

SeaView

The New Forest coast 2024

Chairman's report

Fearless Fort - Update

Mystery metal

Footpath reinstated

Calshot beach recycling

Hordle Beach Clean Up

500 year old man

newforest.gov.uk

Mystery metal



The coastal team were alerted by a vigilant member of the public recently, to some metalwork and concrete which had become exposed on the beach at Taddiford and was visible at low tide. It is thought that it originated from the cliff top, and as the cliff has retreated, the concrete and metalwork had fallen to

the beach below. Unfortunately, due to the difficulty of removing the items at this location, they will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Please bear this in mind if you intend swimming in this location.



Welcome to the 2024 edition of SeaView magazine

Welcome to this year's edition of Seaview. In this issue you can find out about our works to preserve the coast at Milford on Sea by constructing a new rock revetment, read our Chairman's new report and find out about Hurst Castle. In addition, you can read about the shingle recycling at Calshot, and how we have completed this year's vegetation survey at Hurst Spit.

I hope you enjoy this year's edition of Seaview.

General Housekeeping

As beach huts are exposed to the elements, it is important that they are well maintained, to protect from sun, rain, wind and sea. Well maintained huts add to the overall appeal of our coastline.

Please help us to help you, by keeping your hut secure and well maintained, thereby complying with your license agreement. We will make contact with owners whose huts are in a poor state of repair, and we will follow up where there has been a breach of license conditions, for example with regard to subletting a hut.

Beach hut owners should ensure that they have good security in place. Padlocks and door brackets should be robust. Occasionally, it may be necessary for us to contact owners quickly, so please ensure we have your complete and up to date contact details, you can do this by emailing coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk

It is important that we are kept informed if and when an owner decides to sell their beach hut, please use Appendix 1 in your license agreement to notify us of a change in ownership.

Finally, barbecues are permitted, but please extinguish thoroughly after use and dispose of in the litter bins provided.

Bonfires are not permitted on the beach.

Your coastal management team are:

Steve Cook

Service Manager Coastal

Peter Ferguson

Coastal Projects Engineer

Carol Badger

Coastal Engineer

Dave Robson

Part time Coastal Engineer

Catherine Eastick

GIS Analyst

Judith Lacey

Coastal Administrator

You can contact the team using the email:

coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk

This magazine can be made available in large print, Braille, an alternative language or on audio tape on request.

Calshot Beach Recycling

Recently, Calshot got an additional amount of beach material, to top up the beach which was low between several groyne bays.

The operation ran over four days, moving all the shingle in the stockpile from the RNLI slipway at the end of Calshot Spit to the beach frontage. The material had been stockpiled at the side and top of the slipway to maintain emergency access since the last operation.

The actual shingle volume moved equated to around 1600T and took 64 dumper truck movements to replenish the beach. The recent survey had suggested that there would be 1200T so we were able to place more material in the groyne bays than anticipated.

Les Searle Group Ltd arrived on site early on Tuesday morning, bringing in the necessary plant and equipment to perform the works. There were two excavators and two dumper trucks on site with a small van escort vehicle. The work would have to take into account the tides and weather. After the contractor had delivery of the plant and associated equipment, they immediately noted the low tide and decided to try for a load and deposit run. The tide came in quickly cutting off the access and so the dumpers then needed to wait for the tide to ebb out again. The afternoon and evening low tide was used to offload eight dumper loads at the southern end of the beach by Stanswood Bay Rescue Hut.

Wednesday started early with two dumpers offloading at 0700 hrs and the excavator joining in and profiling the beach. With a 30 minute turnaround time there wasn't much hanging around, there was a need to check safety measures were in place, work out where the next loads were going that the profiling was being done as required and the haul route not getting covered by shingle from the trucks.

The contractor was clearly keeping to the foreshore above the mudflats that are SSSI protected working through the working through the time allowed by the low tide meant by 1300 hrs 30 loads had been delivered to the deposition area.

Thursday saw the completion of the deliveries of the available material with a further 26 loads. A small amount, 10 dumper loads of the stockpiled material was also placed further along the beach from around the end of the beach huts the end of the beach the Calshot Sailing club where erosion had also occurred. The profiling of the beach was completed by the end of the shift of the main deposition area, leaving just the small area to profile on Friday.

On Friday all the plant was steadily removed from site and the compound taken down all whilst the excavator was used to profile the last 10 piles of material and the site generally tidied and ready for handover. The last machine to leave site did so by mid day leaving the full beach ready for public enjoyment





Barton gate reminder

Barton hut owners are reminded that the gate is open on set days of the month to enable vehicular access to the huts. Please do not follow the cleaners van, or attempt to go down on any other dates even if you see the gate is open, as you are liable to be accidentally locked in.



New shower at Hordle

A new shower unit went in at Hordle beach recently. Located at the western end of the beach, this shower is for swimmers and beach users to use without having to make quite a lengthy walk to the original shower unit by the kiosk steps.

If you notice any problems with either of our shower units, or, for example a life buoy is missing, email coastal.team@nfdc.gov.uk

Doggy reminders

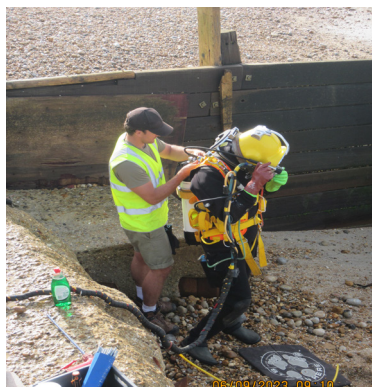
We don't have any restrictions on dogs on our beaches in the New Forest, and owners are free to walk and enjoy the coast with their animals.

Our dog wardens can regularly be seen making visits to the coastal areas reminding people to clean up after their dogs, and they are happy to report that the majority of people do take this responsibility seriously.

Dog mess on the beach is not only unpleasant, but also potentially harmful, so please don't let your enjoyment of our lovely beaches spoil someone else's, but set a good example to others by always cleaning up after your dog. Our litter bins are designed to take dog waste as well as other litter.



Metal Cutting



This summer, a team of expert divers were busy removing some sharp metalwork at Milford, located low down in the water.

They used specialist cutting equipment to remove the metal which was opposite the new beach huts. The metal

was situated at the toe of the beach, in an area that rarely dries out, hence the need for divers. Hopefully now it has been removed, the area can be reopened again for beach users.



NEW FOREST SHOW



This year, the coastal team were at the New Forest Show with the theme “coast and climate”.

There were activities in the tent, including a bean bag throwing competition, a pledge tree, where visitors could pledge a wish and hang it from a tree, a wave flume tank, where turning the handle generated waves to impact the lego town, and a competition to guess the number of cubic metres of shingle that make up Hurst Spit.

There were also information boards about coast protection, the tracer pebble study, (included in a previous issue of Seaview magazine), the Hurst to Lymington strategy, and a member of our team also demonstrated the laser scanning surveying equipment.

There was also the opportunity for visitors to have their photograph taken with a scenic coastal backdrop, holding a special coast and climate champion prop. We also provided a free water bottle filling station, and suncream dispenser, which both proved very popular.

Our team of coastal specialists

Our team of coastal specialists were on hand to welcome visitors and give advice on the new forest coast and climate. There were also giveaways, including packets of wild flower seeds, pencils and recycled water bottles. Our stand also won second prize out of 80 stands at the show.

The show attracts over 100,000 visitors every year, and brings together a celebration of traditional country pursuits, crafts, produce and entertainment. Show jumping is another major feature at the show and there are competitive classes throughout all three days. A full range of equestrian classes also features, as well as livestock competitions including pigs, cattle and sheep, plus a poultry section, rabbits, caged birds, honey bees and ferrets.



Guess the size of Hurst Spit



Members and staff enjoyed the day

SEAWALL FAILURE AT MILFORD

The seawall at Westover, west of the White House Milford on Sea suffered a catastrophic failure earlier in the year. A section of seawall approximately 150m in length failed following rapid beach lowering and relentless rough seas over a period of four months.

Since the 4 November 2019 the site has experienced a continuous period of storms and damaging waves, that have impacted significantly on the coastline. The events include Storm Ciara on 3 February 2020, Storm Dennis on 13 February 2020 and Storm Ellen on 21 August 2020. The effect of the storms has been to significantly erode the beach and allow waves to come over the seawall. The seawall has collapsed because the foundations have been undermined. The large waves have demolished sections and were continuing to erode the cliffs behind. From wave buoys that are out in the bay, the recordings have shown over the last 17 years that of the 50 biggest storms, Milford-on-Sea experienced 8 of these through the 2019/20 winter period.

FAILURE

The damage was contained in three main sections:

Area 1: Western Section 120m completely failed. Movement was first detected on 4 February 2020 with a total collapse by 23/24 February 2020.

Area 2: Central Section 70m in front of the beach huts. Movement was first detected 25 February 2020. The promenade material has been lost through the seawall cracks. The subsequent void behind the wall allowed two beach huts to topple forward. The wall has moved seaward by approximately 1m. The timber groynes have failed as the wall moves out and is pushing the groynes over. Some piles and planks have even shattered under the pressure. Other groynes in the area have fallen over due to the loss of beach. As the beach level has dropped more of the pile becomes exposed. Less length in the ground means less stability, so the pile then gives way and falls over.

Area 3: Eastern Section 110m. This section is currently not showing any sign of movement in the wall. The sheet piles at the wall foundation are beginning to show signs of movement, the failure length of Area 2 extending into the eastern section decreasing the length of Area 3. The timber groynes have fared better in this location as this is the last area to have lost significant amounts of beach. As the beach is lost from here, during the storms, the groynes become increasingly unstable.

Plan view of affected area, Milford on Sea





Failed Seawall at Milford



Storm Dennis



Storm Ellen

PROPERTY

The loss of the beach, groynes and the seawall collapse means there is a considerable and significant risk to property. The emergency works were needed as the residential development has been identified as being at particularly high risk of erosion.

Timeline of events on the Western Seawall:

- Significant damage occurred resulting in beach lowering and waves overtopping the seawall during a storm on 2 November 2019
- Further beach losses during the early and middle parts of December 2019 due to ongoing stormy weather
- Loss of a section of a groyne on 14 December 2019
- By January 2020, the beach had fallen to very low level with sheet piling exposed by 2m at the toe of the seawall
- The toe of the seawall failed on 2 February 2020 and a second timber groyne also failed
- The seawall was constantly under substantial wave attack during Storms Ciara, on 8 February and Storm Dennis on 15 February 2020
- February 2020, the seawall sheet piling becomes unstable with beach material drawn from below the seawall. The sheet piles became detached from the toe, the seawall cracks and moves forward
- Western section of seawall (95m) eventually collapses (23 February 2020)

Timeline of events on the eastern seawall:

- In early January a small hole appeared in the promenade, and the area was fenced off near the first beach hut
- Storm Dennis saw the hole size increase only fractionally
- By the very end of February significant cracks had appeared in the seawall and a lot of the promenade material had gone
- One beach hut had fallen into the void and two others were teetering on the edge
- A large crack appeared at the end of the beach huts and the cordon area was extended to include a large section of the coastal path and open space as a void appeared around the hole
- Mid-March saw the voids increase in size and combine, causing further movement of the seawall as the supporting soil was lost
- Over the summer months the ground behind the seawall continued to be lost, albeit slowly
- The Storms Ellen (19-20 August 2020) and Francis (24-25 August 2020) finally collapsed the most vulnerable section of seawall and eroded much of the slope behind
- The seawall here separated at a joint leaving the top section lying over behind the wall and the base section still in place



Lost beach huts



Major cracks in the seawall

Coastal path

To date the erosion has led to the cliffs retreating by several metres which has resulted in loss of support to the cliff path, which was closed for safety reasons. As the seawall continues to fail, the erosion of the cliffs will progress landward and to the east.

Urgent works

Phase-1 consisted of the construction of a rock revetment across Areas 2 & 3. This effectively replaces the function of a beach by adding weight to the toe of the seawall to prevent further failure and will also reduce wave impact on the structure, along with reducing wave overtopping that would otherwise lead to further failure this winter. These works were an effort to slow the failure of the wall. A long-term solution will, however, need to be developed by the council in partnership with landowners.

As of late August 2020, works were underway with contractor Earlcoate, employed to undertake the construction of the defence. The revetment will join the existing revetment fronting the White House, extending 180m to the west. This will be constructed using around 9,000 tonne of rock armourstone, with the majority being

Larvik rock from a Norwegian Quarry. This is the same rock that was used to construct the revetment and rock breakwater at Hurst Spit.

The rock revetment construction phase commenced mid-September. The rock was transported from Norway by ship, the Hagland Saga. This offloaded to a specially designed quay in Southampton. Once the ship has departed to collect the next load, a barge will moor alongside and be loaded. The barge was towed to the site by a tug and the rock was offloaded during high tide to enable the contractor to collect and place during the low tide.

As the works were located in the intertidal zone, they will need to coincide with either low or high water (depending on the type operation), which could be any time of the day or night.

In order for the machinery to get to the site of the revetment a haul road is having to be built along a 150m length of the promenade from Hordle Cliff through to Westover. This road was constructed using 1600 tonnes of local Portland limestone. It was delivered to site by road.



Unloading the rock for the new revetment



Constructing the "roadway" for the revetment

Finance

The cost of the Urgent Works is estimated at around £1.5M. Due to the urgent nature, NFDC has allocated £1.5M to undertake Phase-1. The Council would then seek to recover the cost of these urgent works through the following:

1. In year funding through the Environment Agency (via business case development).
2. Through a Local Levy Bid by applying to the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for a contribution.
3. Through a contribution from NFDC.

The Future after the Urgent Works

It is recognised that following the completion of Phase 1 (Urgent Works) there is a need to complete a full works scheme that provides the required protection across the whole frontage (over and above the urgent works). This is likely to take the form of a rock structure all along the damaged section, along with associated ancillary works

Castle collapse

Update 2024:

To date, repair works have been undertaken to the collapsed section of wall at Hurst Castle. The beach to the south side of the Castle remains closed for safety reasons. Since the partial collapse nearly 2 years ago, 22,000 tonnes of shingle and rock armour has been transported along the spit to protect the east wing and a permanent revetment sea defence has been created to provide protection for the next 50 years.



A 40m section of the east wing of Hurst Castle collapsed on 26 February. Its foundations had become undermined by the sea and had been left exposed. Work to remedy this had been planned to start imminently by English Heritage, and the area has now been closed off to the public.

Hurst Spit Vegetation Survey

This year, our annual survey of the vegetation at Hurst Spit was undertaken on 24 May. With many plants in bloom, they were easy to identify. We had good weather conditions, and the survey took a little over four hours to complete.

There was an abundance of Sea Kale on the low and open section of Hurst Spit, near to the Castle, which is in decline in the UK, so this was good to see.

Other species found included Sea Purslane, Sea Lavender, Sea Campion, Yellow Horned Poppy and the rare Golden Samphire, and the nationally rare Sea Pea.

New Forest Beach Hut Owners Association Annual Report

Owning a beach hut during the continuing Covid-19 pandemic has been an invaluable asset and, for many hut owners, has (out of lockdowns) provided an opportunity to enjoy 'away days' at New Forest beaches which are at Calshot, Milford on Sea, Hordle Cliff and Barton on Sea. All beaches saw an increase in visitors during the long hot days of summer.

Barton and Hordle hut owners were able to enjoy the unusual sight of huge liners, anchored in Christchurch Bay, having their own spot of rest because of COVID 19.

Calshot had its fair share of excitement over the summer which started with a light aircraft running out of fuel and ditching in the Solent, luckily without injury. Calshot RNLI has been kept busy with rescues off the beach, from inflatables being carried out to sea to paddleboarders getting stuck on the mudflats.

On a very positive note, the demand for beach huts has rocketed as people choose to stay local in place of holidays away, and those huts which have changed hands over the summer commanded high prices. In response to this demand, NFBHOA has added a free-to-use (for members) hut sales page to its website (see below).

The autumn and winter storms have been active in continuing to throw large amounts of sand and stones onto the promenade at Milford. Occupiers of the concrete huts are reminded to check that there's no long term build-up of shingle on the promenade blocking the hut's ventilation at the bottom of the door.

Hordle Cliffs and beach have continued to be pounded by the winter storms with nature sculpting out large scallops of shingle along the beach, then the next storms reshaping the beach again. The wild weather doesn't deter swimmers and if you're at the beach at low tide, you can enjoy the shallows that take you over the sand bars.

Barton Beach and the western part of Hordle have experienced unwanted fishing waste including hooks which have caused injuries to dogs. Please support us by picking up and binning, hooks and lines that you find on our beaches to help keep dogs and children safe.

The New Forest Beach Hut Owners' Association Committee has continued to be very active in checking huts at the beaches after storms and when advised of anti social behaviour which continues to spoil beach hut ownership. A reminder that if you are affected by criminal damage, to report the crime to the police (ring 101) in

order to receive a crime reference number. This helps the local force build up a picture of any criminal damage and to reflect this back in their reports to their managers. It is desperately disappointing to see this mindless damage so if you witness anything – please call it in.

Thank you to the NFDC for supporting the hut owners by providing Kestrel Security Patrols, to act as a deterrent where the need has been identified.

The Association ran a photo competition at the end of 2020 and received a wide selection of images on the theme 'Autumn and Winter at the Beach.' The prize winners and runners up can be seen on the NFBHOA website.

If you are interested in owning a beach hut – do look at our website as we now host a section on beach huts for sale. <https://www.newforestbeachhuts.com/hut-sales>.

All of the huts on our beaches are day huts only, you are not permitted to stay overnight or let your hut out. But you can enjoy endless views towards the Isle of Wight and the open sea whilst you laze outside your hut, enjoying nothing more than the sound of the sea.

The 2021 AGM will be held virtually at the end of April 2021, because of the continuing COVID restrictions on large gatherings. This is an Association members only event. Membership of the New Forest Beach Hut Owners Association is £5 per year. If you are a hut owner, do consider joining.

The membership year runs from 1st April and there is a form which can be completed online, or a form can be downloaded from our website: The New Forest Beach Hut Owner's Association - NFBHOA - Membership ([newforestbeachhuts.com](https://www.newforestbeachhuts.com))

The NFBHOA website is updated regularly with news and useful information for hut owners at all our beaches, so please keep visiting it.

The Committee is very active keeping the interests and safety of huts and of hut owners highlighted with the NFDC and other organisations. Although we have a vacancy for the Chairman's position, our meetings rotate the Chairman's role and we will continue to do this so that the association continues. If you are interested in the position, please contact the group secretary, Jan at hon.secretary@newforestbeachhuts.com.

Enjoy the 2021 hutting season. May it bring good things to you and our beaches.



Fearless FORT

At a meeting of the king's council at Hampton Court Palace on 22 February 1541 a warrant was issued by Henry VIII's household treasurer, Sir Brian Tuke, to pay £1,000 to John Mille for the erection of fortifications at Hurst, East and West Cowes and Freshwater.

Work must have started immediately, for by the 14 March 1543 warrants authorising the payment of a further £2400 to John Mille for the "bulwark at Hurst Point" were made out. Hurst was one of a large number of coastal forts built between about 1539 and 1547.

Hurst Castle formed part of the king's Device Forts coastal protection programme against invasion from France and the Roman Empire and defended the western entrance to the Solent. The early castle had a central keep and three bastions, and in 1547 was equipped with 26 guns. It was expensive to operate due to its size, but it formed one of the most powerful forts along the coast. During the English Civil war of the 1640s, Hurst was held by Parliament and was used briefly to detain King

Charles I before his execution in 1649. It continued in use during the 18th century but eventually fell into disrepair.

Repairs were made during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars with France, and the castle was modernised to enable it to hold 24 pounder guns. Fresh fears of invasion followed in the 1850s, leading to heavier, 32 pounder armament being installed and new gun batteries being laid out on both sides of the castle. Technological developments rapidly made these defences obsolete, however, and a fresh phase of work between 1861 and 1874 created sixty one positions in two long, granite faced batteries alongside the older castle. These held very heavy weapons, including massive 38 ton rifled muzzle loading guns. As

the century progressed, these too became outdated and lighter, quick firing guns were installed at the castle to replace them.

The castle formed a network of defences around the entrance to the Solent during the first world war and was re armed again during the second world war. The military decommissioned the fort in 1956 and it passed into the control of the Ministry of Works. In the 21st century, it is run jointly by English Heritage and the Friends of Hurst Castle as a tourist attraction, receiving approx. 40000 visitors a year. Four light houses have been built at Hurst from the 18th century onwards, one of which, a high lighthouse opened in 1867 remains in active service.

Did you know?

Some of the masonry for building Hurst Castle came from the recently dissolved Cistercian abbey at Beaulieu.

In 1574, 100 men were posted at Hurst Castle to guard against a possible French invasion

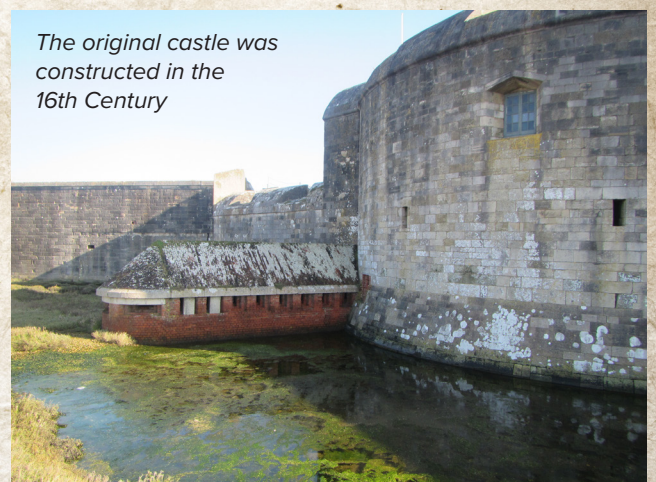




The east and west wings were added in the Victorian era



Entrance to the west wing



The original castle was constructed in the 16th Century

Milford on Sea beach top up



This autumn, contractors Earlcoate were busy with the annual beach material top up at Milford on Sea. This year, they moved approximately 4,500 tonnes of material onto the beach, a similar amount to previous years. Since 2008, we have been putting extra material on the beach and well over 50,000 tonnes of material has been added to the frontage, replacing the current volume of the beach at least 4 times.

This year, the material came from New Milton Sand and Ballast and is the same mix as the 2022 recharge material. Without this supply of additional material, beach levels will fall, and potentially, the seawall could become undermined, leading to failure and collapse. The beach recharge is



intended to replace some of the recent losses. The material sourced is very similar to the material contained in the cliffs along the coast, which eventually falls to form the beaches in Christchurch Bay. Further measures are now needed to protect the eastern end of the beach hut seawall. To prevent failure, a rock revetment has now received planning permission, and we hope to receive a license to underake the works around the Spring of 2024.

At your convenience



We have some innovative new toilets at Barton Beach now, which replaced the previous portakabin which was constructed in 2009. The new loos suit their coastal surroundings, with the facade resembling beach huts, with each cubicle door a different colour.

The bright doors were chosen to provide a visible contrast for visually impaired people, and they are coated in aluminium to offer resilience against the coastal conditions. There are three unisex toilets, disabled toilets, baby changing facilities and a family room. The toilets have weatherboard cladding and a pitched roof with integrated solar tiles which will power the external LED wayfinder lighting. There is also an external shower, water bottle refill station and a hoop bike rack. The toilets will be open 7 days a week all year, except Christmas day from 6 am

until midnight.

Did you know ?

The previous toilets were 14 years old

They are going to be up cycled

Local suppliers were used for this project, the metal work is from Totton, the cubicles from New Milton and the architects were based in Lymington



Storm Ciaran

Storm Ciaran was a European windstorm that severely affected parts of Europe from late October to early November 2023. Part of the 2023/24 European windstorm season, Ciaran impacted north western Europe and killed 16 people. It also caused mass disruption to transport and widespread damage from 100 mph winds in the Channel Islands.

The Met Office was forecasting that Storm Ciaran would move away on 3 November, but many places still experienced strong gusts and heavy rain. A red weather warning was in place for the Channel Islands, with a Force 11 violent storm. 97 mph gusts were recorded at the Needles, Isle of Wight



A large yellow weather warning for rain and wind was in place for south Wales, Devon and Cornwall and the south coast. In Cornwall 4000 properties were left without power, and the holiday park at Burton Bradstock in Dorset was destroyed. The southern coast of England and France were severely affected by the storm, with record wind gusts in France being reported around 129 mph. Our own New Forest coast was affected by heavy rainfall, leading to worsening of the erosion at Hordle Cliff, and leading to the further loss of beach huts.



Hordle Beach Clean Up



Our Operatives were busy at Hordle beach on Thursday 11 April this year, as Storms Nelson and Kathleen had left much devastation in their wake.

With the ongoing coastal erosion and movement at Hordle Cliff, we lost several beach huts to the sea, with one being washed up further east at Paddy's Gap.

Our Operatives undertook a coastal beach clean of all the beach hut debris that had been strewn around, by both the sea and increased cliff movement.

Over twenty people attended the site to remove mainly timber debris, and after three hours and five van loads of waste, the site looked much better, and was safer for beach users.



It is hoped that later in the year the beach huts that have lost their position due to the ground movement will be completely removed. There will be more to follow in Seaview nearer the time.



The 500 year old man

The community at St Mary the Virgin near Lymington, Hants hosted a moving funeral service for a 16th century man whose remains were found on a beach near Lymington approximately two years ago.

Police were called to Sowley Beach near Lymington in May 2022 after a skull and further skeletal remains were discovered in the mud.

The identity of the man is unknown, but radiocarbon testing revealed he died between 1450 and 1650. He is believed to be around 20 years old when he died. It is unclear how he died, or why he was buried in what would have been marshland at the time.

The funeral service was attended by around fifty people, including the man who made the discovery, the coastguard, representatives from the local council, the archaeology team, local historians and residents.

It was a simple, dignified and moving service, the remains being placed into a small hand-made wooden casket which sat at the front of the church. The service included a reading from 1 Corinthians 15, prayers and hymns sung by members of the church choir.

A short burial service took place in the grounds of the church, and a small flower arrangement was placed alongside the plot, and a small sign with the words “unknown male, circa 1450 -1650. A collection was taken at the end of the service for a permanent plaque to be made for his grave.

New Rock Revetment Milford on Sea

This autumn, as part of the Council’s ongoing maintenance program, a rock revetment is being installed at Milford on Sea. It is in front of the seawall at the eastern end of the beach huts, along with groyne repairs and a beach recharge to the west.

The work is being undertaken in two phases, over an eight week period, (approximately 4 weeks per phase) subject to suitable weather and tides. The works are being carried out by Earlcoate Construction and Plant Hire Ltd.

Phase 1 commenced on August 26th, after the bank holiday weekend, with Site Compound 1 being set up south of Hurst Road, adjacent to the promenade, just west of the playpark.

Rock deliveries commenced the week commencing 2 September, and a total of 1,100t of rock was delivered to the compound. The rock was then transferred between the compound and the beach. To facilitate this operation, the promenade was closed for short periods of time, around 15 minutes, to enable the safe movement of plant between the compound and the beach. The promenade will remain open during the works, and public safety is being managed by Traffic Marshalls located at the public crossing point and at the entrance to the site to safely guide lorries arriving and departing between Hurst Road and the site.

Once transferred, rock is being placed on the beach to form a simple structure in front of the seawall along the two eastern bays in front of the beach huts. This will provide additional protection from wave attack along the toe of the seawall, where beach levels are low. These works include some rock repairs to several of the timber groynes in the vicinity.

Phase 2: Once the works were completed, Site Compound 1 was removed and Site Compound 2 was set up in Hurst Road West car park. Work then started on the timber maintenance and beach recharge.

The beach recharge consists of 2,500t of shingle material being deposited in three groyne bays at the western end of the promenade, opposite the toilet block. These groyne bays have been subject to significant erosion recently, resulting in the access steps being closed. The additional material will help to restore levels, so that the beach better dissipates wave energy and protects the seawall, as well as improving access. This work is being undertaken in daylight hours, with recharge material being delivered to site using lorries and tipped down a temporary chute/access ramp. Using a dump truck, material will then be mechanically moved into adjoining groyne bays, to the east.

In addition to the beach recharge, work will be undertaken on the timber groyne located adjacent to the beach access steps. The groyne is being strengthened with additional timber piles. Groynes are an important element of the beach here, as they control longshore drift and help maintain the beach.

To accommodate the site compound, the eastern side of Hurst Road West amenity car park is being closed for the duration of Phase 2. Lorries will enter the car park where they will turn, under supervision, and reverse into the compound and up to the delivery chute.

Public safety is being managed by Traffic Marshalls located at key positions around the site and in the car park during vehicle movements, especially around the entrance to the compound. The access steps and promenade will be closed to accommodate the delivery chute and facilitate material being delivered, so a diversion is in place around the car park, with appropriate signage.

