



LGA Coastal Issues SIG Site Visit

On 6 and 7 June, Councillors and Officers from coastal authorities around England and Wales came to East Sussex for the annual field meeting of the Local Government Association (LGA) Coastal Issues Special Interest Group (SIG), hosted by East Sussex County Council. The visit was organised by Alex Tait on behalf of Councillor Roger Thomas, Vice-Chair of the SIG, with the help of Kate Cole and Patrick Fitzsimons. BAR featured strongly during the visit, with a presentation on the project by Cherith Moses, and project staff on hand to answer questions.

As well as the business meeting, there were site visits along the coast to look at a variety of issues ranging from coastal defence strategies at Rye, Fairlight, Pevensey Bay and the Cuckmere to the regeneration of Hastings.

The trip was a great success, with excellent feedback from all who attended. The Chairman of the SIG, Councillor Godfrey Allanson of Scarborough Borough Council, said "Judging by the comments I received from members it was definitely one of the best conferences and field visits that we have had".

Biodiversity

Patrick is testing the vegetated shingle survey method that ESCC has developed. The method involves systematically searching for a set of about 40 species, looking for various features and estimating a range of measures on shingle beaches. The method is designed to be easy to apply by anyone after a basic training and Patrick has been training volunteers at a number of locations in the BAR area. Everyone seems to be enjoying the experience and coming back for more; highlights have included finding Toadflax Brocade Moth caterpillars and Red Hemp-nettle, both SAP species.



Inspecting the cliff slump at Fairlight. © Alex Tait.



Volunteers at Pevensey Bay. © Alex Tait.



Discussing shingle beach management at Pevensey Bay. Note the difference in site safety at the two sites. © Alex Tait.

Patrick is going to France at the end of July to test the method on the shingle around the Baie de Somme.

Geomorphology

French team

Sylvain Chaverot has completed his PhD thesis with the title "Impact des variations récentes des conditions météo-marines sur les littoraux meubles du Nord-Pas-de-Calais" on May 24th, 2006 at Dunkirk. An abstract in English can be found on the publications page of the BAR website.

The French PhD students Jimmy Bertier, Mouncef Sedrati, Arnaud Oblinger all presented posters at the Spring University «Dynamiques et représentations du littoral» organized by the "Réseau des Universités de l'Ouest Atlantique" - April, 24-28, 2006 at Saint-Nazaire.

Mouncef Sedrati also went to the British Geomorphological Research Group meeting in Loughborough from 28th to 30th June to present two posters on the dynamics of intertidal bars on the French coast and met up with Uwe Dornbusch who gave a talk on re-evaluating evidence for intertidal shortening along the Southeast coast of England.

English team

Jerome Curoy has carried out his second longshore transport experiment at Birling Gap between 21st and 23rd of May. One surprise find on the first day of the experiment, when installing the pebble columns, was that one column from the previous experiment at the end of March 2006 was still in place ~15cm below the surface, indicating that over the period of

over 2 months little change has occurred on the upper part of the beach. The graph below shows an example of the profile changes observed during the experiment carried out at Cayeux in October 2005 (see newsletter No 5). Profile changes and depth of disturbance occurred in response to nearshore waves of 0.6 m height approaching the beach at an oblique angle of ~20°.

BAR workshops

The UK team is organising a two-day workshop to be held at the University of Sussex on the 21st and 22nd September 2006. The first day will be concerned with 'Shingle beach characteristics' and the second day will centre around 'Beach volume management'. There will be a field trip on each day. If you have not yet received an invitation and would like to know more please contact Uwe [Dornbusch](mailto:Uwe.Dornbusch@sussex.ac.uk)

Contacts

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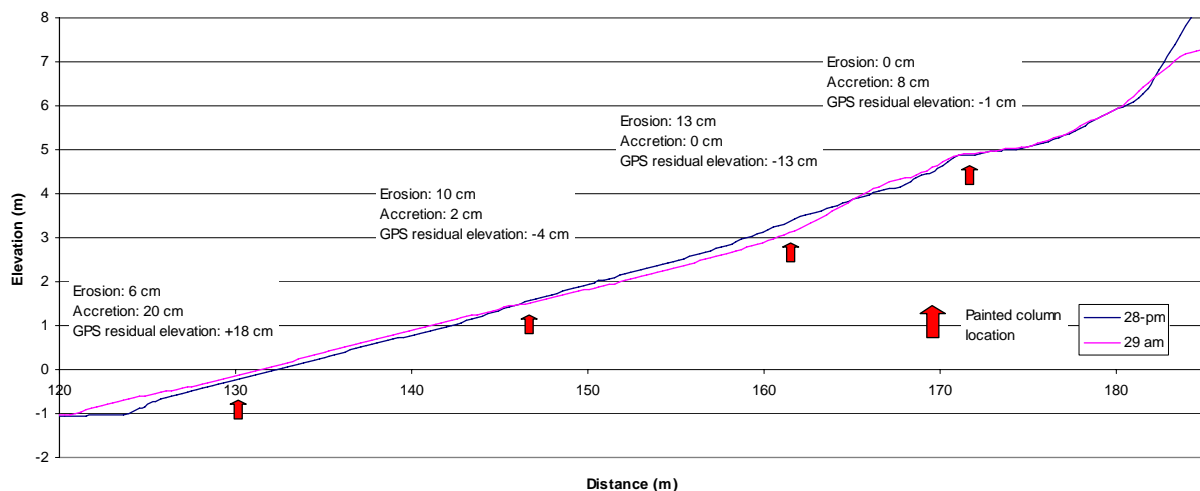
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Example of topographic change and depth of disturbance during the high tide between the 28th and 29th October. Data from the depth of disturbance columns show some discrepancy with the surface survey data but also illustrate, for example for the column at the beach toe, that the surface elevation change only records the accumulation and not the preceding erosion.