

West Beach Sloping Timber Breastwork

Potential structural failure – Winter 2009 / 2010

Historic Background:

- The western end of Hayling Island has seen a natural increase in beach material since the 1700s, growing from the position of Ferry Road to the present alignment
- The coastline immediately west of Inn-on-the-Beach has been eroding since the late 1940s
- The sloping timber structure was constructed in 1976 to prevent further coastal erosion
- Overall, the cost of construction and maintenance over the last 34 years was £1.2 million (at present day values)



Start of construction, Dec '75



Low beach levels, Oct '90

Current Management Policy:

- The current beach management policy west of Inn on the Beach is identified in the East Solent Shoreline Management Plan as 'No Active Intervention'
- HBC is undertaking a study to map out the best way to bring present practice at West Beach in line with this policy; the study is due for completion in summer 2010
- Minor repairs will continue to be carried out on the structure until the study recommendations are available
- In the event of a significant failure the structure will be made safe but not reconstructed. This process may involve removing sections of the structure to ensure the stability of the remaining structure

The Present Situation:

- The structure is reaching the end of its serviceable life and is in a poor condition



- If beach levels drop during a winter storm there is a risk that the structure could fail in a similar manner to the event shown below (Feb 1990)

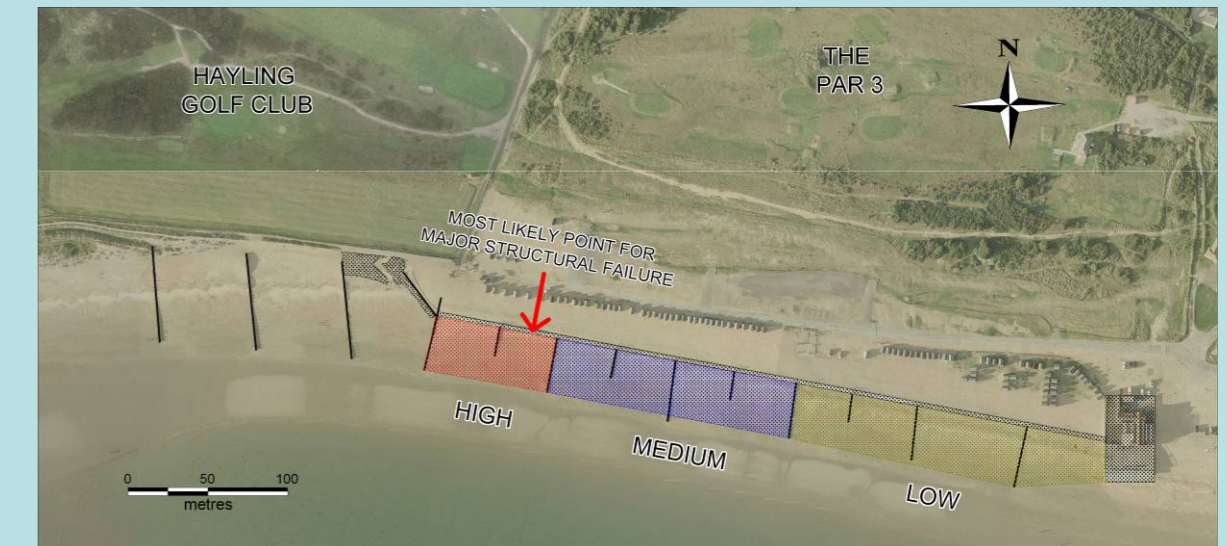


Significant structural failure, Feb '90

- The area behind the structure is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is managed in agreement with Natural England
- Havant Borough Council have an emergency response plan in place should a structural failure occur over the coming winter months
- No works are planned to demolish stable sections of the structure, only in response to structural failures

Likelihood of Failure:

Given the current beach levels in front of the structure and the condition of the sloping timber breastwork a failure is most likely to occur towards the western end of the structure.



Likelihood of structural failure under storm conditions

Potential Impacts of Failure:

- If the structure fails the beach crest will retreat back to more stable position
- Given the most likely failure point the potential retreat of the beach crest is shown below
- Depending on the exact location of a failure, beach huts and car parking could be impacted
- Beach hut owners will be contacted to discuss the options available to them should a failure occur



Likely form of coastline given most probable failure scenario

For further information please contact: Havant, Portsmouth & Gosport Coastal Partnership, Tel: (023) 9247 4174, Email: customer.services@havant.gov.uk

