



Figure 1: Management Unit 5E (Northern Sea Wall)

 Blue: Recycling Extraction Point
 Red: Recycling Deposition Area

The 5km frontage comprises a managed beach, with rock groynes spaced 150m apart. A small section of rock armour protects the Reculver Towers monument. A seawall backs the shingle beach with the exception of the Wantsum Delta and St. Augustine's Bank, where the wall is set back encompassing two saline lagoons. Shingle ridges prevent inundation and excessive overtopping, maintaining the defence line. The seawall is predominantly backed by sparsely developed low lying land, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation, a Special Protection Area, a RAMSAR site and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The far east of the section is also a Special Marine Area. Under rising sea levels and a limited supply of contemporary beach building sediment, it is anticipated that it will become increasingly difficult to maintain a beach along this frontage. If the current alignment were to be held in the long-term, coastal squeeze together with a diminished natural sediment supply would lead to substantial hard defences and/or significant beach management.

The short term plan is to continue protecting the assets, although it is imperative that a more sustainable approach to the intensive beach maintenance at Coldharbour is sought at the earliest opportunity. In the medium and long term the plan is to realign the defences east of Reculver Towers (Reculver Towers will continue to be defended), allowing the shoreline to retreat in a controlled manner under a policy of managed realignment. This will create a coast that will not require ever increasing expenditure to maintain in the coming centuries, negate the effects of coastal squeeze and create important brackish and saline habitats. It is anticipated that realignment along this stretch of the coast would involve the construction of secondary defences, to eliminate/reduce the risk of large scale flooding. Without defences, there would be significant flooding to the backing hinterland and therefore defences are required. No specific realignment 'line' has been defined but a maximum extent has been identified.

Recycling activity is regular within this management unit, partly due to its orientation and the effects from the North Sea. The last capital beach nourishment scheme occurred in 1996 when 110,000m³ of shingle was added to the beach. Since then, the only active intervention has been a series of recycling schemes, predominantly to help maintain the shingle ridges in front of the saline lagoons. In addition to this, a small volume of shingle was recovered from Minnis Bay.

Survey Regime

Survey type	Frequency	Profile spacing/survey extent
Topographic baseline	Annual	50m to MLWS
Topographic interim profile	Spring and Autumn	150m to MLWS
Bathymetry	5 years	50m profiles to 1km offshore
Ortho-photography	5 years	MLW
Aerial photography	Ceased in 2008	MLW
Lidar	Rolling Programme	MLW
Habitat Mapping	5 Years	As Required

Full details of data availability and extents can be found on the Channel Coast Observatory Website (www.channelcoast.org)

Summary of Beach Operations

Date	Operation	Quantity (m ³)	Location/Notes
2008			
25/04/2008	Programmed Maintenance	5,680	Deposited between Profile 4a01283 and 4a01263
March	Programmed Maintenance	5,680	Extracted between Profile 4a01228 and 4a01235
March	Programmed Maintenance	5,680	Deposited between Profile 4a01184 and 4a01196
2006			
13/03/2006	Programmed Maintenance	3,192	Deposited between profile 4a01284 and 4a01288
13/03/2006	Programmed Maintenance	3,192	Extracted between profile 4a01394 and 4a01298
2005			
March	Programmed Maintenance	unknown	Deposited between profile 4a01243 and 4a01250
2004			
October	Programmed Maintenance	unknown	Deposited at Coldharbour outfall

Full details of beach operations can be obtained from Canterbury City Council (strategic.monitoring@canterbury.gov.uk)