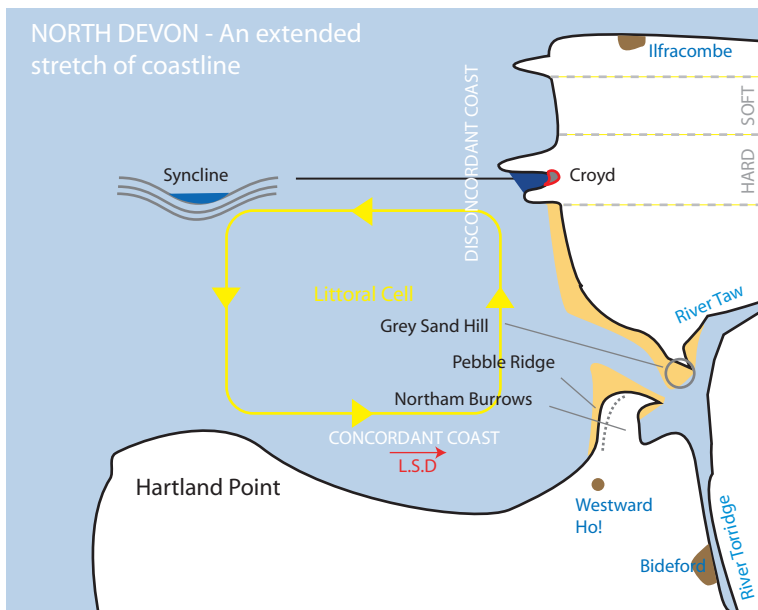


North Devon



Porlock



Processes

- LSD from West- East
 - » But this has been disturbed by the harbour in the West
- And so the input is reduced and so the ridge is in recession

Past Management

- Groynes to prevent LSD of shingle from the ridge
- Constant regrading (making it steep and tall again with diggers)

But these failed with increasing regularity and the CBA deemed any more management economically inviable

Conflict

+++++
 Department for rural Affairs
 They deemed the management too short term & pricey
 The National Trust
 They own the Eastern section of the beach, and were happy for the nature to run its course

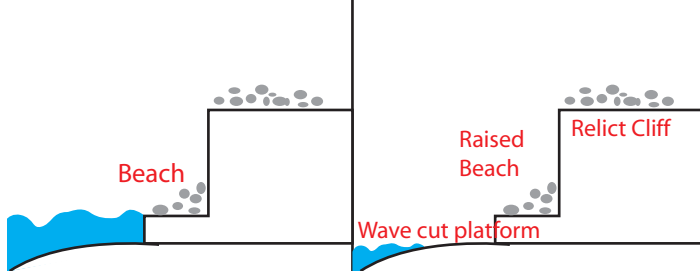
Porlock Estate

Who own the majority of the land behind the ridge & used it for pasture & duckshooting. They are ineligible for compensation.

Local People

They feared this precedent could lead to the eventual sacrifice of their homes

Rise In Sea Level 15000 BP



Westward Ho!

History

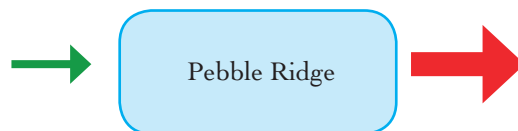
- » The Beach was originally formed from a pebble deposit on top of a cliff that collapsed
- » Now the sea level has fallen due to eustatic change, leaving a raised beach in front of a relict platform. A wave cut platform is also present
- » The movement from East to West of the pebbles via L.S.D eventually created a spit, which, sheltered from the waves, harboured a low energy environment
- » Thus fluvial sand and mud was deposited to form Northam Burrows, a salt marsh of types

Processes

- » Pebbles move from South to North, and are accumulating on Grey Sand Hill on the estuary mouth
- » The input of pebbles is from erosion at Hartland point. This is now reducing.
- » As the ridge is pushed backwards by the waves (1m pa), pebbles are lost in the sand or thrown over the ridge

The Threat

An imbalance in input and output has forced the ridge into recession



Management

- Recharge
 - » Pebbles removed from Grey Sand Hill are used to recharge the pebble ridge further south
- Sea Wall
 - » This protects the area to the South of the ridge
- Rip Rap
 - » This was laid down at the most vulnerable points
- Wooden Groynes
 - » Largely ineffectual, these aimed to provide a greater dissipation of the sea's energy by developing a larger beach

The Environment

- The salt marsh is a rare, rich and varied ecosystem, although the original species have died
- At the moment, contours prevent contamination of nearby fields with saltwater, but this is not guaranteed for the future