

Channel Coast News

Issue 4 - July 2003

The newsletter for the Southeast Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme www.channelcoast.org

Introduction

In setting up the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, the 3 Coastal Groups in the southeast are committed to a project that will deliver high quality data, primarily for coastal management purposes. It is a long-term commitment, as it will take time to collect enough information to tackle more complex problems.

There will be an annual review meeting on 15 September for all 37 project partners (further details will be forwarded by area representatives). It is an opportunity to see how the data and reports can be accessed and used. It is also an opportunity for partners to discuss their own requirements and contribute to programme development. Many coastal group members have already been involved in the programme, contributing surveying services and providing input on technical aspects of the programme. Only by encouraging widespread use of the project outputs to assist coastal managers, can the initiative fulfil its aims. I hope all partners will be able to attend the annual meeting and help ensure that the project delivers what has been promised.

Stephen McFarland – Chairman SECG

Regional News

South East Coastal Group

Tenders for the bathymetric work have been returned and are currently undergoing evaluation. Preliminary indications suggest a number of high quality submissions for each of the three contracts. These will be awarded as soon as practically possible.

One of the topographic work packages was re-tendered on the grounds that none of the submissions proved economically advantageous to the project. The returns are currently being evaluated, but have been deemed more suitable. Of the remaining topographic work packages, contract negotiations are underway with the successful consultants with a view to commencing work by the end of the month.

South Downs Coastal Group

Low Level contact photographs of the SDCG frontage have now been received from the EA. Photogrammetry work to extract the profile levels is underway and expected to be received from the CCO early in July.

The 2001 digital Orthophotos for the SDCG region have also been received. They are available in an ECW format for use in GIS packages as well as a GSF format for use as a backdrop within SANDS. The images are available to all project partners upon request, via the usual channels.

Tenders for the hydrographic survey package for the SDCG frontage between Pagham Harbour and Birling Gap were returned on 23 June, from the 6 invited tenderers. Early indications show that all tenders were high quality submissions, but varied in price significantly. Tender evaluation is ongoing with a view to appoint by 9 July.

SCOPAC

The tenders for bathymetric surveys from Portland Bill to Durlston Head have been received and the contract will be awarded shortly. Long daylight hours have



enabled good progress to be made into the backlog of surveys, including the salt marshes on Gull Island.

SCOPAC surveyors on their recent survey of Gull Island

Environment Agency (Southern Region)

Aerial photography between Beachy Head and Selsey Bill will now be undertaken during July. The rest of the coastline will be flown by the end of September, with photogrammetric analysis following towards the end of the year. Back analysis of 1998 and 1999 ABMS data has been completed and the revised data is now available. Steve Cook from NFDC has been seconded to the EA to work on contract procurement.

Channel Coastal Observatory

Two days of SANDS training, conducted by Halcrow, took place last month, with 18 participants mainly from the SCOPAC area. The courses were comprehensive and were well received. Further courses can be run if there is some demand for them.

The Datawell directional wave buoys have arrived from The Netherlands and will be deployed, weather permitting, by 14 July.

Ground Control Network

For many years, engineers have relied upon Ordnance Survey benchmarks for levelling. It may be a surprise to some readers to learn that the OS benchmarks are no longer supported – and haven't been for some time. A new national network of GPS surveyed control points has been introduced.

Many types of data and data collection methods will be used in the coastal monitoring programme. In order to make sensible comparisons of different data types, all of the data needs to be referred to a common datum and grid system. The approach adopted in this programme is to relate all data to the new OS GPS based network. However, GPS data is collected using a different coordinate system (ETRS89) from OS coordinates. Therefore, GPS coordinates have to be transformed to OS coordinates using two standard transformations (OSGM02 and OSTN02). GPS data can be misleading if used without checking how coordinates are determined; if GPS coordinates are transformed to OS using earlier transformations, the coordinates may be quite different – beware!

Surveying an existing ground control point at Bournemouth



A new ground control network has been established for the project, which covers the entire survey region. A series of permanent ground markers have been established throughout the region and these have been tied to the OS primary network (*see photograph*). The entire network has been established using GPS observations

converted to OS coordinates using standard transformations – this is what is known as a “network adjustment”. Stations are typically 3-5km apart and within easy reach of the coast. All new surveys will be related to this network.

Ground control surveys for the Southeast and South Downs coastal cells were completed by Longdin and Browning, whilst in-house local authority teams from Havant, Isle-of-Wight, Portsmouth and New Forest have surveyed the SCOPAC cell.

The network has already formed the basis for establishing photo-control for the ABMS programme. It is expected that the new network will provide significant improvements to the accuracy of the ABMS photogrammetric beach profiles. The network is in use for all of the topographic surveys currently in progress. The coordinates are also suitable for use in engineering schemes.

The entire network comprises 7 E1 and 84 E2 ground control points, and the coordinates are now available for the whole coastal strip. A database has been established containing descriptions and coordinates of all ground control points; these will be provided to partners within a SANDS database, or can be provided separately on request via lead authorities. Coming soon – a web site map of control points with links to coordinates and site descriptions.

What's New?

Deborah Campbell is shortly to leave the EA Southern Region. Her contribution to the Regional Monitoring Programme has been considerable and much appreciated, and we wish her well in her new appointment.

Contacts

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