

# Channel Coast News

Issue 25 - December 2005

The newsletter for the Southeast Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme [www.channelcoast.org](http://www.channelcoast.org)

## Regional News

### South East Coastal Group

Since the last newsletter all the summer BMP surveys and the autumn profile surveys have been completed. BMP reports are under preparation and will be issued shortly for comment. All topographic data collected for the coastal group area has been transferred to the Channel Coast Observatory for uploading onto the web site. All future requests for data will be referred initially to the website.

### SCOPAC

A number of post-storm surveys were conducted following the November storms, including at Medmerry, Ventnor, Hengistbury Head, Hurst Spit and Lee-on-Solent. At Hill Head, the sea wall in front of the beach huts incurred some damage (*see Figure 1*) following unusually large waves in the Solent ( $H_s$  of almost 1.5m measured at the RLYC Starting Platform), which combined with a spring tide to overtop the wall.



Figure 1. Storm damage at Hill Head (Photo: D Watkins)

### South Downs Coastal Group

Following a text message alert from the Rustington Wave Buoy on 25 October, a post-storm survey was undertaken from Selsey Bill to the River Adur. A further text message alert was received during the storm on 03 November. The  $H_s$  reached a maximum of 3.5m and there was some considerable loss of material together with some minor overtopping along the Littlehampton to Shoreham frontages that were inspected before, during and after the storms. Halcrow undertook a post-storm survey between Pagham Harbour and River Adur on 04/05 November. Selsey Bill to Pagham Harbour was not surveyed on this occasion, as this frontage is relatively sheltered from

south-westerly storms. Both sets of post-storm data are now in SANDS.

### Environment Agency (Southern Region)

BKS have now completed all the flights for 2005 including the low level SDCG and SECG flights and the habitat areas. The photogrammetry and orthophotos are being delivered promptly and are undergoing QA immediately. Several of the datasets have already been accepted. The habitat interpretation contractor has received the SECG orthophotos and may be able to start Kent ahead of schedule. The LiDAR programme for 2005/6 has also started; the polygons on the Isle of Wight were completed in November

### Channel Coastal Observatory

The non-directional Waverider buoy, which has been deployed at Milford-on-Sea in one form or another since 1996, has recently been replaced by a Directional Waverider Mk III, although, unfortunately, it was not in place to catch the early November storms. The Boscombe DWR broke free in the early evening of 3 November and was recovered on the beach the following day. The buoy had clearly been badly damaged and has been returned to Datawell.

## Contacts

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## Annual Partners Meeting 2005

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday 9 November at Field Place, Worthing, kindly organised by Worthing BC. There was a good turnout and the meeting was attended by several of the Environment Agency's teams and representatives from the South West.

Robin McInnes was Chairman for the meeting and his opening remarks were followed by Andy Bradbury who began his progress report with an update on the issues raised by Partners at the 2004 meeting: a Certificate of Attendance has been produced for Partners who wish to use it as evidence for CPD.

Andy Bradbury continued with a detailed breakdown of the structure of the forthcoming Beach Management Reports. It is clear, however, that works are being carried out on the beaches without the details being recorded on recycling sheets, and Andy Bradbury urged that all Partners should make this a priority. Recycling sheets can be pre-prepared by Lead Authorities and need only be filled in by hand on site; the Lead Authorities will then prepare the information for loading into SANDS and for subsequent BMP analysis. Steve McFarland also asked that details about the recharge material (particle size distribution *etc.*) should be passed to Lead Authorities.

There was much interest in the storm analysis of wave data, described by Travis Mason, which will be included in the BMP reports. In particular, the method of establishing a storm "threshold" and the implications of longer period waves, as indicated by peak wave period ( $T_p$ ), generated considerable discussion.

Tanja Cooper then explained the new features in the website's Map Viewer and Data Catalogue, including the on-line viewer. Recent additions include DTM's of the LiDAR data, which are generated on-the-fly. Users can download a maximum of 300MB of data at one time, as it was felt that many computers may not be able to cope with larger files.

The morning session concluded with a detailed comparison of profiles obtained by RTK GPS, bathymetry, photogrammetry and LiDAR, by Jon

Clarke. He concluded that the land-based survey techniques were the most accurate and that aerial techniques consistently over-estimated beach quantities. The bathymetric data showed good agreement with the topographic surveys, emphasising the need for overlap between different measuring systems.

The afternoon session began with a series of short presentations on case studies and use of the data, beginning with Christina Bell (substituting for an unwell Chris Longmire), who showed how a combination of analysis data from SANDS and a GIS can readily identify locations and quantities of recharge material needed. Bryan Curtis then demonstrated how a similar methodology can be applied in the SDCG area.

Helen Dalton described progress with the ecology programme, which has now been funded to produce a BAP habitat baseline. She showed some results from the trial in Hampshire and how the GIS layers link with the habitat database. This series of presentations concluded with Bob Davidson from the Environment Agency's Technology Group, who described future developments in airborne LiDAR systems.

During the discussion periods the following suggestions were made:

- Development of a photo gallery on the website, which can be downloaded freely – categories could include surveying, structures, beaches, instrumentation, schemes *etc.* The photographs can be "watermarked" with the owner's name and date.
- The presentations from the Annual meeting should be made available on the website.

Ian Thomas (PCDL) raised the question of accuracy of volume calculations with GPS and has observed up to 2% differences. Andy Bradbury considered that 1% should be achievable and emphasised the need for good quality-control of the data.

The Chairman closed the meeting with a request that Partners should return the letters regarding funding for Phase II as a matter of urgency.