

17.1 The Defra funded Coastal Change Pathfinder Project along the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site identified a number of problems for local communities resulting from rising sea levels. They included:

- Tidal Flooding
- Beach Squeeze
- Cliff Erosion

Each of these will potentially impact Swanage – tidal flooding in the commercial centre, beach squeeze along the Town beach adjacent to Shore Road and cliff erosion in North Swanage. The Core Strategy is unsound because it is silent on these matters.

Although the second Shoreline Management Plan classifies the coast as “Hold the Line” for the first two epochs of the Plan, the latest guidance from the Environment Agency which covers justification for expenditure on coastal defence works means that the policy may not be implemented.

Beach replenishment in Swanage which took place in 2005 has an engineering life expectancy of 20 years. The new criteria for justifying coastal defence projects make it unlikely that the next recharge will take place so entry into the Town from the Sandbanks Chain Ferry along Shore Road will be threatened. An alternative route is available with land already in public ownership. The Core Strategy needs to identify that route which would appropriately overcome that threat.