

Wightlink Responsibilities defined by Public Enquiry

The Objective of the Habitat Works is to offset the potential loss of intertidal habitat extent and the reduction in quality of intertidal habitat of the European Sites that may occur as a result of the Ferries by achieving increased habitat persistence within the boundary of the European Sites to ensure that there is no adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites by reference to the Conservation Objectives.

Natural England have advised that provided that Wightlink commences the Habitat Works as identified in the Recharge Scheme in the 2012 Recharge Period the operation of the Ferries will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites.

The W class vessels are not to exceed 16,500 Trips per calendar year.

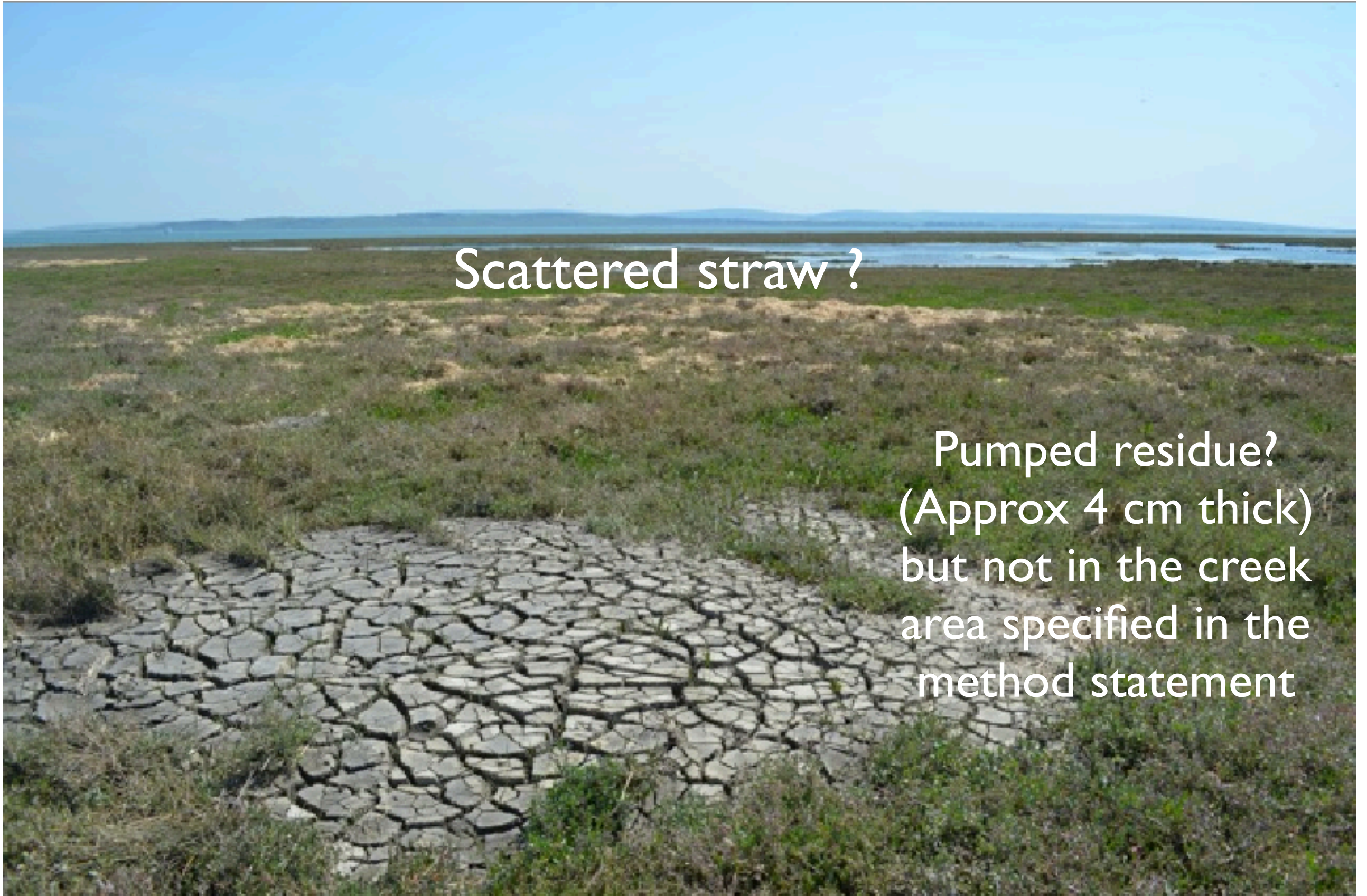
To continuously monitor the speed of the Ferries over the ground and to ensure that the Ferries do not exceed the speed of 5.5 knots below the wave screen until such time as the EMP is satisfied that the Dredge Material has been successfully retained on the Recharge Site, and that no Additional Recharges are necessary, at which point the EMP shall prescribe a new maximum speed of operation

LRA visited the Recharge site May 2012 with the following results

May 2012

Scattered straw ?

Pumped residue?
(Approx 4 cm thick)
but not in the creek
area specified in the
method statement



May 2012



Remains of retaining structure ?
Evidence of some remaining dumped mud
near high water level

May 2012



May 2012

Retaining structure

Straw bales washed out
No sediment retention
on upstream side





Straw bales now
only present in
areas of low flow

May 2012

May 2012



Vehicle tracks but no new mud?

Retaining Structures



No sign of dumped or pumped mud

May 2012

- Sections of retaining structures and quantities of straw are all along the coastline from Tanners Lane to Wightlink terminal
- Straw bales in current flow have been washed away, there is no apparent retention of sediments upstream of the retaining structures
- Whatever mud was dumped it would not appear to be present at end May

Questions

- Is there a survey record showing the extent, volume and thickness of the mud pumped on to Boiler March at the date when the works were completed ?
- Is there a record of the extent of the salt marsh/mudflat boundary on the completion date of the area of marsh that ABPmer took into account when making their hectare-year benefit predictions ?
- The photographs appear to show that very little or none of the dumped mud remains as of May 2012. What is Wightlink's opinion ?
- It appears year 1 has failed, the method statement presented to the public enquiry as “not an experiment” seems to be just that ! the WV class agreed erosion effect is not being mitigated, what happens now ?
- What are the responsibilities of the parties to the 106 agreement to the public ? it appears the only public access to monitoring is by way of Wightlink “approved” minutes of meetings, is this so ?