



## Thoughts Based on Practical Lessons from Coastal Habitat Restoration

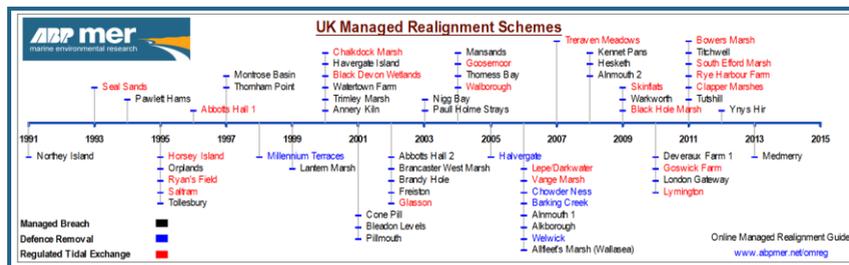
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Biodiversity Offsetting at the Coast, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
PIANC with ICE, One Great George Street, London



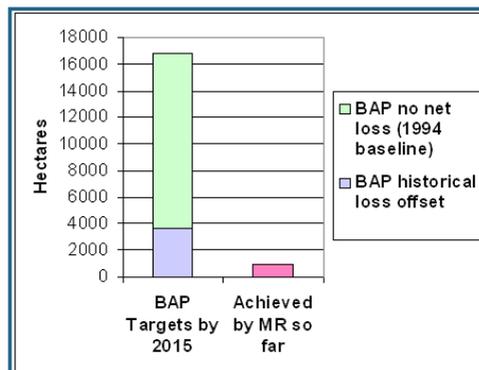
## Introduction

- Practical Experience of coastal habitat creation is now huge..
  - 60 completed projects in the UK since 1991;



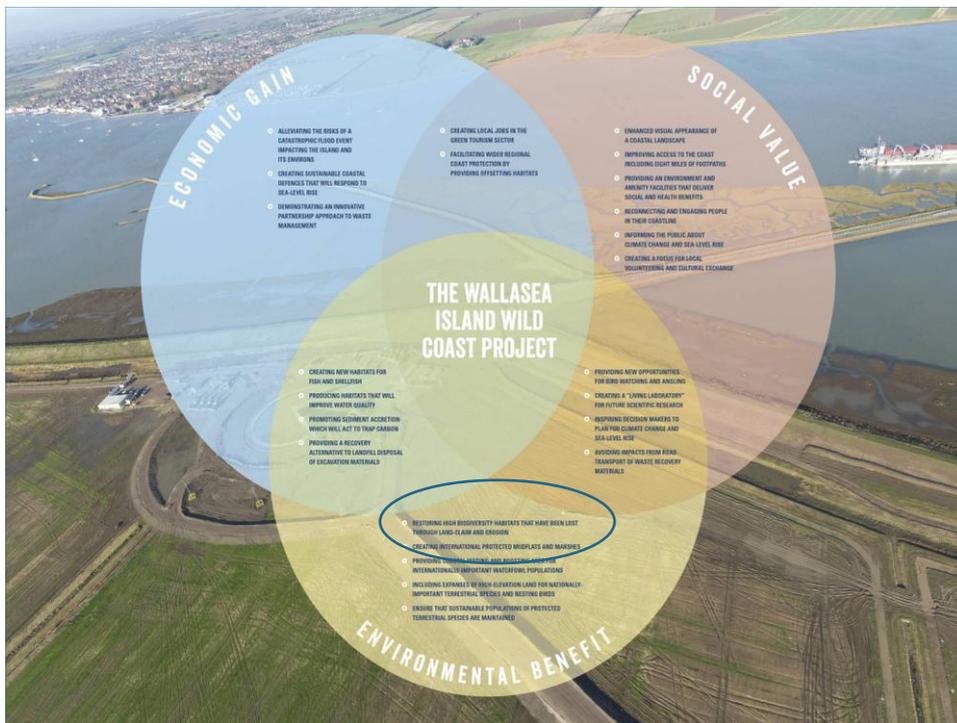
- Increasingly large and ambitious projects but often with no accompanying Economies of Scale;
- Still behind on national targets....

- UK's Climate Change 'Adaptation Sub-Committee' *UK goal to realign... nearly 15% of the coast by 2050. To meet this...the rate of realignment would need to increase five-fold from 6km/year to 30km/year.*
- *And BAP targets..*



- **Key thoughts:**
- Clear **value** in Biodiversity Offsetting and the concept of no net loss;
  - Opens up opportunity for **banking** habitats for the future;
  - Benefits of **Strategic** Planning to better deliver regional priorities “win win” multiple gains and stakeholder acceptance (linked to Sustainable Development and Ecosystem Services);
  - Needs to be based on **Partnership** working;
  - Needs to use **Flexible and Tradable Targets** with broad range of definitions including management – help to embrace/encourage beneficial action.
- **Risks**
  - Without partnership risks more interested parties creating a landowner “Ransom Strip” of the shoreline - concerns about creating a market for a scarce good.



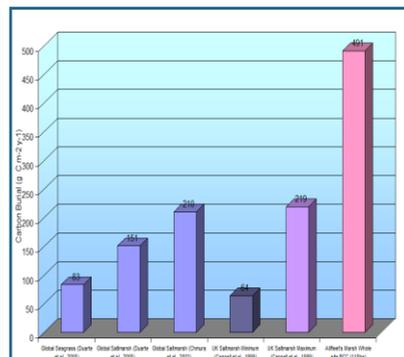


- Coastal Managed Realignment Projects can be viewed as a **subset of Biodiversity Offsetting** and can be divided into **four** categories:
  - 1) **Projects driven by Habitat Regulations** whose needs and impacts must be met – applies to only few focussed habitats;
  - 2) **Projects unrelated to Habitat Regulations** that present opportunities for biodiversity enhancement;
  - 3) **Hybrid Projects** which can achieve gains for both;
  - 4) **Management Measures** not new projects but actions to preserve and enhance habitats.

- **Projects driven by Habitat Regulations:**
  - May need to offset their own impacts to non-designated features and in the past they have mitigated for specific features...
    - Chowder Ness - Hawthorn, Voles; Allfleet's Marsh (Wallasea) - Reptiles, Invertebrates; Wallasea Island Wild Coast - Reptiles, Voles, Badgers, Corn Bunting and Medmerry - Water Voles
  - In future will require offsetting functional value of farmland;
  - Would offsetting make some things easier (e.g. protected species issues still a constraint)?



- **Projects driven by Habitat Regulations:**
  - Some projects have no “room” for offsetting (e.g. Allfleet's Marsh) but are there unrecognised benefits (fish, carbon) certainly for ES but also for offsetting? - as one part of a metric?



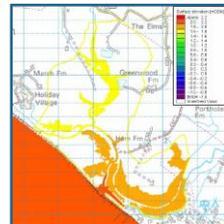
## Projects unrelated to Habitat Regulations

- Projects unrelated to Habitat Regulations
  - Example Black Hole Marsh....



## 'Hybrid' Projects

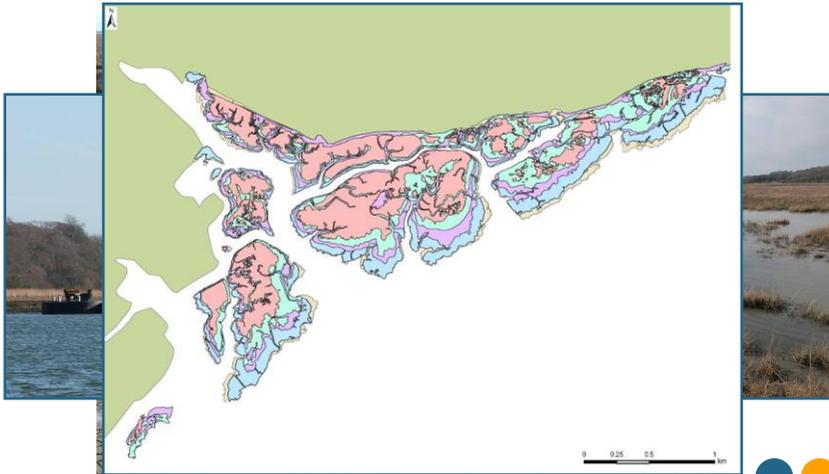
- **Projects driven by Habitat Regulations:**
- Medmerry – lots of above- HAT



- Projects unrelated to Habitat Regulations
  - Not just creation but site management e.g. Freiston



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## Thoughts/Questions

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- Key Issues

### Projects driven by Habitat Regulations

- Can areas not part of N2K or required for terrestrial offsets be 'sold on'?
- Can non-Conservation Objective benefits (e.g. above HAT, fish, carbon) be 'sold on'?

### Hybrid' Projects and those unrelated to the Habitat Regulations

- Do we understand Habitats Regulations gains well enough yet?
- Is it OK to just be piece-meal & local or should we start think about landscape-scale & national initiatives?
- How do we measure temporal-gain from a management action?

### All

- Will a market-driven system really work?



Thank you for your attention

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