



Project News

BAR is a showcase project! Out of 200 schemes funded in the Interreg IIIa programme, the project was one of only three selected to be showcased at a recent event in Ashford, Kent, organised by the Interreg IIIa facilitation network. Cherith Moses gave a talk on the project and partnership development to an audience of ~150 French and English delegates. The project also had a stand with leaflets, posters and reports on display. The meeting was hosted by the Directeur Général des Services, Conseil Régional Haute Normandie and the Director of European & Corporate Services at the Government Office of the South East. More details can be found [here](#).

BAR project meeting

The last project meeting took place on the 10th and 11th March in Dunkerque. On day one, six talks were presented by each partner highlighting the aims for Phase II and the work package contents, aimed at informing French representatives. This was followed by ten presentations reporting detailed research results. The second day started with the Vegetation Survey workshop organised by East Sussex County Council which highlighted, in a very hands-on experience, the difficulty of evaluating a shingle beach habitat. There followed – fortunately without any rain – a field visit to the Dune du Perroquet where the management problems in the area were expertly

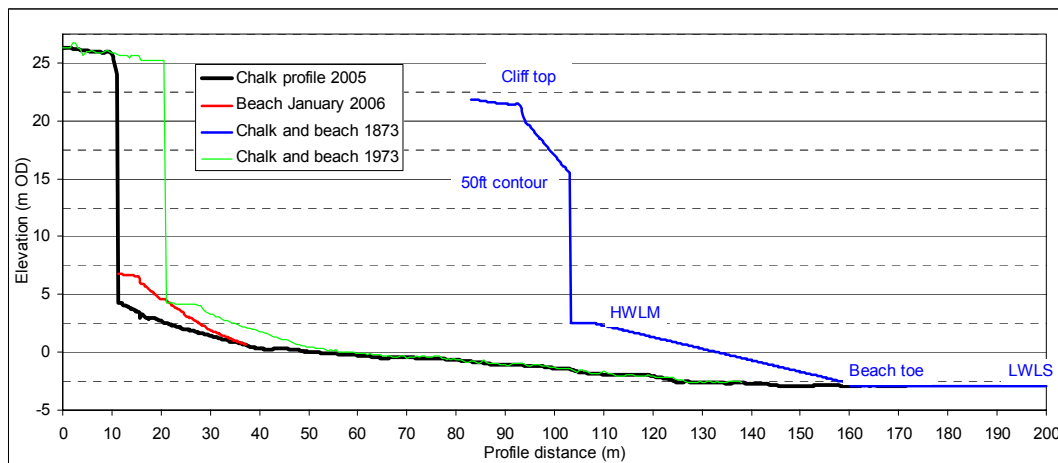
demonstrated by Marie-Hélène Ruz

Geomorphology

English team

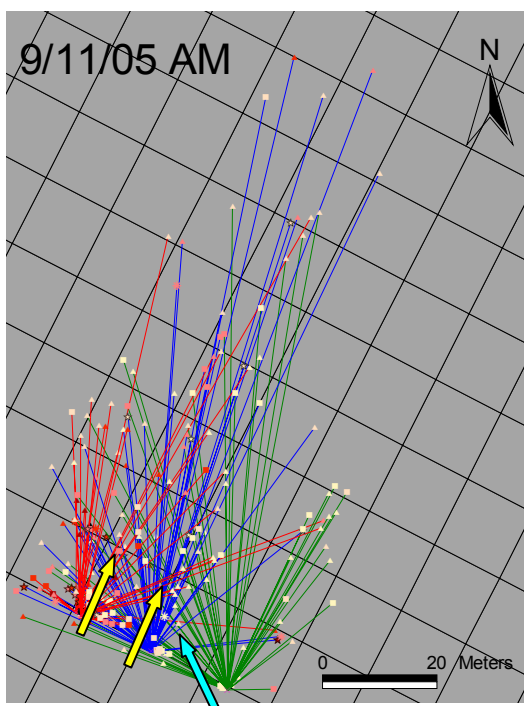
Uwe Dornbusch has finished a detailed analysis of the temporal variation of the rates of retreat of the unprotected cliffs in Sussex. Results indicate that the rate of cliff retreat during the past 30 years has been 25% below the average for the preceding 100 years. A similar pattern is not shown in climate variables and Uwe thinks that the most likely reasons for the decrease are the disappearance of beaches in front of the cliffs and a widening of the chalk platform which is not accompanied by an equivalent lowering. Depending on wave conditions, widening shown in the figure below results in a reduction of wave energy of up to 30% at the beach toe.

Jerome Curoy has presented the first results of his longshore transport experiment at Cayeux in October / November 2005. With nearshore wave heights reaching 2m during the spring tide and the waves approaching at oblique angles from the southwest, changes on the beach were significant. The maximum travel distance recorded over one single tide was 145m. Movement of tracers deployed at different locations across the beach showed different patterns. Tracers placed at the top end of the profile showed a trend of moving towards the lower part of the beach while those from the lower and middle parts move predominantly along the beach.



Changing profiles, 215m to the west of the Birling Gap access steps, showing widening and steepening of the platform together with a reduction in beach width.

Despite the length of the experiment and the environmental conditions Jerome managed to bring 39% of his pebbles back to face the harsh conditions on English beaches.



Example of tracer movement during the experiment at Cayeux from three injection points across the beach (red = beach toe, blue = middle profile, green = upper beach). Grid size 13x13m.

French team

The University of Caen team has started investigating the sediment characteristics of



Example of beach sediments (E. de Saint-Léger)

the mixed shingle beaches in Haute-Normandie focussing on beaches at Quiberville and Pourville. The technique that they are using is very similar to that employed by the University of Sussex team at Pevensey and the results will provide a good comparison of beach materials on both sides of the Channel.

Public Participation

A guided walk to look at shingle flora and fauna in Norman's Bay on 7th May is organised by [Kate Cole](#) as part of ESCC's Wildlife Weekend.

Project website

A list of scientific publications that have been published within the remit of BAR have now been added to website showing the high profile output generated by the group. At the moment there more than ten other publications in press which will be added as soon as they are published. If you have difficulty in getting hold of some of the references please contact one of the authors and they will send you an offprint.

Personnel

Elinor Low's contract as BAR Research Assistant has ended at the end of March and Tamsin Watt's at the end of April. Both are in the final phases of writing up their PhDs and will therefore remain in contact with the BAR team. We wish them all the best of luck for life after BAR.

Contacts

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

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or visit www.geog.sussex.ac.uk/BAR



Dune du Perroquet during the BAR field excursion (Patrick Fitzsimons)