

# Channel Coast News

Issue 31 - November 2007

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

## Regional News

### South East Coastal Group

Topographic surveys for the region have now been completed with additional storm surveys being carried out along the North Kent coast and between Deal and Kingsdown following the exceptionally high tides experienced on 8th and 9th November. The analysis of the 2007 Beach Plan surveys is continuing with many of the reports nearing completion.

### SCOPAC

The 5-yearly baseline surveys are now complete, with the exception of the repeat baseline surveys which are habitually carried out over the winter due to better tidal conditions *e.g.* Preston Beach, and those areas which are being baseline surveyed by LiDAR this winter *e.g.* Ryde Sands. This year's bathymetric surveys of Christchurch Bay and the West Solent are complete, although 2 day's surveying in Lymington River and Keyhaven Marshes remain to be finished.

### South Downs Coastal Group

The Worthing Borough Council survey team has now completed all the autumn interim profile surveys on all accessible beaches on the SDCG frontage. The team is now currently undertaking a baseline survey of all structures, with the intention of completing this by March 2008, whilst also standing-by in preparation for the first of the winter season's post storm surveys.

The 2007 Annual Report for the SDCG frontage and the Seaford BMP Report were submitted to Local Authority Partners and the EA in early September and late October respectively.

### Environment Agency (Southern Region)

Following a spell of good weather, BKS completed the flights for the Summer 2007/08 aerial survey at the beginning of August. As in previous years, this was an extensive survey,

covering the entire coastline from All Hallows to Portland Bill, including the Harbours. All the non-rectified digital images have now been received and QA'd and will be uploaded onto the website shortly.

This year's LiDAR flights commenced at the end of October and approximately 10% of the baseline survey has been flown. All the priority areas, comprising over 50% of the total survey area, will be delivered this financial year, with the remaining polygons due for delivery by May 2008.

### Channel Coastal Observatory

All completed Annual Reports and outstanding BMP reports have been uploaded to the website. The new sections applicable to the southeast and southwest have been populated with information specific to each region.

## Contacts

If you have any queries about the Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, or would like a personal copy of this newsletter by email, please contact your area representative:

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## Annual Partners Meeting 2007

The 2007 Annual Partners Meeting was held on Friday 19 October at Field Place, Worthing, kindly organised by Worthing BC. The meeting was opened by Robin McInnes, Chairman, SCOPAC. Andy Bradbury continued with a progress report and a breakdown of the modifications made to Phase II. He concluded with an overview of strategic level analysis work and plans for the forthcoming year.

Using the North Solent as an example, Andrew Colenut showed how further analysis of Regional Monitoring data can provide information for the SMP, to show coastal flooding extents, coastal erosion and overtopping risk, sea defence condition and residual life and habitat loss. He also demonstrated how different data can be combined and condensed into clear visualisations, which are of particular use for public consultation tool.

Travis Mason illustrated the recent changes in the website [www.channelcoast.org](http://www.channelcoast.org). The front page now incorporates portals for both the south east and south west monitoring programmes. The real-time data has been updated showing new wave buoys, met stations and tide gauges. In addition, the entire website has been made more robust, enabling it to expand readily as more data are added.

Bill Symons, DEFRA, concluded the morning session by discussing the development of the National Monitoring Programme. He explained how the programme will be managed regionally, adopting the EA survey specifications already used in the south east and south west. Existing procedures will be used for data management and quality control and all data will be freely available and delivered through the website. The programme aims to be up and running in 2011.

The afternoon session saw a series of short presentations, beginning an overview of the Worthing in-house surveys by Dan Amos. The surveys are undertaken using ATV's and a permanent base on the Trimble Net R5. Dan explained that surveying with ATVs and not staking out profile lines is still very accurate and also improves safety and processing.

Anne Tanner presented an overview of the habitat mapping project, which aimed to provide baseline mapping in order to calculate future habitat loss. The data has been used in the Medway and Swale SMP and Portsea Island Coastal Defence Strategy. The data cannot be freely distributed via the website due to licensing issues, but is available from the Environment Agency.

David Picksley used Mudeford Sandbank as an example to describe the use of data in BMP reports, including a comparison of the impact of south-easterly and south westerly storms on beach profiles. He also emphasised the importance of recycling logs to explain sudden changes in Cross Sectional Area. Recent deposition around the Hengistbury Head long groyne was apparent, possibly as a result of sediment transport from the beach recharge last winter in Poole Bay.

Geoff Astle gave an update of the coastal erosion risk mapping project. Since the last meeting, data have been collated and software developed to view the data. The first national run estimated 20, 50 and 100 year erosion lines. Consultants and Local Authorities can view and modify these results for their frontages, and will have an opportunity to use the software and provide feedback. This phase should be finished in March 2008.

Robin McInnes gave a review of the national appraisal of assets. One third of the coastline from Dorset to Beachy Head is experiencing cliff retreat and as a result £114 million is spent along SDCG and SCOPAC defences. He then described the constraints to accuracy and concluded the talk with examples from the SCOPAC research programme.

Steve McFarland concluded the meeting by outlining the importance of having good quality data for use by decision makers in coastal management.