



## **Portfolio Holder Decisions**

### **Flood and Coast Resilience Innovative Programme – Our Future Coast Development**

- 1. Flood and Coast Resilience Innovative Programme - Our Future Coast Development** (Pages 3 - 64)

Report of the Director of Environment.

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## Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Director of Environment	Councillor Lesley McKay, Resources Portfolio Holder and Councillor Roger Berry, Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	14 November 2024

<b>Flood and Coast Resilience Innovative Programme – Our Future Coast Development</b>
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**Key decision:** No

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to procure services from a number of consultants and organisations in order to progress packages of work which are part of the Our Future Coast (OFC) programme funded through the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovative Programme (FRCRIP).
- 1.2 To seek approval in Wyre Council’s role as accountable body for OFC to request approval to transfer contingency funding into a capital delivery budget to enable land acquisition and the extensions of a nature based capital works project, which meets the requirements of the FCRIP.

### 2. Council priorities

- 2.1 To continue collaboration with our partners and to respond to a range of climate change and community resilience issues, including our commitment to carbon footprint reduction and tackling flood risk and the associated community impact across Wyre.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That approval is given to appoint consultants as set out below: under the exemption to Contract Procedures contained within the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules, on the grounds that: “There is no genuine competition for the goods, works or services being procured”.

- 3.1.1** V. Holden as a consultant to support the delivery of WP3 monitoring and evaluation
  - 3.1.2** The University of Lancaster through contract to provide an Adaptation Pathways for Communities study as part of the delivery of WP4 Adaptation Pathways and WP1 Engagement and Communications.
  - 3.1.3** The Land and Water Group through the Environment Agency Asset Operation Management Response framework Lot 3 for the production of necessary design, licences and approvals to allow preferential use of dredged material to create saltmarshes in the Fleetwood Dock area. with funding through the Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe) project.
- 3.2** That approval is given to reallocate £1,500,000 OFC contingency budget into a capital delivery budget for the acquisition of a land and nature-based solution through project partners Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1** Our Future Coast (OFC) (the updated name for Eco-Cobs) previously obtained approval in the Portfolio Holder's Report of 12 August 2021 for officers to develop Environmental Community Owned Coastal Buffer Strips (ECO-CoBS) along the NW Coast to the Outline Business Case stage through the DEFRA Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovative Programme (FCRIP).
- 4.2** The £6.791 million OFC initiative seeks to identify sustainable methods of delivering the Shoreline Management Plan for the North West by working with nature to achieve Nature Based Solutions to coastal management. The OFC initiative is split into the following work packages (WP):
- WP 1 Community Resilience – Engagement & Communications
  - WP2 Nature Based Solutions Test & Trials
  - WP3 Monitoring and Evaluation
  - WP4 Adaptation Pathways
  - WP5 Changing Practice & Policy
  - WP6 Dissemination
- 4.2** The OFC board consists of nine members as follows:
- Chief Executive of Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Morecambe Bay partnership (chair);
  - Area Director Natural England;
  - Area Director Environment Agency;
  - Coastal Habitat Creation Specialist ABP Mer;

- Chair of North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC);
- Head of Strategic Marine Licensing Marine Management Organisation;
- Senior National Consultant of the National Trust;
- Senior Lecturer at Lancaster University; and
- Wyre Council's Assistant Director of Engineering.

**4.3** The OFC board act as a steering group for the project but ultimate responsibility for financial management, delivery of the scheme and adherence to procurement rules remains with Wyre Council. Further information on the OFC project can be found in Background papers.

## **5. Key Issues and Proposals**

### Programme Funding

**5.1** The funders FCRIP have requested a reduction in the programme's contingency budget from 30% to 10-15% by March 2025, otherwise these funds will be clawed back for reallocation. The proposals as outlined in this report to reduce the contingency were agreed with FCRIP on 24 Oct 24.

To further the learning of the programme and ensure full compliance with the capital delivery targets Wyre invited Lancashire Wildlife Trust to submit a proposal for the acquisition of land and delivery of a nature-based solution for hinterland flood management. Lancashire Wildlife Trust has an established relationship with the landowner and are agile enough to complete the sale before the FCRIP deadline and the capital works delivery during the required delivery cut off point of 31 Mar 2025 and – 31 Dec 2026 respectively.

### Monitoring and Evaluation Work Package 3

**5.2** As the project moves into the delivery stages key procurement decisions are required. The Our Future Coast project would like to contract a geomorphological consultant, V. Holden who is best placed to support the work within the monitoring and evaluation work package 3 (WP3) owing to their previous research in this coastal area and specialist knowledge of saltmarsh and sand dunes, especially saltmarsh and sediment monitoring methods. The services are of a specialised nature carried out by only one company with no reasonably satisfactory alternatives available. A suitable consultant has been identified whose rates have been compared against regional frameworks to represent best value.

### Adaptation Pathways

**5.3** Another aspect of the project that has been defined in more detail in recent months has been Adaptation Pathways (WP4) which has a series of assets assigned against it that require specialised mapping of habitat, infrastructure risk, coastal management opportunity and priority areas and green finance opportunity mapping for coastal management. The WP will

also create interactive maps of historic evidence for communities which will also contribute to WP1 objective as part of a Heritage Coastal engagement project in the programme.

- 5.4** The Adaptation Pathways work package needs to feature a clear study on how to move communities towards the changes that are necessary for long term coastal management. A study has been scoped and approved by the OFC board to be completed through project partners, The University of Lancaster. The services are of a specialised nature carried out by only one provider who has been linked to the programme from the beginning. There are no reasonably satisfactory alternatives available within the timescale and budget available for this work. However, a suitable research doctorate has been identified and rates have been tested and challenged against regional academic costings to represent best value.

#### Fleetwood Saltmarsh

- 5.5** An application to the Environment Agency for development of the Fleetwood Saltmarsh preferential use of dredging for £150,000 has been made. The Business Case has been endorsed at Financial Review stage and will now progress to the final stage of EA National Projects Assurance Service (NPAS) approval. This development funding through the ReMeMaRe initiative allows progression of the project through the design and licensing phase and fulfils a major objective of the OFC project. The works are highly technical and it is proposed that the Land and Water Group working with ABP Mer are appointed through the EA Asset Operation Management and Response (EA Asset OMR) framework Lot 3.

### **6. Alternative options considered and rejected**

- 6.1** Obtaining multiple quotations for the provision of the services listed above would be unsuccessful owing to the unique position the consultants are in in terms of skills, knowledge, understanding of the project objectives and contacts.
- 6.2** Although we have not obtained multiple quotations for the monitoring consultant, or the research study due to the unique position they present, we have checked the day rates against the current consultant and research markets and find the rates are very competitive.

### **7. Delegated functions**

- 7.1** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Neighbourhood and Community Services Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution): "To consider any matter relating to the Council's responsibilities for coast protection or the provision and maintenance of sea defences."

**7.2** The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Resources Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council’s constitution):

“To consider departures from Rules relating to financial and contractual matters if appropriate.”

<b>Financial, Legal/MO and Climate Change implications</b>	
Finance	<p>The geomorphological consultant has been costed at £25,000 (£12,000 for a Saltmarsh and Sand Dune literature review and report, £10,000 for support on monitoring over 2.5 years, £3,000 allowance for travel and expenses.). All costs are within the OFC budget for the project and are externally funded through FCRIP by DEFRA.</p> <p>The research study has a total cost including access to the full range of academic facilities, resources and supervision of £97,600. All costs are within the board approved OFC budget and externally funded through FCRIP by DEFRA.</p> <p>The programme’s current contingency is £1,858,162. Transferring £1,500,000 into the capital works for the acquisition and delivery of an additional site in the programme reduces the contingency to just over 15% in line with FCRIP guidance. This action also reduces the risk of lack of compliance with funders expectation of capital delivery by providing an additional site into the programme.</p> <p>An additional line in the OFC budget should be made to reflect the additional ReMeMaRe funding of £150,000 and the appointment of the Land and Water Group to undertake this service.</p>
Legal/MO	<p>The council will enter into contracts for services with the suppliers referred to in the report. The exemptions cited in the report comply with the Council’s Financial Regulations and Financial Procedure Rules on awarding contracts. A grant agreement will be developed to create the delivery mechanism for the additional capital works site in the programme.</p>
Climate Change	<p>This project has a positive climate impact, the minimal negative implications are offset by the initiatives through the OFC project seek to adapt and mitigate against the impacts of climate change by engaging with the local community, providing demonstration projects on low</p>

	carbon NFM initiatives, biodiversity net gain and carbon capture.
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### Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

### Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Carl Green	01523 887215	Carl.Green@wyre.gov.uk	

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
OFC Board Information		Available on request

### List of appendices

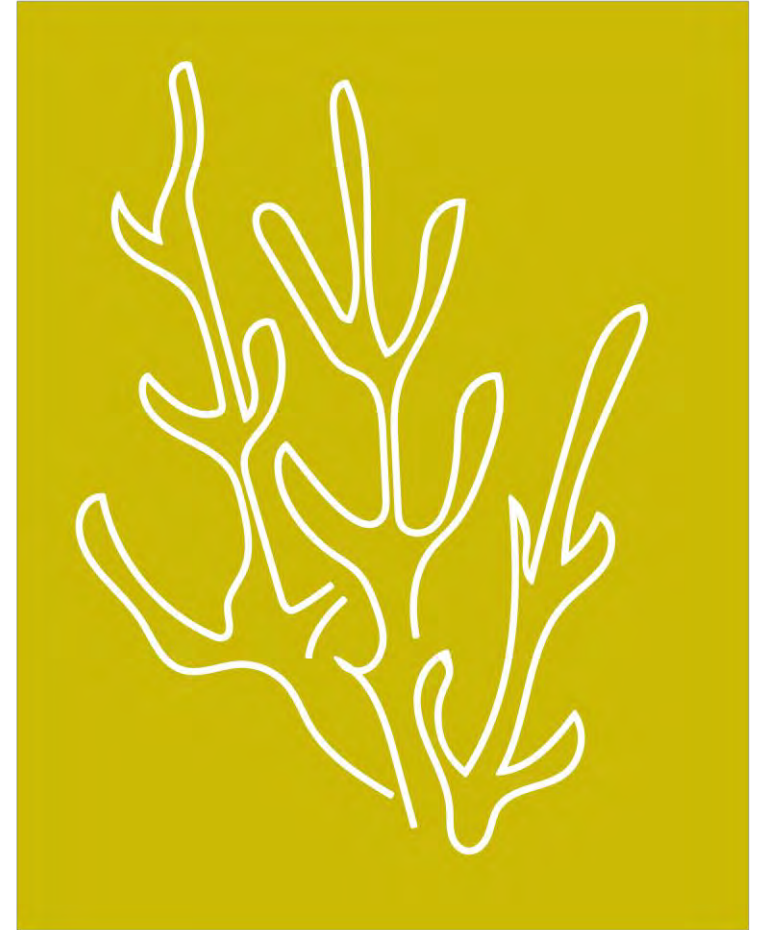
Appendix 1 Background Paper – Partner Workshop



# Our Future Coast

Page 9

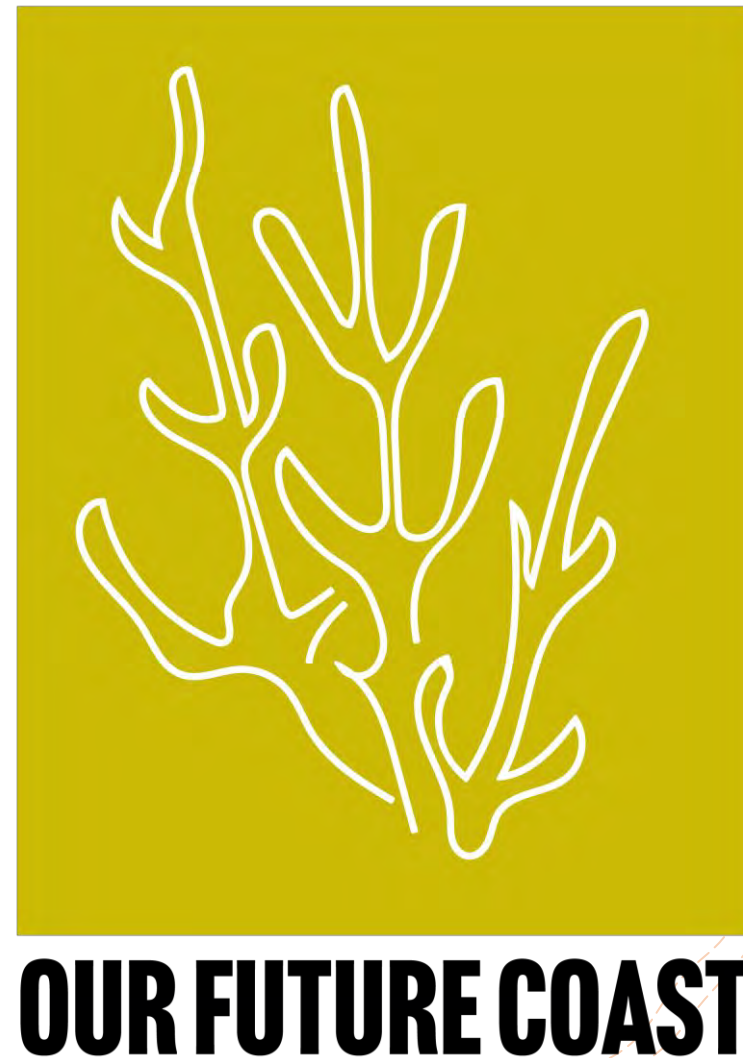
Partners Workshop May 2024



**OUR FUTURE COAST**

# Agenda:

- Arrival and Coffee Mingle 9.30
- Programme Overview & Work Package Integration 10.00
- Site Leads Share Progress 10.20
- Questions for PM & Site leads 11.00
- Starting with the SMP 11.15
- Jack Flusk on ELMs for Coastal Landowners 11.25
- Lunch 11.45-12.30
- Adaptation Pathways Activity 12.30
- Thank you and Close 14.00



# Imagine a World...



# Sites

14 Sites

9 Local Authorities

8 Core ENG0s

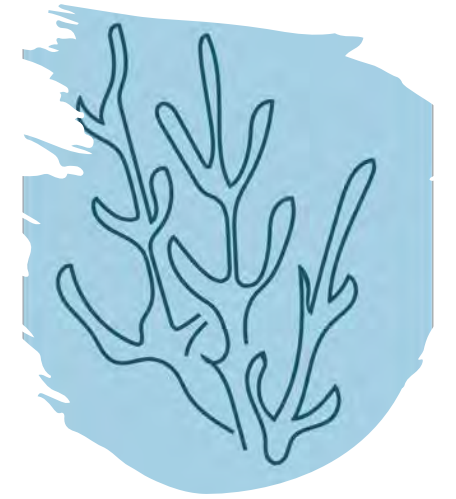
Over 16 different landowners

Saltmarsh, Dune and Hinterland Wetland



# Work Packages

1. Community Resilience – Engagement & Communications
2. Nature Based Solutions Test & Trials
3. Monitoring and Evaluation
4. Adaptation Pathways
5. Changing Practice & Policy
6. Dissemination



# Project Objectives

- Highlighting Current Blocks to Coastal Nature Based Solutions 1-3
- Raising Community Resilience and Support 1-3
- Collecting Evidence through a Series of Trials 1-3
- Developing a Road Map for NBS 4
- Changing Policy and Practice for the Future 5
- Sharing Learning 6

Page 14



# Project Innovations

- Engagement role hosting
- Co-Design, co-planning strategy
- Landscape scale project
- Collaboration with large range of stakeholders
- Sites
  - New Radar Technology and Citizen Science
  - Challenge the status quo
  - Intend to influence significant change

Page 15



Sand Dune Sites

Fylde Sand Dunes

Learning Site Dunes

- Dunes Managed as Sea Defence
- Accretion
- Ecology Focus
- Long Term Engagement History

Formby

Eroding Dune System

- Coastal Squeeze
- Shifting Sands Management
- Temporary Housing

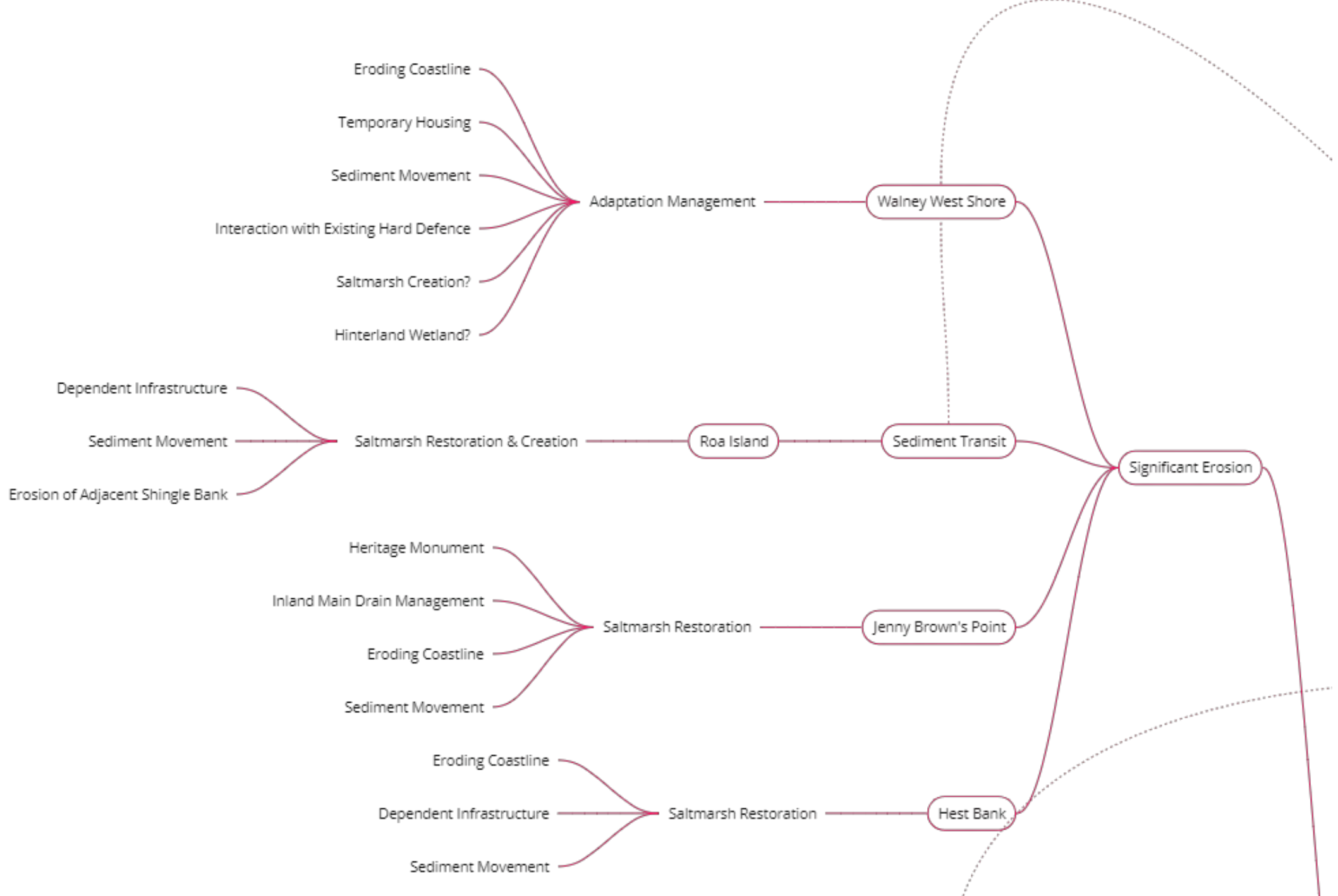
Hinterland Wetland

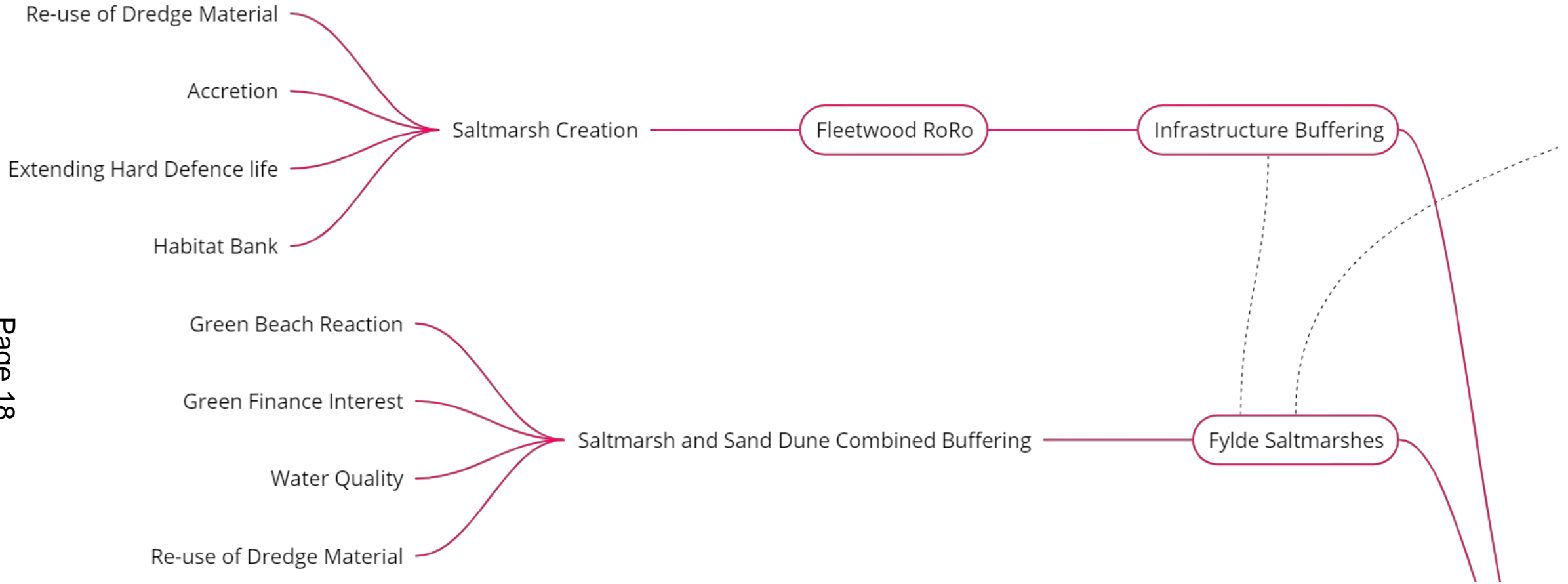
Fluke Hall

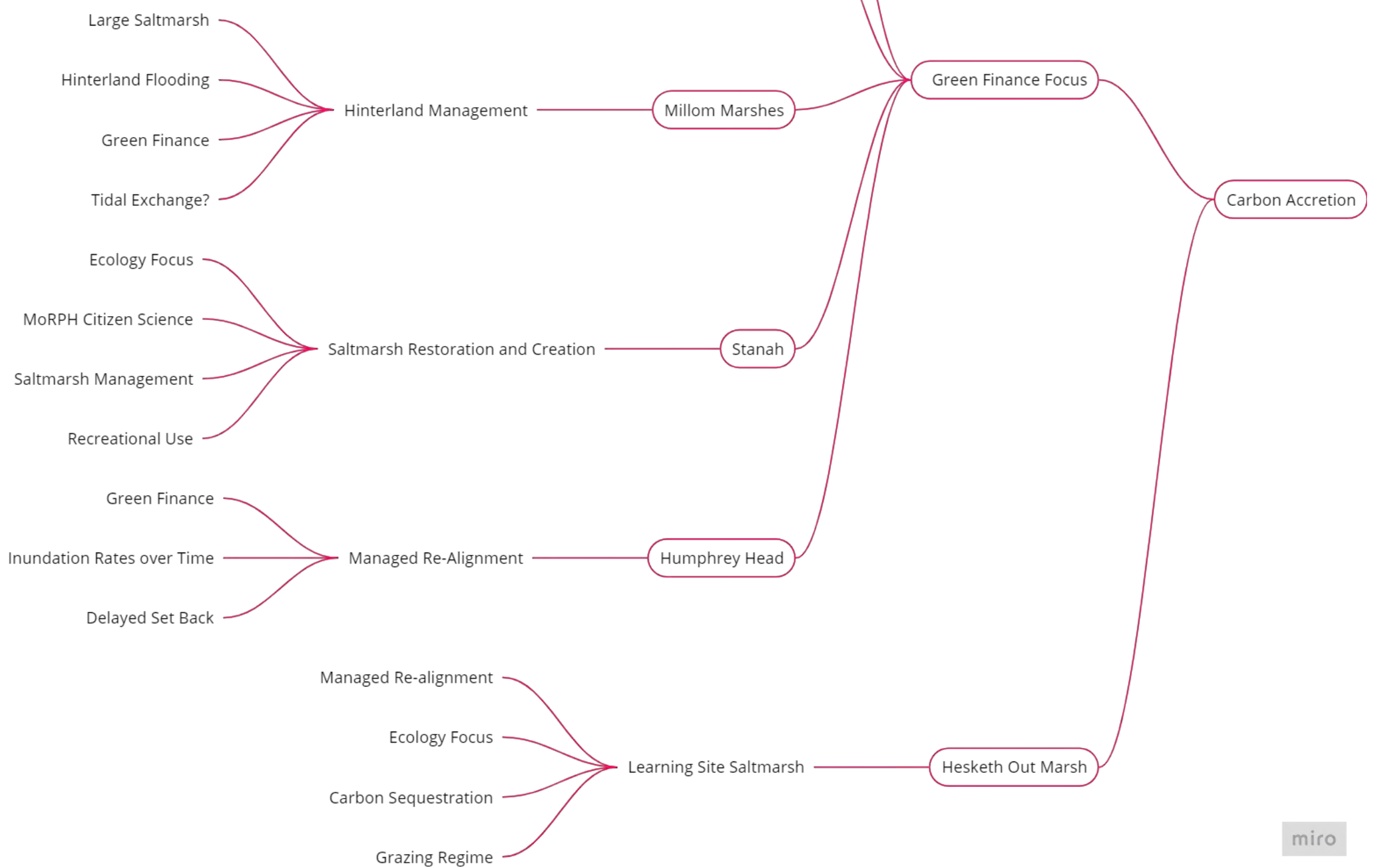
Hinterland Management

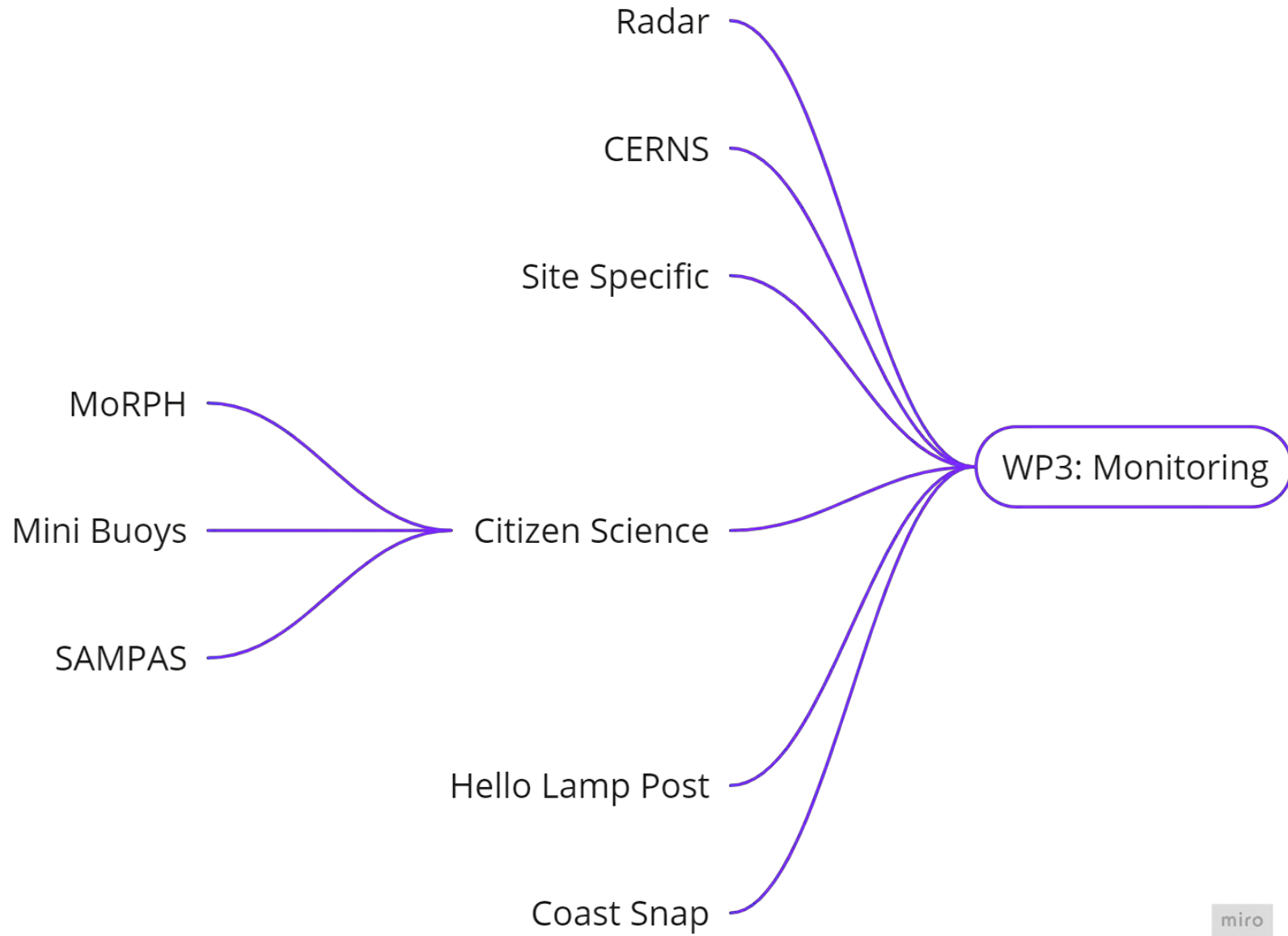
- Sustainable Land Management
- Hinterland Flooding and Saline Incursion
- Land Use Change Potential
- Green Finance



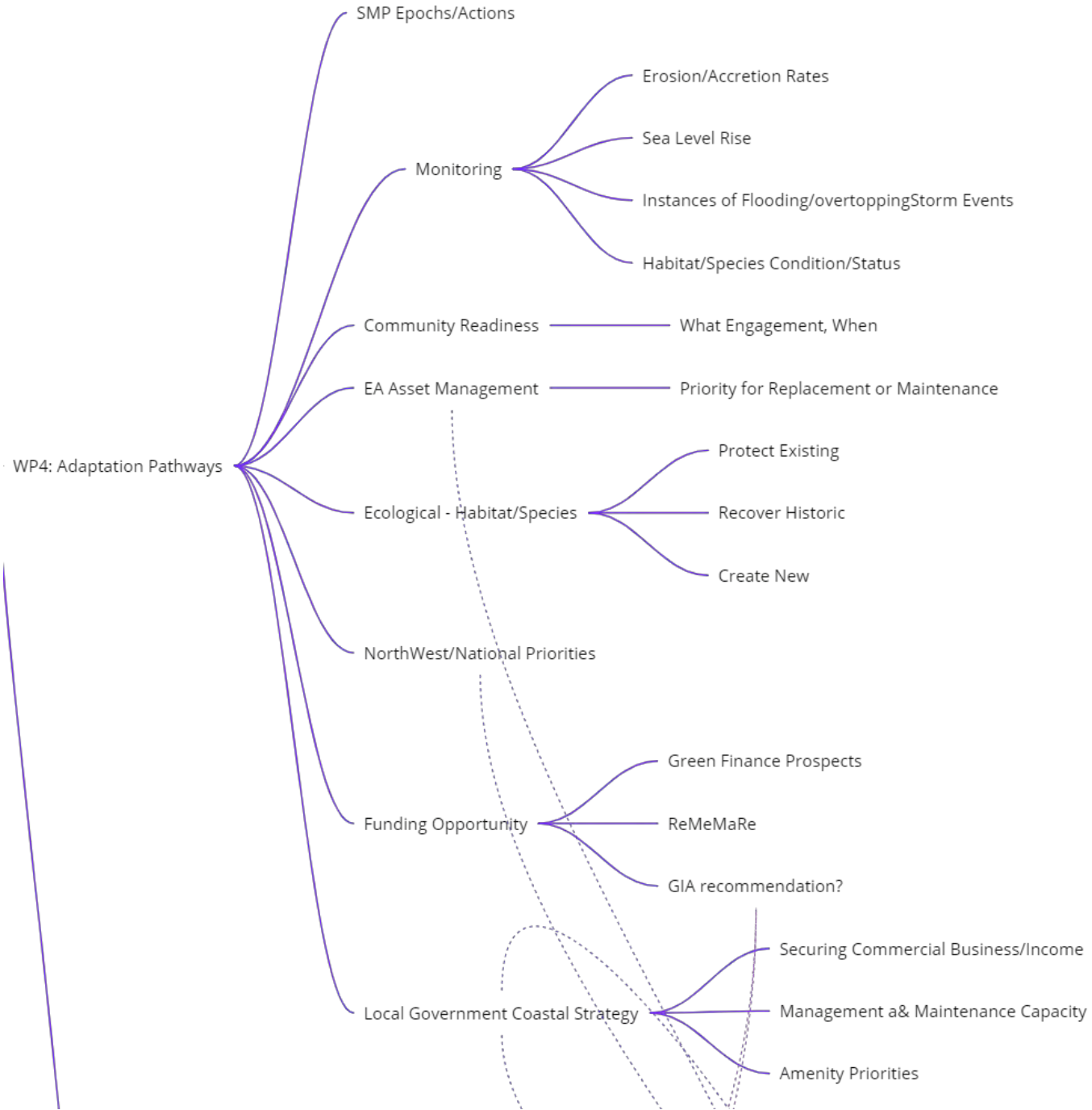


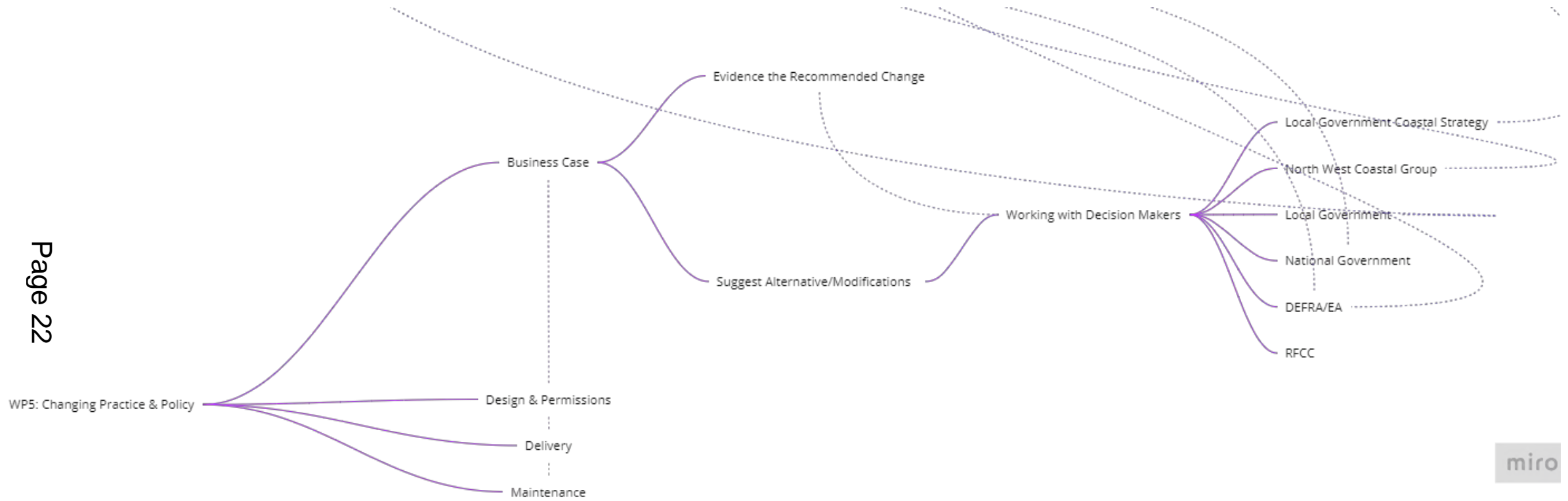






miro





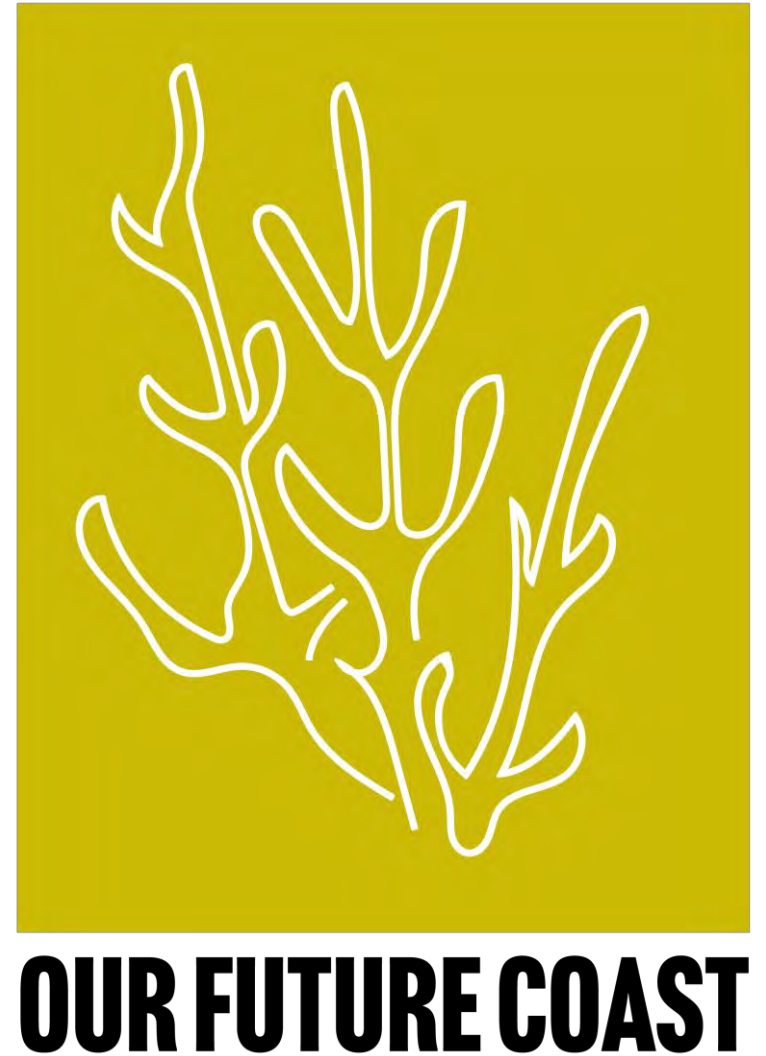
# Work Package Integration

- WP1 facilitates the community aspect of WP2, is a factor within WP4 and can extend to areas of WP5
- WP2 creates the range and breadth of scenarios and coastal management opportunities from which the learning will influence WP4 and evidence WP5
- WP3 records the impact, dependent factors and measurements which evidence the findings of WP2 for WP5 and is a key determining factor in WP4
- WP5 is the collation and development of the evidence required to influence change and the presentation of this in the appropriate arenas

# WP1 – Engagement & Communications

- Engagement Team & Claire from MBP

Page 24





# WP1 - Historic Coastal Change



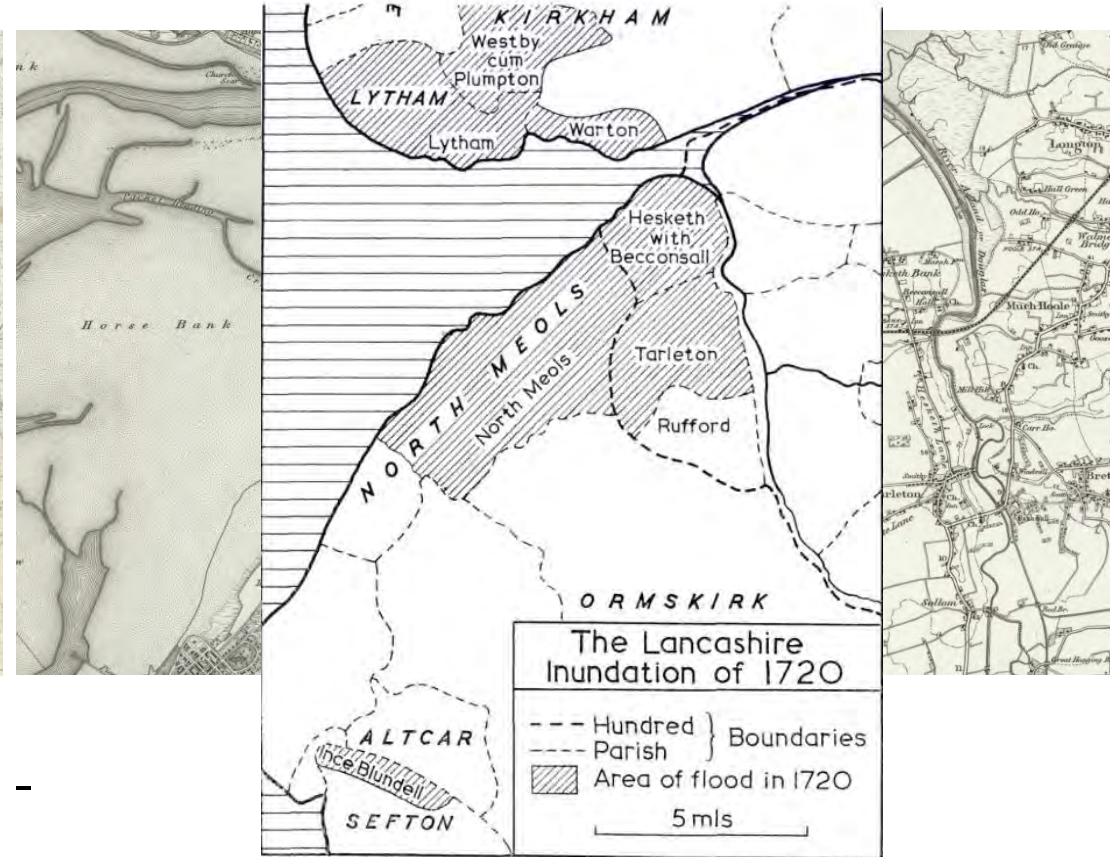
## Common questions

- History of sea defenses
- Changes in saltmarsh extent
- Historic flood events
- Changes in river channels



# WP1 - Historic Coastal Change

Page 26



Managed realignment and hinterland flooding - taking a longer view

# WP3 – Monitoring

## Completed:

Initial site monitoring using Radar and Pegasus

## To do:

Coastal Process report for each radar deployment

Additional deployments for new sites with longer term

deployments for sites where interventions will be

undertaken

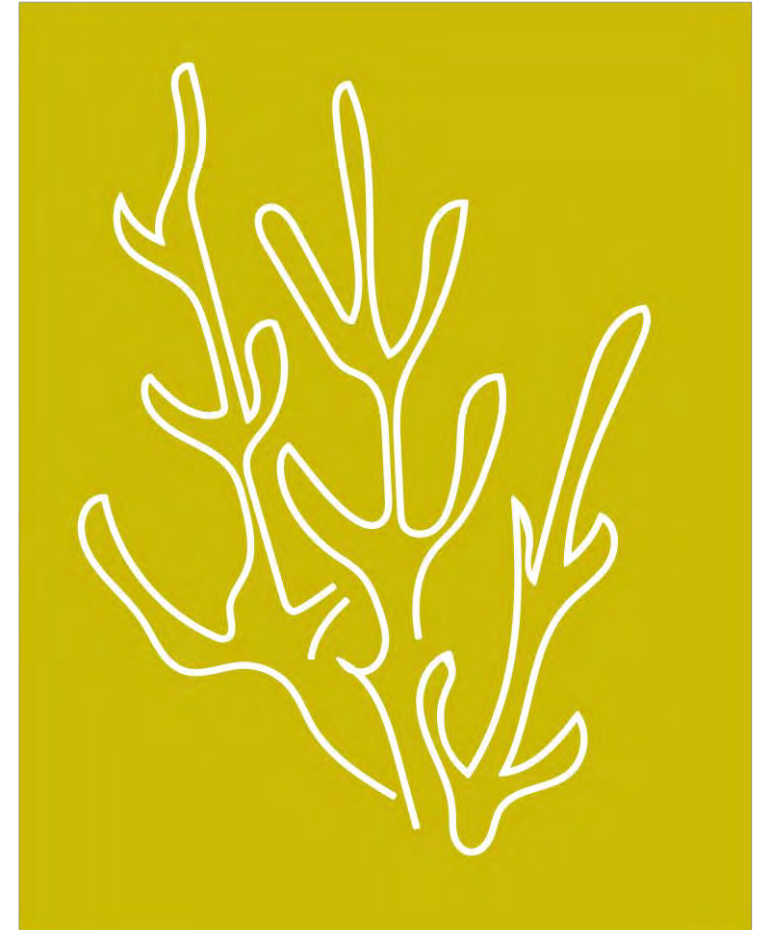
Literature review for Sand Dunes and Saltmarsh

Additional research on Saltmarsh

Link into Adaptation Pathways (WP4) and SMPs

Mini-buoys, Coast Snap and Citizen Science

Carbon Measurement



**OUR FUTURE COAST**

# Sites Leads Progress

- David Bechelli – Millom Marshes
- Ben Davis – Walney West Shore & Humphrey Head
- Elanor Brown – Hest Bank & Jenny Brown's Point
- Carl Green – Fleetwood RoRo & Fluke Hall
- Charlotte Hebditch – Stanah
- Paul Wisse – Formby
- Julie Vale – Fylde Saltmarshes
- Kim Wisdom - Fylde Dunes Project



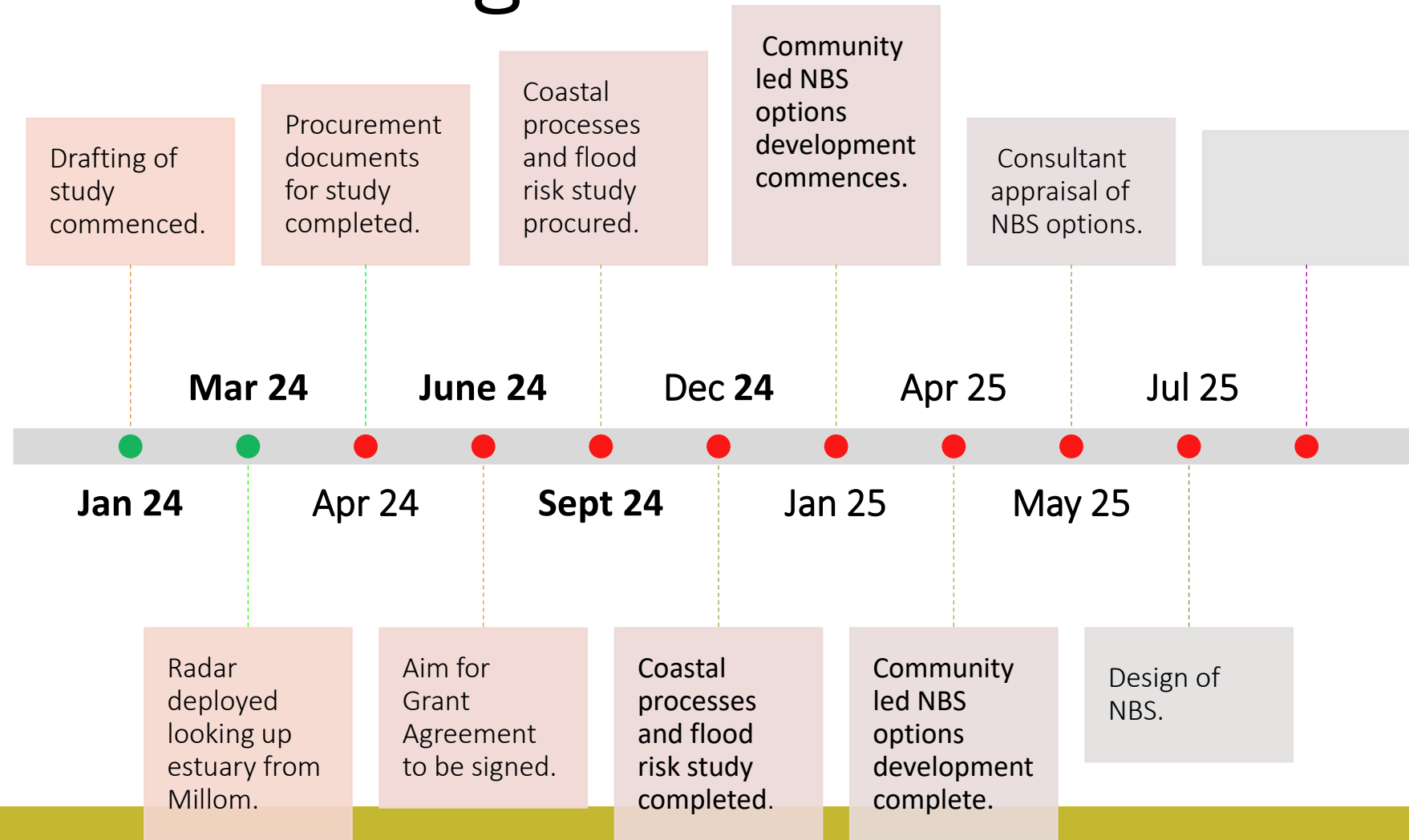
# Millom Marshes

- Site challenge is to understand the implications of proposed SMP Policy of Managed Realignment, when it is unaffordable.
  - SMP Actions were on EA to investigate Managed Realignment, with embankment currently an EA asset.
- Page 29
- Large expanse of saltmarsh on Cumberland side of Duddon Estuary appears stable, but narrower extent of saltmarsh on Westmoreland and Furness side.
- Issues of water management behind existing embankment.
  - Study to look at coastal processes and flood risk to site with a view to increased risks due to climate change.
  - Inland flood risks perceived as a higher risk than coastal by community.



# Sites Leads Progress

Page 30

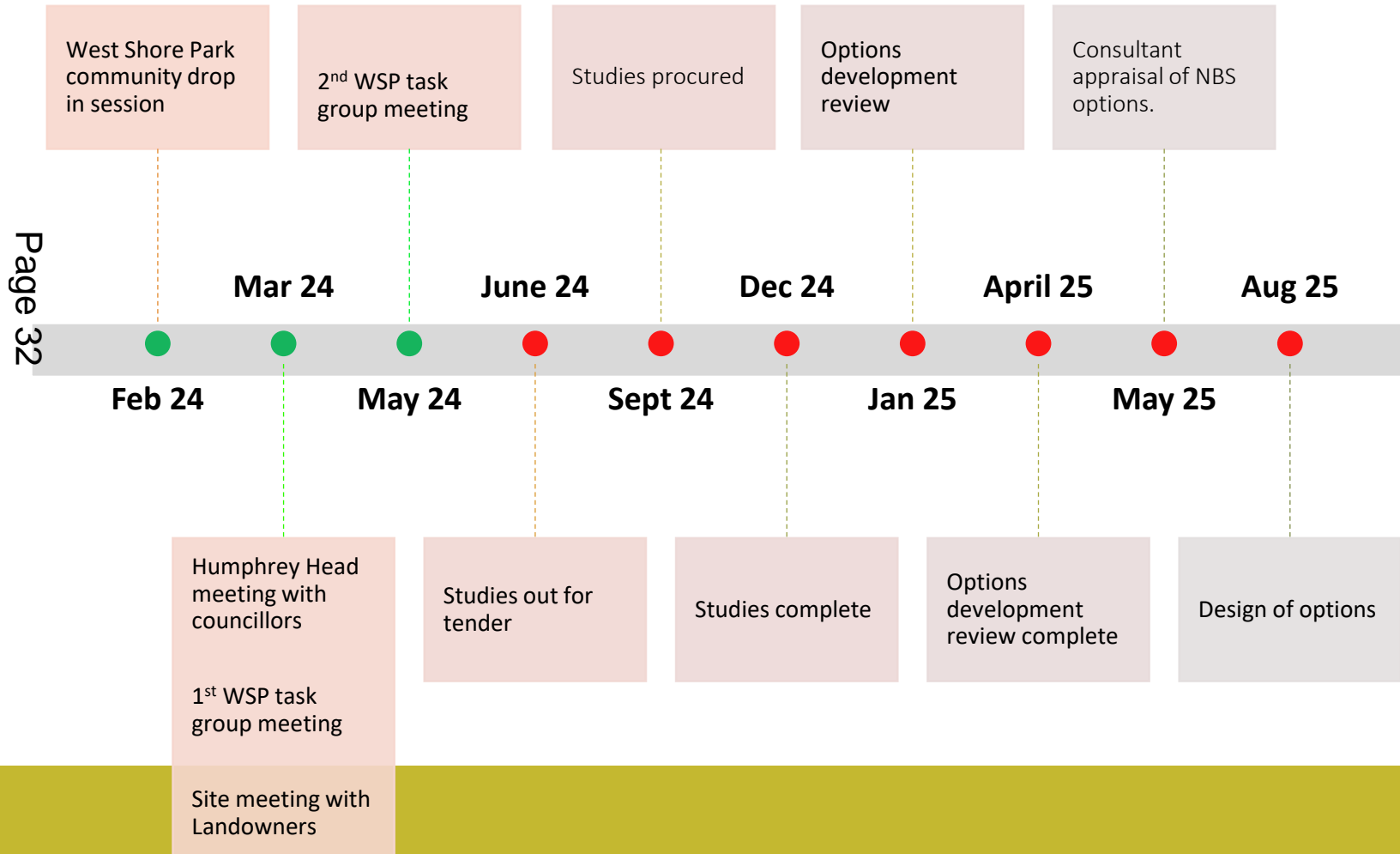


# Walney West Shore & Humphrey Head

- How is this test site meeting whole project objectives?
  - West Shore
    - Early engagement with residents and residents park owners
    - Working together with residents and park owners on task group
  - Humphrey Head
    - Early engagement with landowners
    - Habitat creation
- What are your key monitoring foci?
  - West Shore
    - Look into minimising erosion rates by removal of fishtail groin and NBS
  - Humphrey Head
    - Habitat creation through NBS



# Sites Leads Progress





# Hest Bank & JBP

- Co-design
  - Designs from both Design Committees are viable
- Consents
  - Hest Bank- LCC planning still deciding whether need planning
  - MMO said we do not need a licence at Hest Bank, but we do at JBP
  - HRA for HB submitted 9/5/24

## Engagement

- What does the coastline of Morecambe Bay mean to you- Sunderland Point to Silverdale
- Monitoring
  - CoastSense radar column consents
  - Citizen Science photo columns
- Launch our museums project
  - Get something in the ground this summer?

Page 33

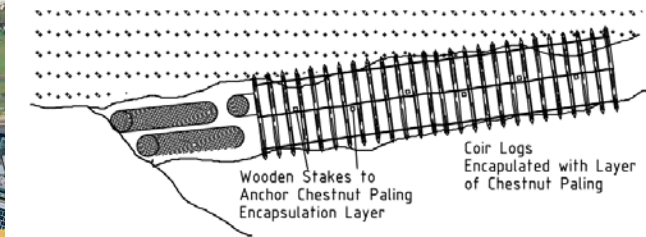
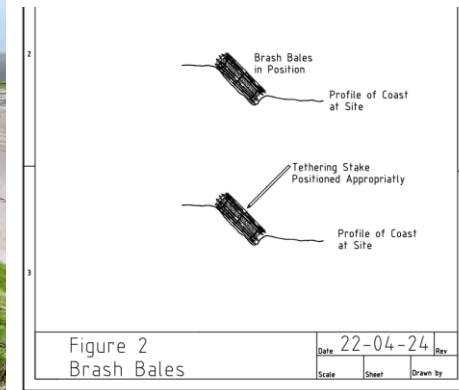


Figure 3  
Coir Logs

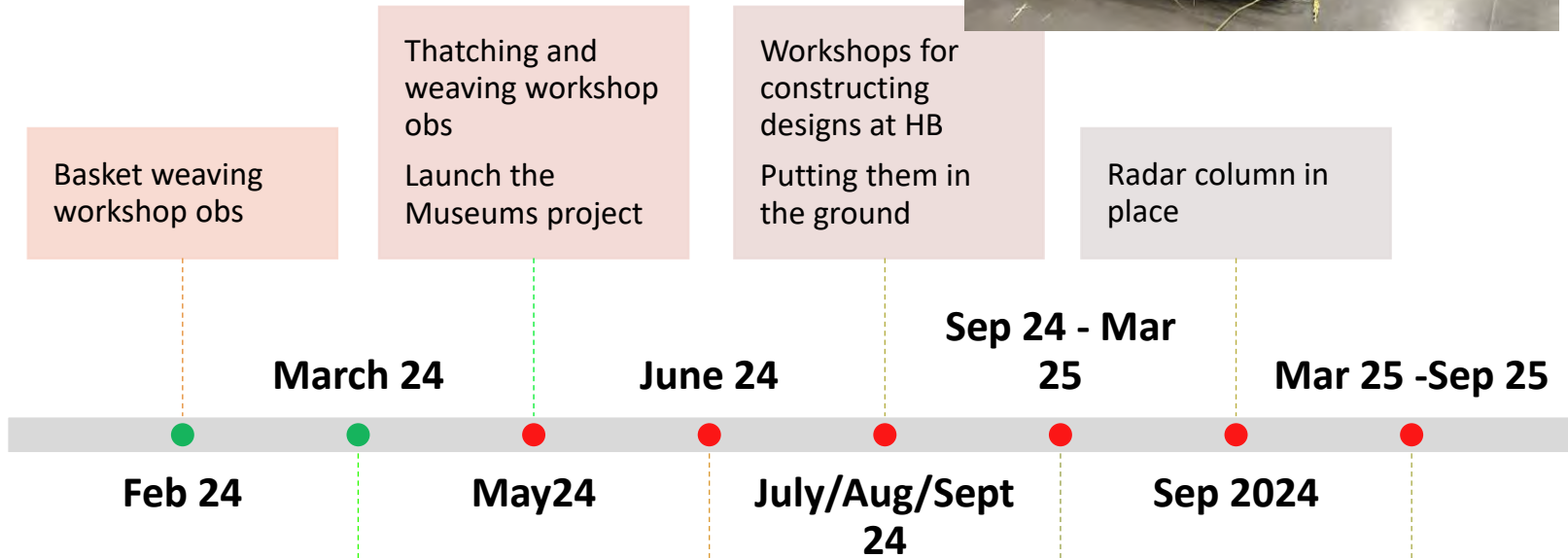
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# Sites Leads Progress



Page 34



Basket weaving workshop obs

Thatching and weaving workshop obs  
Launch the Museums project

Workshops for constructing designs at HB  
Putting them in the ground

Radar column in place

Design committee JBP

Consents for HB designs

Monitoring with schools  
Collating the museum exhibition pieces

Displaying exhibition at the Maritime Museum  
Another round of designs?



# Fluke Hall Marshes & Hinterland

## Objectives

- Reduction in carbon usage and more efficient use of pumping station
- Tidal exchange schemes potential.
- Longterm strategic use of farmland – including payment options.

## Monitoring

- Page 35
- Relative topographical differences offshore and onshore of embankments.
  - Siltation buildup within tidal exchange system.
  - Storage potential within the catchment.

## Next 3 Months

- Understanding of pumped Cockers Dyke catchment
- Opportunities / Acceptance for Catchment farm advisers



# Fleetwood Dock Saltmarsh

## Objectives

- Creation of a low carbon alternative to steel sheet piles.
- Creation of a saltmarsh habitat
- Policy and licencing test of beneficial use of sediment.

## Monitoring

Page 36

- Sediment sampling and MMO licence requirements
- Carbon sequestration and habitat creation.

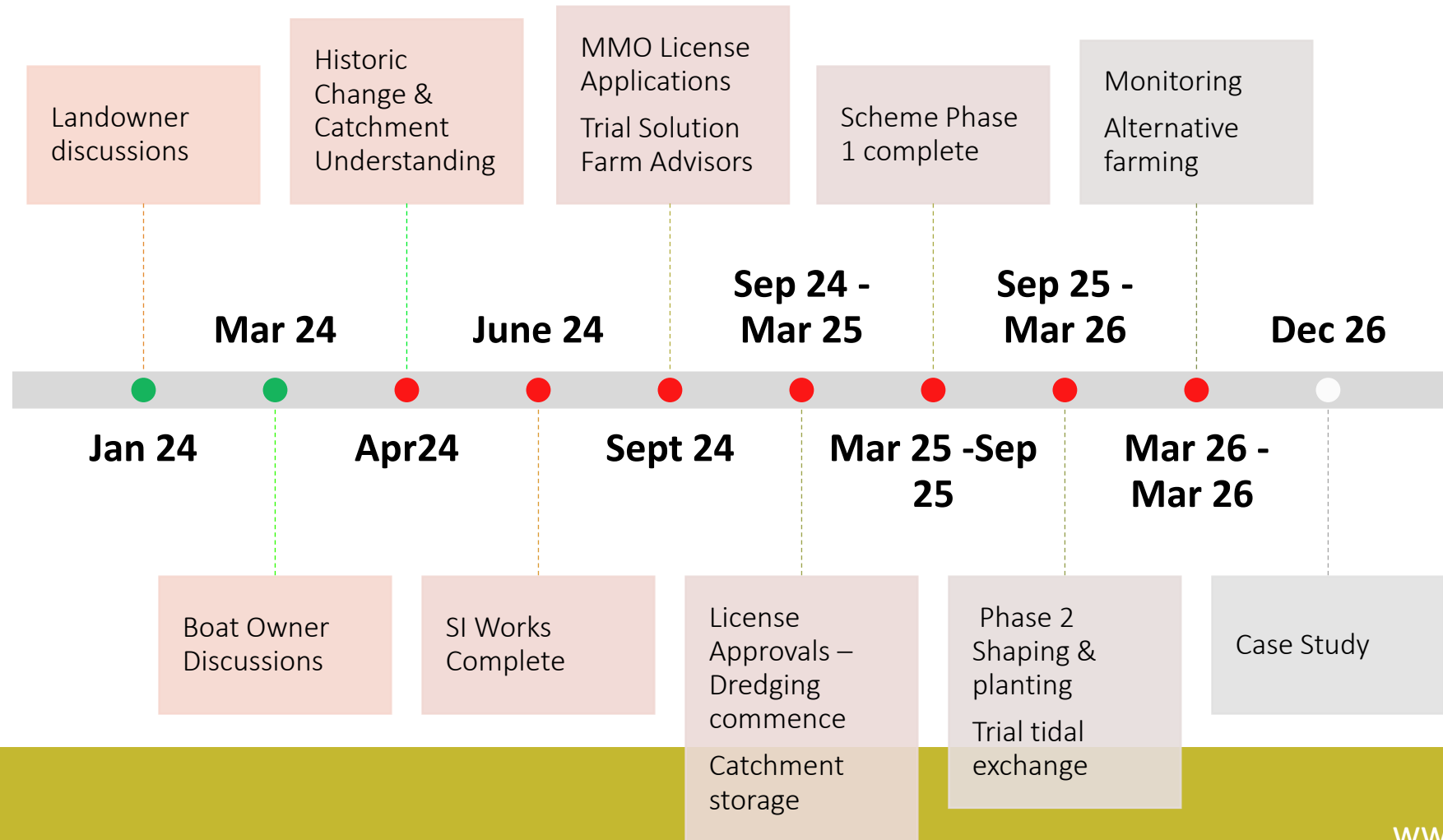
## Next 3 Months

- MMO dredging and deposition licence progression.
- SI works complete.
- Resolution of landowner – rights issues.



# Sites Leads Progress

Page 37



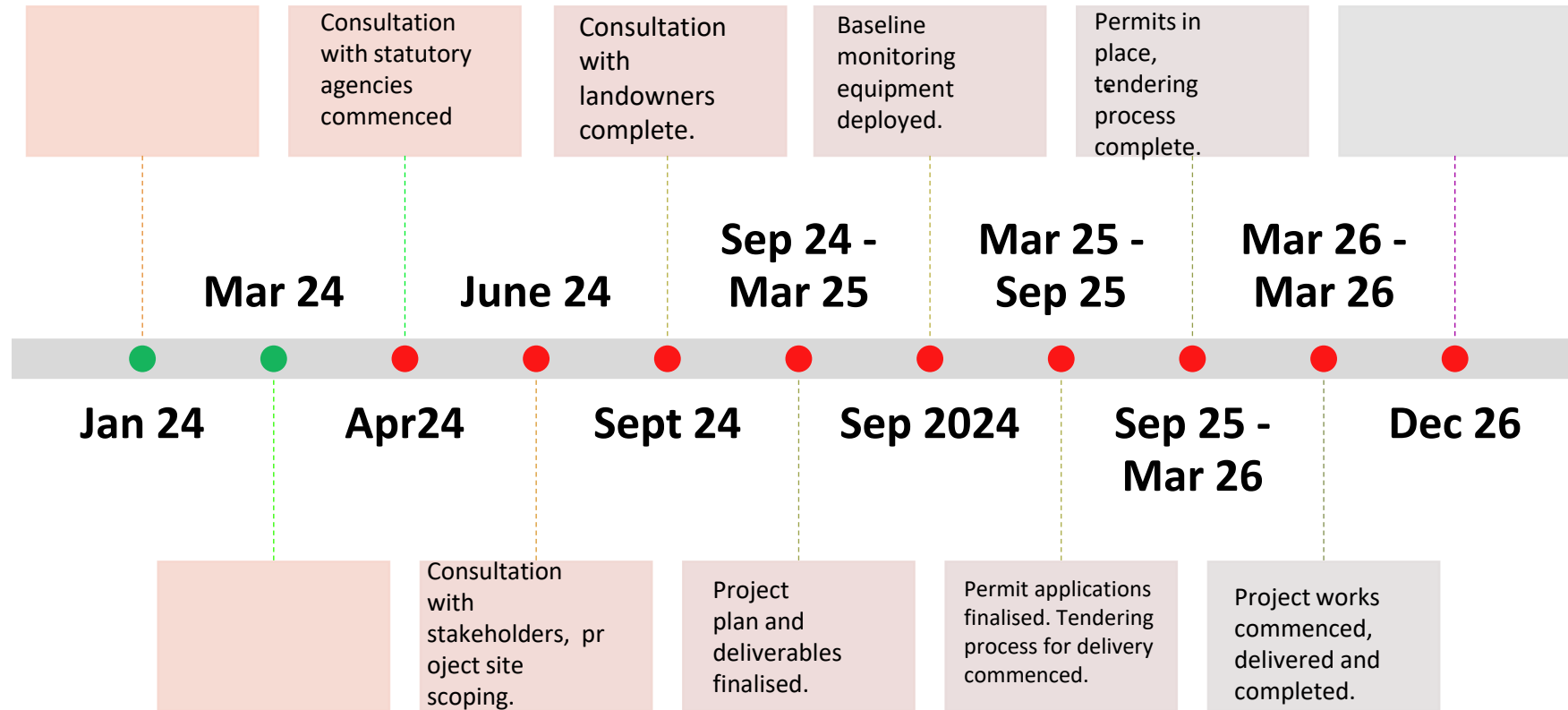
# Stanah

- Improve coastal resilience of site – restore saltmarsh.
  - Nature-based solution to increase flood resilience.
  - Reduce site disturbance.
  - Provision secure breeding habitat for wetland birds.
- Page 38
- Monitoring-
    - **MoRPH** Citizen Scientist surveying – estuary habitat assessment tool.
    - Monitoring of site usage. Biological, environmental & morphological surveying.
  - BioBlitz - community engagement & data collection event.
  - Consultation with landowners & statutory agencies.



# Sites Leads Progress

Page 39



# Formby

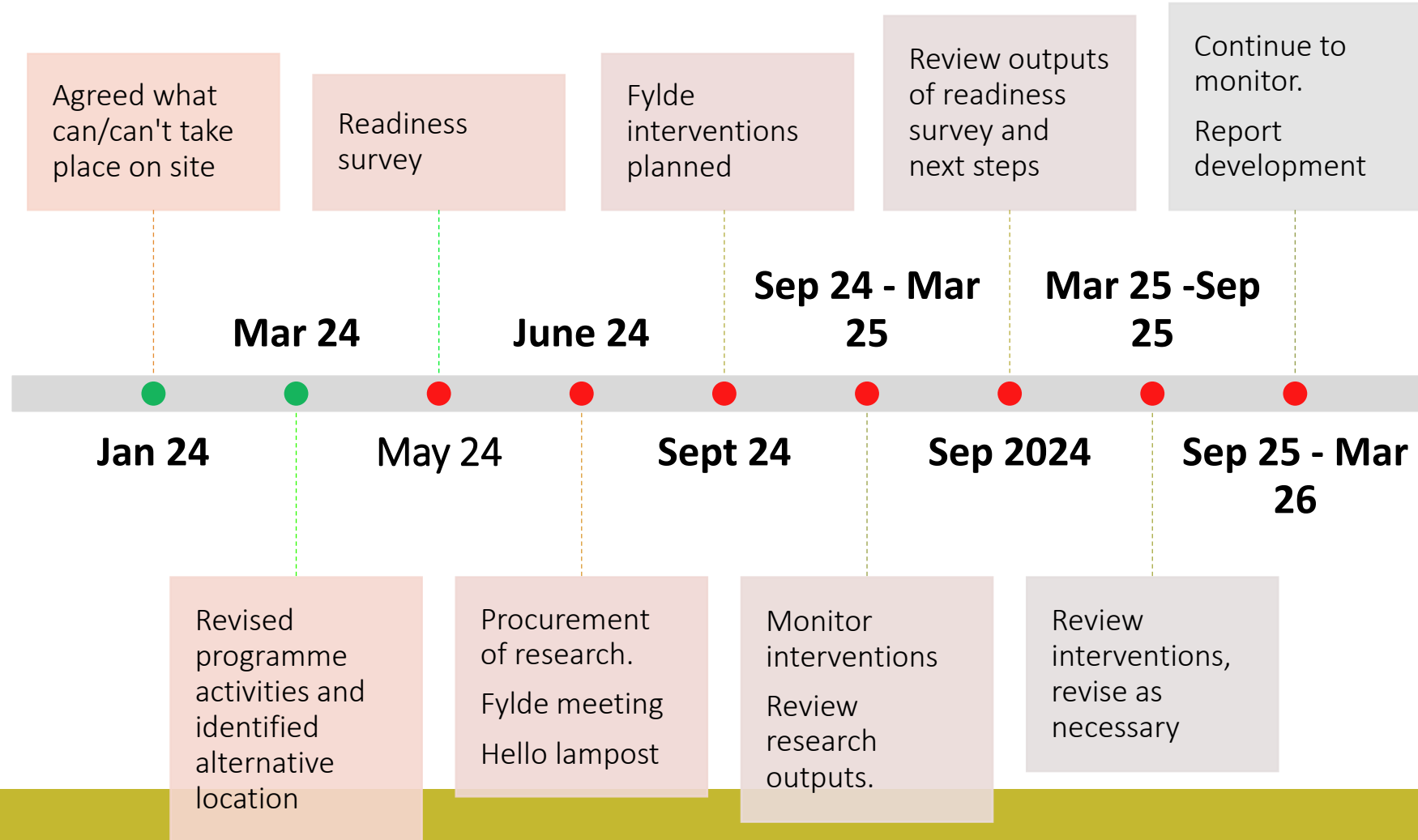
- Seeking to establish toolkit for managing dunes as a coastal defence. To include guidance on funding options, dune system size, monitoring methods and trigger points for interventions, intervention methods.
- Monitoring of dune dynamics, impact of interventions. Community understanding.
- Agree locations on the Fylde dunes, commission research works





# Sites Leads Progress

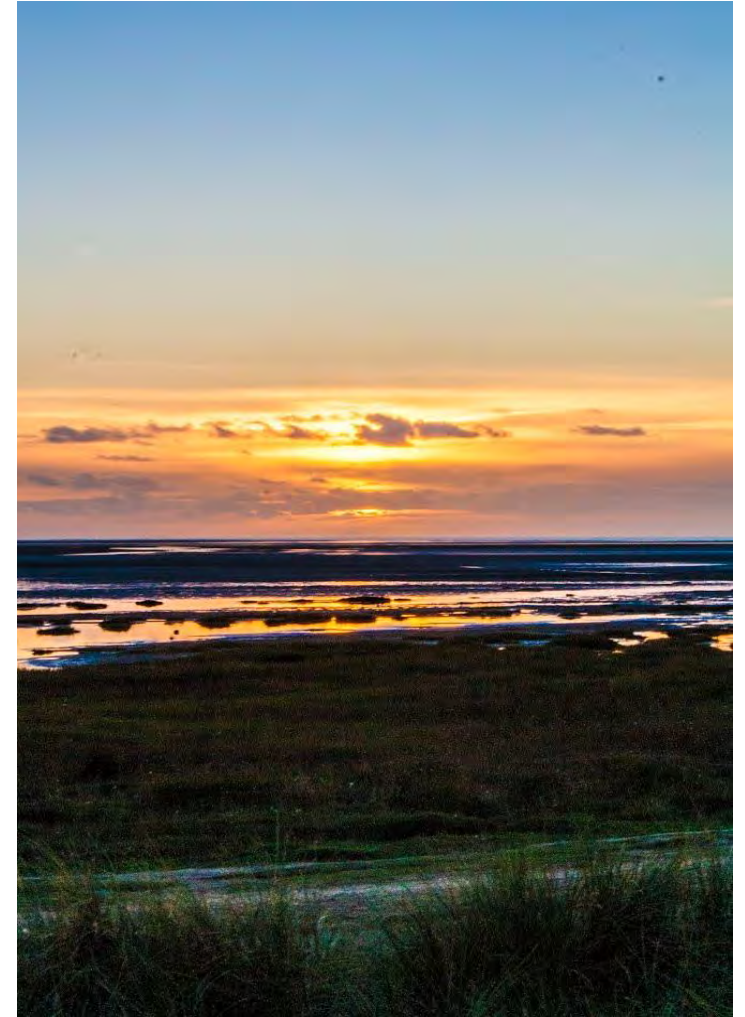
Page 41



# Fylde Saltmarshes

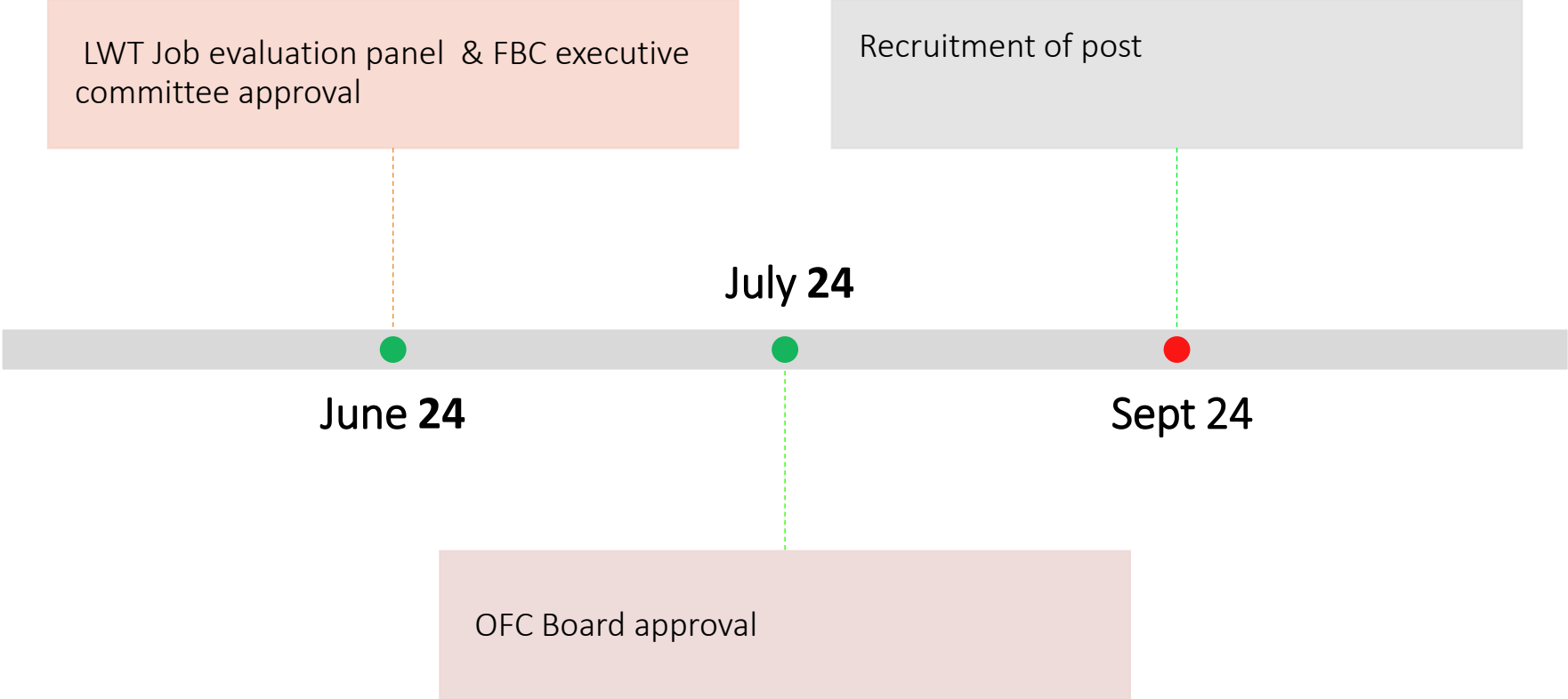
## Project objectives

- Highlighting Current Blocks to Coastal Nature Based Solutions
  - Managing public perceptions
- Raising Community Resilience and Support
  - Community engagement and citizen science
- Developing a Road Map
  - Legacy management plans and innovation
- Collecting Evidence through a Series of Trials
  - Coastsense modelling data analysis and pilot interventions
- Sharing Learning
  - Influencing decision makers and linking with the coastal events calendar



# Sites Leads Progress

Page 43



# Fylde Sand Dunes

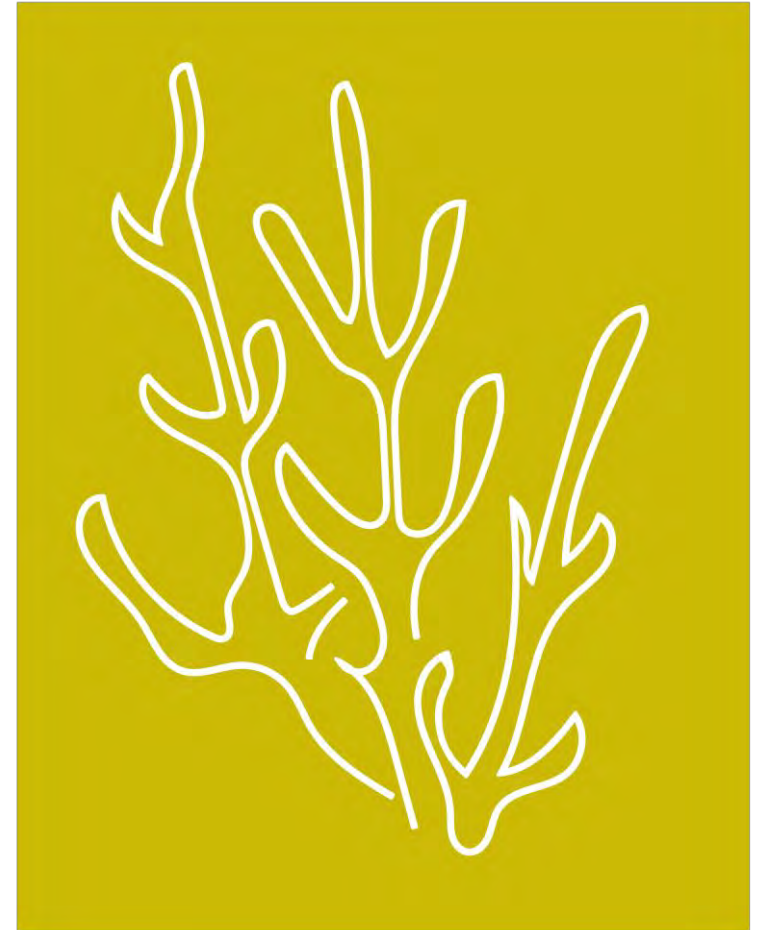
**Ecological Review:** What we do works! Speeds up natural processes. Past beach management prevented dune accretion. Access management and public engagement vital. Repeat NVC/rare plants in 2025?

**Environmental Review:** Excellent example of integrated delivery. "Right skills, right place, right time" BUT understaffed/££. £30K/m (hard) vs £22/m (soft). Weaknesses: lack of clear monitoring plan and numerical targets. Need new MOU & to review governance structure. Councillors a nightmare to engage with!



# WP4 – Beginning with the SMP

Page 45

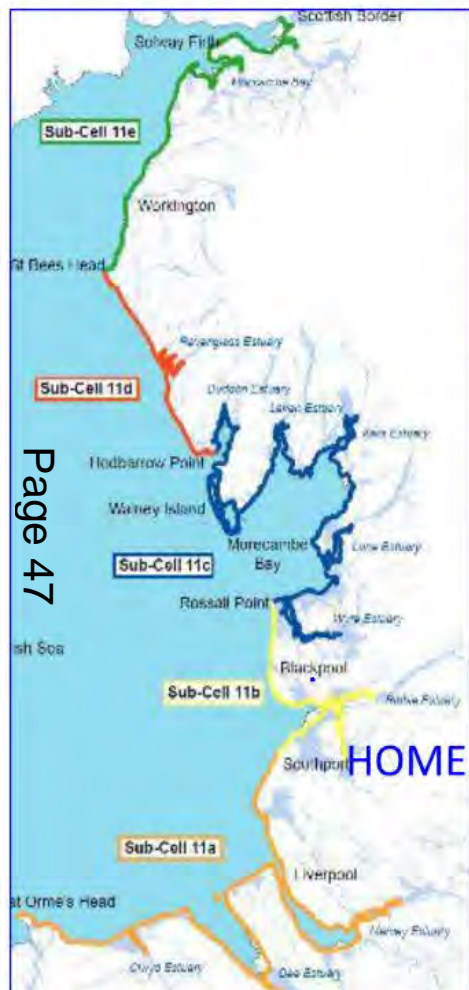


**OUR FUTURE COAST**

# Managed Re-Alignment



# HOME : Climate change adaptation & SMP implementation



Page 47

CCC's Adaptation Sub-Committee reported in 2013:

***IF the 2030 goal stated in SMPs is to be met . . . The rate of managed realignment would have to increase five-fold, from the current levels of around 6 km of coastline realigned every year, to around 30 km.***

North West Shoreline Management Plan (2011):  
Aspiration for length of planned managed re-alignment in the first epoch (ie. to 2030) is **124 km**, out of total 795 km of coastline.

**HOME: THE ONLY MANAGED REALIGNMENT BEING PROGRESSED – 2 km from 124 km**

**Is this the ONLY MR site in NW before 2030 ?**

Richard Shires 2017

# Implementing SMP Policies

Getting from A to B when the Driver is the SMP...

- Works well for areas requiring protection of houses
  - significant benefits
- Doesn't work well where there are few benefits
- Tends to introduce bias towards hard defences because of value placed on when benefits are achieved

Page 48





# Implementing SMP Policies

Getting from A to B when the Driver is the SMP...

- Our baseline is the current system
- We need to understand barriers to NBS
- We need to understand our pathway from one policy to the next or when undertaking Managed Realignment
  - What are our triggers
  - What are our actions
  - When do we need to do them
  - How long do they take

Page 49



# Implementing SMP Policies

## Challenges

- How do we manage uncertainty?
- How do we value natural systems?
- How do we value maintaining options?
- Do we have the right evidence?
- How do we make this easy for practitioners?

Page 50



# OFC Sites - SMP Policies

Sites	Short	Medium	Long
Hoylake	HTL	HTL	HTL
Formby	MR	MR	MR
Hesketh Out Marsh	HTL	HTL	MR
Fylde Saltmarshes	HTL	HTL	HTL
Fylde Sand Dunes	HTL/MR	HTL	HTL
Spanah	HTL	HTL/MR	HTL/MR
Fleetwood Ro-Ro	HTL	HTL	HTL
Fluke Hall	HTL	MR	HTL
Hest Bank	HTL	MR	HTL
Jenny Browns Point	NAI	NAI	NAI
Humphrey Head	HTL	MR	MR
Roa Island	HTL	HTL	HTL
Walney West Shore	MR	MR	MR
Millom Marshes	HTL	MR	MR

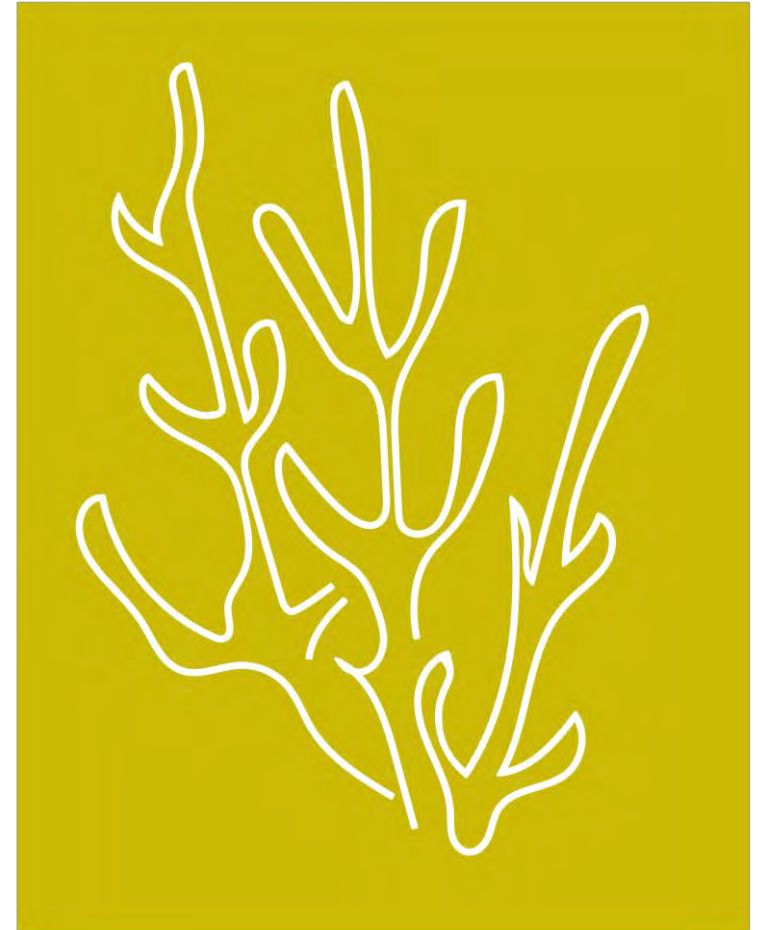


# ELMs For Coastal Landowners

Jack Flusk

Catchment Sensitive Farming Advisor

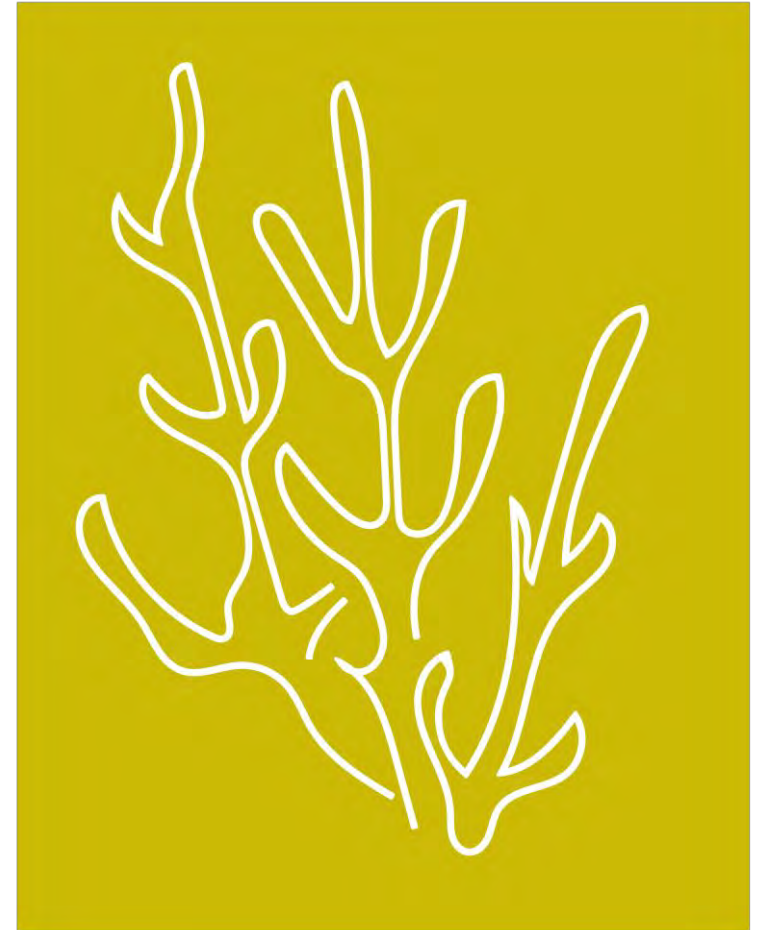
Page 52



**OUR FUTURE COAST**

# WP4 – Adaptation Pathways

Page 53



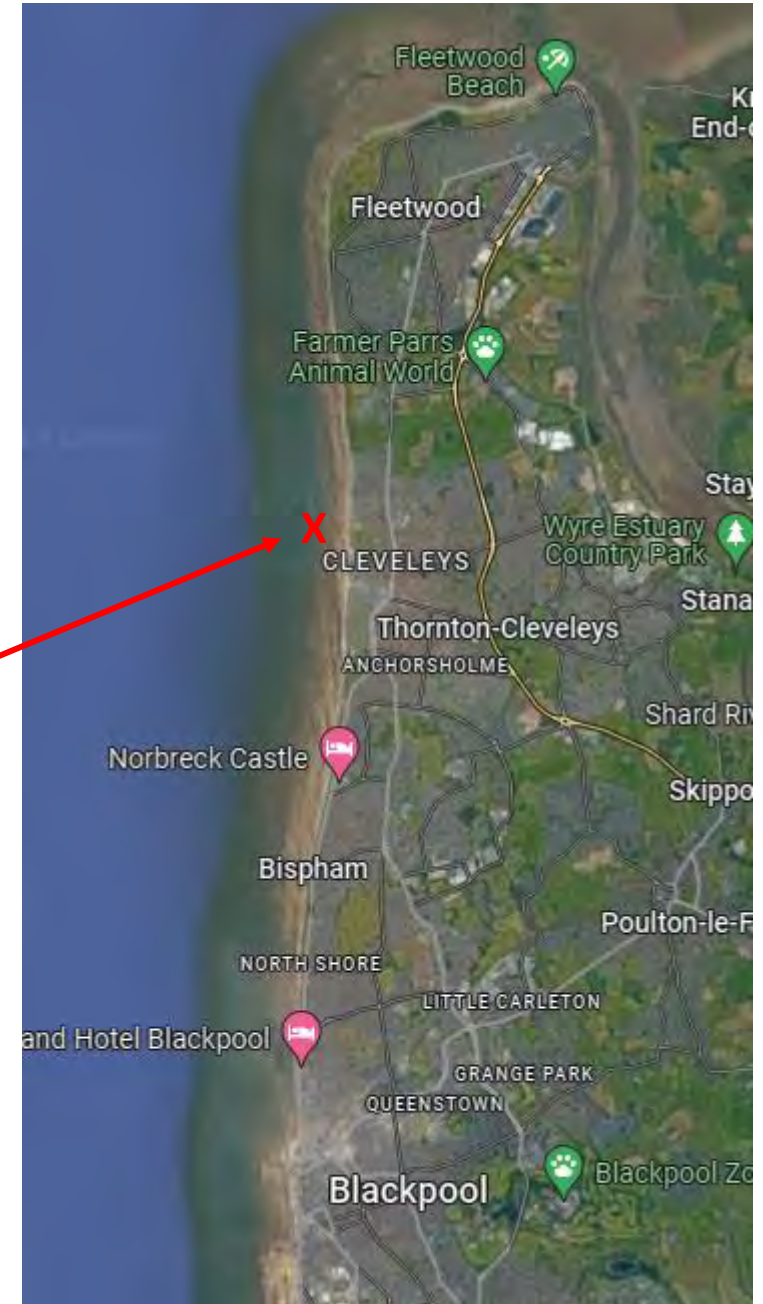
**OUR FUTURE COAST**

*Adaptation as a process of  
change to become better  
suited to surrounding  
conditions or environment*

# Singleton Thorpe?



Page 55









1988



2007



2020

Coastal change at Happisburgh

***Adaptation Pathways:*** “sequence of linked strategies that are triggered by a change in environmental (social and economic) conditions, and in which initial decisions can have low regrets and preserve options for future generations”

# SMP Epochs

## 0 to 20 years (2005 to 2025)

### **MR1** Managed realignment Set back defence

Where the intention is to defend elsewhere in flood plain inland from present shoreline or allow erosion/recession to a defined alignment. New defences might be constructed at that new location if needed. This may involve the creation of inter-tidal habitat.

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## 20 to 50 years (2025 to 2055)

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## 50 to 100 years (2055 to 2105)

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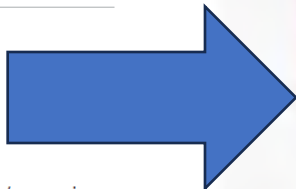
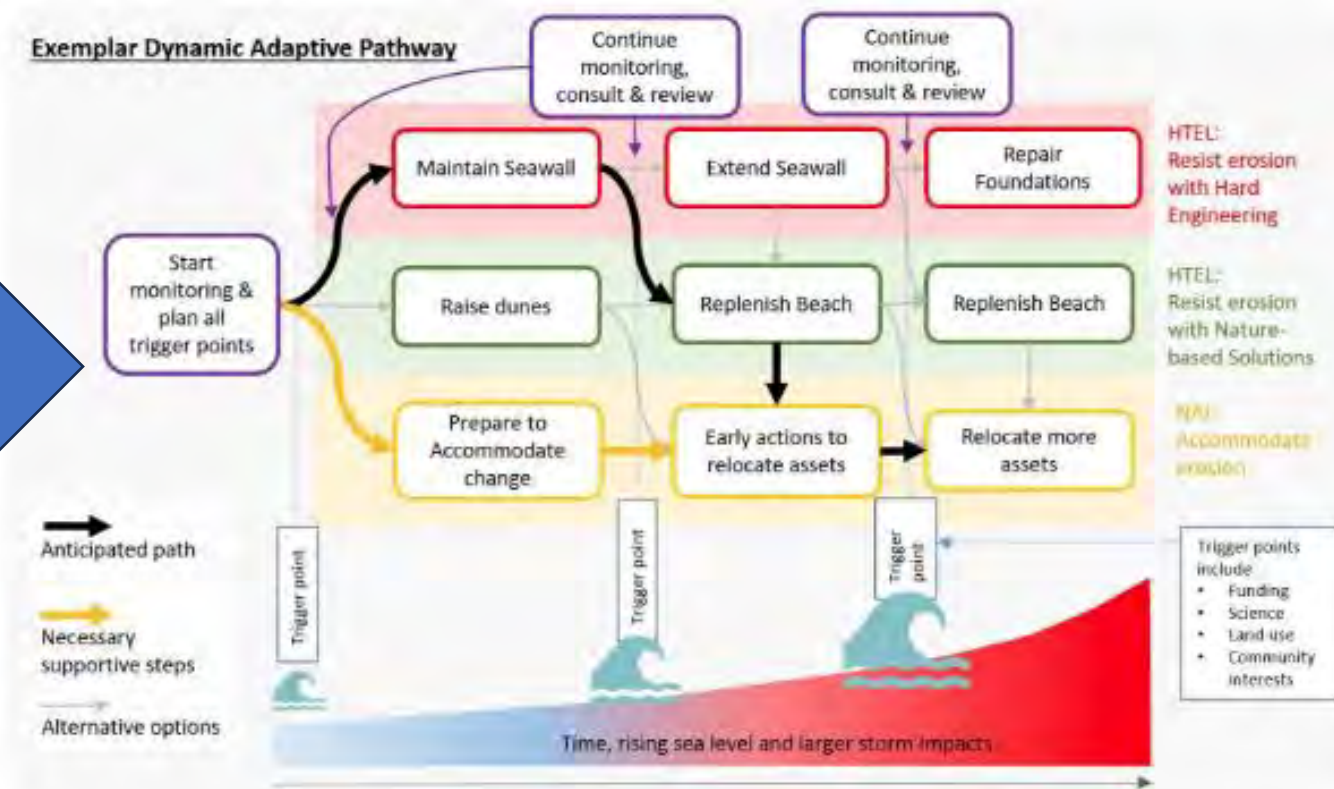
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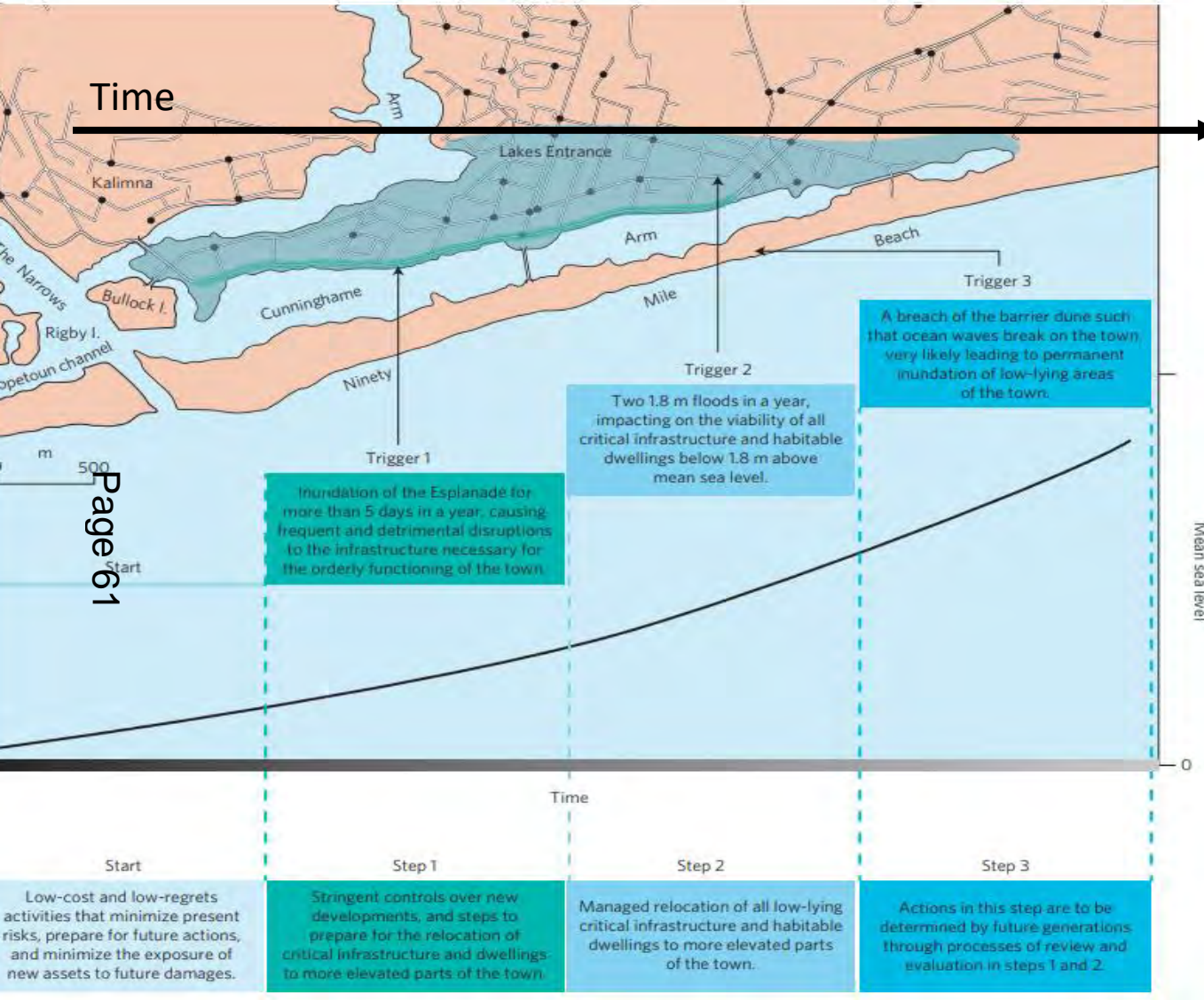
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# Adaptation Pathways



# EXAMPLE: Lakes Entrance, Australia



**Triggers**

**Actions**

# For each site...

Adaptive Management	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Notes
Triggers				Environmental Social Flooding frequency impacting specific groups or infrastructure Think about access to work, schools, supermarkets, public transport etc
Actions				These should consider both community engagement and engineering actions
Resources/ Capacity				What do we need to achieve these steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Skills</li> <li>• Staff</li> <li>• Policy</li> <li>• Time scales ect</li> </ul>

Page 62

**Other considerations:** What are the potential risks? Will your actions lead to conflicts and how could these be best managed/resolved?

**Session 1: 12:40 – 13:10**

**Session 2: 13:15 – 13:30**

**Session 3: 13:35 – 13:50**

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