

One day conference

Optimising Coastal Managed Realignment Delivery

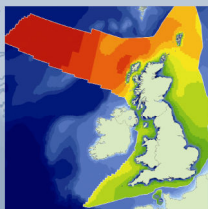
10 November 2010

One Great George Street,
Westminster, London, SW1P 3AA.

This event will be of particular interest to those who are:

- Involved in shoreline planning and the development of sustainable responses to coastal change and sea level rise;
- Keen to learn/share, good practice from Managed Realignment and Regulated Tidal Exchange schemes;
- Seeking to enhance the cost-effectiveness and quality of future coastal defence and habitat creation projects;
- Interested in the future of coastal habitat management;
- Owners of land that may be affected by coastal change.

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Optimising Coastal Managed Realignment Delivery, 10 November 2010

One Great George Street, London

9.30	Welcome, Introduction and Overview to the Day's Objectives Colin Scott, ABPmer
9:40	Key Note: The RSPB's Experience of Managed Realignment and Tidal Exchange Jeff Kew, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
10.00	SESSION I: SITE SELECTION Strategies and Programmes for Site Selection Philip Winn, Environment Agency Practical Realities: Opportunities and Pitfalls Nathan Richardson, Atkins Global Present Policy Drivers and Future Options David Collins, ELM Consulting
11.00	Questions/Discussion: Gaps/Opportunities/Needs
11.20	BREAK
11.40	SESSION 2: SCHEME IMPLEMENTATION Progress we have made over the first two decades Susanne Armstrong, ABPmer Best and most cost-effective practices for design and construction Mark Dixon, Independent (former Environment Agency, Defra & RSPB) Community and landowner engagement considerations Karen Thomas, Environment Agency
12.40	Questions/Discussion: Gaps/Opportunities/Needs
13.00	LUNCH
13.50	SESSION 3: HOT TOPICS Identifying economic value and multiple benefits Mark Everard, Environment Agency Medmerry: a good practice example Terry Fuller, Jacobs Ecological development and site monitoring Angus Garbutt, CEH, Bangor Natural England's perspective on the past and the future Jon Curson, Natural England
15.00	Short Questions/Discussion: Gaps/Opportunities/Needs
15:10	TEA
15:30	SESSION 4: PRIORITISING NEEDS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY Facilitated discussion on issues raised and the actions that are now needed Ian Townend, HR Wallingford
16:30	CLOSE

Rationale

There are many clear motives and legal/policy drivers for undertaking coastal managed realignment and regulated tidal exchange projects. These include: improving coastal defences; providing compensation under the Habitats/Birds Directive; maintaining SSSI favourable status; achieving Biodiversity Action Plan targets and improving ecological status in contribution to Water Framework Directive objectives. There are also many other benefits that schemes can provide such as carbon capture, enhanced fish/shellfish productivity and green tourism (the socio-economic value of which we have only begun to understand relatively recently in some cases).

In the UK, and across the rest of Europe, we now have over two decades of experience in carrying out such schemes (with over 44 projects in the UK alone). There is, therefore, a massive amount of good practice to tap into as well as pitfalls to avoid. This conference seeks to bring together parties involved in this field to share experience and address the state of our knowledge with a view to identifying the way forward for undertaking better and more cost-effective schemes into the future.

Audience and Key Objectives

This event is aimed at coastal management regulators, consultants and stakeholders with a role and interest in the future planning and management of the coast. The event seeks to:

- demonstrate where we are now in our understanding of managed realignment and regulated tidal exchange;
- recognise the main gaps and opportunities for improving future delivery;
- discuss the main recurring issues;
- identify, and prioritise, the key considerations for streamlining the delivery of future schemes;
- direct the production of a handbook or equivalent mechanism (e.g. online network) for future knowledge sharing.

Programme

The day will consist of three separate sessions which will include presentations on issues covering the key stages of a coastal habitat creation project from initial site selection to post-implementation monitoring. The session contents will be:

- **Session 1** will cover site selection process and the policy context that we work within. It will review the legal/policy drivers as well as the strategic mechanisms for scheme delivery and it will end with a practical overview of the process of site selection.
- **Session 2** will focus on reviewing the projects that have been completed and the lessons learned for the scheme design and development process. This will include consideration of recurring issues, cost considerations and particularly, community engagement (using worked examples from completed and on-going schemes).
- **Session 3** will provide an overview of key issues such as the ecosystem services provided, a review of the Medmerry case example for the application of community engagement as well as the lessons from monitoring and the final perspectives from a Statutory Nature Conservation Body (Natural England).

Each session will culminate in a discussion (which we see as the key elements of the programme) to identify gaps and opportunities for furthering knowledge and understanding. These three sessions will be followed by a facilitated session to prioritise issues and actions that need to be taken to ensure optimal delivery of future schemes.

