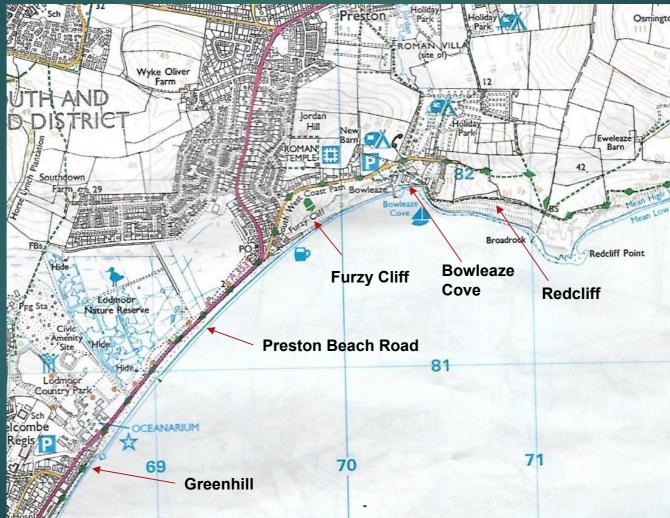
# Local coastal defences:

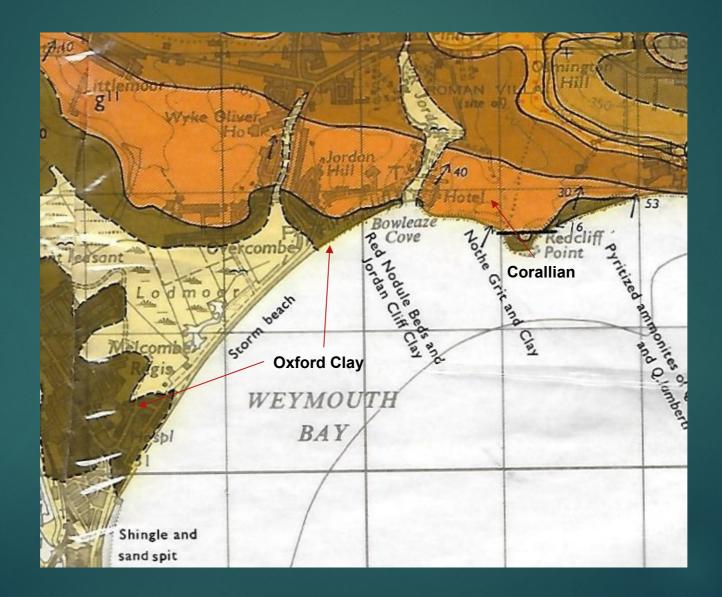
varying degrees of success!

© Alan Holiday 2020

### The area under consideration – Weymouth Bay from Greenhill to Redcliff Point.



#### Part of 1:50,000 BGS map.

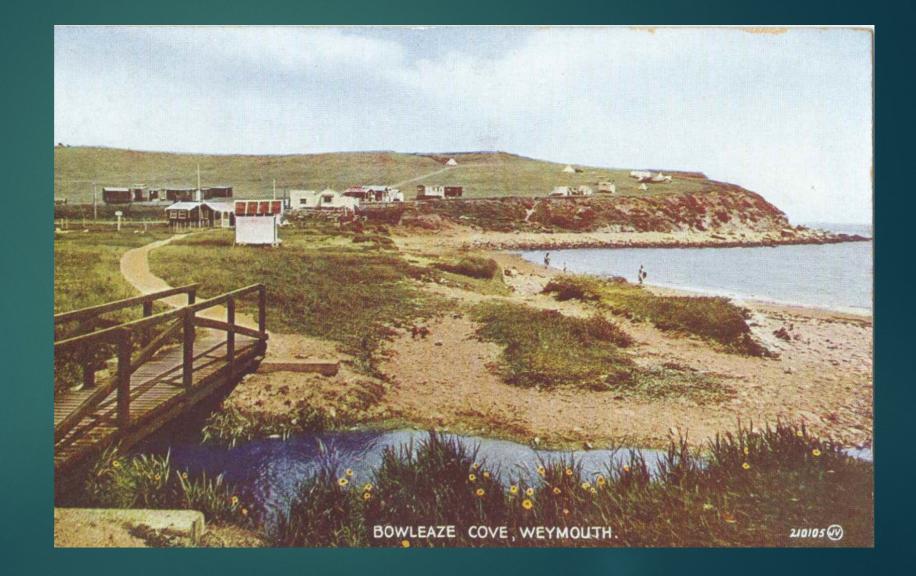


#### Aerial view looking south west June 2011.



#### Bowleaze Cove and Redcliff.

As it was prior to 1920s, pre Riviera Hotel.





As it was, possibly 1930s, after the Riviera Hotel was built.

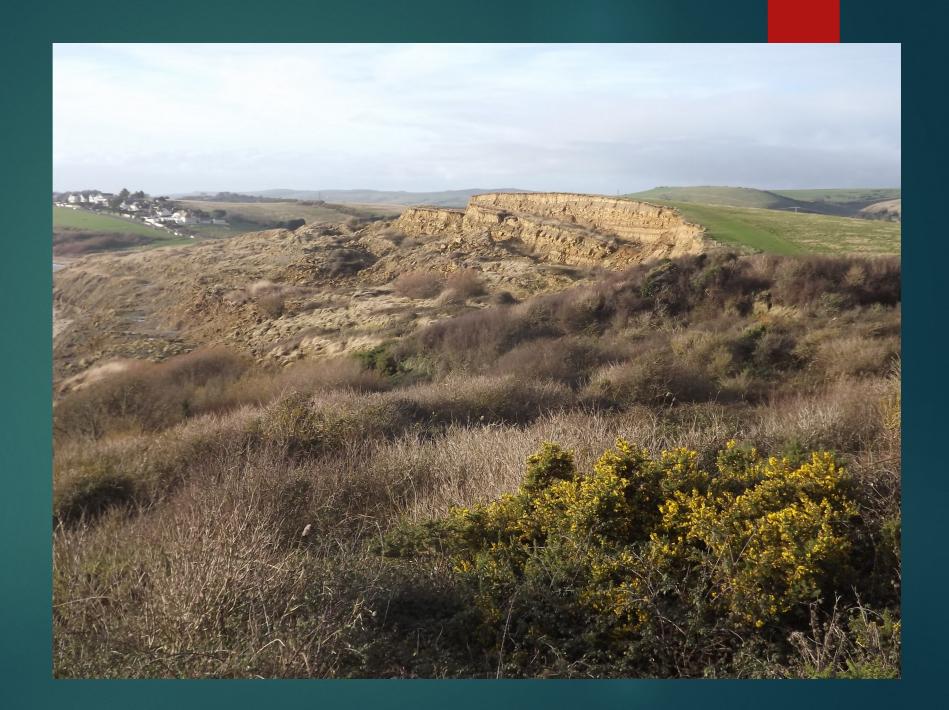


As it was in 2017 courtesy of the Coastguard helicopter.



Note the Redcliff landslip area, very different to 1947. View of Redcliff from Redcliff Point looking NW in December 2018.

The problem with no protection!



View of Redcliff taken in 2011, note the fence on the left of picture.



View of Redcliff taken April 2016 – note position of fence.



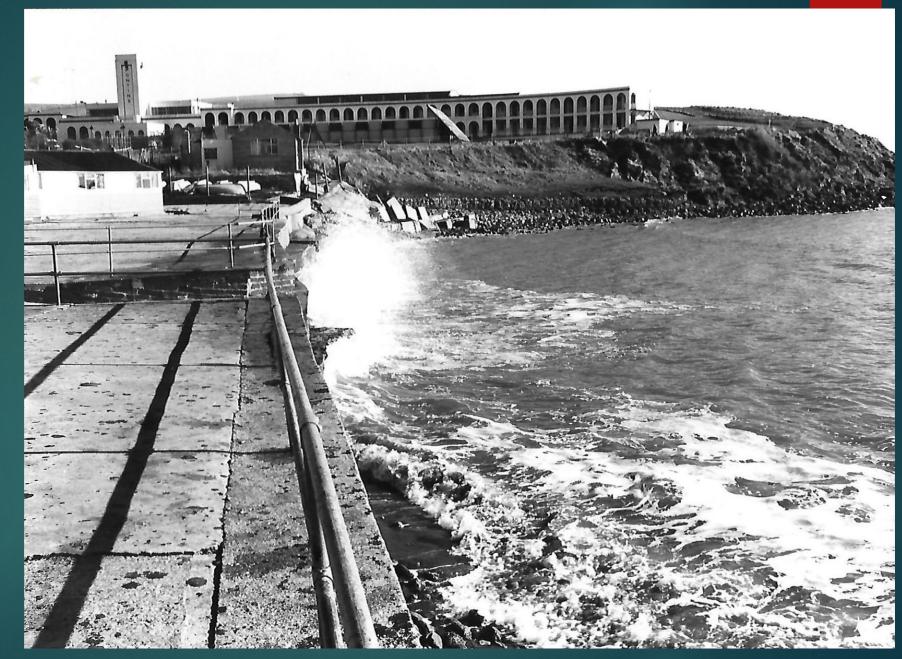
View taken 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – fence well and truly in the landslip!



## View in December 2019.



View of Bowleaze Cove, autumn 1978 with gabions at back of beach and hard engineering.



High tide in stormy conditions 1970s



November 1980, construction of new defences about the start.



#### Bowleaze Cove November 2018.



Protection for Riviera Hotel, gabions, drainage and slope grading November 1980. Cost £60,000.



Similar view October 2003



.....and February 2018. So nearly 40 years on, a success if not very attractive!





High tide and stormy conditions 1970s? Serious marine erosion of the Oxford Clay.





More peaceful conditions 1978 and early 1980s, steep slope of the clay cliff means it was unstable.



Another view looking from Overcombe Corner, 1970s. Evidence of old coastal defences offshore.....



...and even older, off shore evidence of rock armour from late Victorian attempts to limit erosion.



High tide at Overcombe resulting in further erosion particularly of the Oxford Clay.



Oxford Clay slumping across the beach, 1980s picture.



View taken 24.7.1996 following Preston Beach Road Scheme beach replenishment. Furzy Cliff now protected from marine erosion except in extreme circumstances.



View 27.1.2013, slumping still occurs after wet weather but it is not as severe as it was.



View from top of Furzy Cliff of clay flow / slide!



All change, situation 8.4.2016. Beach replenishment at Preston Beach Road has now provided protection for the cliff so marine erosion is unlikely and subaerial slumping has created a more stable slope



Eastern end of Furzy Cliff April 2016, clear evidence of greater stability with well established vegetation.



# Similar view in winter 2019/20



Over-view from Redcliff.



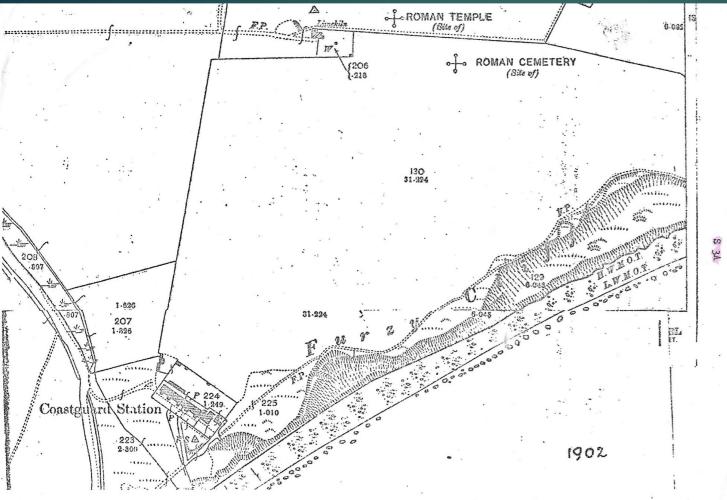
#### Overcombe.

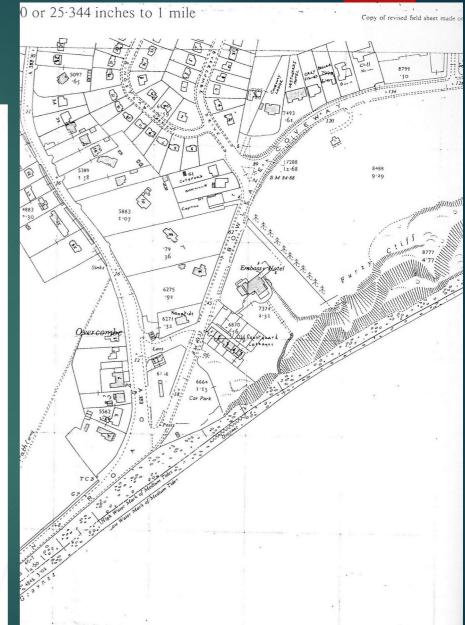
Overcombe Corner c.1909, with fine view of the coastguard cottages.



Further to the pictures of the old Preston beach sea wall featured on this page last month, today's second picture from Mike Venning goes even further back in time — so far, in fact, that the wall hadn't even been built. The picture, a postcard printed for J.B.Gray and Sons who ran Lennox Street Post Office, carries the date July 6 1909 on the reverse side. The picture was probably taken just before work began on the construction of the wall in the early 1900s. Featured in the picture on the left is the old coastguard station at Preston, part of which fell into the sea after years of cliff erosion.

# Large scale maps of Overcombe area 1902 and 1971.



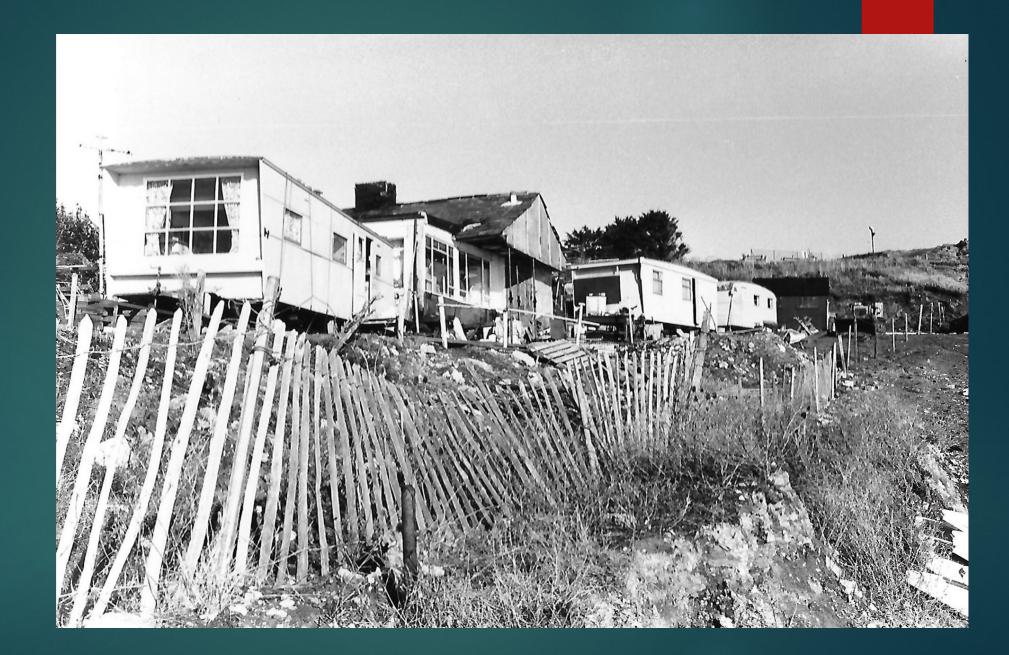


#### Overcombe Corner 1978



Closer view of the defences, date of construction unknown.

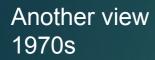




Damaged coastguard cottages 1978 View of the 'car park' at Overcombe Corner c.1979.





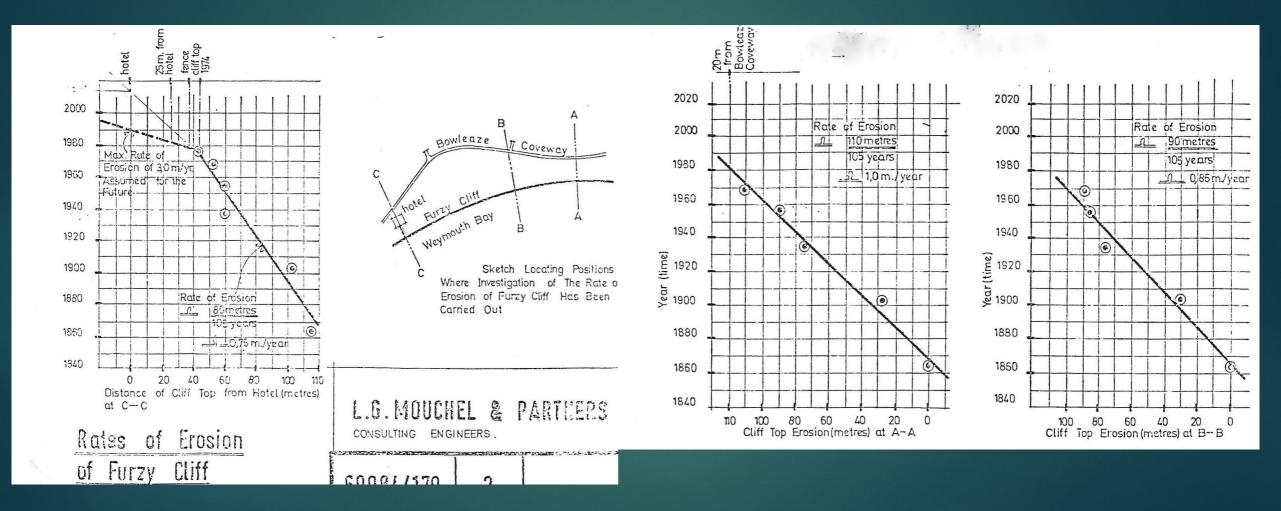


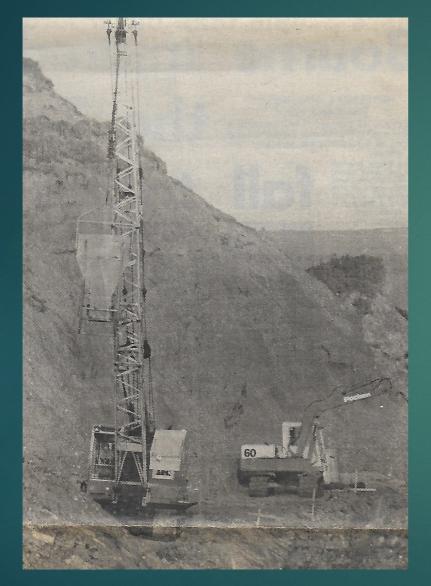


Another view November 1980.

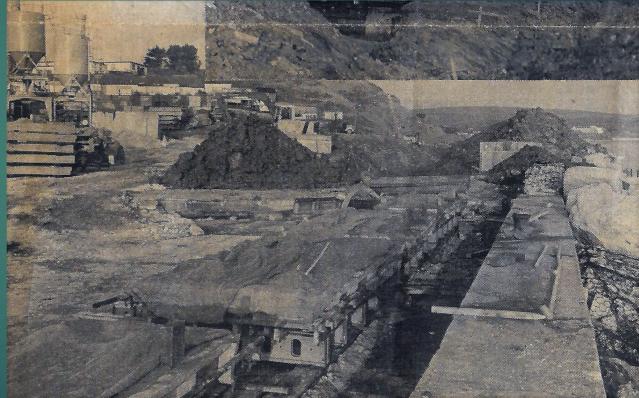


#### Projected erosion rates along Furzy Cliff during preparation for Overcombe Corner protection 1983-4





# Coastal protection work November 1983.



Picture taken in March 1985 just after protection was finished.



1983-4 defences cost c. £400,000. This view taken in 1996. The beach had built up due to the beach replenishment scheme along Preston Beach Road.



### View taken April 2016.



Land that had no value had become prime real estate!

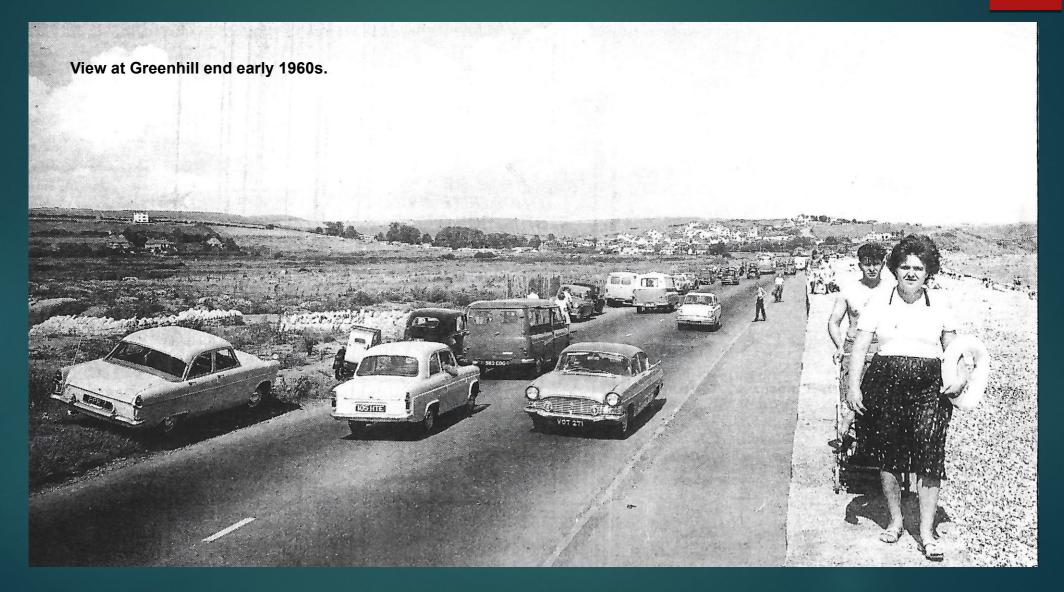




The last of the coastguard cottages spruced up!



## Preston Beach Road.





The road was closed several times a year during storms which tossed shingle over the old sea wall onto the A353 causing major congestion on the A354!



Preston Beach from Greenhill end pre 1984.



Beach replenishment work 1995. 214,000 cubic metres of shingle derived from Needles area off the Isle of Wight borrow area off the Isle of Wight.



BUCKET AND SPADE: The NRA cheat when they play on the beach. Mechanical diggers working on the beach project in the spring. (EFW)

# New sea wall being built, cost around £6 million.

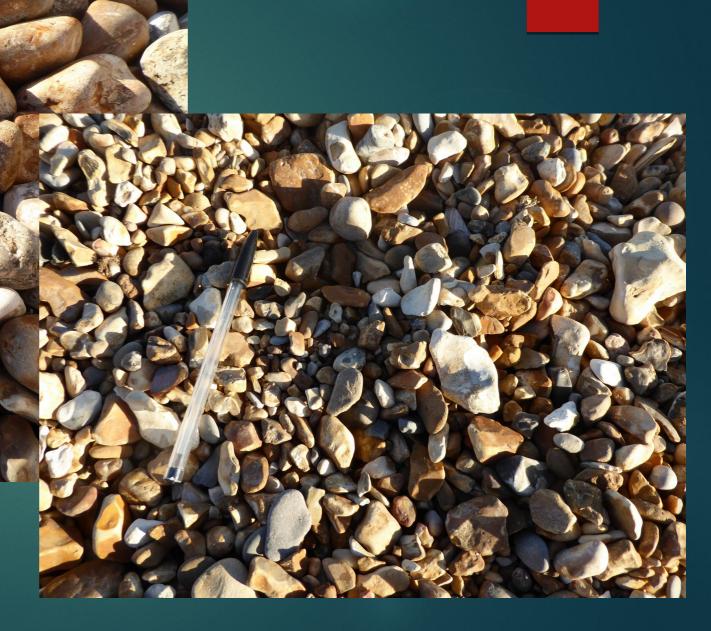




View taken 24.7.1996, construction nearly complete.



The wrong kind of shingle, Greenhill, above, and Preston Beach Road, right.





### Sieving the shingle!



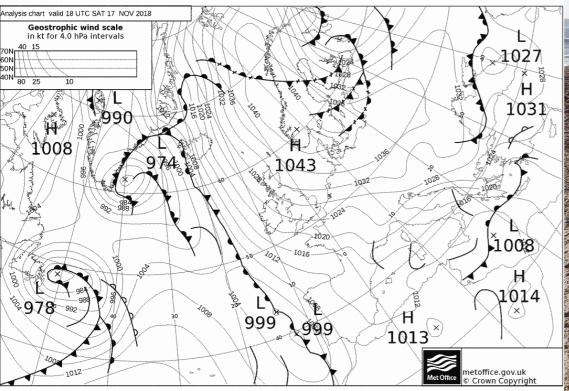
# Storm damage in 2013-2014

Preston Beach: works cost £544,713.58 and consisted of burying rock armour in front of the seawall and extensive re-profiling of the beach to return it to its design profile, this was paid for by the EA. The rock was sourced from Portland and the shingle was "native" and won back from the foreshore after constructive waves had brought some of the material back. In total works took about 6 weeks at Preston, it was a considerably smaller job than the repairs required at Chiswell. (information from EA) Regular maintenance is essential to retain the shingle.



View taken on 18.11.18 following strong easterly winds and synoptic chart for 17.11.18.

### Rock armour put in place in 2014





View taken 23.11.18



View taken during S.E. gales on 31.1.19

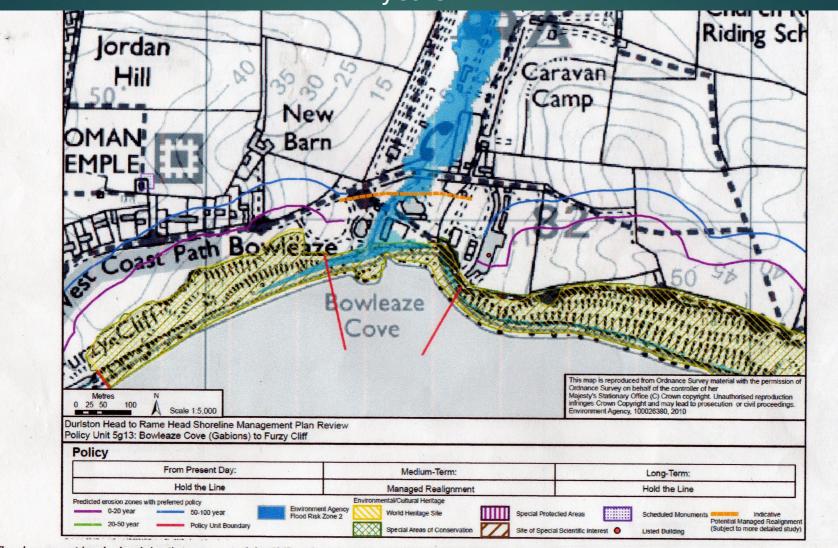




## 6,200 tons of Portland Stone.

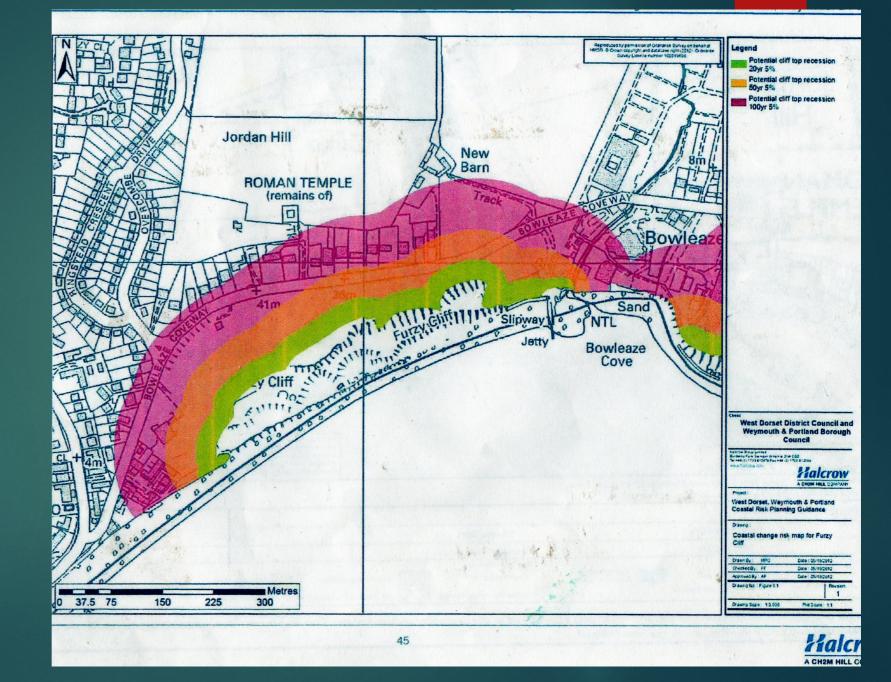


The groyne at Greenhill designed to stop shingle moving towards Weymouth. Why didn't they put a groyne at Overcombe? An on going saga – what impact sea level rise and stormier conditions – coastal management plans in place for up to 50 years.

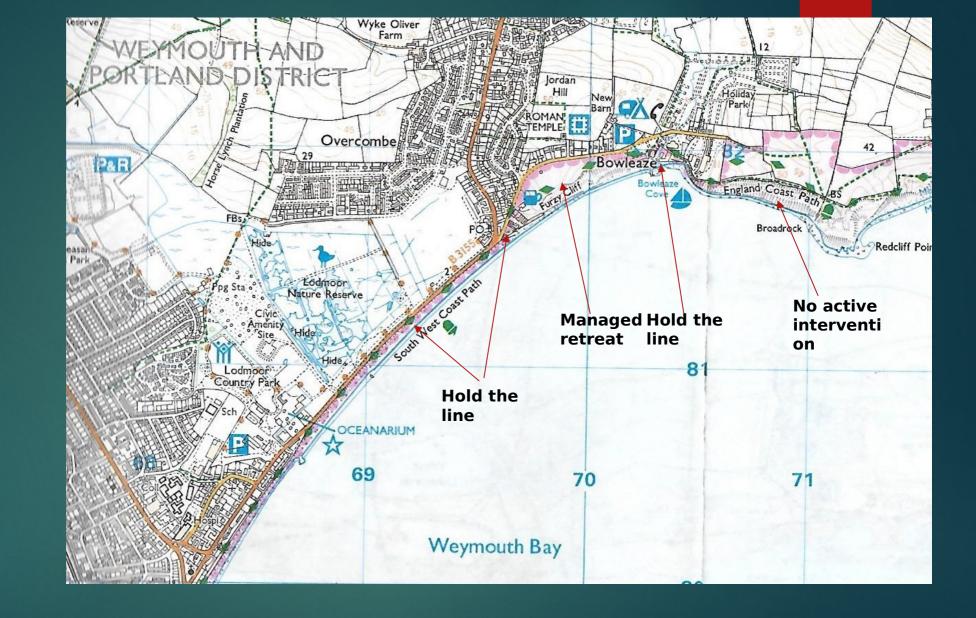


The above provides the <u>local</u> details in respect of the SMP-wide policy presented in the preceding sections of this Plan document. These details <u>must</u> be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as reported therein.

#### Possible long term erosion projected in 2013



Likely long term coastal management strategy for this section of coast



The End? Not likely!

