

Outline Emergency Plan for Managing Coastal Retreat

Appendix E3

Robin Hoods Bay Coastal Strategy Study

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Produced for
Scarborough Borough Council



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Outline Emergency Plan for Managing Coastal Retreat

Aim

The aim of this document is to provide a brief overview of information required to aid a response of decision makers in the event of a landslide event within the study area of the Robin Hood's Bay Coastal Strategy. This is a short guidance document and should be used as a guide to develop a detailed Emergency Plan if necessary.

Objectives

- To provide a site description of potential slip areas within the strategy area
- Provide a identification of risks to be used as guidance for further investigation
- Indicate pre-event actions to be carried out
- Post event responses

Scope

This plan is an overview response to the potential need to evacuate/rescue people from an area of potential cliff failure within the Robin Hood's Bay Strategy Area. This will help to facilitate further studies to ensure a coordinated and complete multi agency response.

Assumptions

This plan assumes that further retreat of the cliff headscarpe is likely to occur and will present a level of risk, however where this is occurring at a slow rate normal working practices will be employed to manage the site, and proactive measures will be taken to ensure safety.

- There will be monitoring in place in relevant sections of the study area to help identify risk
- Monitoring schemes will have appropriate reporting mechanisms in place
- The full extent and nature and timing of future landslips is difficult to predict and quantify. A degree of flexibility is required when employing response arrangements to ensure that the level of response is appropriate to the situation.

Site Location

The study area lies along the north eastern shores of North Yorkshire between Whitby in the north and Hundale Point in the south. The study frontage comprises of defended and undefended frontages, including the defended village of Robin Hoods Bay. It has been estimated that the properties potentially affected by erosion or sudden cliff failure may include:

- Farm storage at Whitby Abbey
- Caravan sites at Whitby Holiday Park
- Whitby Fog Signal Station
- Whitby Lighthouse

- Approximately 18 properties in the northern section of Robin Hood's Bay village
- Ravenscar Hotel

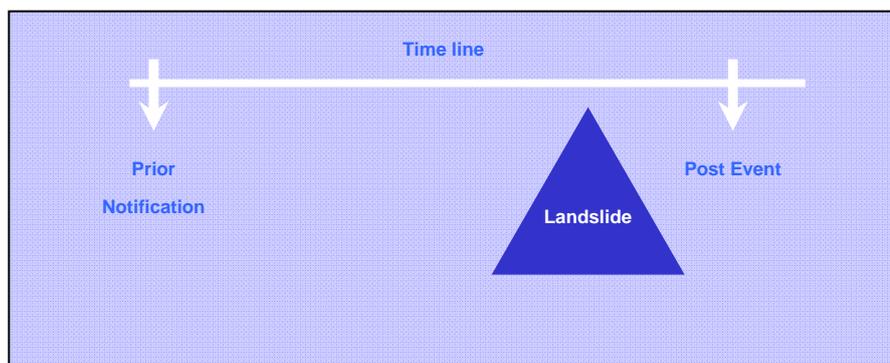
The timing as to when each area may be affected differs from each location and due to the nature of coastal processes and cliff failure mechanisms; there is an inherent level of uncertainty attached with predicting when problems may occur.

Each management unit within the study area has had a Slope Condition Assessment carried out which indicates the activity status of each section of coastline. At the sites identified there is no historical evidence of landslip failure and erosion is considered to be occurring at a steady rate. As such these areas are not considered to be at risk from an incident in the short term. Continued monitoring of the cliff face and slope stability will allow informed decisions to be made on an ongoing basis with regard to any change in the risk associated with failure in those areas.

In the event of policy options for the affected areas recommending No Active Intervention or Adaptive Management then properties will be assessed and appropriate plans implemented to allow for safe removal of buildings which will be let go.

Likely reporting mechanisms of an incident

Two scenarios exist for notification of an emergency situation developing within the Robin Hood's bay strategy area with respect to cliff instability / landslides.



Prior Notification: Escalation in activity and movement on the site indicating the possibility of minor, partial, or catastrophic movement or collapse of any identified failure zone / surrounding area.

Post Event Notification: The occurrence of a minor, partial or catastrophic movement or collapse of any identified failure zone / surrounding area.

Notification of an evolving incident may come from a range of sources, and could occur with or without prior warning. Possible routes of reporting include:

- Local residents and members of the public

- Monitoring organisations, such as Scarborough Borough Council, Emergency Services, and the National Trust etc.
- Site specific monitoring regime

A detailed response plan would be required to outline an appropriate response following notification of an incident. This would include information regarding respondents, mobilisation procedures, and command and control structures, roles and responsibilities etc.

Evacuation

In the event of notification of potential cliff failure (i.e. monitoring information indicates imminent failure), or in response to a partial collapse or catastrophic collapse of the failure zone, an evacuation of the immediate at risk areas and close surroundings may be required.

The purpose of any evacuation will be to move people and, where relevant, living creatures, away from an actual or potential danger area to a safer place. In all cases the overall priority must be the safety of the public and emergency responders. This must be the focus of the decision making process and other factors e.g. commercial considerations must not be permitted to interfere with the achievement of this objective. (Evacuation may not always be the most appropriate response to a threat).

In the event of an evacuation being required one of the most important factors to consider is a safe route away from the incident.

- Farm storage at Whitby Abbey, main access road is approximately 60m from edge of cliff face and is orientated perpendicular to the coastline.
- Caravan sites at Whitby Holiday Park, main access road is approximately 90m from the edge of cliff face and runs parallel to the coastline in the affected area.
- Whitby Fog Signal Station, road is approximately 100m from edge of cliff face and is orientated perpendicular to the coastline.
- Whitby Lighthouse, road is approximately 40m from the edge of cliff face and runs parallel to the coastline in the affected area
- Robin Hood's Bay Village, several access roads in the north village back onto the affected properties at varying distances from the coast. In the south village there is potential loss of the access to the slipway to the sea.
- Ravenscar Hotel, main access is through The Avenue road which connects to Ravens Hall road.

These are just some of the main areas affected by potential erosion and/or larger cliff failures, however an overview of the entire study area indicates that should current erosion rates remain constant, access roads to individual properties are largely unaffected. Therefore, access to all properties in the study area remains mostly unrestricted.

Recommendations

It is recommended that ongoing monitoring of cliff stability and erosion rates be carried out to ensure a clear understanding of the current risk of landslip failure. This outline action plan sets out a very general guidance of emergency planning.

If an increased risk is identified through a monitoring programme, then a detailed Landslip Emergency Action Plan will need to be created.