



Administrative Support:

Democratic Services
Havant Borough Council
Public Service Plaza
HAVANT
Hants
PO9 2AX

Contact Officer: Jack Caine, Democratic Services Officer
Tel. No. 02392 446230

Email: jack.caine@havant.gov.uk

STANDING CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE (SCOPAC) AGENDA

Date: 17 October 2014
Time: 10.15 am
Venue: Hurstwood Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant,
Hampshire PO9 2AX

The business to be transacted is set out below:

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1 Minutes from the last meeting of SCOPAC (paper A)	1 - 6
To approve the minutes of the last meeting of SCOPAC held on 11 April 2014.	
2 Apologies	
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Full Members

Bournemouth Borough Council
Chichester District Council
Christchurch Borough Council
Environment Agency
Fareham Borough Council
Gosport Borough Council
Hampshire County Council

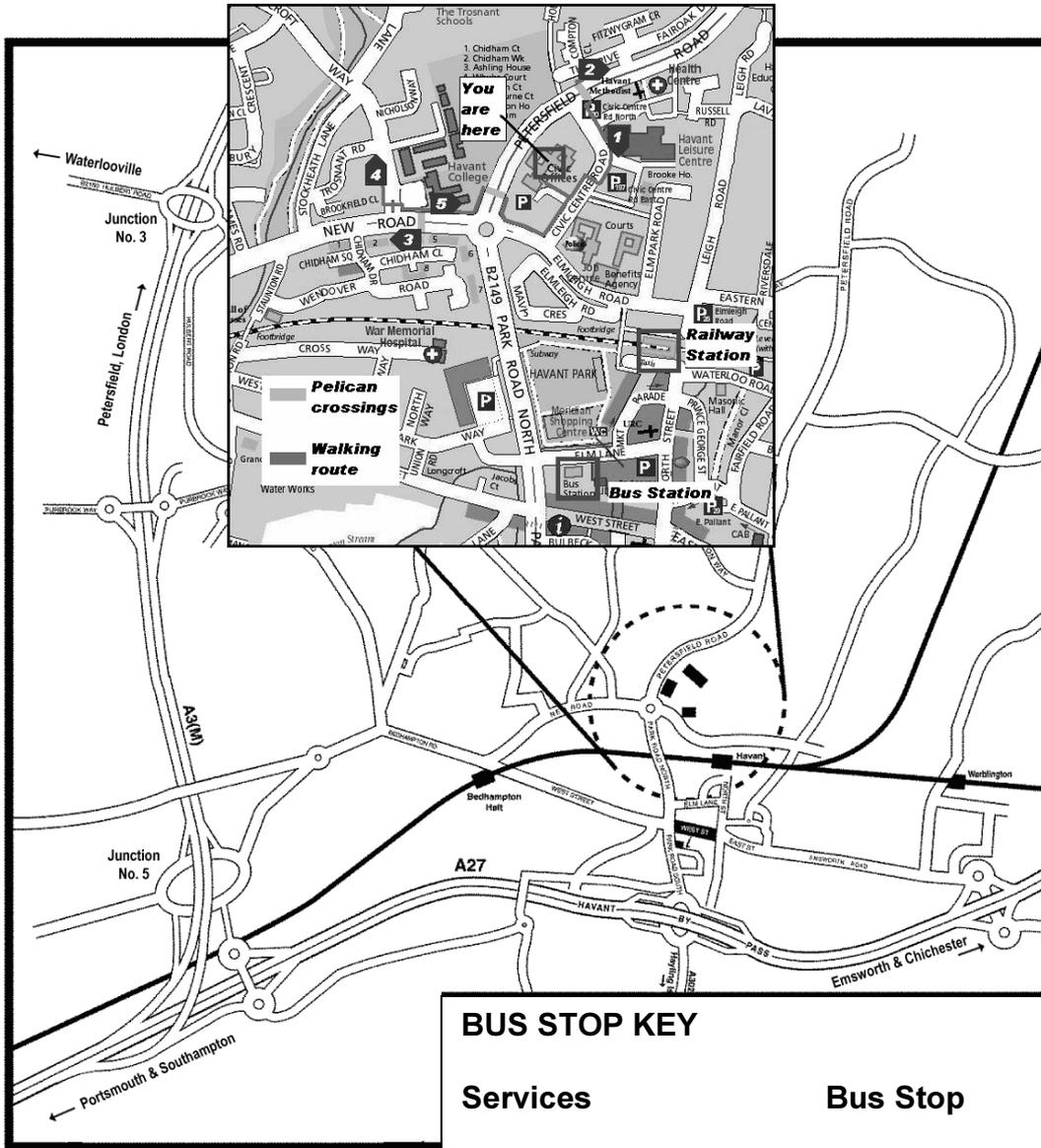
Havant Borough Council
Isle of Wight Council
New Forest District Council
Poole Borough Council
Portsmouth City Council
West Dorset District Council
Worthing Borough Council

Associate Members

Beaulieu Manor Estate
Chichester Harbour Conservancy
The Crown Estate
Dorset County Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
English Heritage
Isle of Wight AONB Partnership

Natural England
Purbeck District Council
Southampton City Council
Weymouth and Portland Borough
Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners

- 6 Report on the visit to Wallingford to view physical modelling of bi-modal waves by Sam Cope
- 7 Update on the Chairmanship of the Southern Coastal Group (Neil Watson)
- 8 National and regional issues from Coastal Group Chairs (Paper D) **15 - 20**
- 9 Invoicing for membership 2014/15 (Paper E) **21 - 22**
- 10 Overview of last winter's coastal flooding and erosion events - actions, lessons learned and implications (Round table discussion led by Neil Watson)
- 11 AOB and dates of next meetings



BUS STOP KEY

Services	Bus Stop
20, 21, 39, 63	1
20, 21, 36**, 39	2
23, 36**	3
23, 27**, 37	4
23, 27**, 36**, 37	5

** - also stops "hail and ride" opposite Stop 1 in Civic Centre Road



Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Public Service Plaza
Civic Centre Road
Havant
Hampshire PO9 2AX

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Agenda Item 1

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC) held in Hurstwood Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AX on 11 April 2014 commencing at 10.15 am

Present: A list of those present is appended to these minutes

10 Minutes

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 17 December 2014 be approved.

11 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Lisher, Jenny Jakeways, Lyall Cairns, Mike Goater, Uwe Dornbusch and Councillors D smith, J Branson, T Knight, N Cake, L Dedman, X Dion, J smith.

12 Research Programme - report from Sam Cope (Paper B)

Websites

Channel Coastal Observatory and Vivid Websites to continue website maintenance for 2014/2015 at a cost of £3,000, this was agreed by members of the SCG meeting 14 March 2014.

Minor fund projects 2013-2015

- University of Southampton coastal sediment budget project

The University of Southampton sediment budget project would investigate the sediment pathways around Poole and Christchurch Bays. Onshore and offshore sediment samples would be taken for sediment grain-size trend analysis and mineralogy analysis to identify transport directions and sources. A SCOPAC contribution would be used to fund 5 man days on boat to collect sediment samples.

- Channel Coastal Observatory Seabed mapping project

The Channel Coastal Observatory were seabed mapping a 30 km² block from the East Solent 2013 swath bathymetry and backscatter data.

- Sediment Transport Study.

An update was given regarding the Sediment Transport Study (STS) outlining progress and future steps. Progress to date included; a Literature review undertaken for Christchurch Bay and the West Solent, a Contract set up with Dave Carter to work on literature review, Reproduction of maps and a Christchurch Bay pilot for sediment budget analysis. Future steps included;

continuing with the literature review and to compare outputs of sediment budget analysis example with South-east Beach management plan.

- Waves Project

The MTP waves project was due to start last year but the test facility had not been available. The study that occupied the test facility had reached completion and the MTP waves project could progress. The purpose of the study was to recreate the conditions of the storms in the recent adverse weather. At the time the bed moulding of the research facility was somewhat similar to that of Chesil beach so that would be the first site tested. The test would begin in the new financial year and last approximately 6 months.

Maintenance of Timber Groynes

The manual was in a draft stage. It was outlined that the purpose of the project was to provide an outline of successful and unsuccessful maintenance experiences and discuss common problems with timber Groynes such as abrasions and gribble worm. There had been input from engineers to discuss proper maintenance and succession planning for the future.

Poole Nearshore Replenishment Trials

David Robson from the Borough of Poole gave a brief update on the Poole Nearshore Replenishment Trials. Unfortunately the trial wasn't able to attract the MMO license, however have to trying to gather all the information necessary to meet the licensing conditions. The problems with the conditions included the positions of fisheries and cuttlefish traps which would have potentially caused damage to any dredging equipment.

13 Presentation: Sediment Sinks and Stores project: (Claire Wilkinson and Sam Cope)

Claire Wilkinson provided the group with an in-depth overview of the Sediment Stores and Sinks project and the progress that had been made. The presentation provided details of Beach Stores, Ebb Tidal Deltas, Landward Sinks and Offshore Shoals.

It was outlined that the primary aim of the project was to identify sediment stores & sinks across the SCOPAC region for future beach recycling operations and to save costs by using locally sourced material for beach management activities.

The chairman thanked Claire Wilkinson and Samantha Cope for the interesting and informative update.

14 Summer field visit - Medmerry (Sam Cope)

Samantha Cope advised members that an invite had been circulated for the forthcoming SCOPAC field visit to Medmerry. The trip would commence in the morning and finish in the afternoon and involve talks at Bunn Leisure, walking on the beach for up to an hour and lunch. Please register by sending an email to samantha.cope@noc.soton.ac.uk

15 Report of the Chairman of the southern coastal group (Paper C)

Andy Bradbury, Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group, provided his report to members containing details of the following:

- National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes.

Further storm events since the last SCOPAC meeting have provided the opportunity to demonstrate the value to all operating authority partners of the regional coastal monitoring programme. A systematic approach to review of the programme content is under way for all regions. Andy Bradbury was looking at ways to reduce the costing and content of the of the next phase of programme. The review will also consider the value of the monitoring for assessing storm damage and will be used to plan for modifications to the MTP.

- Reporting to county recovery coordination group

Following the stormy winter, recovery groups have been established by some of the lead local flood authorities. This has drawn on the data submitted by local authorities to the EA and the regional coastal monitoring programme.

- EA recovery programme

The Environment Agency would establish a recovery programme project board. The board would deal specifically with additional funding made available for expenditure on urgent works required to restore the system to a similar standard of service to that prior to the past winter. Andrew Bradbury agreed to act as a local authority representative on the project board, on behalf of the regional coastal chairmen and asked member for any recommendations.

- National reporting of state of defences

The Environment Agency had been tasked by Government to report on the State of the Nation's Flood Risk though any inspections will not include coast protection assets. The aim was to get a record of how much of the length of the coastline was damaged and to what state. Brian Curtis would be coordinating a smaller assessment with coastal engineers. Andy Bradbury asked members to engage with the assessment and participate fully.

- Emergency FDGIA funding following winter storms – procedures and funding availability

It was advised that all authorities had been given the opportunity to apply for additional funding through the FDGIA and that applications could no longer be made for further funding if they had not been submitted.

The Chairman provided an overview of the draft budget 2014/15 for the Southern Coastal Group. The budget remained in most part the same as the 2013/14 budget. There were changes in regard to Artwork & Graphics and SCOPAC Field Meetings. During 2013/14 less money had been spent on artwork and graphics so the chair had allocated extra funds for potential field visits. Members considered approval of the budget proposed by Councillor H Mason and seconded by Councillor K Smith.

RESOLVED that:

The members approve the draft budget for 2014/15.

17 Overview of recent coastal flooding and erosion events since January- actions, lessons learned and implications (general discussion led by Andy Bradbury, Neil Watson)

The Chairman invited members to advise the group on the problems that had occurred from recent adverse weather conditions. Members from each authority in the SCOPAC area gave an outline of the problems faced and implications these problems had caused. The majority of local authorities had found extensive damage to their area and were undertaking repair works to rectify the damage. Members reported that since January, where mostly beach loss had been noticed, structural damage had been shown.

The chairman thanked members for their contributions.

18 AOB and dates of next meetings

The chairman advised members of the dates of the next SCG and SCOPAC meetings.

The meeting commenced at 10.15 and concluded at 12.17

STANDING CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

11 APRIL 2014 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Councillor Mary Penfold – Chairman of SCOPAC
Andy Bradbury– Chairman of Southern Coastal Group
Mr Bryan Curtis, Worthing Borough Council
Mr Steve Woolard, Christchurch Borough Council
Councillor H Mason, Portsmouth City Council
Councillor Ian Roebuck, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Mr Matt Hosey, Portsmouth City Council
Mr Gordon Wilkinson, Eastleigh Borough Council
Councillor J C P Connor, Chichester District Council
Dr David Harlow, Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr Samantha Cope, New Forest District Council
Honorary Freeman Cllr John Lofts, Christchurch Borough Council
Mr Peter Marsden, Isle of Wight Council
Mr Ben Murray, West Dorset District Council
Councillor Keith Evans, Fareham Borough Council
Mr David Robson, Poole Borough Council
Mr Will Shields, Westminster Dredging
Mr Neil Watson, Environment Agency
Councillor Tony Swain, New Forest District Council
Dr Ken Buchan, Dorset County Council
Councillor Phil Jordan, Isle of Wight Council
Councillor Kenneth Smith, Havant Borough Council (Guest)
Councillor Victor Pierce Jones, Havant Borough Council (Guest)

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Professor Andrew P Bradbury

Our Coastal Group Chairman Andy Bradbury died suddenly on 6 August 2014, having been taken ill whilst returning from a visit to HR Wallingford. He had been at Wallingford to view the physical modelling tests he had inspired to assess the impact of bimodal waves on shingle beaches.

He was a very significant figure in the world of coastal engineering. As well as Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group and lead advisor to the Chairman of SCOPAC, he was also Director of the Channel Coastal Observatory based at the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton, Visiting Professor in Engineering and Environment at University of Southampton, and Head of the Coastal Team at New Forest District Council.

Andy was also influential at a national level serving on the Institution of Engineers Coastal Engineering Advisory Panel and as a member of numerous National Steering Groups and project boards, including the UK Coastal Monitoring and Forecasting, and the Environment Agency's Theme Advisory Group on Coastal Research, Development and Dissemination.

In February this year Andy presented the prestigious Institution of Civil Engineers Vernon Harcourt Lecture in a bid to share his enthusiasm and knowledge for the coast and the value of long term monitoring that he was so committed to. He was also a driving force in developing the next generation of coastal engineers and was generous with his advice to young researchers. It is hoped that his philosophy of sharing knowledge to stimulate and inspire will continue.

It was Andy's foresight and vision that led to the development of a co-ordinated and consistent regional approach for coastal monitoring and data collection for the Southeast of England. He established the Channel Coastal Observatory to deliver this Defra-funded programme and was instrumental in the development of the national network of regional coastal monitoring programmes; he also led the way in the drive to make such data freely available.

Andy graduated from Southampton University in Geology in 1981, and joined Hydraulics Research at Wallingford as Scientific Officer where he worked on the performance of seawalls, breakwaters, sea defence and coastal protection schemes. He designed, executed and reported a range of site specific and general strategic research studies. Andy was able to utilise his geological skills to the selection of rock materials for UK coastal schemes, then research on rock quality. He helped supervise research on rock degradation at Queen Mary College that later formed significant parts of the future CIRIA / CUR Rock Manual.

In 1988, Andy moved on to New Forest District Council as an Assistant Engineer in Coast Protection where he applied many of the skills he had learnt at Wallingford. In 1990 he registered to study part-time for a PhD at Southampton University, on the response of shingle barrier beaches to extreme hydrodynamic conditions, which he completed in 1998.

Through the early 1990's Andy designed the Hurst Spit Stabilisation Scheme. He was the driving force behind this scheme and was instrumental in New Forest District Council being the first local authority to obtain its own dredging licence to enable the replenishment works to be undertaken. This £6m scheme was delivered in 1996 and won the Institution of Civil Engineers Merit Award in 1997. The scheme has continued successfully to provide protection to the Western Solent since its completion.

Andy's insight, technical knowledge, enthusiasm and expertise will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues and by the coastal engineering profession as a whole.

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PAPER C

Purpose : For Discussion

Committee: **SCOPAC**

Date: **OCTOBER 2014**

Title : **RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCOPAC RESEARCH SUB-GROUP

1 CURRENT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

1.1 EVOLUTION OF COASTAL SEDIMENT STORES AND SINKS STUDY

Channel Coastal Observatory £25,000 (2011-2014)

The primary aim of the project was to identify sediment stores and sinks across the SCOPAC region for future recycling operations. There are large cost savings to be had by using locally sourced material for beach replenishment and recycling schemes.

A presentation was given at the last SCOPAC meeting by Clare Wilkinson from the Channel Coastal Observatory. The presentation, report and figures can be downloaded from <http://www.scopac.org.uk/sediment-sinks.html>.

Recommendation: For information

1.2 SCOPAC MINOR PROJECTS FUND (2013/2014 AND 2014/2015)

Following the Southern Coastal Group meeting in July 2013 it was agreed the following two Minor Projects would be funded for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

University of Southampton - Coastal sediment budget project

Minor contribution of £4,000

The University of Southampton was awarded £4,000 as a contribution towards a project which will quantify and analyse the relative contributions and movement of sediment within Poole and Christchurch Bays.

The proposal is for approximately 90 sediment samples to be collected and grain size trend analysis and mineralogy analysis to be undertaken. The investigations will focus on the Dolphin Bank and Dolphin Sand. The fieldwork commenced on the 2nd and 3rd of October 2014. This, along with analysis of Regional Coastal Monitoring data will identify sediment transport directions and sources around Poole and Christchurch Bays which will inform the update of the Sediment Transport Study.

Recommendation: For information

Channel Coastal Observatory – Seabed mapping project

Minor contribution up to £4,000

The Channel Coastal Observatory was awarded £4,000 as a contribution towards seabed mapping a 40km² block of the 2013 East Solent swath bathymetry.

Initial analysis of the mapping at Bracklesham Bay indicates a variety of sediment textures, from bedrock, thin veneer of sediment, significant sediment deposits and mobile bedforms.

Additional external funding from other sources is being explored, with discussions ongoing with local, regional and national organisations and departments.

The 40km² mapping will be completed by autumn 2014. The outputs will feed directly into the update of the Sediment Transport Study.

Recommendation: For information

1.3 UPDATE OF THE SCOPAC SEDIMENT TRANSPORT STUDY

Channel Coastal Observatory £150,000 (2013-2016) – funded by the Environment Agency with contributions from SCOPAC

The SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study (2004) is being updated by the Channel Coastal Observatory (<http://www.scopac.org.uk/sediment-transport-update.html>). The last update was undertaken in 2004 by the original authors, Dr Malcolm Bray, Dave Carter and Prof Janet Hooke. Since 2004 a wealth of data has been collected by the South-east and South-west Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes. This data, along with new literature is being incorporated into the update.

Progress to date:

- Literature review undertaken for the following units:
 - Start Point to Berry Head
 - Berry Head to Hope's Nose
 - Hope's Nose to Holcombe
 - Holcombe to Straight Point
 - Straight Point to Otterton Ledge
 - Otterton Ledge to Beer Head
 - Beer Head to Lyme Regis
 - Lyme Regis to West Bay
 - West Bay to Portland Bill
 - Isle of Portland to Weymouth Bay
 - Durlston Head to Handfast Point
 - Handfast Point to South Haven Point
 - Christchurch Bay
 - North-west Isle of Wight
 - North-east Isle of Wight
 - South and east Isle of Wight
- Original maps reproduced in GIS
- Wave roses mapped

The project is currently:

- Literature reviewing the remainder of the units
- Applying the sediment budget analysis equation
- Scoping application of Quantitative Bedform Analysis for swath bathymetry data

Recommendation: For information

1.4 REDUCING REGIONAL FLOOD AND EROSION RISK FROM WAVE ACTION ON THE CHANNEL COAST PROJECT

Channel Coastal Observatory £250,000 (2014-2017) – funded by the Environment Agency with contributions from SCOPAC

A region-wide assessment to examine the impacts of combined swell and storm (bimodal) waves on the shingle beaches of the SCOPAC region is being undertaken by the Channel Coastal Observatory. The three year study is investigating improvements to definition of standards of service for coastal schemes, improved flood forecasting, and improved definition of design wave conditions.

The test facility at HR Wallingford is being used to undertake the modelling. Initial tests on a standard beach profile have been completed, demonstrating a correlation between an increase in the storm berm elevation and landward migration of the storm berm with increasing swell. Site specific modelling has been completed for Hurst Spit and Chesil Beach, whereby actual storm events were tested on a measured profile. Hayling Island is the last case study to undergo site specific storm modelling.

Recommendation: For information

1.5 SOUTHERN COASTAL GROUP WORKSHOP

At the last Southern Coastal Group meeting in September, it was agreed that the next workshop topic in the series, “A problem Shared” will be on *Incident Management*.

The aim of the workshop series is to share best practice and to assist operating authorities with basic skills development. The workshop will take place in January or February 2015.

Recommendation: For information

1.6 MONITORING OF POOLE NEARSHORE REPLENISHMENT TRIALS

Channel Coastal Observatory £15,000 from SCOPAC and £60,000 from EA R+D fund

SCOPAC are contributing £15,000 towards the monitoring of a trial which aims to place sand on the seabed and allow natural processes to push it onshore to replenish the beaches in Poole Bay.

Poole Harbour Commissioners will provide the sand from maintenance dredging of Poole Harbour entrance, thereby recycling the sand back into the system, rather than dumping it offshore.

The Sand Motor (or Sand Engine) concept has been widely used in the Netherlands since the 1990's given that it is cheaper and less intrusive compared with traditional beach renourishment approaches. The works at Poole Bay will be of national importance given the Sand Motor concept has never been trialled on beaches in the United Kingdom.

The project is likely to commence in February or March 2015 and will involve the Borough of Poole working in partnership with Poole Harbour Commissioners, the Environment Agency, University of Southampton and the Channel Coast Observatory. The monitoring specification is currently being refined.

Funding will be provided by:

- Environment Agency: £130,000 for the placing of sand on the seabed
- Environment Agency Research & Development Fund: £60,000 for monitoring
- SCOPAC: a further £15,000 towards monitoring costs

Recommendation: For information

1.7 MAINTENANCE OF COASTAL STRUCTURES. PHASE 1: TIMBER GROYNES

Professor Andy Bradbury/New Forest District Council

Timber groynes are widely used across the SCOPAC region and have been for many years at some locations. Some operating authorities report that maintenance of these structures occupies a significant proportion of their revenue coast protection expenditure, on an annual basis whilst others carry out minimal maintenance.

Although the initial design of groynes is provided in industry standard publications, maintenance merits minimal discussion and practical issues are never addressed. The SCOPAC study on Maintenance of Timber Groynes seeks to cover this gap.

This project was being undertaken by Professor Andy Bradbury. New Forest District Council will scope the remainder of the work to be undertaken.

Recommendation: For information

2. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL NEW RESEARCH

The following programme of work was extracted from the Southern Coastal Group Business Plan (2009) as a reminder of the priorities for research approved by SCOPAC at its meeting on 15th February 2008, Item 28 (ii). The list of prioritised work was formalised following a 'Research Review' and is dependent on available funding.

Completion of the following projects will be dependent on future funding availability.

2.1 NEW RESEARCH

- Saltmarsh evolution study: CCO - £15,000 (**Year 1**), £10,000 (**Year 2**).
- Validation of new Met office wave data: CCO/Southampton University £15,000 (**Year 1**), £10,000 (**Year 2**).
- Climate change local scenarios study: External consultants £35,000 (**Year 1**), £35,000 (**Year 2**).
- Design guidance for mixed beaches - £30,000 (**Year 1**), £30,000 (**Year 2**).

Contact: **Dr Samantha Cope** (Chairperson of the Research Sub-Group), Channel Coastal Observatory, Samantha.cope@noc.soton.ac.uk, tel 02380 598469

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Update Note

National FCERM Report for England

The Environment Agency is required, under section 18 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the National FCERM Strategy, to report to Ministers on flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. Preparation of the 2013-14 report is being supported by contributions from across the risk management authorities and other partners, including LLFAs, ADA and IDBs, water and sewerage companies, the Highways Agency and the National Trust. We are very grateful to these and other partners for their time and effort in supporting this project. We expect to publish the report this summer, subject to ministerial approval.

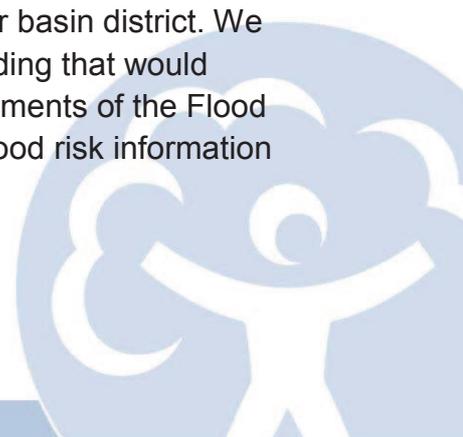
Flood Risk Regulations – Flood Risk Management Plans

Together with Defra, Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales the Environment Agency has developed joint [guidance](#) on Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for Lead Local Flood Authorities in England and Wales. This guidance was published on 1 May. [Scoping reports](#) which set out what the plans will cover for each river basin district were also published in July 2014.

We are working closely with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) programme to coordinate River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans. We are planning to consult on both the first cycle of FRMPs and the second cycle of RBMPs this autumn. We have decided to delay the start of the consultations on the draft flood risk management plans (FRMPs) and updated draft river basin management plans (RBMPs) until slightly later in the autumn to allow us to review, upload and test the 500+ supporting documents and files. We have not taken this decision lightly, but ultimately we want to ensure stakeholders have access to the best possible information to help them respond. We are also coordinating with SEPA in Scotland and NRW in Wales to maintain consistent engagement with cross-border stakeholders.

Flood Risk Regulations – Publishing flood risk information

In December 2013 the Environment Agency published new and updated flood maps on its website showing the risk of flooding from rivers and sea, surface water, and reservoirs. We also published flood risk summary maps for each river basin district. We have recently published information on the depth and velocity of flooding that would result from reservoir failure. These maps ensure we meet the requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations, and more importantly, provide the best available flood risk information to the public.



In summary the maps show that around 5 million properties are at risk of flooding in England, 2.4 million from rivers and sea and 3 million properties from surface water flooding. Some properties are at risk from both types of flooding. The maps have already been used in earnest. We had on average around 4,000 new visitors to our website and the interactive flood maps around the launch in December. During the Christmas and New Year period this peaked at over 21,000 new visitors per day.

Since publication we have been gathering feedback. We will continue to review these maps as part of our ongoing work to improve how we communicate flood risk, and as part of the ongoing planning cycle required under the Flood Risk Regulations. Our [maps](#) are now accessible from our new Gov.UK website.

FCRM Investment Programme (6 year capital programme)

Needs based capital programme submissions have been received and area teams have carried out quality assurance checks prior to submission to the Environment Agency's National Capital Allocation Team. The indicative six year investment programme is being constructed. There will then be a further packaging opportunity review, local choices and internal approvals prior to sharing with RFCCs. The indicative programme will be prioritised following the existing principles agreed with RFCCs and the Environment Agency Board.

Long Term Investment Strategy

The Environment Agency is drafting the revised Long Term Investment Strategy to share with Defra in the summer. We will then undertake a programme of peer review and engagement with stakeholders in preparation for publication in the autumn. In presenting the Long Term Investment Strategy alongside the six year programme, we will demonstrate the progress that investment decisions being made now will make, and highlight the decisions still to be taken for the longer term.

Updates to the National Coastal Erosion Maps

The National Coastal Erosion Maps were published for most areas of England and Wales in early 2012, but there are still some parts of England (particularly the east coast) which remain unpublished. This was initially due to delays to the approval of the North Norfolk Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and a desire by local authorities in neighbouring SMPs to publish together as a unit upon approval. Subsequently, data queries in one or two areas have prevented publication.

There is now a rolling programme of updates to the erosion information programmed in for the next four years, starting 2014-15. The first and third years will be more comprehensive data updates, with the second and fourth being more 'light touch' reviews focussing on high level changes such as to SMP policies or dramatic changes in coastal baseline.

The Environment Agency will manage this process via the Coastal Groups. It will include an invitation for updates from local authorities followed by incorporation into the underlying Risk Assessment of Coastal Erosion (RACE) model and data validation along similar principles as used in the initial project.

Flood Identity

In November 2013 the Environment Agency released a new standalone flood identity. We currently have over 270 people (from over 190 non-commercial organisations) set up with access to the flood identity materials and over 700 items (logos, guidelines and templates) have been downloaded for use.

Flooding and agriculture project

Seven river maintenance pilot areas were set up last autumn to give farmers, landowners, community and environmental groups an opportunity to be involved in decisions around river maintenance in their area. An additional two pilot areas have recently been created which extend the total pilot areas to nine. Due to the winter flooding, all pilots have been extended to March 2015. We are reducing red tape in the pilot areas to make it easier for others to maintain their rivers themselves. The work also includes general watercourse maintenance, strimming of channel sides and weed clearance.

We now have stakeholder groups up and running in all pilots, and all of these groups have met. Stakeholders include, NFU, CLA, Wildlife Trusts, local interest groups, IDB's, RSPB, Angling Representatives, Local Authorities and the landowners and occupiers. There have been a number of landowner meetings, drop in sessions, face-to-face meetings and farm walkovers. We are also making links with the RFCC's and the catchment based approach with the aim to co-ordinate activities over a wider area to manage the whole catchment more sustainably and economically.

Managing Flood Assets – AIMS Update

The Environment Agency launched the new Asset Information Management System (AIMS) internally last year. Since then we have been working to provide secure access those Internal Drainage Boards and Lead Local Flood Authorities who want to use AIMS. Our intention had been to make AIMS available to external users via the Government Gateway. As this gateway is no longer being used we are considering other options to make AIMS available to external organisations.

At the Defra Capacity Building Workshops in 2013, a large majority of organisations indicated that they did not intend to use AIMS as their core asset database. Instead, many expressed a wish to use AIMS just to view Environment Agency asset data, and the asset data of other organisations. We intend to work with partner organisations to better understand this requirement and explore whether this can be met in other ways.

Integrated Environment Programme

A new programme is being established to help achieve a wide range of environmental outcomes. The Integrated Environment Programme (IEP) will ensure we achieve high quality environmental outcomes in a timely and most cost effective way. We need to achieve more (multiple) outcomes with every project. We need to work more with natural processes at a catchment scale so that flood risk management is more sustainable and resilient in the longer term.

The IEP will be underpinned by clearly defined environmental outcomes set out through national outcome measures and through the FCRM Grant in Aid allocation process. We will co-ordinate and where possible integrate with activities of other Environment Agency functions, risk management authorities and partners.

The IEP is all about achieving more effective and efficient delivery by reducing duplication of effort, identifying and acting on synergies and integrating flood risk and water management environmental outcomes as far as possible. The IEP will help us plan how we will achieve environmental outcomes during the 2015 to 2021 settlement period and to submit a costed plan of environmental works to Government by the autumn statement 2014.

Environment Agency Organisational Change

The Environment Agency is currently going through an internal reorganisation in order to become more streamlined and efficient. From 1 April we have moved from a three tier to two tier business model. We aim to do more things nationally once to improve efficiency whilst retaining our strong engagement with local communities. We have recently confirmed the new senior management level appointments. We will ensure that our frontline incident response is maintained.

Move to Gov.uk

On 1 April the Environment Agency's website moved to Gov.uk. As part of the move we reviewed our content to ensure it meets the needs of our customers. Our new website can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

Environment Agency Corporate Plan

At the end of April the Environment Agency published its corporate plan '[Creating a better place 2014 to 2016](#)'. The plan sets out our priorities and our aims and performance measures for each of our business areas. It also describes how we will work to achieve our ambitions.

Price Review 2014 (PR14) – working with water companies

On 10 March, Ofwat announced their decision on which water companies will pre-qualify for enhanced status on their business plans. They have decided that only two companies have passed their tests for outcomes, costs and affordability, and demonstrated robust water company Board assurance. These are South West Water and Affinity Water and their draft determinations were published on 30 April.

Sixteen other companies did not qualify for enhanced status. They will now need to improve their business plans to deliver the best outcomes for customers. Ofwat have published [guidance and next steps](#) for those companies.

In summary, Ofwat will be working with companies and regulators on draft determinations and refining business plans during the spring and summer. Ofwat will announce final business plan determinations in December 2014. The Environment Agency is working with the companies to ensure sufficient evidence is included in resubmissions to secure environment and flood risk outcomes.

Capacity Building

A Local Authority Capacity Building Advisory Group has been established to represent the wider community of local authority officers on matters related to the capacity, capabilities and skills of officers within Lead Local Flood Authorities and other Risk Management Authorities. The group has formed to follow on from the Defra-led Capacity Building programme to support LLFAs and other RMAs as they fulfil their responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act and the Flood Risk Regulations as well as general duties laid out in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The Advisory Group will act as a forum to present common views, feedback and advice to policy/decision makers in Defra and the Environment Agency, specifically concerning capabilities and skills in the flood and coastal erosion risk management sector.

FCERM Research and Development Programme

The Joint FCERM R&D Programme has recently undergone a refresh in order to better reflect key stakeholders and changes to delivery. Defra and the Environment Agency have been joined on the programme board by Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government, to better reflect Welsh interests. We are now operating with three themes; Policy, Strategy and Investment (PSI), Incident Management and Modelling (IMM) and Asset Management (AM). The three themes have a revised Thematic Advisory Group containing a range of Academics, Consultants and End-Users. The Programme aims to continue to deliver high-quality user-focused research and tools for practitioners. We are also increasingly looking to influence the research expenditure of both Research Councils and the EU to align with the priorities outlined within the Living with Environmental Change (LWEC) FCERM Research Strategy and to ensure alignment between basic science and practical application.

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Membership subscriptions 2014/15

<i>Full Membership</i>	£3,488.13
<i>Associate Membership</i>	£ 436.46
<i>Mailing list</i>	£ 72.75

Full members are entitled to

- Basic administration
- Attendance at coastal group meetings
- All research outputs
- Membership of research subgroup
- Focused research with case studies at full member sites, where appropriate.
- Opportunity to bid for local projects funding (budget £4000 per year)
- Free attendance for members and officers at all workshops, training events and field trips

Associate members are entitled to

- Basic administration
- Attendance at coastal group meetings
- Attendance at workshops, training events and field trips at an additional cost of £100 per person per event
- Access to research outputs at a proportional cost of the research

Mailing list members

- Receive copies of coastal group agendas and minutes
- Attendance at workshops, training events and field trips at an additional cost per person per event to be determined on an event by event basis.

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