

# The Broads: sea-level rise, a changing coast and the future

Tim Collins – Senior specialist coastal policy



# Introduction

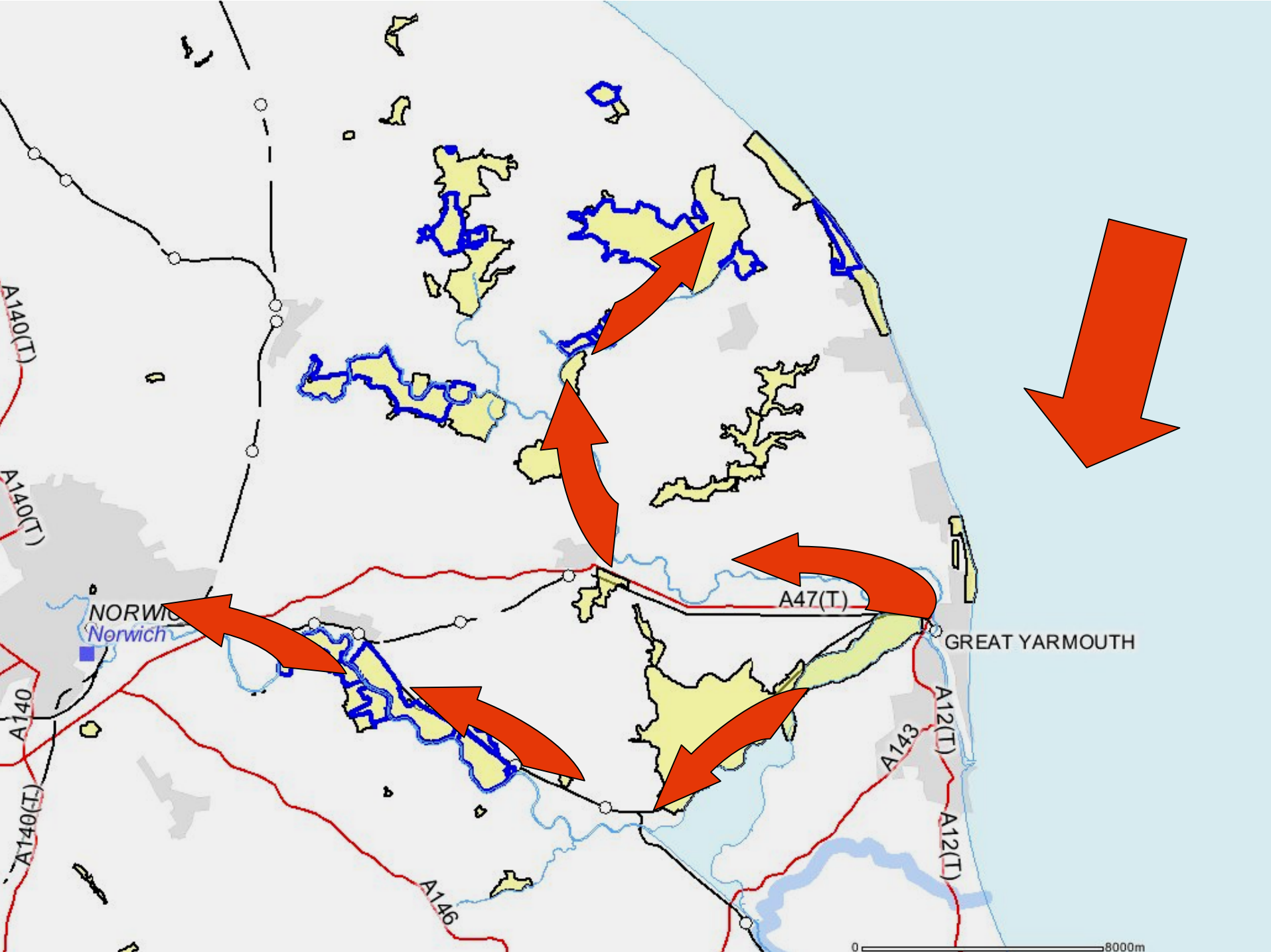
- Implications of coastal change
- How do we respond?
- Options for the future
- What should we be seeking to achieve?
- How do we achieve adaptation?









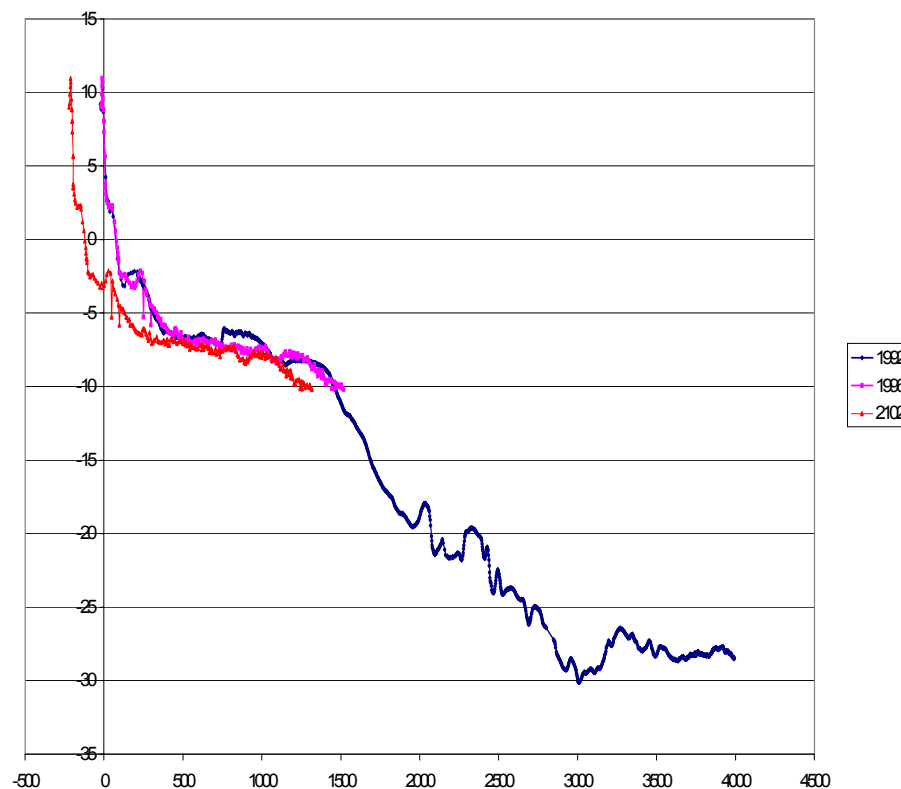






# Defence maintenance

- EA surveys show seabed erosion of 4cm per year
- or 4m over the next century
- Rendering sea defence maintenance both technically and economically difficult



# Current Options

- SMP proposes 'hold the line' for 50 years
- EA developing a beach recharge scheme
- Options for changes to water level management regime have been explored
- These solutions buy time but *do not* 'fix' the problem

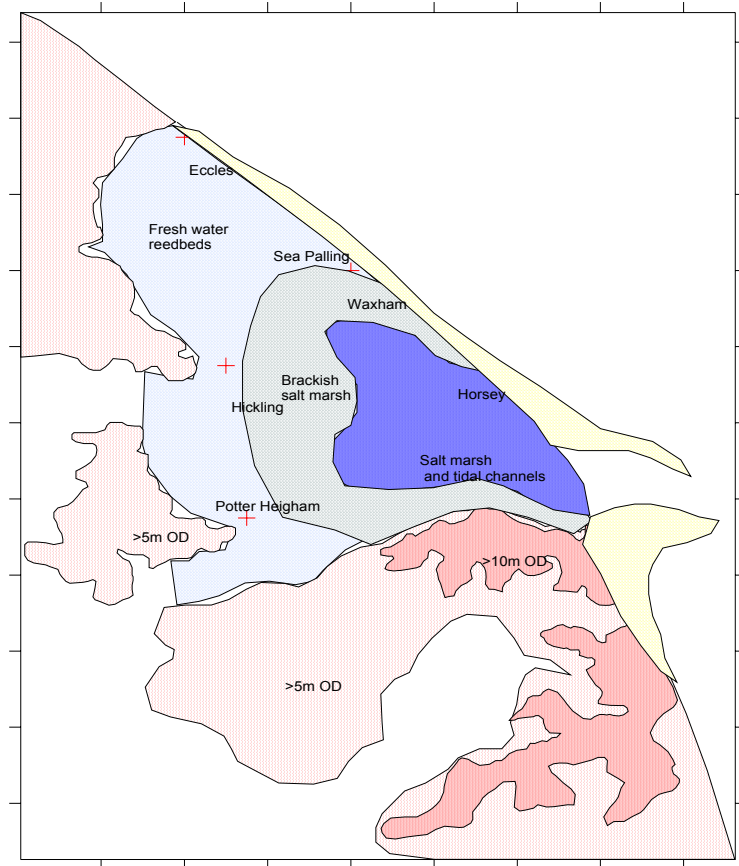
# Champs: future vision



- Options for 100 years+
- Our coastal planning should consider the next 100 to 500 years
- Changing course will be, and should be, slow;
- A sustainable coast should be our aim

# Geomorphological engineering

- 6500ha fresh, brackish and saline habitat
- Tidal delta
- Limited saline intrusion
- Two, short, retreated defences
- Planned + controlled development



# Strategic Solutions

- Need to shift to planning (and acting) for the long term – 100 years+
- Need a holistic and strategic vision for the open coast and The Broads
- Outside of our comfort zone
- Wide participation needed
- How and when do we start?

# Challenges

- Achieving consensus on a future vision, which is sustainable, where benefits outweigh costs, for people, wildlife and landscape
- Using legislation and policy to enable choice & decision, rather than constrain it
- Recognising that change is inevitable, that adaptation is better managed, rather than fought or ignored.
- Debunking the myth that this is about conservation vs. people



# Conclusions

- Our present approach to flood risk management is difficult, if not impossible to maintain over the long term
- Our present approach to 'protection' of the current environment is equally inappropriate
- Neither approach results in a functional coastal system
- We must *begin* to alter course by:
  - adopting a >100 year planning horizon
  - developing more radical geomorphological engineering techniques
- To create a coast that is sustainable without massive intervention