



Issue 1 - February 2007

Teignbridge District Council is extremely pleased to be lead authority for the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme (SWRCMP) for the south west. The project was 'fast-tracked' to obtain Defra approval and has now been launched with the valued support of the New Forest team at CCO, Southampton. The management and guidance for the programme is being provided by the newly formed Project Board and Project Team.

The monitoring works have now commenced in **your** coastal patch. Rob Webbon at PCO is on hand at any time to explain any aspects of the five year programme.

It is my pleasure to introduce the regular newsletter, which will provide contract and data updates, technical features, reports and other items of interest.

John Cocker
SW Regional Co-ordinator

Regional News

All contracts have been awarded (see below) with the exception of the bathymetric surveys (to be awarded in March 2007) and the ecological mapping, for which the tender is in preparation.

South Devon and Dorset Coastal Group

The contract for the topographic beach surveys in Work Package 1 (TSW1), Portland Bill to Rame Head, was won by Cartographical Surveys Ltd, of Worcester. A pre-contract meeting was held on 30 January. Cartographical Surveys propose to begin work at the end of February, with the first survey being at Sidmouth.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Coastal Group

Longdin and Browning won TSW2 and TSW3 (Rame Head to Land's End). Surveys in this area began on 20th February. Royal Haskoning, in conjunction with Land & Sea Surveys, won TSW4 (Land's End to Hartland Point), which covers the north Cornwall coast. They will begin the survey work in mid-March

North Devon and Somerset Coastal Group

The contract for the topographic beach surveys in this area (TSW5 - Hartland Point to Sand Bay) was won by Titan Environmental Ltd. They will begin surveying in late February.

Environment Agency

The aerial photography contract was awarded to Simmons Aerofilm in September 2006. 26% of the coastline has been captured, with the remainder to be flown this summer. The areas that have been covered so far extend from West Bay to Dawlish; the upper reaches of the River Camel (between Padstow and Wadebridge); Polzeath to Saunton; and Foreland Point to Minehead Bluff (just east of Porlock).

The LiDAR data is being collected by the Environment Agency's Science & Technology Group, Twerton. LiDAR acquisition is currently under way and will be complete by May 2007. Roughly 30% of the area has been flown, covering an area extending from the Isle of Portland to Bridport, and from Dawlish to Cadgwith (close to the Lizard Peninsula).

Plymouth Coastal Observatory

Plymouth Coastal Observatory was formally opened on 4 October 2006. A number of people who have been integral in setting up the SWRCMP were present, as well as representatives from the University of Plymouth. Based in the coastal engineering department at the University of Plymouth, the PCO serves as the regional co-ordination and data management centre for the SWRCMP. Data collected by the programme will be archived and made freely available via the Channel Coastal Observatory website. The PCO office manager is Rob Webbon, who is on long-term secondment from the Channel Coastal Observatory, with two additional staff members from Teignbridge DC.

The main work of the PCO to date has been installing a GPS control network throughout the southwest. All survey data will tie into this network. 115 E2 points were installed and surveyed. Witness diagrams for each point will be available on the CCO website in due course.

SANDS databases have been prepared for all coastal sub-cells and are populated with aerial photo backdrops. Collection of historic survey data is ongoing and the assistance of programme partners in supplying historic survey data will be essential to maximise the potential of our survey database.

The Southwest Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme is investigating the possibility of PCO assisting Local Authority partners with populating the NFCDD and we aim to contact each LA in the near future regarding this.

Channel Coastal Observatory

The hydrodynamic contract (waves, tides and met stations) was awarded to EMU Limited in November 2006. Four Datawell Directional Waverider buoys were deployed at Minehead, Perranporth, West Bay and Chesil in December 2006, thus capturing the New Year storms when significant wave height of 5.85m was recorded at Perranporth. Unfortunately, a fault has subsequently been experienced in both the Perranporth and Chesil buoys, which is currently under urgent investigation by Datawell, but appears to be a batch component failure. No further buoys will be deployed until a programme of rectification has been received.

The real-time data are now available at:

http://www.channelcoast.org/data_management/real_time_data/?link=waves.html

Contacts

If you have any queries about the South West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, or would like further information, please contact:

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