 5m contour, only limited area (mainly old pits) would be lost and only the quayside area itself would need protection. There is also a small Sewerage Treatment Works that would require protection in this area. Section E2 – Mersea Island/Flats No real objections to habitat or area to be lost to MR, but would need compensatory defences around Scout camp and Hall Farm caravan park adjacent to this area. Epoch 3 - 2055 onwards Section C4 – Colne Point to Jaywick Object. This section was not identified as a possible area for MR in the earlier consultations. During these earlier consultations, the only region of the sea defences in this section identified as under threat are the eastern most regions at Seawick. Here there has been substantial loss of beach sediments, threatening the future integrity of the sea wall. However, the land immediately behind these threatened sections support a very substantial set of holiday infrastructure (caravan parks and amenities) and permanent dwellings. We suggest that an economic assessment would indicate that these areas should be protected. So it is unlikely that any managed realignment could take place at the threatened portion of this section. The rest of the section is arable land, and the sea defences are in good condition, and importantly, protected by the substantial area of Colne Point saltmarsh. This marsh is stable, showing none of the internal dissection and erosion characterised by some other marshes in the region, and provides substantial protection to the current sea defences. Even with projected sea level rise scenarios, it seems a remote possibility that the sea defences in the majority of C4 will be threatened. Therefore the decision to classify this whole section as a region for managed retreat in Epoch 3 is unfounded.

**Do you agree with the draft timings outlined in this consultation?** Yes

**We've changed the way we run our consultations online and we'd like to hear your feedback.**

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

**It was easy to take part in this consultation.** Tend to agree

**Have you ever taken part in an Environment Agency consultation online before?** Yes

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

**This system is an improvement on the way the Environment Agency consults online.**

Neither agree nor disagree