

Felixstowe Beach Management Plan

Development of a beach management plan

Felixstowe, Suffolk, UK



Central Felixstowe, looking towards the pier, with Felixstowe Port in the background

Client: Suffolk Coastal District Council

Services provided:

- review of beach profile monitoring
- identification and appraisal of rock groyne improvements
- development of a beach management plan based upon risk, performance and other triggers for action.

Under the jurisdiction of Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC), the Felixstowe coast is split into three “management units”: North Felixstowe, Central Felixstowe and South Felixstowe. There was no beach management plan (BMP) for North Felixstowe whilst those prepared separately for Central and South Felixstowe relied on recycling beach material to maintain performance. Whilst useful in their own way, these plans did not necessarily address all the risks that SCDC needs to manage. ENBE was commissioned to prepare a BMP for the entire SCDC Felixstowe frontage, taking into account the various structure types and risks to public safety.

ENBE undertook an in-depth review of the information provided by SCDC relating to the existing defences to determine how each structure is most likely to fail and therefore what the “critical” beach level is for stability. An early warning trigger was also identified, as well as other triggers relating to fall from height, inadequate/ unsafe public access and access to and the siting of beach huts.

Reporting of the BMP consisted of two reports: firstly a “supporting document” to provide relevant background information and to explain the derivation of the trigger levels for each frontage; and secondly the BMP itself, which was a clear and concise document consisting of a diagram and a table for each frontage to summarise the triggers and actions to be taken for each frontage.

In addition to the BMP, ENBE also reviewed a scour issue that had developed at the groyne roots to the South Felixstowe rock groynes. Options to manage this issue were identified and appraised, with a recommended approach put forward to SCDC.