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Isles of Scilly
View from Tresco
September 2008

Regional News

Regional News

The second annual partners' meeting was held in September 2008. We would like to thank all those who attended for their support and to remind those who were unable to be there that the presentations from the day are available on the website. Post storm surveys were called for parts of Mounts Bay and Lyme Bay in August and September. These are now available for download from the website. A Technical Report was produced for Minehead, using a combination of historic data and data collected by the programme for the analysis. This is available to download from the Reports section of the website, or from PCO. Preparation is currently underway for the first set of Annual Reports. These will be published following the completion of the spring interim surveys as analysis is based on baseline to spring and spring to spring surveys.

South Devon and Dorset (SDADCAG)

All the interim topographic surveys have been completed for the autumn and have been loaded to the website. The baseline aerial photography for the region is also complete. Photography for the area between Portland Bill and Start Point is currently available on the website. The bathymetric survey is now complete, with data from Rame Head to Berry Head available on the website. The multibeam data collected between Berry Head and Portland Bill will be delivered in the Spring. The lidar flying season has commenced although so far only a section of Chesil beach has been flown.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CISCAG)

Autumn interims are complete and will be available from the website in the near future. In September a team from PCO spent a week on the Isles of Scilly completing topographic surveys on St. Mary's, St. Agnes, Tresco and Bryher. Bathymetric surveys for Cornwall are complete from Trevoze Head to Hartland Point. The inshore areas of the surveys completed this year have been covered using

multibeam. The area between Land's End and Trevoze Head remains incomplete and the surveys will recommence in the spring. Aerial photography for the area is now complete. The data that has been delivered is available on the website. The remainder of the data is expected this month.

North Devon and Somerset (NDASCAG)

The remaining bathymetric surveys are now complete with the inshore sections of the surveys being covered using multibeam. The aerial photography is complete for the original extent of the programme. Hartland Point to Porlock has been uploaded to the website; the remainder will be delivered in the spring. The aerial photography for the programme extension will be flown in the next flying season. The annual BMP survey at Porlock was completed in September 2008.

Plymouth Coastal Observatory

We would like to welcome Gemma Kaye to the team at PCO. She began work in September and has taken over responsibility for the office's Cornwall databases.

If Partners would prefer to receive a DVD with their aerial photography or other data, please contact PCO.

Channel Coastal Observatory

A replacement for the Minehead wave buoy (which was recovered from a field, badly damaged) has been deployed. The Torbay wave buoy was damaged and out of use between September and November but has now been redeployed.



The Minehead Wave Buoy After Recovery
Photo courtesy of EMU Limited

The Isles of Scilly

Autumn Interim Surveys

In September 2008 a team from PCO accompanied by two surveyors from CCO, travelled to the Isles of Scilly to carry out the autumn interim surveys. We were particularly lucky to have selected one of the few weeks this year when the weather was really sunny! These were the first set of topographic surveys to be carried out by the Programme on the Isles of Scilly. The baseline survey was substituted by the lidar which was flown over the Islands in 2007.

The first day of the trip was mainly spent travelling. We took the Scillonian III Ferry across to the Islands from Penzance. We had previously installed control points on the islands however the points had not been surveyed to tie them in to our existing control network. We spent the afternoon carrying out static surveys on the control points on the island of St. Mary's, while Nathan met members of the Council of the Isles of Scilly and picked up the keys for the coastguard tower from the Duchy. He was also invited to be interviewed about the surveys on Radio Scilly.



As we would not have our own transport on the Islands, the amount of survey kit we could take was constrained to what we could carry; this meant that we could take only one base station. As we were surveying on four different islands over the course of the week this could have proved a challenge - the signal transmitted by one base station would not cover all the islands and we could not just move the base from island to island as we would be surveying on different islands simultaneously.

The problem was solved by the disused coastguard tower on St. Mary's. The tower, owned by the Duchy of Cornwall, is situated on one of the highest points of the Island. By setting up our base on the top of the tower the signal would reach the majority of the sites we were intending to survey. We were concerned that the signal would not cover some of the beaches on Bryher, so we had brought with us a repeater radio which could be set up on Watch Hill on Bryher to relay the signal from the base on St. Mary's to beaches such as Great Popplestones which would not otherwise receive the signal.

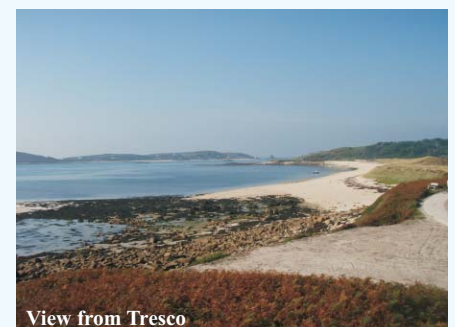


Tuesday was spent on the island of St. Mary's. We split into two teams and set off to survey the main beaches on the island. At Porthcressa especially, there were areas covered by dense seaweed which gave some members of the team some concern in case they trod on a crab! On Wednesday, one team stayed on St. Mary's to finish off the profiles which were left over from the day before while the other team headed off to St. Agnes.

Thursday saw us all on either Tresco or Bryher, where the repeater radio did its job well and allowed us to successfully complete surveys on all of the selected beaches.

We travelled home on the ferry on Friday afternoon after spending the morning finishing off a couple of profiles and carrying out a few more static surveys for the control network. The surveys were all completed successfully and we would like to thank the Council of the Isles of Scilly, the Duchy of Cornwall and St. Mary's Harbour Master for all their help.

PCO has the responsibility for carrying out the Autumn interims every year so we are looking forward to returning in the Autumn to carry out another round of surveys, and not, as some people have hinted, have a bit of a holiday!



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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