

SMP Policy Unit: 4d-MU18A

Survey Unit: 4dSU03

Cuckmere Haven (East) to Birling Gap

Topographic Beach Profiles 4d00023 – 4d00055



Summary

The south-southwest facing Cuckmere Haven to Birling Gap frontage is internationally renowned for its unusual coastal morphology known as the 'Seven Sisters'. The chalk cliff top has several prominent erosional channels, spaced at between 300m and 600m, giving rise to the seven distinct peaks.

The face of the cliff in the western half is characterised by a curious undulating erosional pattern, with regularly spaced cusp-shaped embayments each between 30m to 50m in width. Small amounts of shingle are retained by the larger of the embayments, with rock fall debris common on the more overhanging sections of cliff. The entire stretch is a natural habitat, with no man-made structures either on the cliff top or on the foreshore rock platform.

Survey Regime

Survey type	Frequency	Survey extent
<i>Topographic baseline</i>	5 years	MLWN
<i>Topographic post-storm</i>	As Required	MLWN
<i>Bathymetry</i>	5 years	1km offshore
<i>Ortho-photography</i>	3 years	MLWS
<i>Lidar</i>	2 years	MLWN
<i>Habitat Mapping</i>	5 Years	As Required

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