



# Beaches At Risk Newsletter



Number 1, August 2005

## Introduction

Welcome to the first of our regular newsletters. The BAR project has been running for more than two years and the work will continue at least until 2007. Phase II, which started in February this year, sees a significant increase in the scale of the project both in terms of planned activities and the number of partner organisations. In the UK we welcome Kent Wildlife Trust who join the University of Sussex and East Sussex County Council. In France we welcome SMACOPI (Syndicat Mixte pour l'Aménagement de la Côte Picarde) who join the Université du Littoral Côte d'Opale, Université de Rouen and the Université de Caen. New match fund partners have also joined the project (for more information please visit the [website](#))

The project team intend that this newsletter will enable you to know more about our work and we will welcome your views on any aspect of the project.

Cherith Moses  
Project Leader

## Biodiversity

Tracey Younghusband has left the BAR project to take up the permanent position of Country Park Ranger at Seven Sisters Country Park. Dr Patrick Fitzsimons has replaced her as the new Biodiversity Officer at East Sussex County Council. He joins us from the University of Sussex and is working on refining the shingle survey protocol trialled in Phase I and expanding surveys to cover the rest of the project area.

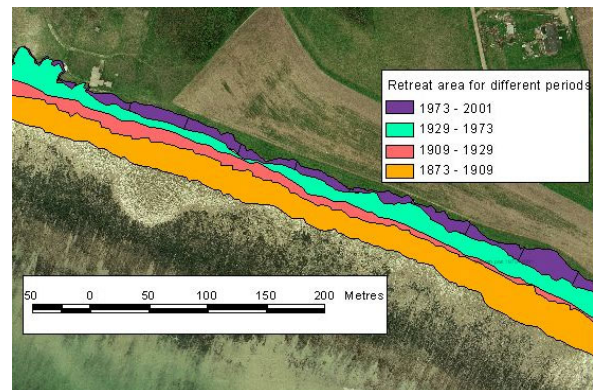
Kent Wildlife Trust, new partners in the project for Phase II, are developing a programme called *Shore Search* that aims to build up a detailed and systematic record of intertidal wildlife, to monitor condition, and to identify any changes that may be occurring. A programme of surveys is already well underway and East Sussex County Council is expanding the surveys into East Sussex.

Phase II also sees the expansion of biodiversity surveys below mean low water.

A programme of training events and survey dives is already underway, being led by East Sussex County Council and Kent Wildlife Trust.

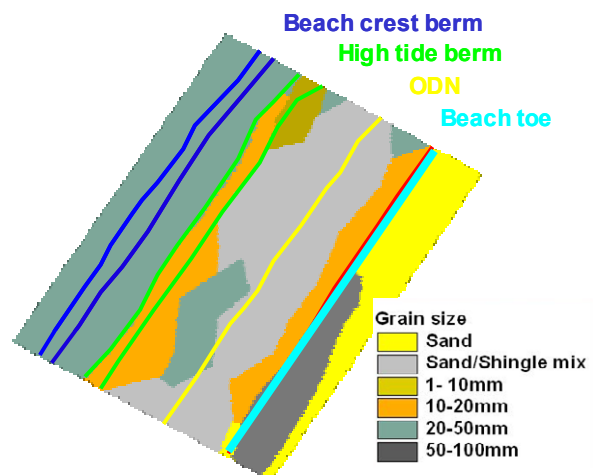
## Geomorphology

Work has started on calculating temporal variations of the cliff retreat rate. First results for the unprotected cliffs between Saltdean and Newhaven show a significant slow down in cliff recession for the period 1973 to 2001 compared to the period 1873 to 1973.



Example of different retreat areas for different periods between Peacehaven and Newhaven.

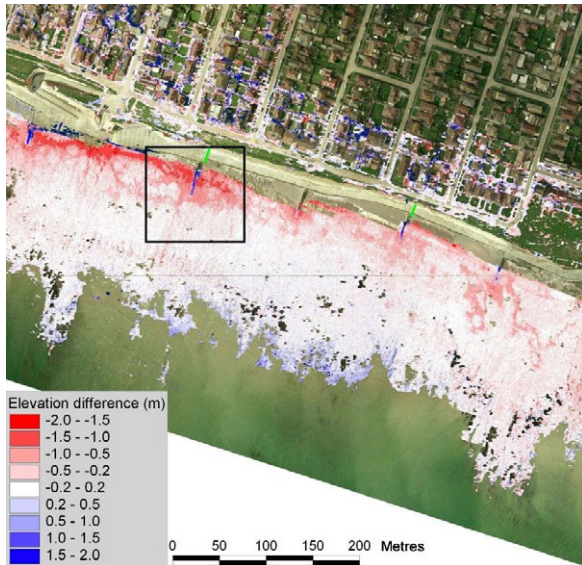
Tamsin Watt has presented a paper on surface beach material change at the Coastal Dynamics Conference in May in Barcelona.



Example map showing sediment grains size and topography near the Sandcastle at Pevensey Bay.

Uwe Dornbusch has presented results on beach sampling at depth at Pevensey at the INQUA conference at the end of June which was partly organised by members of the French BAR team.

Uwe Dornbusch has presented a paper on measuring shore platform erosion using soft copy photogrammetry at the CoastGIS conference at the end of July in Aberdeen.



Example of shore platform erosion between 1973 and 2001 just east of the Bastion Steps, Peasehaven

### French team

Mylène Ruz has co-hosted the INQUA-IGCP 495 Meeting on 'Late quaternary coastal changes: sea level, sedimentary forcing and anthropogenic impacts' at the end of June.

The Université du Littoral has already received applications for a post-doctoral position and appointment will take place as soon as the offer letter for Phase II arrives.

### Public participation

Kate Cole led a guided walk to look at coastal wildlife and at work on the new defences at Bulverhythe as part of East Sussex County Council's *Rye and Countryside Wildlife Weekend* from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

The BAR display was on show at the Newhaven Fish Festival on 28<sup>th</sup> May, manned by Tracey Younghusband and Elinor Low.

*Celebrating the Sussex Coast*, a family event co-organised by the BAR biodiversity team, Sussex Wildlife Trust and the South

Downs Joint Committee promoting coastal biodiversity in the area, was successfully held on 24<sup>th</sup> July, despite bad weather. The BAR interactive display proved popular and Kate Cole gave a live interview on BBC Southern Counties radio.



Kate Cole at the *Celebrating the Sussex Coast* event.

### Project website

The BAR web site has undergone some initial change and we hope to add more results and the reports from Phase I soon.

### Contacts

If you have any queries or would like further information about the Beaches At Risk project, please contact:

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