

Case study

A coastal management scheme in the UK: Lyme Regis

Reasons for management

- The town has been built on unstable cliffs.
- Powerful waves from the south means the coastline is eroding rapidly.
- The sea walls have already been breached many times.

The management strategy

- The Lyme Regis Improvement Scheme was set up in the 1990s.
- There were four phases to the scheme:

Phase 1 (1990s): a new sea wall was constructed to the east of the River Lim.

Phase 2 (2005–07): construction of new sea walls; creation of wide sandy beaches; and extension of rock armour along the coastline. This all cost approximately £22 million.

Phase 3: plans to further prevent landslips and erosion were not undertaken.

Phase 4 (2013–15): construction of a new sea wall in front of the old one and improvement of cliff drainage to provide better cliff stabilisation. This phase cost £20 million.

How successful has the scheme been?

Costs:

- Tourist numbers have increased, which has led to conflict with the locals.
- Some of the defences are unattractive.
- The new sea wall may affect processes, which could cause conflict further along the coastline.

Benefits:

- Increased tourist numbers due to new beaches.
- Winter storms have not breached the new defences.
- The harbour now has better protection.

Lyme Regis coastal management scheme

Plan an answer to summarise the potential conflict which could arise from the coastal management scheme at Lyme Regis or the coastal management scheme you have studied, if different.

CHECK IT!

- 1 Describe the differences between a constructive wave and a destructive wave.
- 2 Explain the link between weathering and mass movement.
- 3 Name two coastal landforms created by erosion.
- 4 Describe how sand dunes change over time.
- 5 Describe the costs and benefits of two types of hard engineering.
- 6 Explain on which type of coastline you would decide to use managed retreat.