



# Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Update Report 3: 'Partial Measures' Survey 2011



Northumberland County Council

July 2011

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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
DGM	Digital Ground Model
HAT	Highest Astronomical Tide
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
m	metres
MHWN	Mean High Water Neap
MHWS	Mean High Water Spring
MLWN	Mean Low Water Neap
MLWS	Mean Low Water Spring
MSL	Mean Sea Level
ODN	Ordnance Datum Newlyn

# Water Levels Used in Interpretation of Changes

Water Level	Water Level (mODN)			
Parameter	Berwick upon Tweed	Holy Island	North Sunderland	
1 in 200 year	3.4	3.4	3.5	
HAT	2.8	2.8	2.8	
MHWS	2.2	2.4	2.4	
MLWS	-1.9	-1.8	-1.7	
Water Level	Water Level (mODN)			
Parameter	Amble	Blyth	River Tyne	
1 in 200 year	3.5	3.6	3.7	
HAT	3.1	3.1	3.1	
MHWS	2.4	2.4	2.4	
MLWS	-1.9	-1.8	-1.9	

**Source**: Scottish Border to River Tyne Shoreline Management Plan 2. Royal Haskoning, May 2009.

# Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Beach	Artificial process of replenishing a beach with material from another
nourishment	source.
Berm crest	Ridge of sand or gravel deposited by wave action on the shore just
	above the normal high water mark.
Breaker zone	Area in the sea where the waves break.
Coastal	The reduction in habitat area which can arise if the natural landward
squeeze	migration of a habitat under sea level rise is prevented by the fixing of the high water mark, e.g. a sea wall.
Downdrift	Direction of alongshore movement of beach materials.
Ebb-tide	The falling tide, part of the tidal cycle between high water and the next low water.
Fetch	Length of water over which a given wind has blown that determines the size of the waves produced.
Flood-tide	Rising tide, part of the tidal cycle between low water and the next high water.
Foreshore	Zone between the high water and low water marks, also known as the intertidal zone.
Geomorphology	The branch of physical geography/geology which deals with the form of the Earth, the general configuration of its surface, the distribution of the land, water, etc.
Groyne	Shore protection structure built perpendicular to the shore; designed to trap sediment.
Mean High Water (MHW)	The average of all high waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
Mean Low Water (MLW)	The average of all low waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
Mean Sea Level (MSL)	Average height of the sea surface over a 19-year period.
Offshore zone	Extends from the low water mark to a water depth of about 15 m and is permanently covered with water.
Storm surge	A rise in the sea surface on an open coast, resulting from a storm.
Swell	Waves that have travelled out of the area in which they were generated.
Tidal prism	The volume of water within the estuary between the level of high and low tide, typically taken for mean spring tides.
Tide	Periodic rising and falling of large bodies of water resulting from the gravitational attraction of the moon and sun acting on the rotating earth.
Topography	Configuration of a surface including its relief and the position of its natural and man-made features.
Transgression	The landward movement of the shoreline in response to a rise in relative sea level.
Updrift	Direction opposite to the predominant movement of longshore transport.
Wave direction	Direction from which a wave approaches.
Wave refraction	Process by which the direction of approach of a wave changes as it moves into shallow water.

# Preamble

The Northumbrian Coastal Authorities Group (NCAG<sup>1</sup>) Monitoring Programme began in April 2002 with a survey of profile lines along various sections of the coastline between Berwickupon-Tweed and the River Tyne. These were fully repeated in September 2002 and since then annual surveys of all profiles have been undertaken as a 'Full Measures' survey in autumn/early winter every year. Some of these surveys are then repeated the following spring as part of a 'Partial Measures' survey.

At various times, additional beach profile lines have been added and topographic surveys at Holy Island, Alnmouth, Sandstell Point and Newbiggin Bay, and cliff top surveys at Newbiggin Caravan Park, Sandy Bay Caravan Park and Cambois Bay have been introduced.

In September 2008 the monitoring became incorporated within the wider Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. This covers approximately 300km of the north east coastline, from the Scottish Border (just south of St. Abb's Head) to Flamborough Head in East Yorkshire.

The main elements of the Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme involve:

- beach profile surveys (as before for Northumberland)
- topographic surveys (as before for Northumberland)
- cliff top recession surveys (as before for Northumberland)
- real-time wave data collection
- bathymetric and sea bed characterisation surveys south of the River Tyne
- aerial photography
- walk-over surveys

To date the following reports have been produced since incorporation within the Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme:

Year		Full Measures		Partial Measures		Cell 1
		Survey	Analytical Report	Survey	Update Report	Overview Report
1	2008/09	Sep-Dec 08	June 09 <sup>(^)</sup>	Mar 09	June 09	-
2	2009/10	Sep-Nov 09	Mar 10	Mar 10	June 10	-
3	2009/10	Sep-Nov 10	Dec 10	Mar-April 11	July 11 <sup>(*)</sup>	July 11

#### Table 1 Analytical, Update and Overview Reports Produced to Date

<sup>(^)</sup> Combined report for Northumberland County Council and North Tyneside Council; subsequent reports have been separate.

<sup>(\*)</sup> The present report is **Update Report 3** and provides an analysis of the 2011 Partial Measures survey for Northumberland County Council's frontage. It is intended as a brief update of the key findings from this survey to maintain an understanding of ongoing changes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NCAG become part of the wider North East Coastal Group (NECG) in September 2008.

# 1. Introduction

# 1.1 Study Area

Northumberland County Council's frontage extends from the Scottish Border in the north to Hartley in the south. For the purposes of this report, it has been sub-divided into fifteen areas, namely:

- Sandstell Point
- Spittal
- Goswick Sands
- Holy Island
- Bamburgh

- Beadnell Village
- Beadnell Bay
- Embleton Bay
- Boulmer
  - Alnmouth Bay
- Hauxley & Druridge Bay
- Lynemouth Bay
- Newbiggin-by-the-Sea
- Cambois
- Blyth South Beach

### 1.2 Methodology

Along Northumberland County Council's frontage, the following surveying is undertaken:

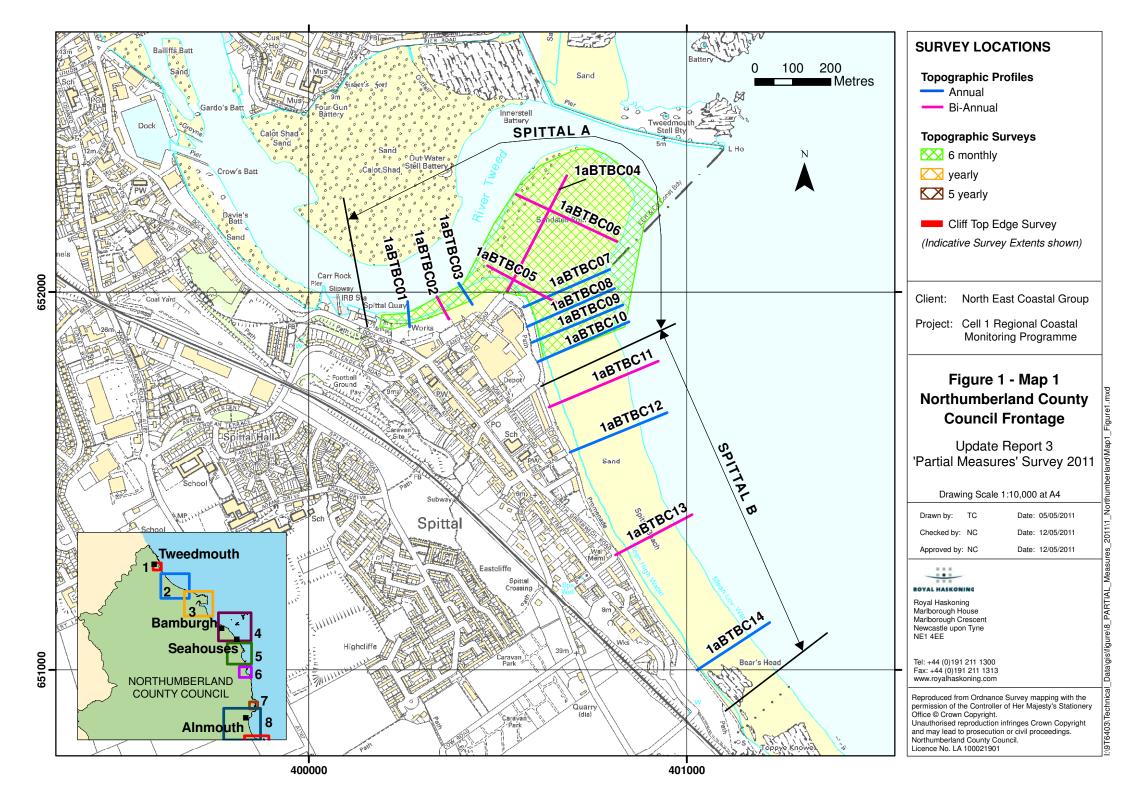
- Full Measures survey annually each autumn/early winter comprising:
  - Beach profile surveys along 88 no. transect lines (78 no. since April 2002, with 10 no. added since Full Measures 2007)
  - Topographic survey along Holy Island (since Full Measures 2004)
  - Topographic survey along Alnmouth Bay (since Partial Measures 2005)
  - $\circ$  Topographic survey along Sandstell Point (since Full Measures 2009)
  - Topographic survey along Newbiggin Bay (since Full Measures 2010)
- Partial Measures survey annually each spring comprising:
  - Beach profile surveys along 39 no. transect lines (29 no. since April 2002, with 10 no. added since Full Measures 2007)
  - Topographic survey along Alnmouth Bay (since Partial Measures 2005)
  - Topographic survey along Sandstell Point (since Full Measures 2009)
  - Topographic survey along Newbiggin Bay (since Full Measures 2010)
- Cliff top survey (bi-annually) at:
  - Cliff top survey at Newbiggin Caravan Park (since Full Measures 2007)
  - Cliff top survey at Sandy Bay Caravan Park (since Full Measures 2007)
  - Cliff top survey at Cambois (since Partial Measures 2009)

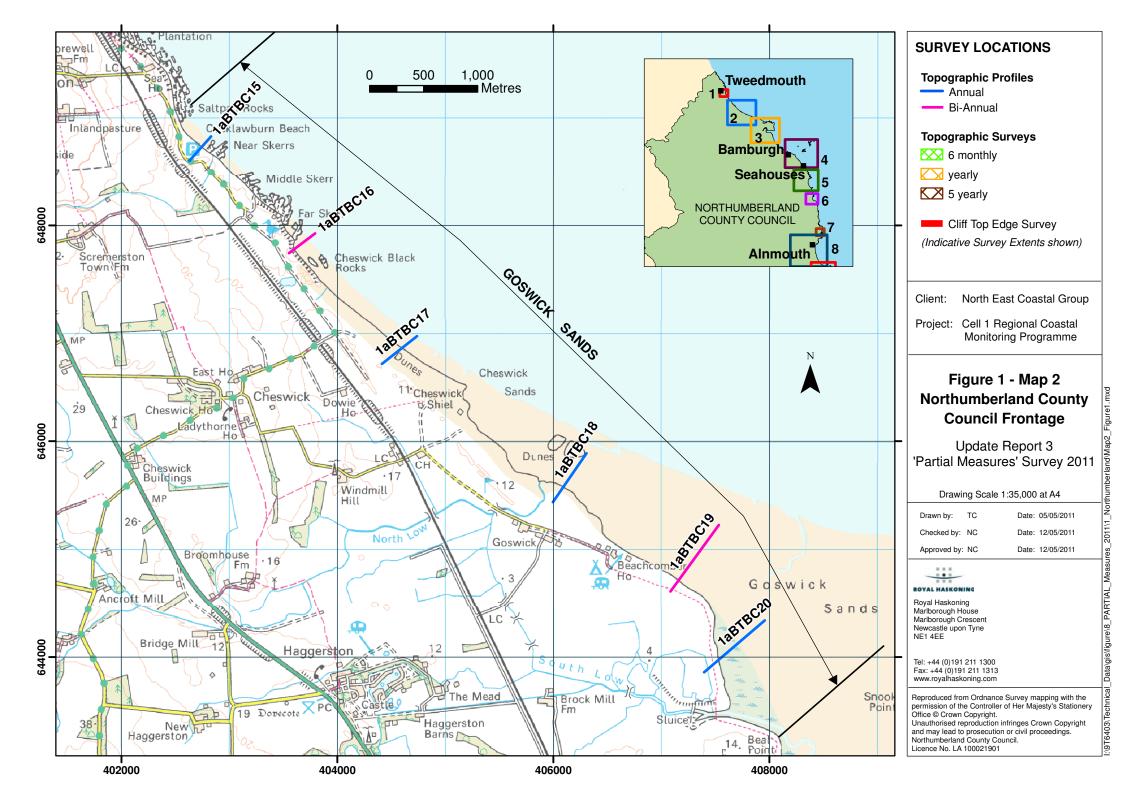
The location of these surveys is shown in Figure 1. They have also previously been provided on a digital file which can be opened in Google Earth showing the locations of the surveys.

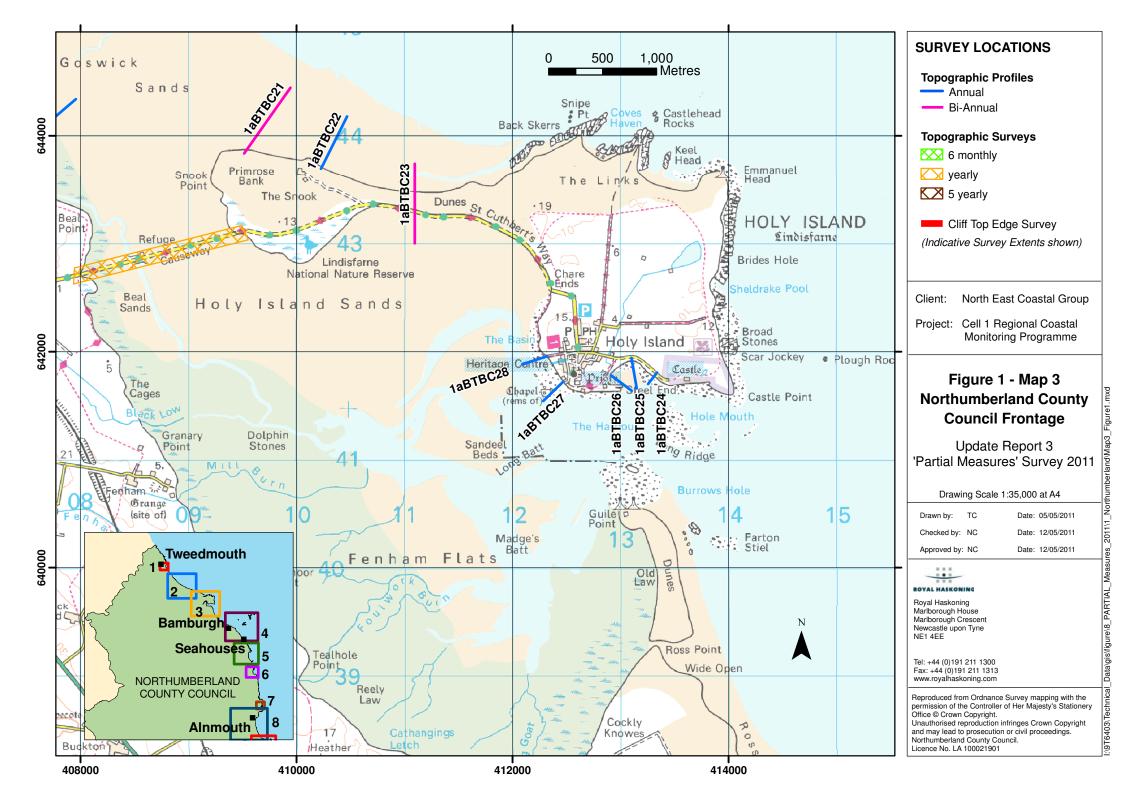
The Partial Measures survey was undertaken along this frontage in March and April 2011, when weather conditions were generally fine and the sea state was mostly calm.

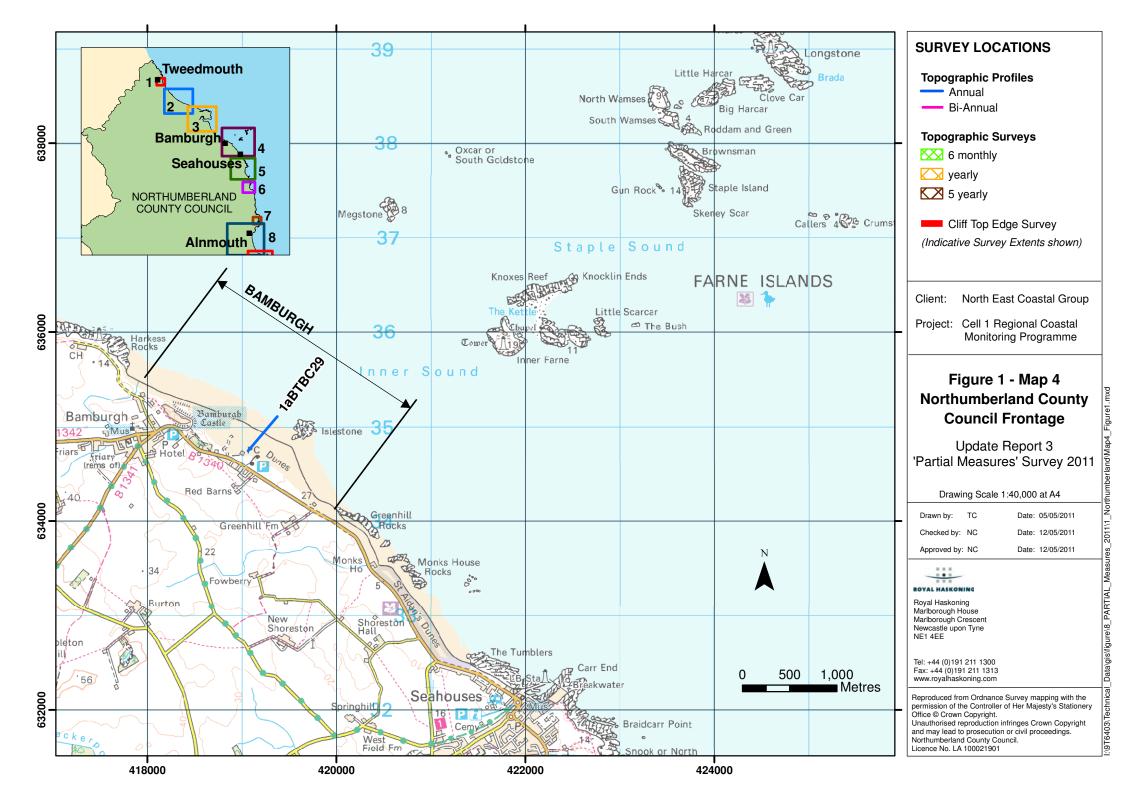
This Update Report presents the following:

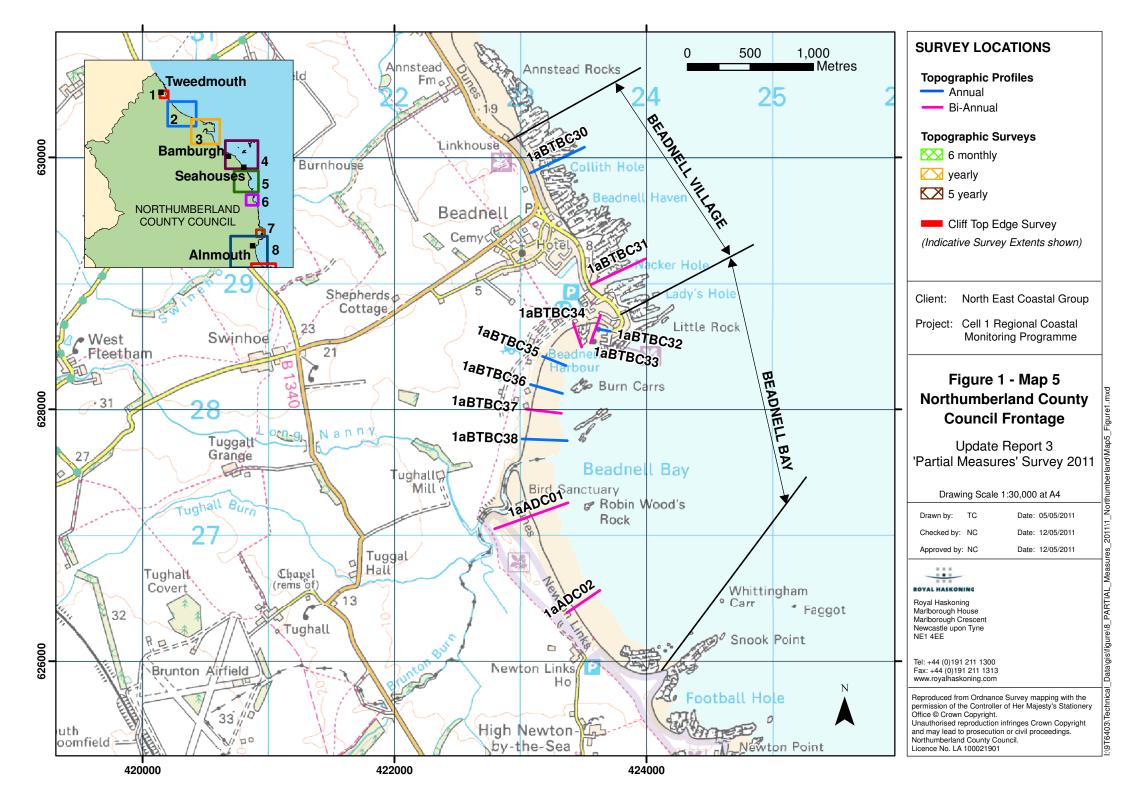
- description of the changes observed since the previous survey and an interpretation of the drivers of these changes (Section 2);
- documentation of any problems encountered during surveying or uncertainties inherent in the analysis (Section 3);
- recommendations for 'fine-tuning' the programme to enhance its outputs (Section 4);
- providing key conclusions and highlighting any areas of concern (Section 5); and
- processed data from the present survey (Appendices).

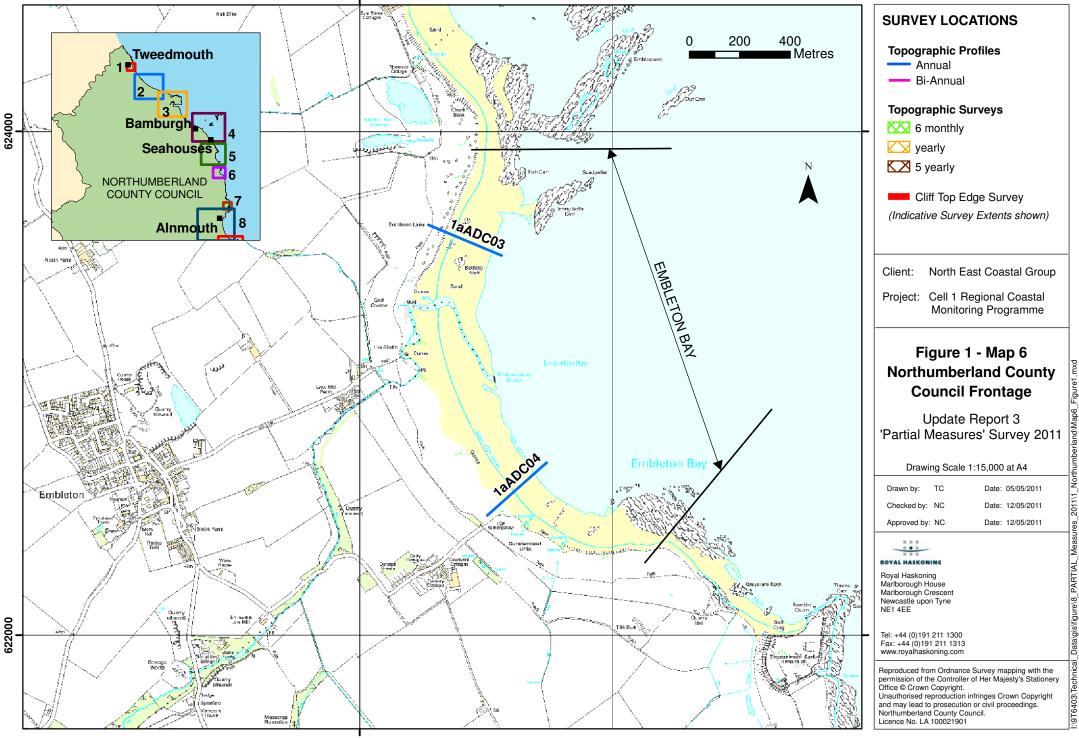


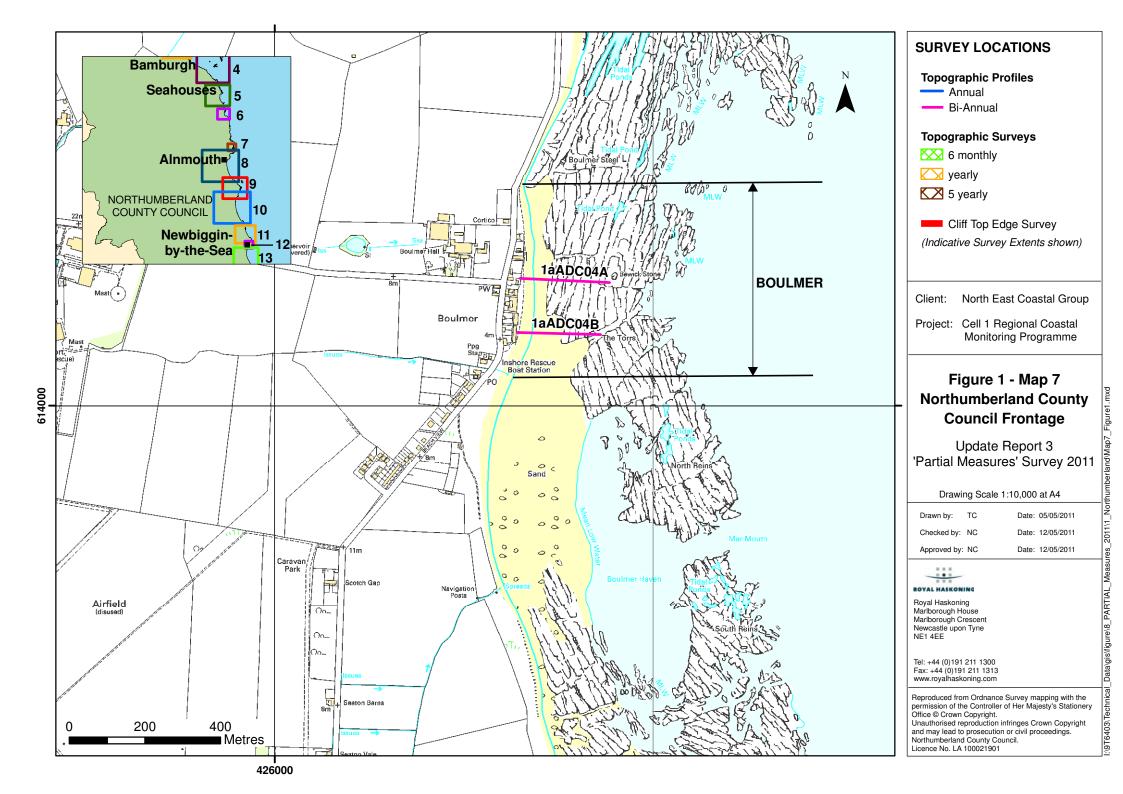


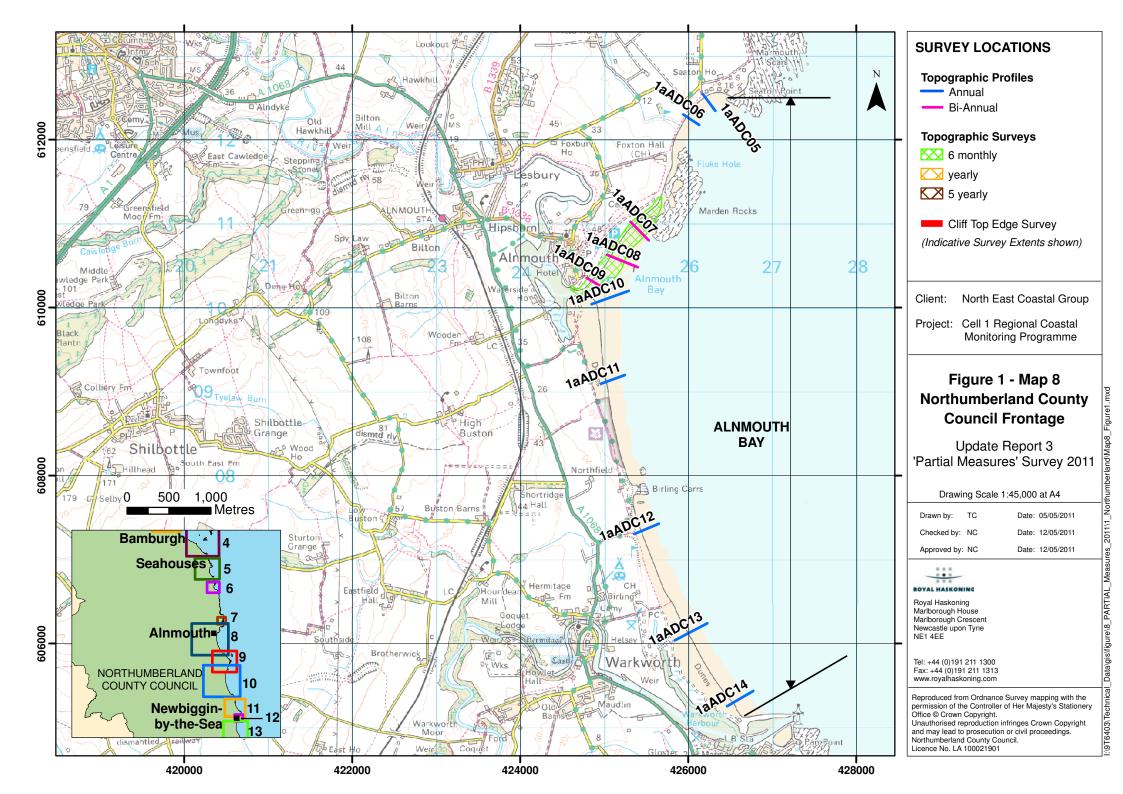


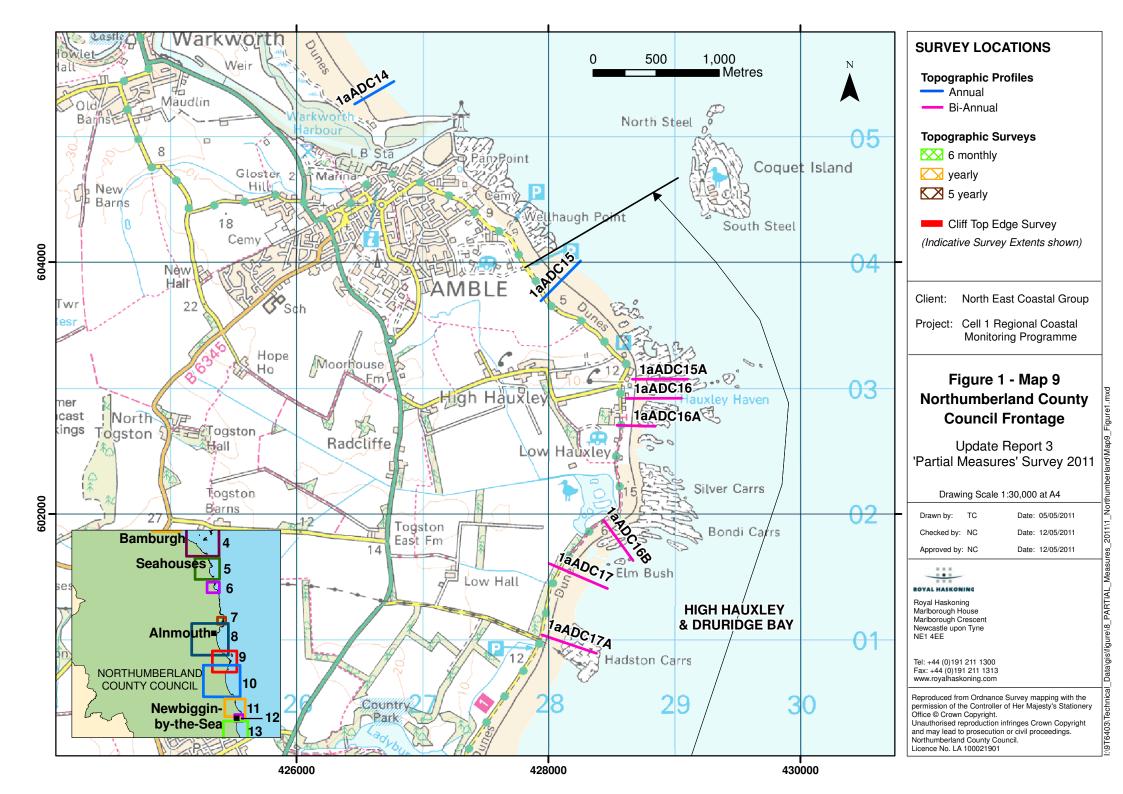


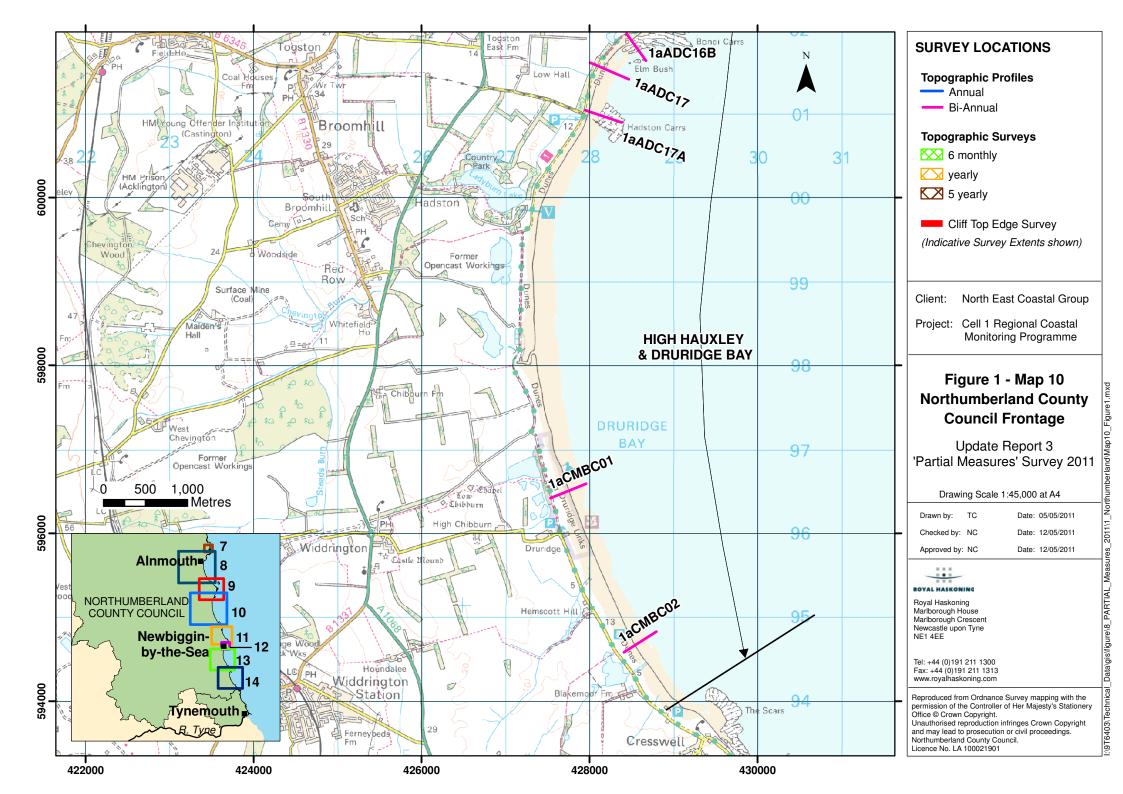


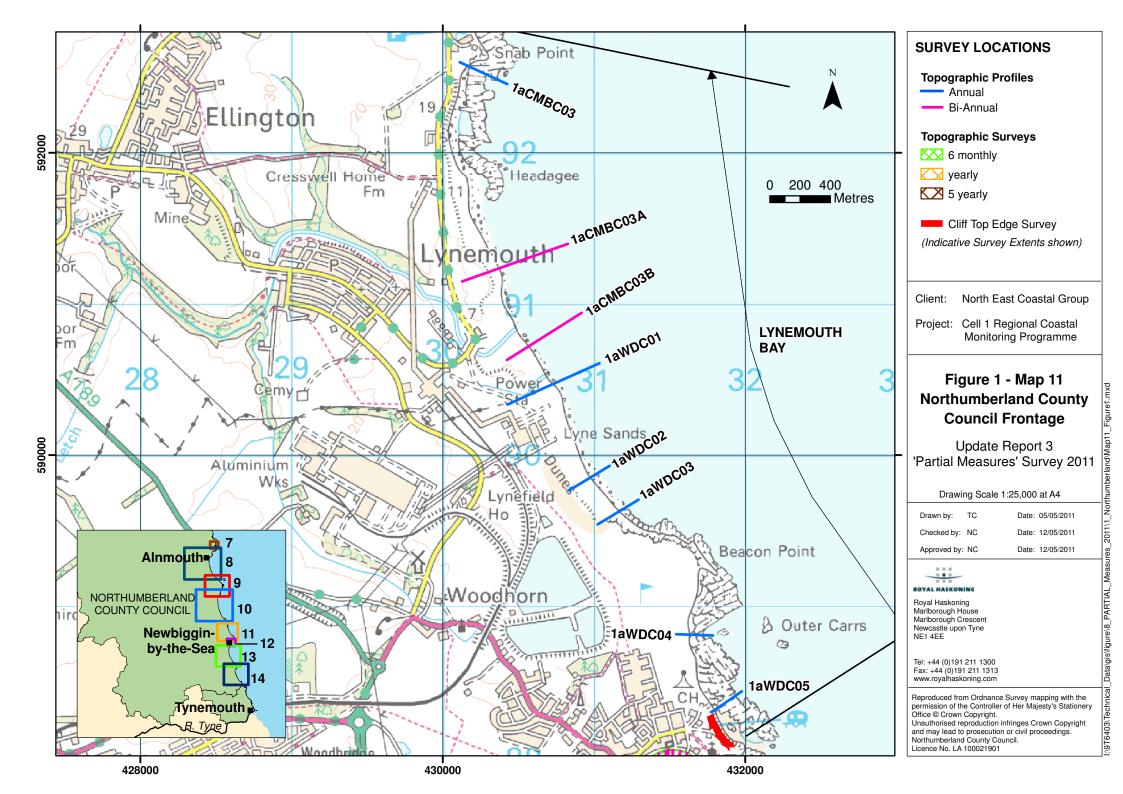


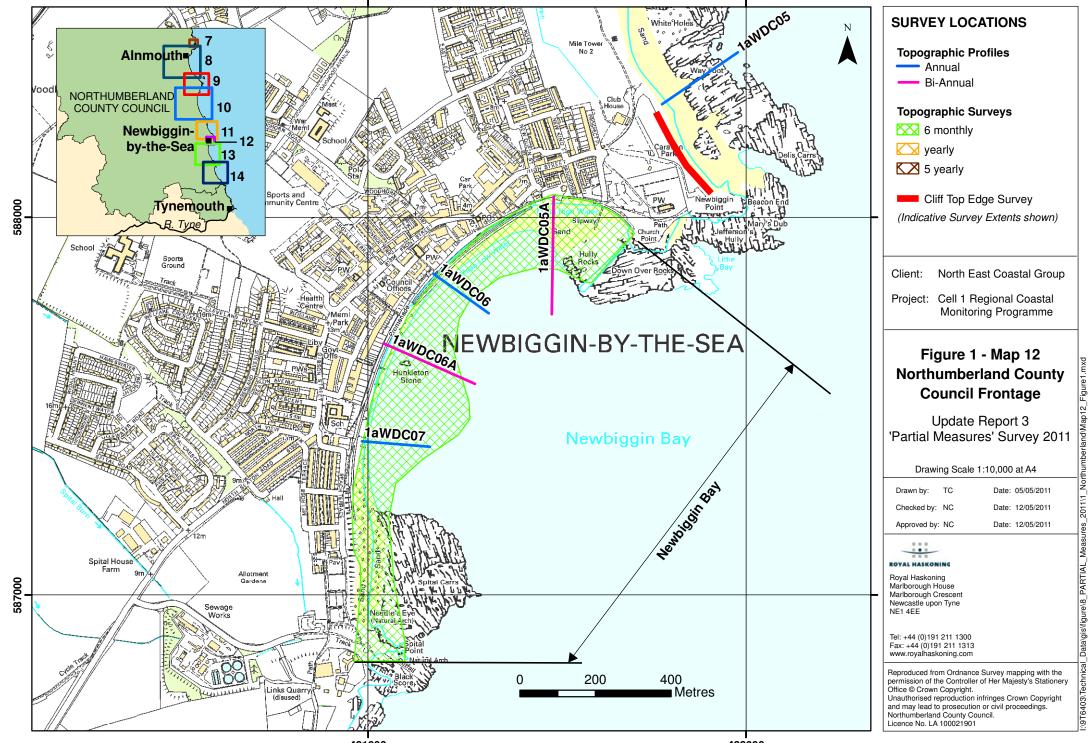


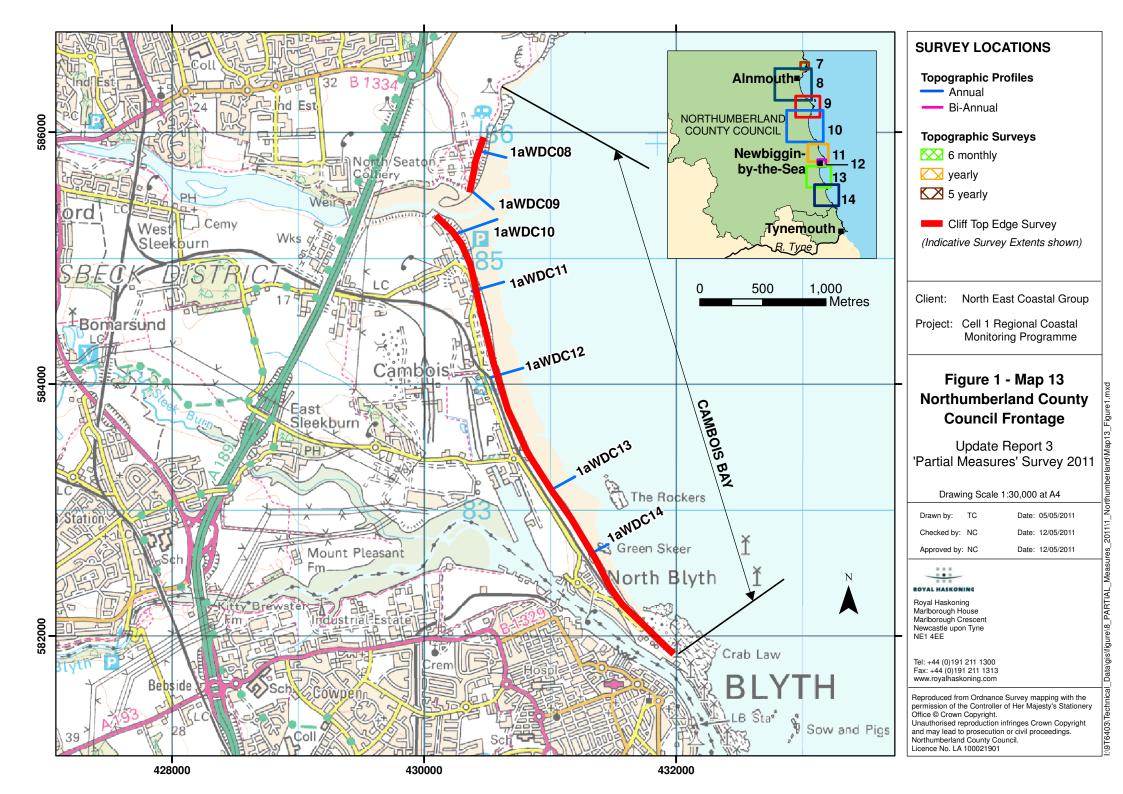


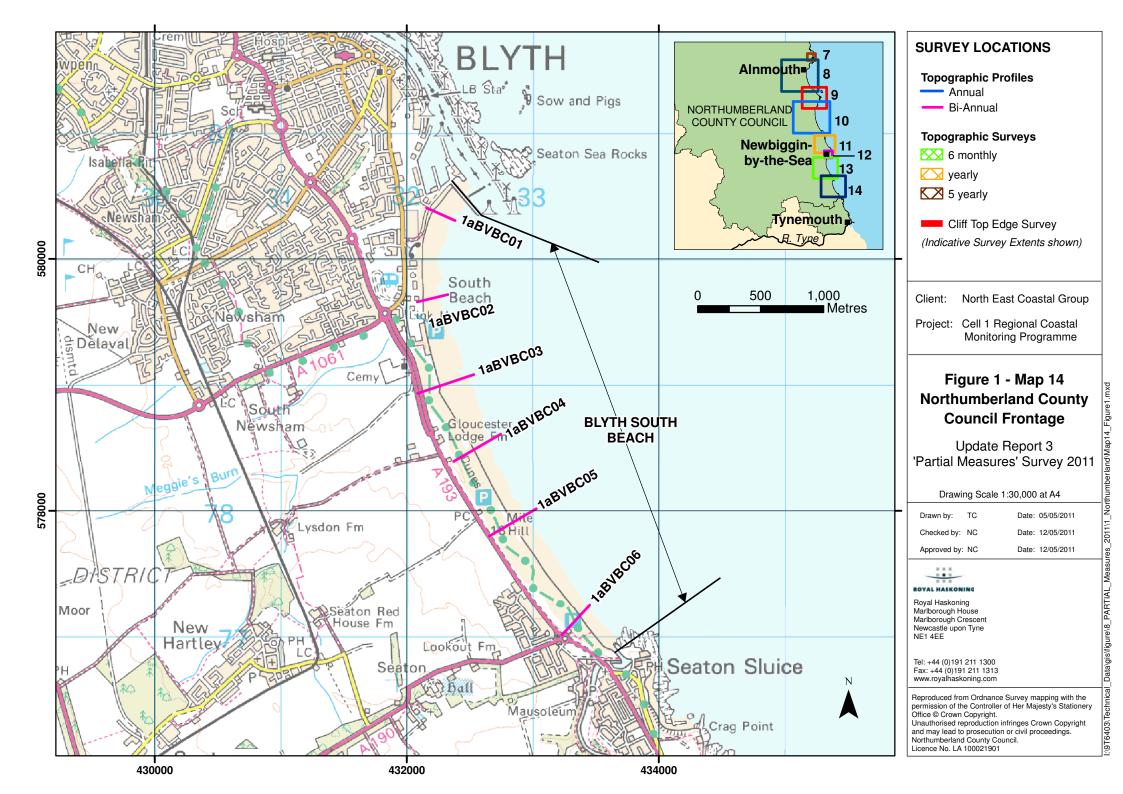












# 2. Analysis of Survey Data

# 2.1 Sandstell Point

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Sandstell Point is covered by four beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey, one along the inner estuary foreshore and three across the spit itself (Appendix A).</li> <li>Following the notable erosion that occurred in both dune position and foreshore levels along profile BTBC02 to September 2009, there has been progressive recovery of the foreshore to March 2010 (although with some ongoing dune cut-back), again to September 2010 (now with a stable dune position) and again to March 2011 (again with a stable dune position). The result is that the foreshore levels in March 2011 up to around HAT were higher than have previously been recorded, with a bern formed just above the level of HAT.</li> <li>Profile BTBC04 runs along the length of the spit and between September 2010 and March 2011 there was a significant change as the large bank feature that had formed seaward of a chainage of around 140m had once again become flattened, with resultant levels similar to those recorded in September 2009 and March 2010.</li> <li>Profiles BTBC05 and BTBC06 are both transects taken across the spit, with BTBC05 near its landward root and BTBC06 slightly north of the centre of the spit. Both plots show west (i.e. the river channel) on the right hand side and east (i.e. the seaward face) on the left hand side.</li> <li>BTBC05 showed three distinct berms across the spit, with one high narrow berm located near the river channel reaching a level in excess of MHWS. This is similar in form to the high, narrow berm that was recorded in September 2009 but subsequently flattened and widened in latter surveys. There was some accretion on the seaward face of the spit, and some modest cut-back on the riverfacing side of the spit along this transect. BTBC06 also showed the re-formation of a narrow but high berm near the river channel, with its position, height and form very reminiscent of that previously recorded in September 2009 but subsequently flattened. However, the large bank identified on</li></ul>	The dunes along the inner face of the estuary (as measured along BTBC02) have stabilised since March 2010, despite cut-back occurring quite rapidly prior to that. In part, this has been connected to the progressive recovery of foreshore levels since very low values in September 2009 to the point where levels up to HAT are now very high. This provides a good degree of protection to the backing dunes. It will be interesting to see whether this foreshore accretion ultimately leads to dune advance as sand is blown further up the beach to the toe of the dunes or whether it just helps to maintain a stable dune position. There appears to be an ongoing cycle of sediment redistribution on the spit, with sometimes narrow, high berm crests observed, especially towards the river channel side of the spit, and other times wider and lower crest banks more centrally located on the spit. There appears to be ongoing connectivity between these changes on the spit and the erosion or accretion along the foreshore and dunes along the inner estuary.

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Topographic Survey:</li> <li>Due to the significant changes that have been observed from the analysis of beach profiles along the spit at Sandstell Point, and their three-dimensional nature, a topographic survey was introduced to the monitoring programme in November 2009. This is repeated at 6-monthly intervals.</li> <li>Data from the March 2011 survey have been used to created a DGM (Appendix B – Map 1a) which has been compared against the previous topographic survey from August 2009 (Appendix B – Map 1b).</li> <li>The western (river-facing) bank of the spit generally experienced notable accretion of material as a narrow but high berm was re-formed. The only exception to this was near the root of the spit where a local zone of erosion was noted, which partly extended into the frontage along the inner estuary (although not as far upstream as profile BTBC02 which recorded accretion along the foreshore). The main body of the spit experienced two distinct zones of behaviour. The landward half experienced accretion, while the seaward half experienced erosion as the previously recorded low but wide 'bank' along the centre of the spit was flattened. Along the dune frontage to the west of the spit there was erosion near the root of the spit (as discussed above), accretion in the centre of this bay and stability at the western end.</li> </ul>	The behaviour at and around the mouth of the estuary remains complex, but there appear to be inter-relationships between changes along the dunes, spit and adjacent beach. These inter-connectivities are presently being further investigated as part of the <i>Tweed Estuary Study</i> . The three-dimensional topographic surveys enhance the understanding of changes identified by the profile analysis and confirm the ongoing sediment redistribution cycles on the spit, with different berm positions and morphologies located between successive surveys as a result of the adjustments to prevailing conditions.

# 2.2 Spittal

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<b>Beach Profiles:</b> Spittal is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Along BTBC11 the beach levels at the upper section of beach were locally very high at around 5.2mODN along a width of around 7.5m but then lowered since September 2010 along the remainder of the transect, especially so seaward of around 100m chainage. A small berm was formed on the foreshore at around 90m chainage. Similar upper beach accretion was observed along BTBC13, but in contrast to the behaviour along profile BTBC11 there was notable accretion since September 2009 along the remainder of the transect down to low water.	It is possible that some of the material removed from BTBC11 between September 2010 and March 2011 has been moved alongshore in a southerly direction to feed profile BTBC13. All changes are within previous bounds of behaviour and therefore present no management concerns.

#### 2.3 Goswick Sands

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Goswick Sands is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A).</li> <li>Recent surveys along BTBC16 have shown some lowering of the foreshore at the toe of the dunes, but no cut-back in dune position. Between October 2010 and March 2011 a significant volume of accretion occurred, setting new record high beach levels since monitoring began along this frontage in 2002. In places the accretion over the past five months has been in excess of 0.5m.</li> <li>Along BTBC19, foreshore levels recovered modestly from the fairly low values recorded in September 2009, but the profile along this section has shown very little variability along the mid and upper beach sections, with variances being of the order of 0.1m only. Further seaward along the profile, the variability increases slightly, but in March 2011 the levels along the lower foreshore remained healthy.</li> </ul>	Previous notable changes due to heavy winter conditions have occurred along these transects, but the foreshore levels now seem to be recovered. Along both transects very healthy levels were recorded.

# 2.4 Holy Island

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<b>Beach Profiles:</b> Holy Island is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Profiles BTBC21 and BTBC23 showed no significant change in profile form or level. There was a modest berm formed along the lower foreshore on both transects which had not been recorded previously.	Holy Island profiles BTBC21 and BTBC23 remain stable, with healthy foreshore levels and dunes.

# 2.5 Beadnell Village

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	Beach Profiles: Beadnell Village is covered by one beach profile line during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Along BTBC31, the profile remained relatively stable and changes since September 2009 were within the bounds of previous behaviour.	Beadnell Village profile BTBC31 remains stable.

# 2.6 Beadnell Bay

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Beadnell Bay is covered by five beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A).</li> <li>BTBC33 experienced some cut-back at the toe of the dunes, but accretion further along the profile down to low water. Along BTBC34 beach levels at the toe of the dunes remained low, but this transect also experienced accretion further along the profile down to low water.</li> <li>Along BTBC37 (midway between Brunton Burn and Beadnell Harbour) there was a small degree of cutback within the dune face, but otherwise very similar profile form to previous surveys, with some modest accretion on the foreshore.</li> <li>Along ADC01, there was some cut-back at the toe of the dunes, but within the bounds of previous dynamic behaviour. Foreshore accretion occurred along the upper beach, but with lowering along the lower beach.</li> <li>ADC02 also experienced a degree of lowering at the toe of the dunes but seaward of a chainage of 90m (a beach width of around 40m from the dune toe) the foreshore experienced modest accretion.</li> </ul>	Beadnell Bay was characterised by relatively modest changes, generally with lowering at the toe of the dunes (or low levels at the dunes maintained since the October 2010 survey) and accretion along parts of, or all of, the rest of the foreshore transect.

### 2.7 Boulmer

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Boulmer is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). These were introduced to the programme in October 2007.</li> <li>Profile ADC04A experienced some cut-back in position of the seaward face of the dunes but this is typical of the dynamic nature of this section. At the toe of the dune to foreshore levels lowered to equal record low values, but accretion occurred lower down the profile to a chainage of around 50m, after which the rock platform was exposed on the foreshore.</li> <li>Profile ADC04B experienced a very slight degree of cut-back at the toe of the dunes, but some slight accretion along the profile down to a chainage of around 65m, after which the rock platform was exposed on the foreshore.</li> </ul>	The two profiles at Boulmer both showed some slight lowering or cut-back at the toe of the dunes, with some accretion further down the profile, but no changes were of significant concern for management.

#### 2.8 Alnmouth

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Alnmouth Bay is covered by three beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). These are all located in the area of beach to the north of the River Aln estuary.</li> <li>Along ADC07 the position and form of the dunes remained unchanged, but upper foreshore lowering occurred to a chainage of around 170m. Typically levels were some 0.2m lower than those recorded in September 2009. Seaward of 170m chainage, a wide and low berm had formed.</li> <li>ADC08 typically experienced accretion of sediment along the entire profile, with a distinct berm formed on the mid beach and another formed on the lower beach.</li> <li>Along ADC09 there was accretion of up to 0.8m at the toe of the dunes, but seaward of a chainage of around 55m there was erosion on the lower foreshore. This reached a maximum difference in level since September 2010 of 1.6m at a chainage of around 140m.</li> </ul>	The surveyors reported that section ADC09 was shorter than that recorded in September 2009 because the river channel was closer to shore. This is the probable cause of the notable lower foreshore erosion along this transect. Elsewhere, the other two transects did not show a consistent trend of behaviour, suggesting that sediment is being redistributed along this frontage as a consequence of the change in river channel position across the foreshore, rather than there being a governing net trend of erosion or accretion.
03-2011	<b>Topographic Survey:</b> The northern part of Alnmouth Bay (to the north of the River Aln estuary) is covered by bi-annual topographic survey which commenced in April 2005. Data from the current survey (March 2011) have been used to create a DGM (Appendix B – Map 2a). This has been compared against a similar DGM created using the September 2010 data (Appendix B – Map 2b). Different sections of this beach appear to have experienced different trends. The channel of the River Aln estuary has cut back landwards, affecting erosion at the southern section of the frontage, although some upper foreshore accretion occurred at the toe of the dunes (as captured in profile ADC09). There is then a section in front of the seafront car park where two zones of accretion have occurred along the foreshore, forming mid-beach and lower-beach berms (as captured in profile ADC08). The remaining section of frontage then generally experienced foreshore lowering (as captured in profile ADC07).	This section of frontage is quite highly dynamic, with changes apparently linked, at least in part, to the changes in position of the channel of the River Aln estuary as it exits to sea across the foreshore. This often leads to different behaviour in different parts of the frontage as sediment is redistributed in response to changing exposure.

# 2.9 High Hauxley and Druridge Bay

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	Beach Profiles: High Hauxley to Druridge Bay is covered by eight beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Four of these (with 'A' or 'B' suffices) were added to the programme in October 2007. Along profile ADC15A, there was accretion of up to 0.15m seaward of a chainage of around 50m, but landward of this was similar magnitude lowering of the upper foreshore, except for directly at the toe of the dunes, were there was further accretion. Profile ADC16 experienced a stable beach form across the dunes and down to a chainage of around 130m, but lowering of the lower foreshore by typically 0.1 to 0.2m. Profile ADC16A experienced a stable beach form across the dunes and down to a chainage of around 105m, with redistribution of sediment thereafter. This was caused by flattening of a berm observed at a chainage of 120m in October 2010, with the liberated sediment deposited on the lower foreshore to raise levels by around 0.1m. Along profile ADC16B there was some removal of the thin sand veneer previously covering parts of the lower foreshore rocks, but accretion of up to 0.1m was recorded higher up the profile, including to the toe of the dunes. Profiles ADC17 and ADC17A both showed minor redistribution of sediment since October 2010, with modest recovery of levels at the dune toe. Along CMBC01, there has been erosion of a large proportion of the dune face, with the surveyor's notes reporting that more anti-tank blocks are now visible than on recent visits. The material eroded from the dune face appears to have been deposited on the upper foreshore in the form of a berm located just above MHWS. Further seaward along the profile, fluctuations in level have occurred as the berm previously recorded near low water in October 2010 was flattened.	High Hauxley experienced only modest changes since the previous survey. Overall, there has been progressive, slow recovery of foreshore levels following the storm damage that occurred to the beach and dunes early in 2010. Parts of the southern section of Druridge Bay continued to experience significant changes, with notable erosion of the dune face along CMBC01.

# 2.10 Lynemouth

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Lynemouth is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A), namely profiles CMBC03A and CMBC03B, which were both added to the programme in October 2007.</li> <li>Along CMBC03A the position of the slag bank at the rear of the foreshore has remained stable, whilst the foreshore has shown some minor variations since October 2010. Previous surveys have shown some progressive cut-back of the foreshore, but this appears to have stabilised in the March 2011 survey.</li> <li>Significant erosion of the foreshore has been reported over the past several years along CMBC03B, leading to significant slag bank erosion. In the March 2011 survey, the slag bank appears to have been re-graded back to a shallower angle. This is confirmed by the surveyor's notes, which record this was achieved through use of mechanical plant. This process has resulted in some material being deposited from the slag bank onto the foreshore, raising levels by a minimum value of around 0.5m.</li> </ul>	The profiles along CMBC03A and CMBC03B have been experience ongoing change since the surveys were introduced here in October 2007. Whilst the foreshore cut back appears to have stabilised between October 2010 and March 2011 along CMBC03A, there still remains only a very narrow beach width before slag bank erosion will commence. Along CMBC03B, the rate of erosion of the slag bank (some 17m in the three years between October 2007 and October 2010) appears to have prompted management intervention by Rio-Tinto Alcan, the owners of the Lynemouth Power Station. The combined effect of re- grading of the slope to a shallower angle together with the foreshore accretion should slow or arrest the rate of recession. This will be confirmed through analysis on ongoing surveys in future reports.

# 2.11 Newbiggin-by-the-Sea

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Newbiggin-by-the-Sea is now covered by four beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Two of these (with 'A' suffices) were added to the programme in October 2007 specifically to help assess the performance of the capital scheme involving beach replenishment and construction of an offshore breakwater. It should be noted that an extended series of profiles and a topographic survey are also recorded via the Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme for purposes of post-project evaluation of this capital scheme. These data have been analysed and reported to Northumberland County Council in a stand-alone report in 2011.</li> <li>Profile WDC05A is in the north of Newbiggin Bay and following the September 2010 survey experienced a redistribution of sediment, with some material eroded from the recharged seaward face and deposited further landward up the profile causing accretion along the upper beach, across a width of around 35m. This has resulted in a relatively high berm formed on the upper beach well above HAT. Some material liberated from the erosion on the recharged seaward face has also been deposited on the lower foreshore.</li> <li>Along section WDC06 the recharged beach has cut back landward sufficiently that the stepped toe of the concrete seawall is now visible. As measured at the line of MHWS, this landward recession has been around 12m over 2.5 years.</li> <li>Along WDC06A the erosion of the seaward face of the recharged beach has stopped, but the beach berm above HAT has reduced in level. There still remains a relatively wide and high beach fronting the sea wall.</li> <li>Profile WDC07 has high beach levels at the toe of the wall (which are know to have caused problems in terms of blown sand across the promenade) but the seaward face of the recharged beach has continued to erode landwards. As measured at the line of MHWS, this landward recession has been around 6m over 2.5 years.</li> </ul>	The upper foreshore deposition along WDC05A has created a high beach levels, with several changes in gradient formed that lead to a high berm above HAT and a steep seaward gradient. This undulating and, in places, steep beach form is known to have caused some problems for the local boat club and the RNLI in launching and recovering vessels from the beach and is going to be addressed later in 2011 through a sand recycling scheme across the Bay. The intent of this will be to reduce the accretion in the northern part of the bay and re-create the design profiles in the central part of the bay where recharge material is being eroded as the beach form re- adjusts to the presence of the offshore breakwater. It is anticipated that such recycling will be an ongoing maintenance aspect associated with the capital recharge scheme.

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Cliff Top Survey:</li> <li>Data relating to the cliff top surveys are best viewed as digital 'kmz' files loaded into Google Earth.</li> <li>Newbiggin Caravan Park:</li> <li>This survey was introduced to the monitoring programme in September 2007 and is repeated at 6-monthly intervals. It covers the cliffs in front of Newbiggin Caravan Park, located to the immediate north of Newbiggin Point.</li> <li>The northern part of this frontage (approximately 70m in length) is unprotected by defences. Since the previous (September 2010) survey only small-scale changes have occurred, with approximately two locations experiencing localised slumps in the cliff. One is a small slump along a length of around 1.5m where the cliff top has cut back by up to 0.4m. The other is a slightly longer length of around 3m, where the cut-back has been around 0.5m. When compared against the first survey (September 2007), this undefended cliff line has eroded along its entire length, resulting in landward recession of typically around 0.5m but in one place up to 1.5m.</li> <li>The central section of this frontage (approximately 125m in length) is protected by concrete blocks and rubble. The general stability between September 2010 and March 2011 suggests that this has been partly effective in protecting many sections of this cliff, but in one location along a length of around 4m cut back by 0.9m has occurred. Typically, between the first and present surveys, erosion has been of the order of 0.2m, but locally it has now been up to 0.9m.</li> <li>The southern section of surveyed cliff (around 80m in length) is fronted by a rocky shore platform. This also affords some protection to the backing cliffs, as suggested by their relatively stability between September 2010 and March 2011. When compared against the first survey (September 2007), however, modest erosion of the order of 0.1m can be discerned, but locally this can reach up to 0.75m.</li> </ul>	Changes in the cliff top position along Newbiggin Caravan Park are occurring along the entire length, but the magnitude of the change is greatest along the undefended cliffs in the northern section. The central and southern sections are somewhat more protected by concrete blocks and a rocky shore platform, respectively.

#### 2.12 Cambois

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Cliff Top Surveys:</li> <li>Data relating to the cliff top surveys are best viewed as digital 'kmz' files loaded into Google Earth.</li> <li>Sandy Bay Caravan Park:</li> <li>This survey was introduced to the monitoring programme in September 2007 and is repeated at 6-monthly intervals. It covers the cliffs in front of the southern sections of Sandy Bay Caravan Park (i.e. the area where caravans are closest to the cliff edge), located to the immediate north of the mouth of the River Wansbeck estuary. When considering changes between the previous survey (September 2010) and the current survey (March 2011), there has been erosion generally occurring in small slumps, typically resulting in around 0.75m - 0.9m cut back in cliff top position along lengths of typically 2m - 4m. Across the most southerly section, however, the cliff top has receded more notably, with up to 1.5m cut-back recorded along a cumulative length of some 42.5m, including one length of 30m where erosion has occurred along the whole section. When considering changes between the first survey (September 2007) and the current survey (March 2011), there has been erosion over the entire length. In northern and central sections this has locally been up to 0.75m, but this increases in the south to over 4.5m.</li> <li>Cambois:</li> <li>This survey was introduced to the monitoring programme in April 2009 and is repeated at 6-monthly intervals. It covers the cliffs along Cambois, extending between the mouth of the River Wansbeck estuary (south bank) and the East Pier at Blyth Harbour. Between September 2010 and March 2011, there has been a notable slump adjacent to the garden of Cambois House along a length of around 8m, where the cliff top has cut back by around 1m in position. Similar slumps have also occurred at three further locations running south towards the cottages. In front of the cottages, the entire cliff line appears to have cut back over a length of around 100m, with a recession in cliff top position of typically just over 1m. The clif</li></ul>	In previous surveys, the cliffs at Sandy Bay Caravan Park have largely eroded through occasional small-magnitude and localised slumps. Since September 2009, however, the entire cliff line appears to have been more active, with almost the entire frontage experiencing some landward recession. This has been particularly acute along the southern-most section of the cliff top, which has always been particularly active. These recorded changes show that the Sandy Bay Caravan Park cliff top has been active over the winter of 2010/2011, especially so along a 30m length towards the south of the frontage. <b>IMPORTANT NOTE:</b> Just to the north of the surveyed area, around Coffin Rocks and Bull Rock, an angler tragically died after falling around 15m from the cliff top onto the beach when the cliff edge he was standing on collapsed. This happened on the evening of 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2010 following a prolonged period of adverse weather, including heavy snow and ice. It is likely that the freeze-thaw cycles on the cliff face weakened the rock structure and the increased loading on the cliff from the deep snow and ice further contributed to the rock fall. This section of cliff top is not currently surveyed. The Cambois cliffs are locally active, with particularly notable change adjacent to the garden of Cambois House (local) and immediately in front of the cottages (much more widespread, covering a frontage of around 100m).

# 2.15 Blyth South Beach

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2011	<ul> <li>Beach Profiles:</li> <li>Blyth South Beach is covered by six beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A).</li> <li>BVBC01 is located towards the north of South Beach, in front of the area of land owned by Port of Blyth. Between September 2010 and March 2011 notable lowering occurred along the upper beach, with levels similar to those recorded in April 2010. There was, however, no erosion in dune position, although a near-vertical dune face remains observed. The lower foreshore accreted sediment and was relatively healthy.</li> <li>Along both BVBC02 and BVBC03, redistribution of sediment resulted in areas of deposition of up to around 0.2m in level along the upper foreshore. Elsewhere the profiles remained stable or exhibited lowering in level associated with the formation of a trough and berm feature along the lower foreshore.</li> <li>Profile BVBC04, located just to the south of Gloucester Lodge Farm in the centre of South Beach, showed a very significant lowering in level at the toe of the dunes, with levels in places some 1m lower than those recorded in September 2010. The whole profile along this transect suffered from notable erosion and levels were at, or near, record low values.</li> <li>In contrast, there was some recovery in beach level observed along BVBC05 from the low values that were recorded in September 2010.</li> <li>Profile BVBC06 showed only modest redistribution of sediment between around MSL and HAT.</li> </ul>	Blyth South Beach continues to show dynamic behaviour in some areas, but with no consistent trend along the frontage as a whole. The upper foreshore lowering in the northern section along BVBC01 has not to date resulted in erosion of the backing dunes. The section to the north of Gloucester Lodge Farm has altered due to the formation of a trough and berm feature along the lower foreshore. Beach levels in the south of the bay have recovered or remain stable. The only area of concern is currently along BVBC04, just to the south of Gloucester Lodge Farm. This is an area that continues to suffer from dynamic response to the relatively high exposure conditions caused by its position and orientation within the bay. Previously attempts have been made to repair dune damage using sand-filled geotextile bags, sand recharge to the dunes and the placement of Christmas trees, but these do not alter the exposure conditions along the frontage.

# 3. **Problems Encountered and Uncertainty in Analysis**

Surveying the cliff top along Cambois Bay is more difficult than the similar surveys at Newbiggin Caravan Park and Sandy Bay Caravan Park because along Cambois Bay, especially in the northern section, the cliff edge is less distinct due to vegetation coverage and a bevelled form, rather than a distinct cliffed edge. Due to this a degree of surveyor interpretation needs to be made in definition of the cliff 'top'. Consequently a long-term record is required before results from this surveying technique become truly meaningful.

# 4. Recommendations for 'Fine-tuning' the Monitoring Programme

No changes are recommended at the present time.

# 5. Conclusions and Areas of Concern

- Changes over the winter of 2010/11 have been much more modest throughout Northumberland than those which were recorded over the winter of 2009/10 when significant dune and cliff erosion occurred.
- The dunes and foreshore along the south bank of the River Tweed estuary appear to have stabilised or accreted along the western and central parts of the inner estuary, although erosion has continued along the eastern section.
- This behaviour appears to be strongly linked to changes in the position and form of Sandstell Point spit, which has tended towards a higher narrow berm on the river side of the spit, in contrast to the wider but lower berm previously recorded as being more centrally located on the spit in the last survey.
- Profiles recorded at Goswick Sands, Holy Island, Beadnell Village, Beadnell Bay and Boulmer are very similar to previous surveys and show no signs for concern.
- The foreshore at Alnmouth Bay, north of the river outlet, continues to be dynamic, but with no consistent trend across the frontage as a whole. The changes observed appear, in part, to be linked to changes in position of the river channel as it flows across the foreshore to discharge at sea.
- At High Hauxley there has been progressive, but slow, recovery in upper foreshore levis following the notable storm damage that occurred early in 2010.
- Within Druridge Bay, there has been notable erosion of the dune face along profile CMBC01.
- The slag banks that were previously being eroded at a rapid rate along parts of Lynemouth Bay have been mechanically re-graded to a shallower slope angle, with some of the material contributing to notable accretion on the foreshore. Continued monitoring will be necessary to determine whether this has been successful in slowing or arresting the recession rates.
- Natural redistribution of sand continues to occur in Newbiggin Bay following the capital recharge and breakwater scheme which was completed in 2007. Based on the monitoring data. A sand recycling scheme is to be instigated later in 2011 to restore design profiles in the centre of the bay, where erosion is occurring, and reduce accumulating sand levels in the north of the bay, which locally is causing problems of wind-blown sand and providing logistical difficulties in the launching or recovery of vessels.
- There are ongoing concerns related to high exposure conditions in the central sections of Blyth South Beach. The most recent survey shows notable lowering of the foreshore directly at the toe of the dunes, which could lead to dune erosion.

Appendices

Appendix A

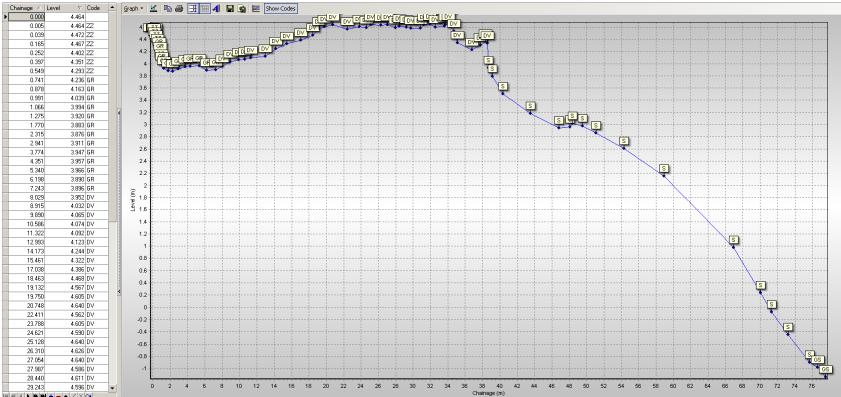
**Beach Profiles** 

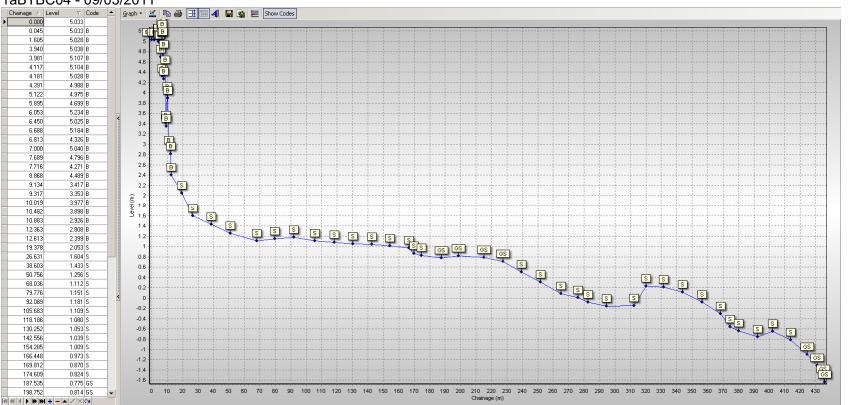
The following sediment feature codes are used on some profile plots:

Code	Description
М	Mud
S	Sand
G	Gravel
GS	Gravel & Sand
GM	Gravel & Mud
MS	Mud & Sand
В	Boulders
R	Rock
SD	Sea Defence
SM	Salt Marsh
GR	Grass
D	Dune (non-vegetated)
DV	Dune (vegetated)
F	Forested
Х	Mixture
FB	Obstruction
СТ	Cliff Top
CE	Cliff Edge
CF	Cliff Face
SH	Shell
W	Water Body
ZZ	Unknown

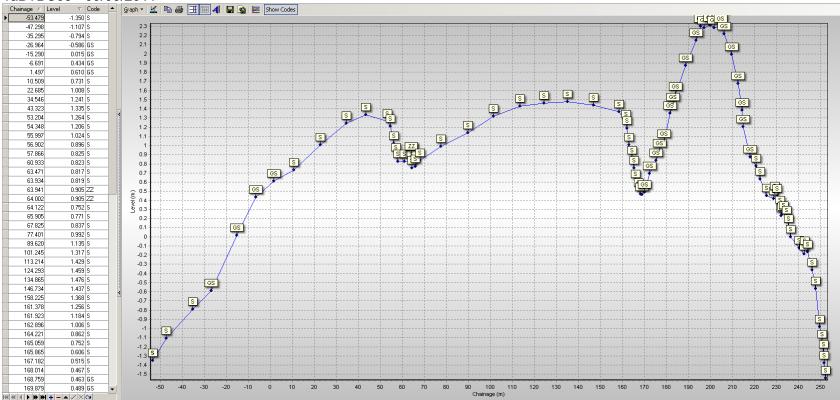
# Berwick

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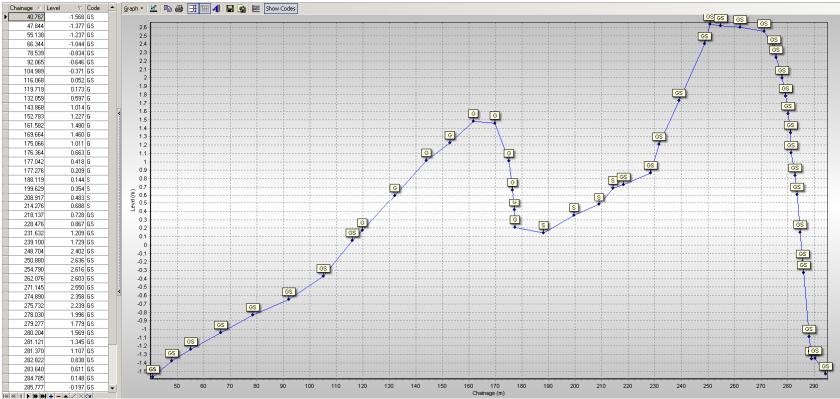




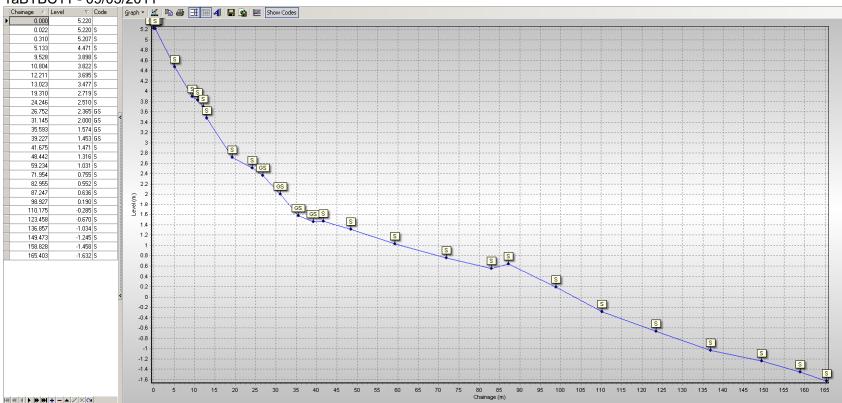
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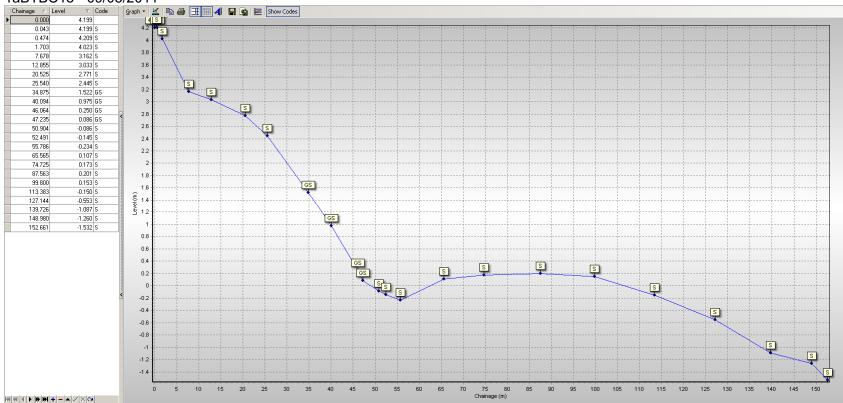
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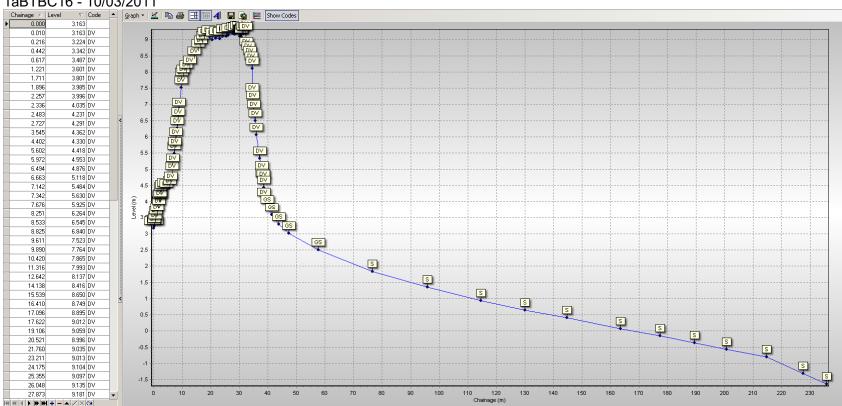
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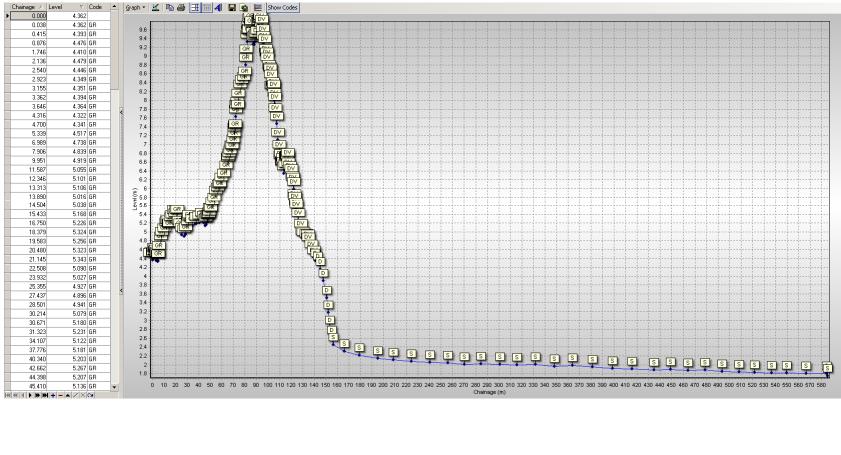


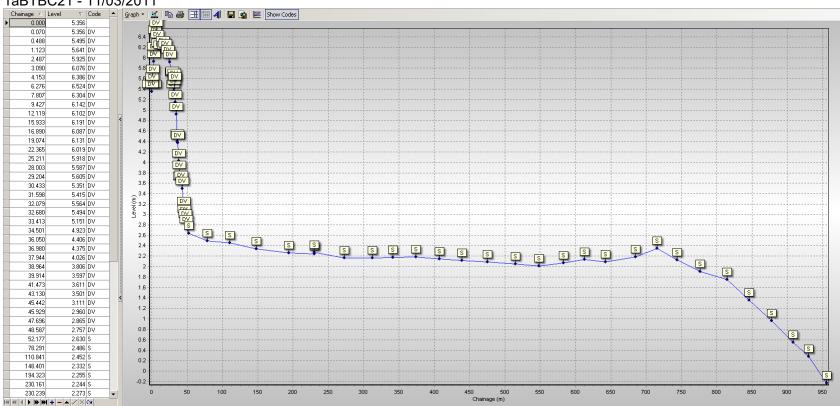
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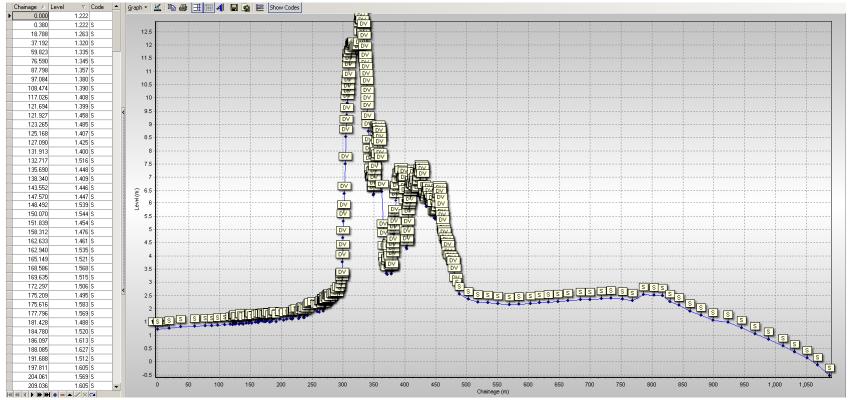
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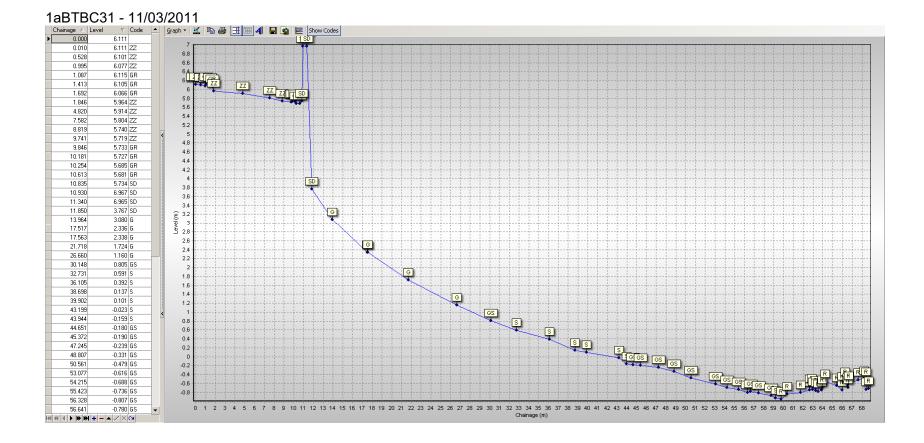


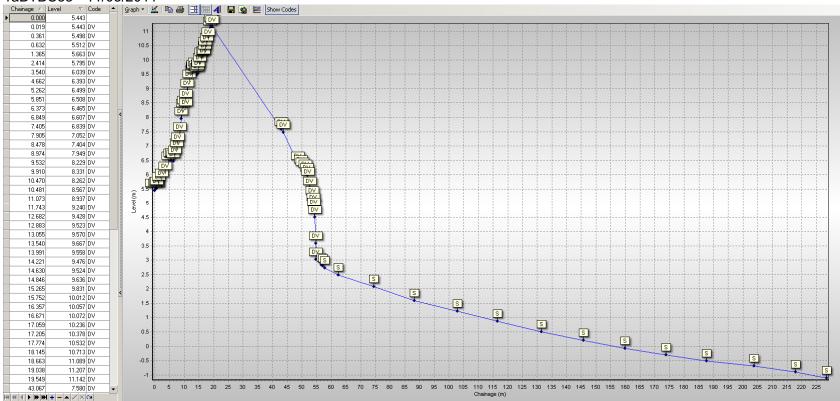


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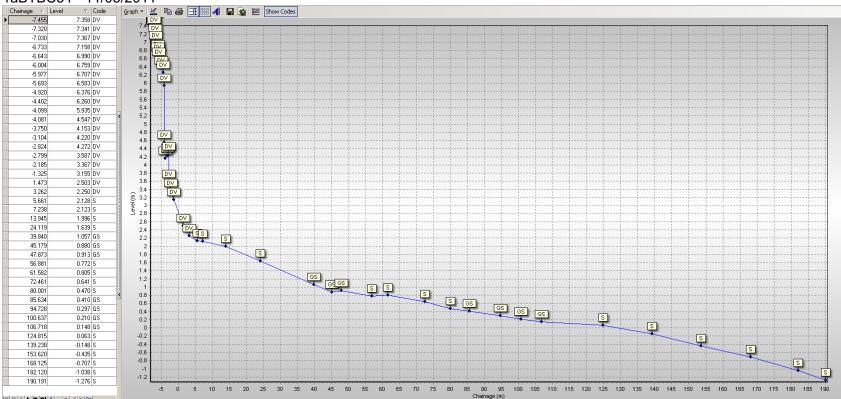
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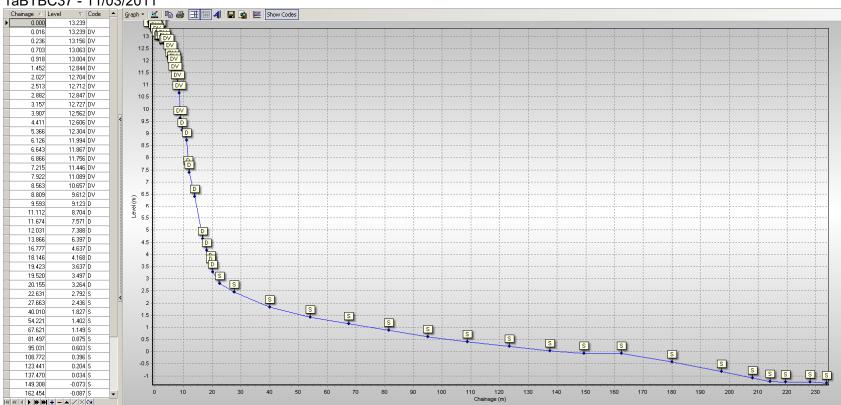


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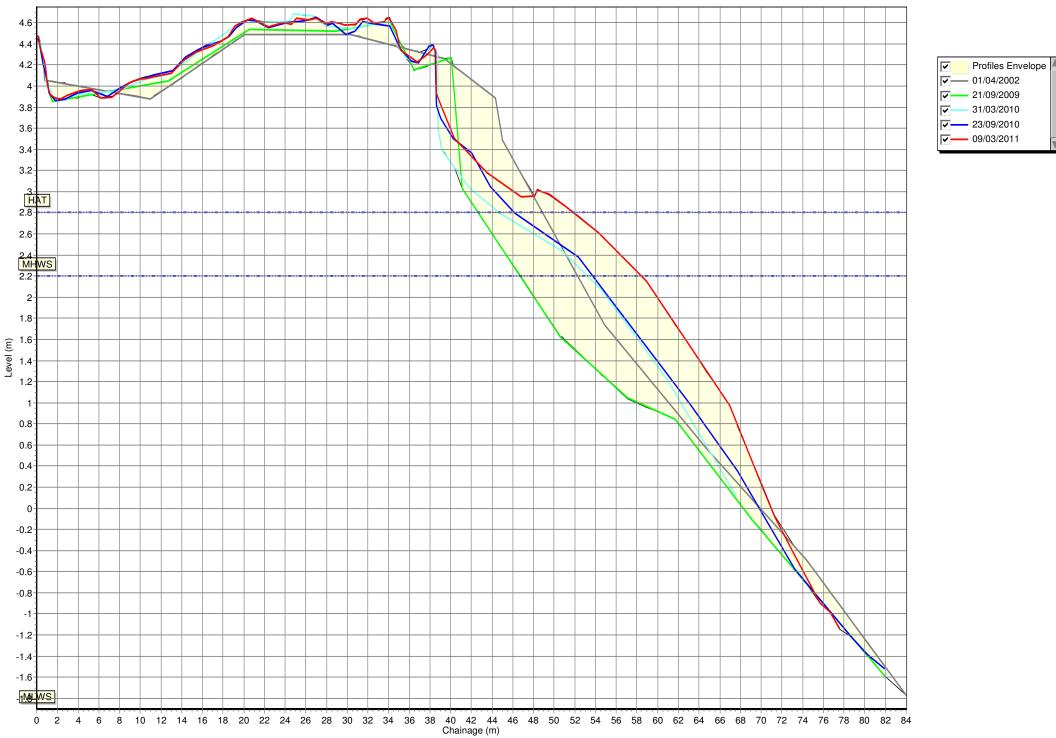
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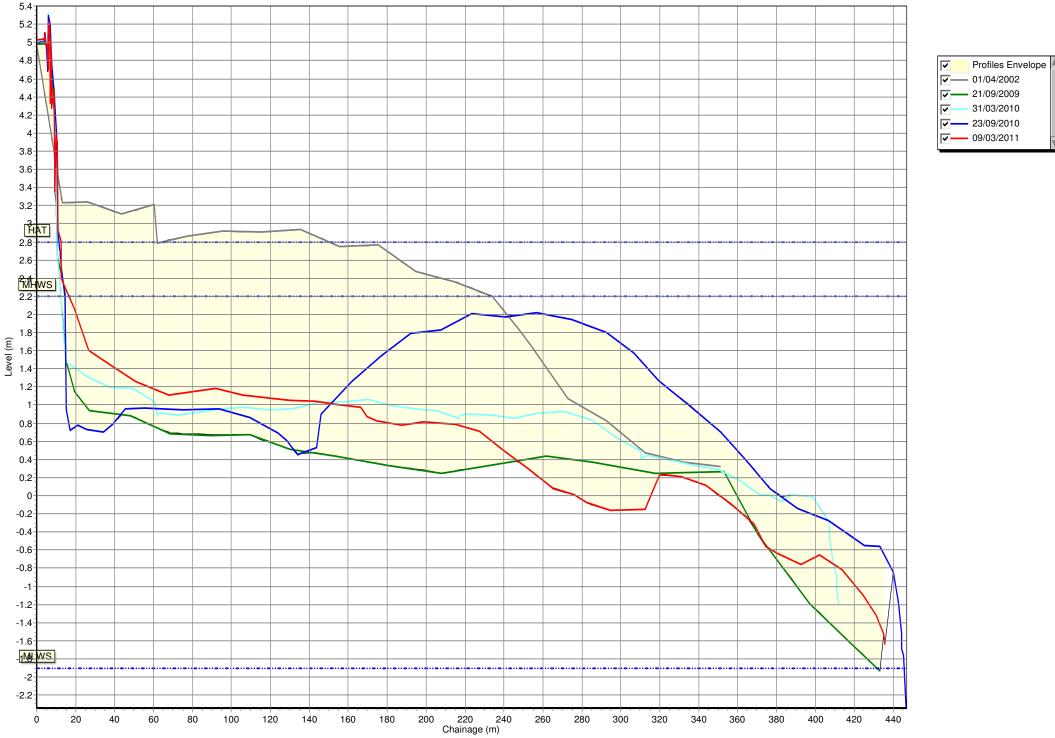


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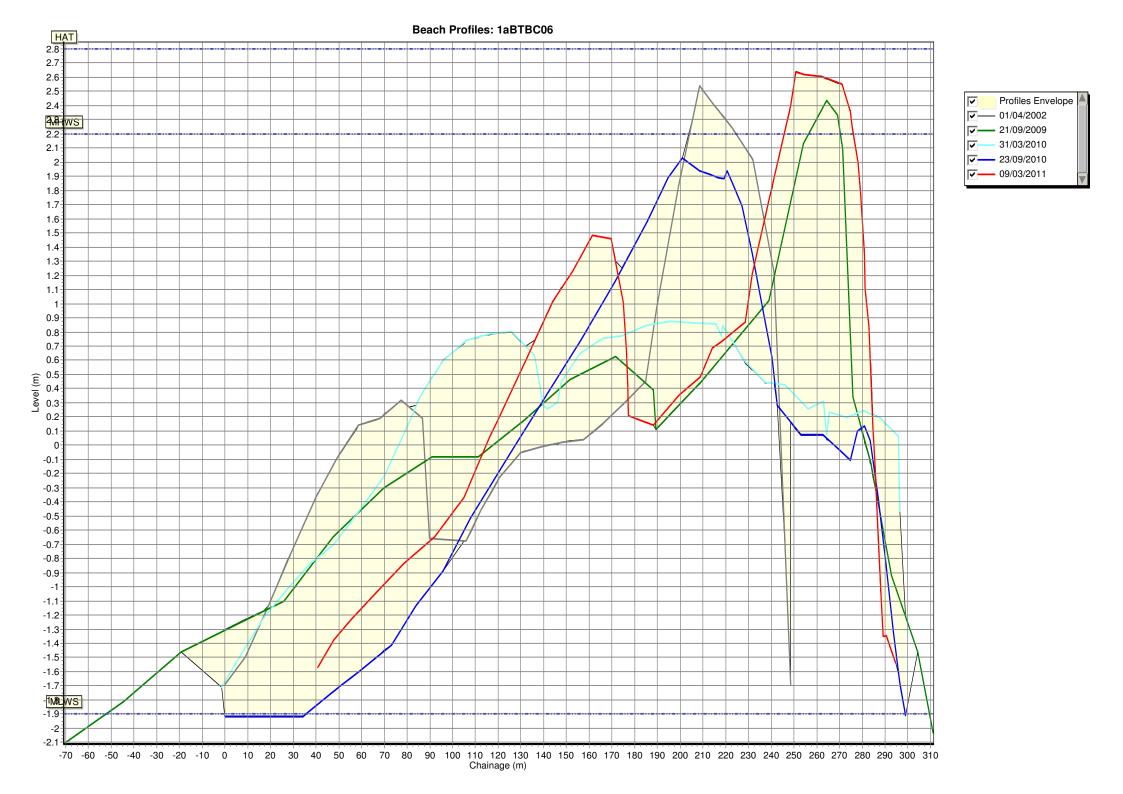


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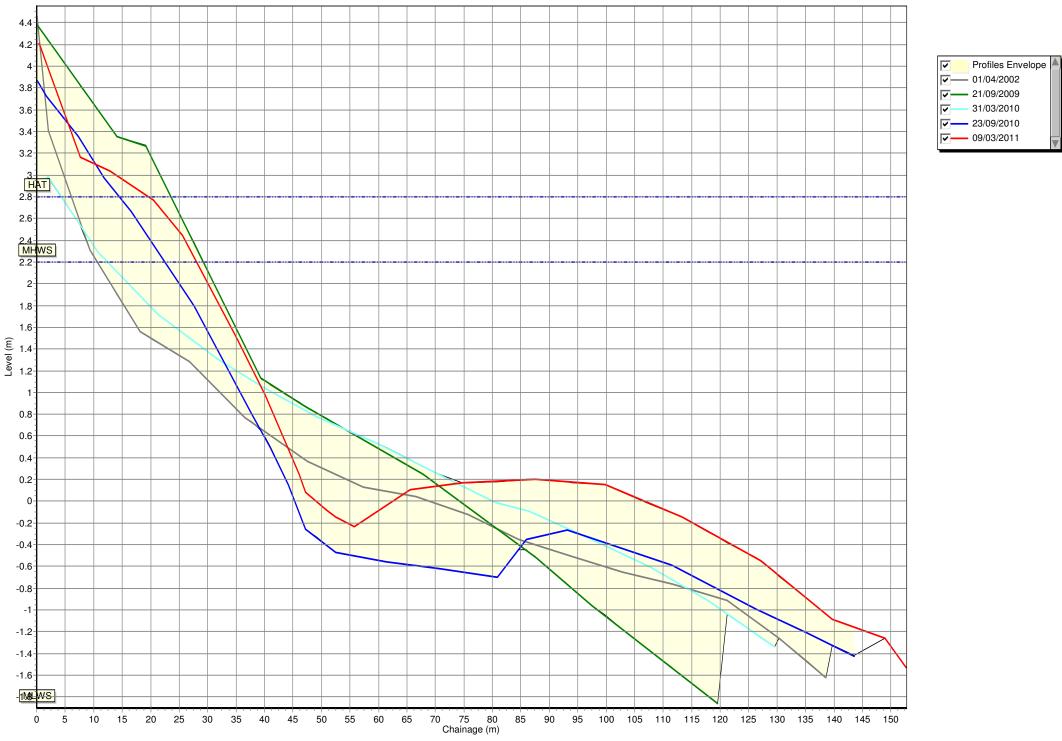


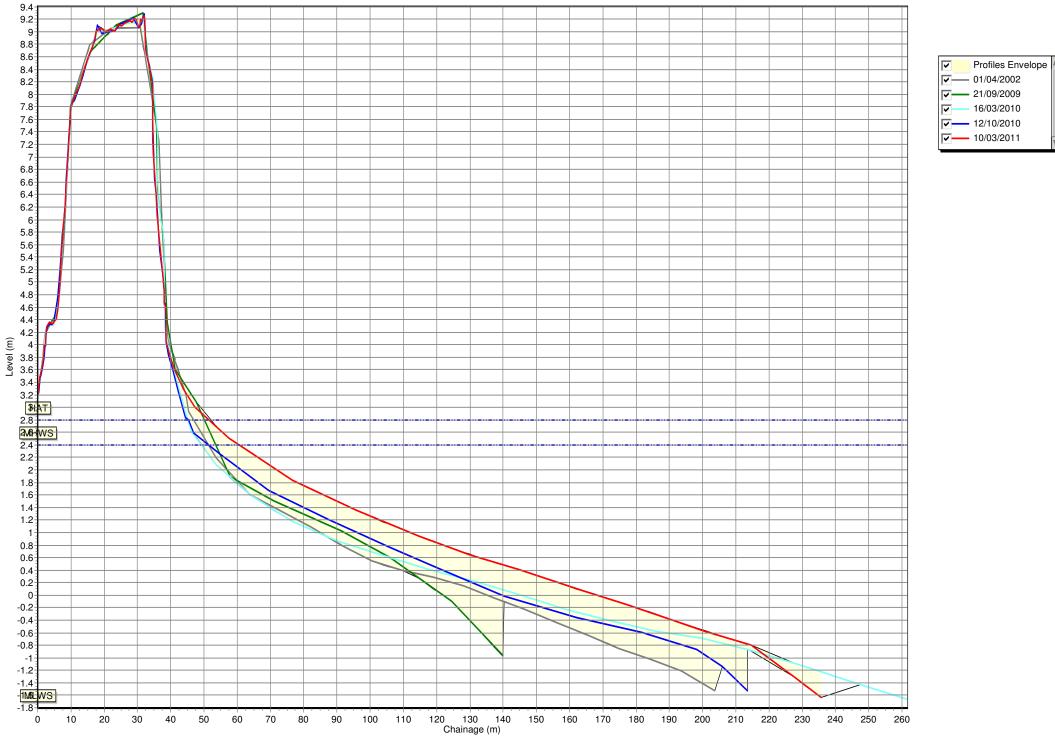


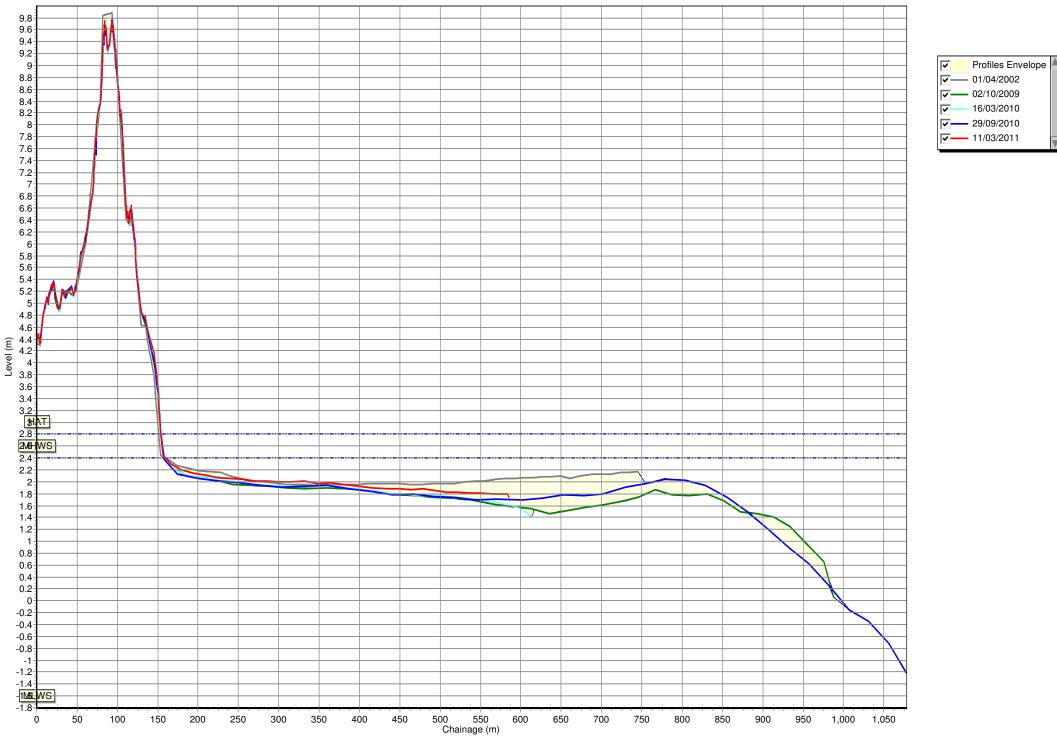


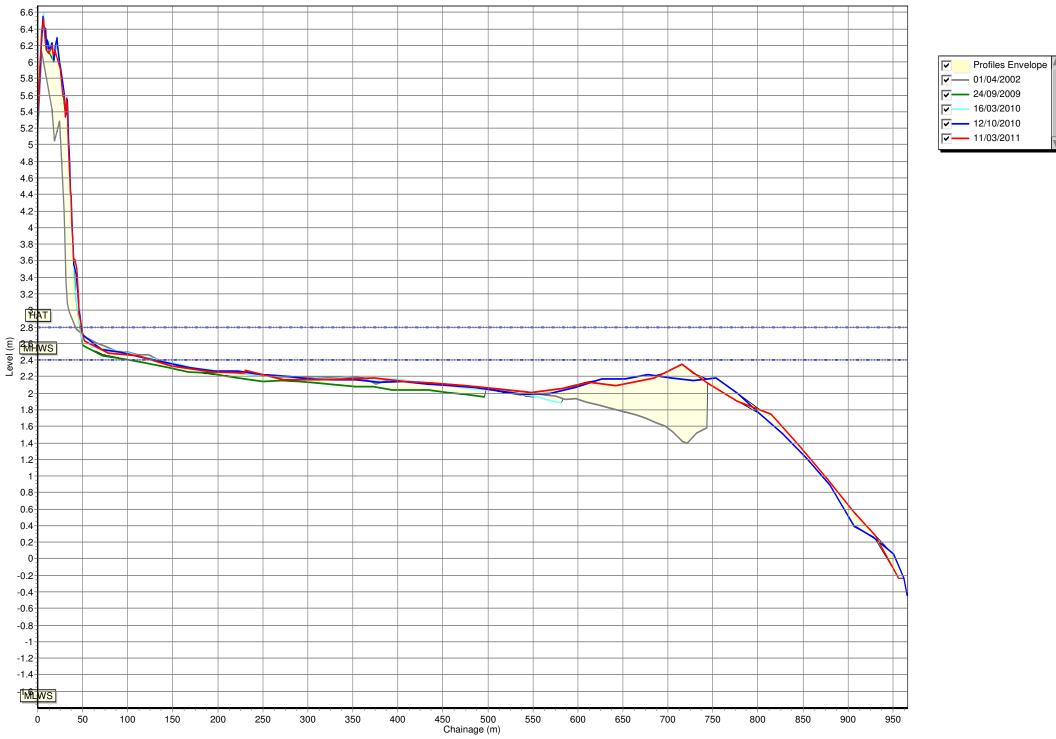


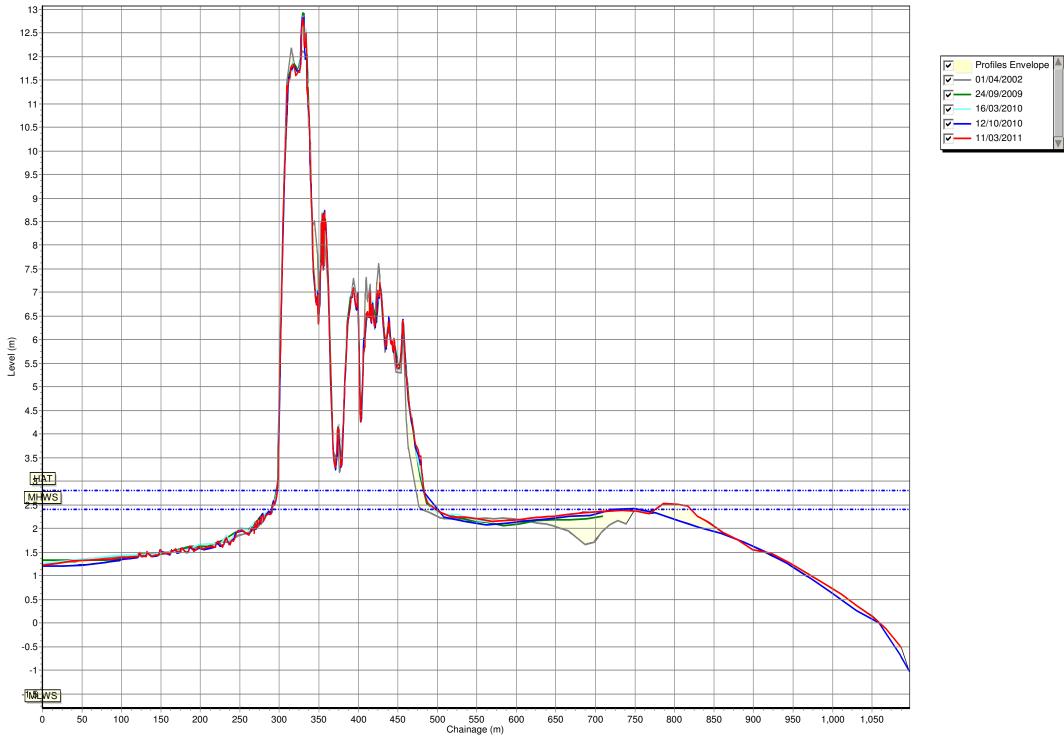


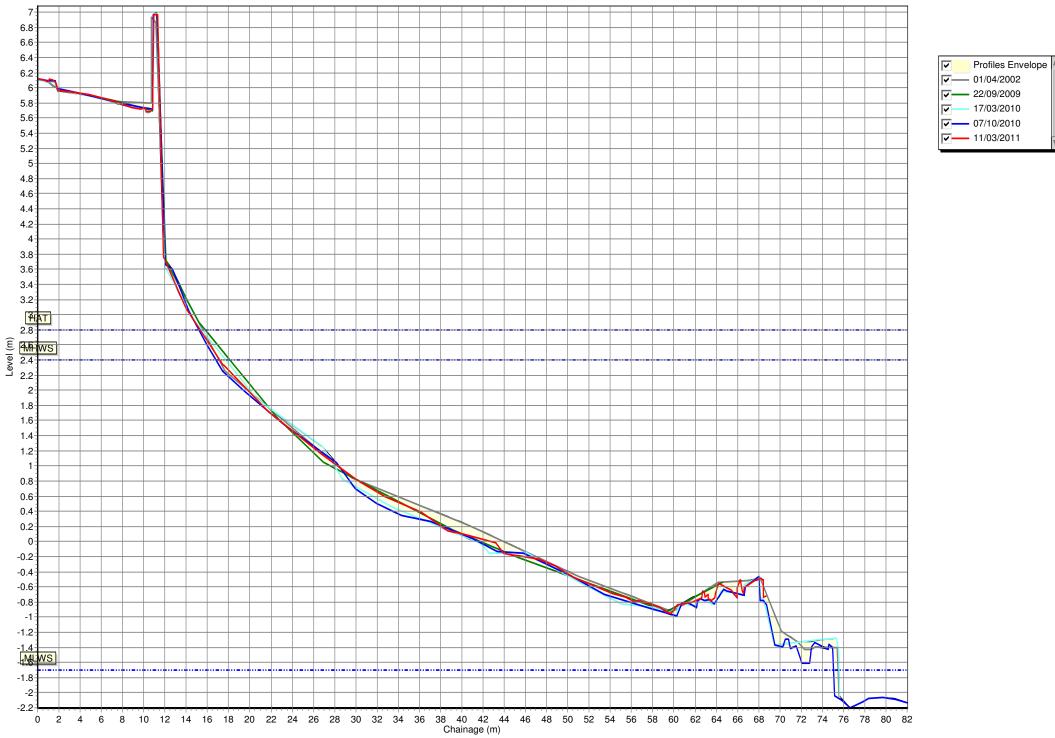


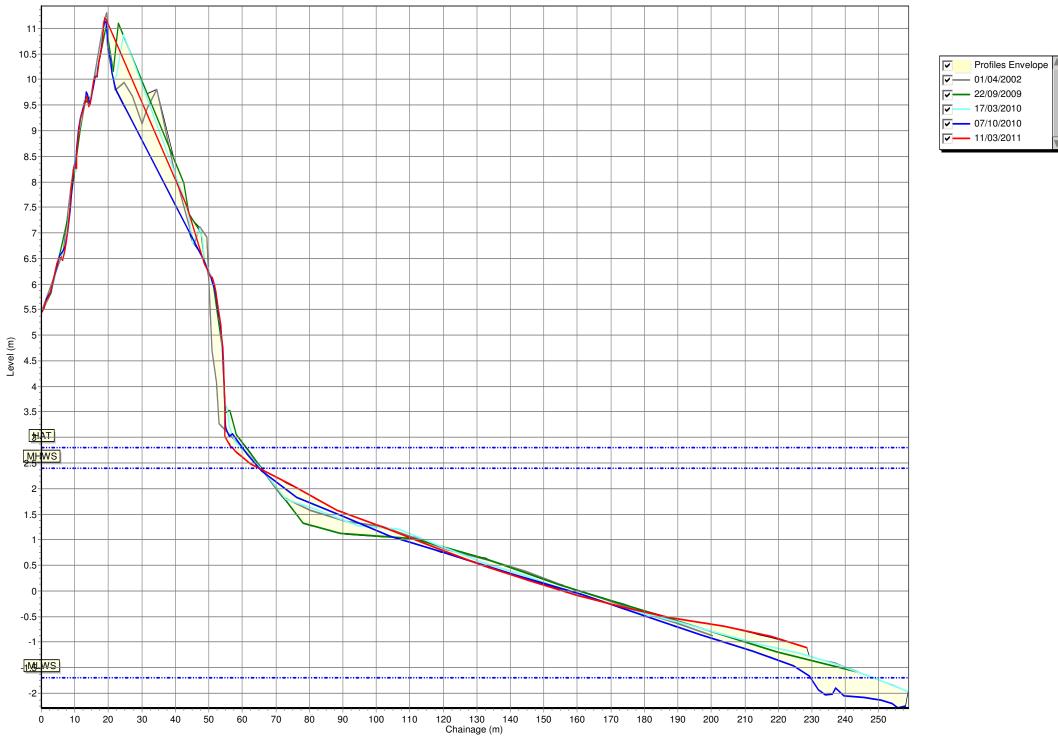


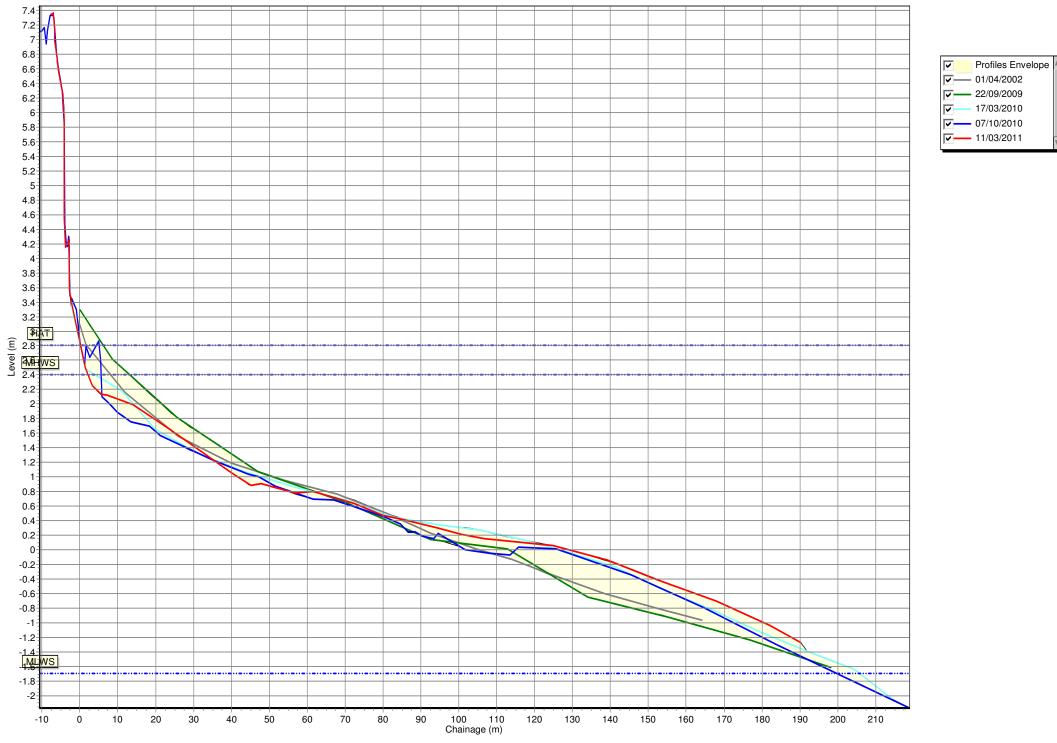


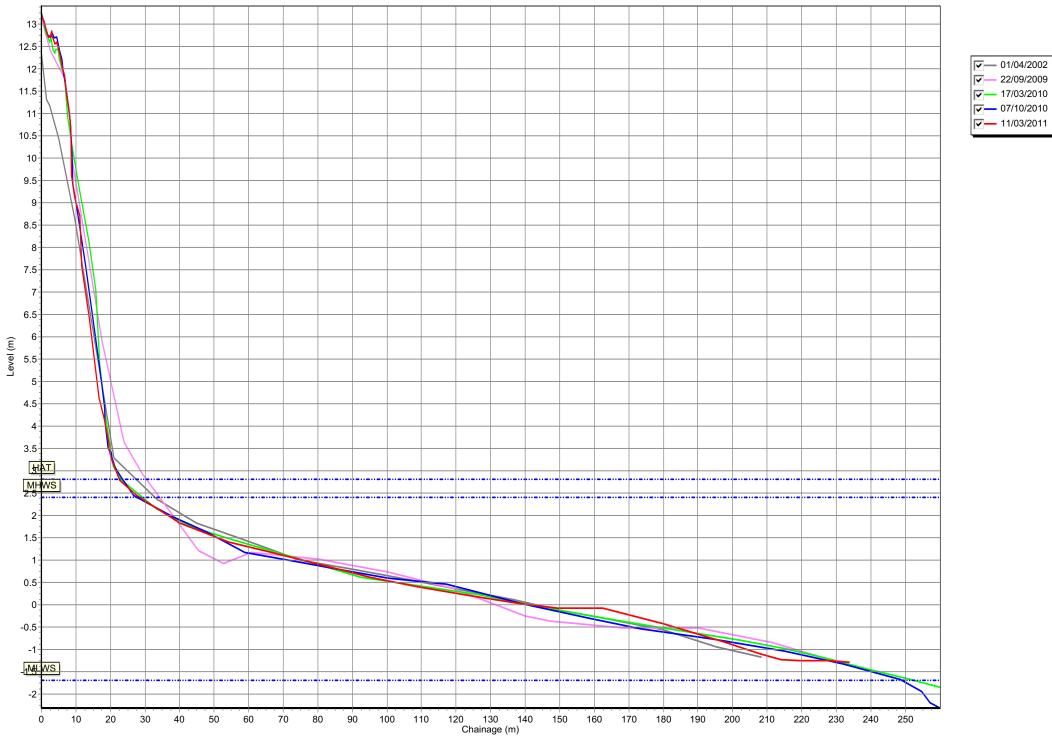




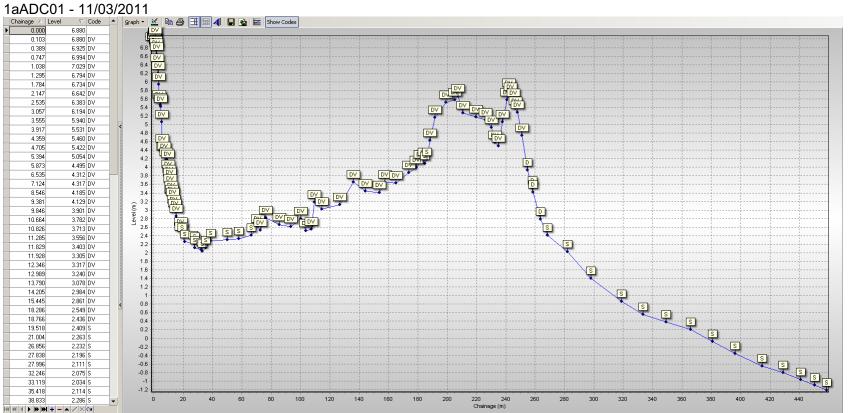




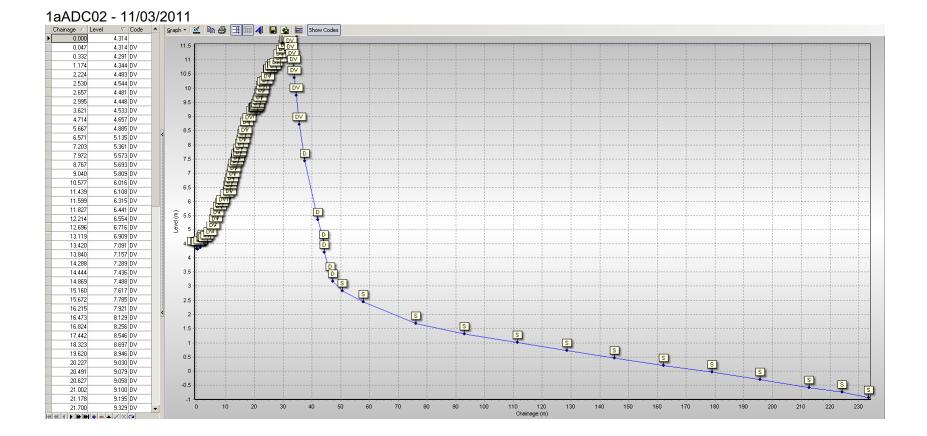


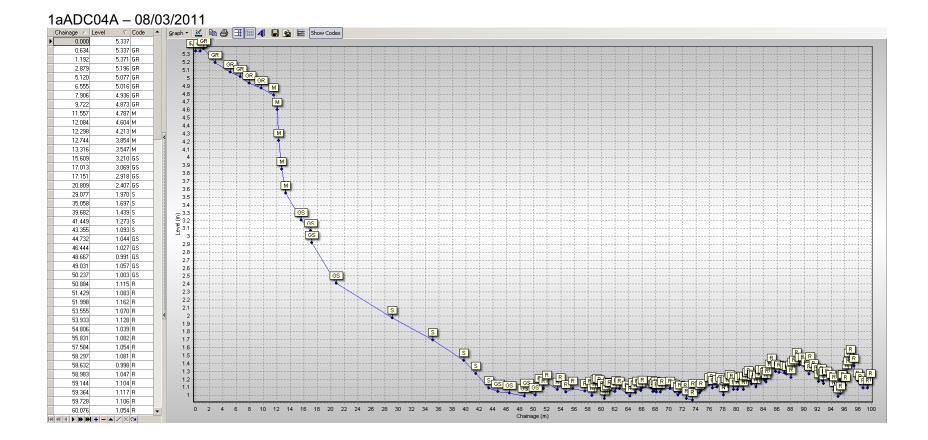


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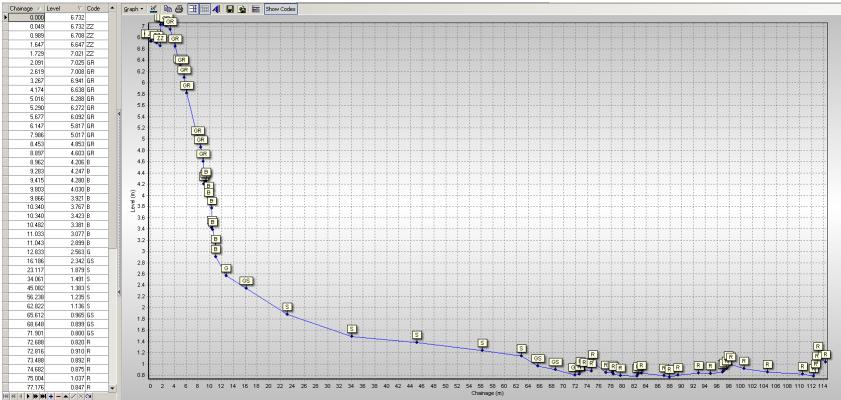


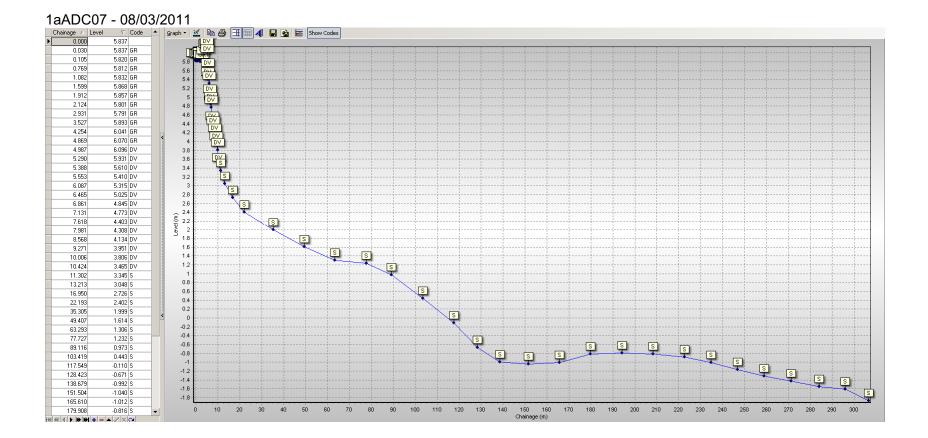
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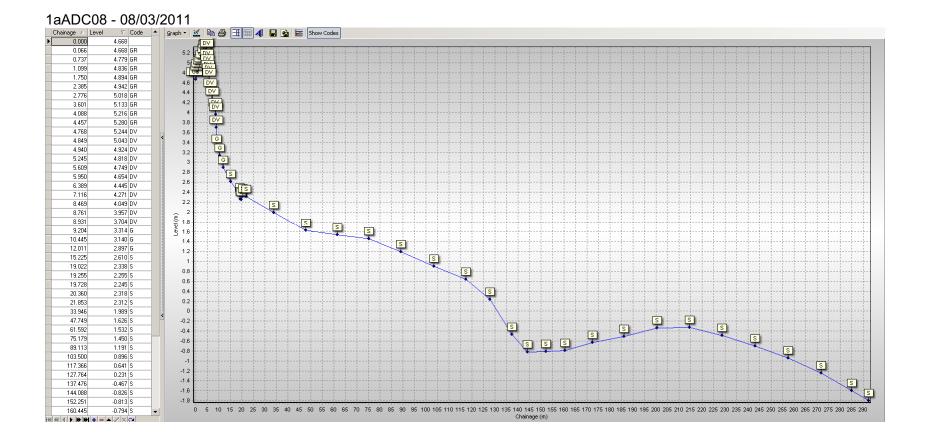


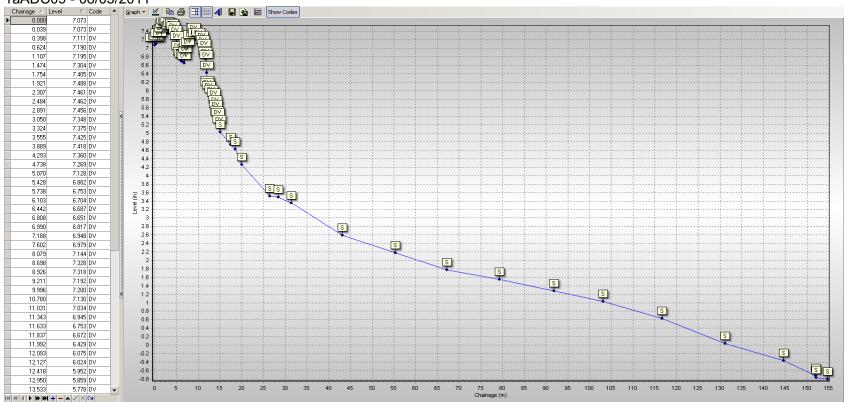


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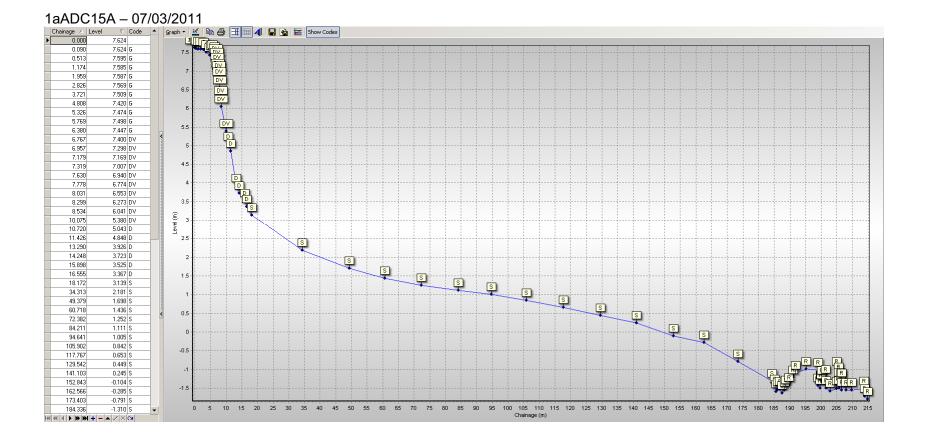


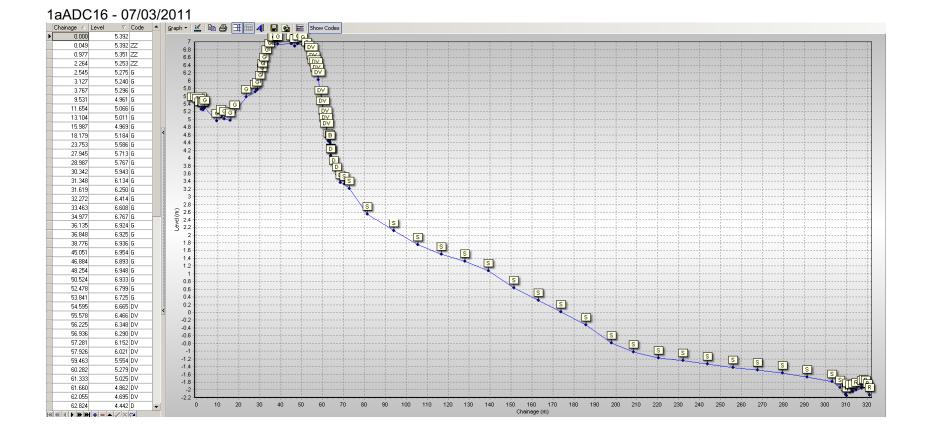


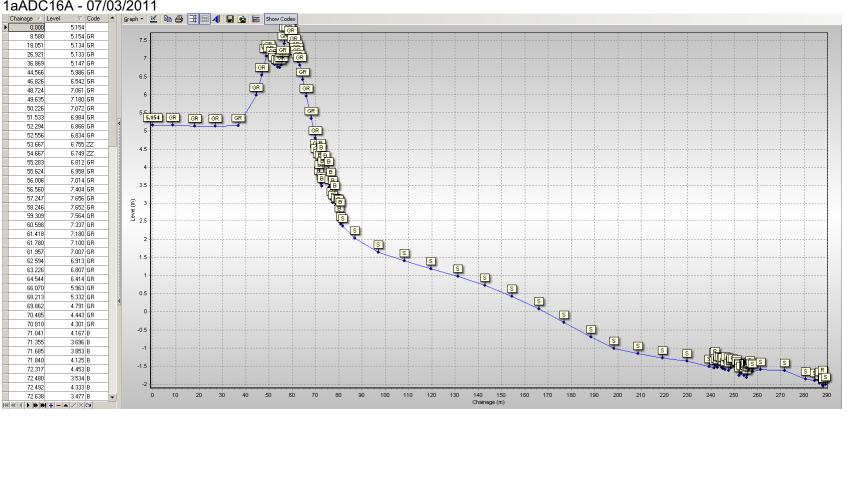




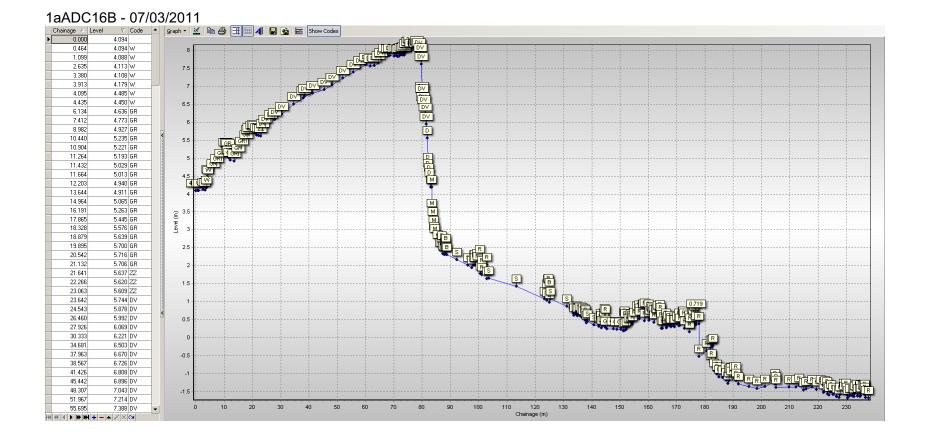
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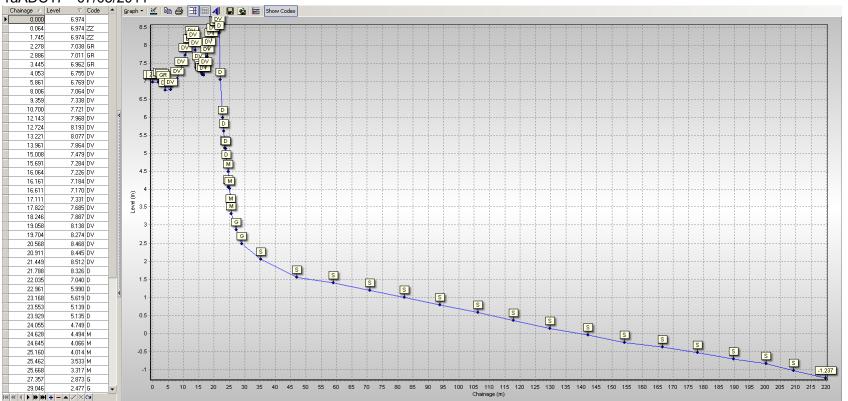




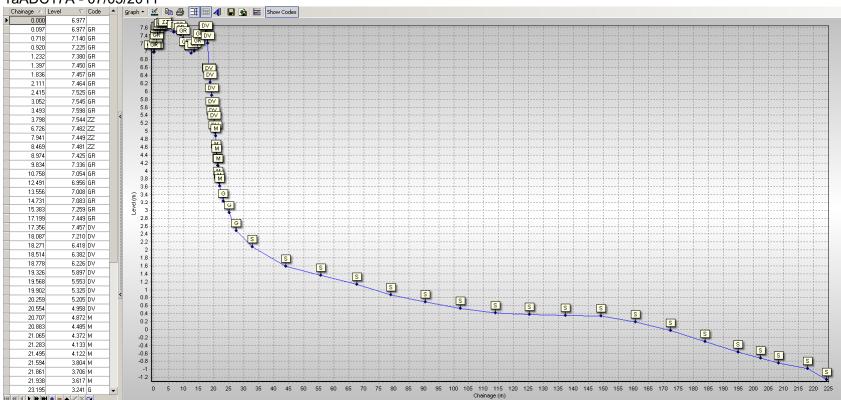


## 1aADC16A - 07/03/2011





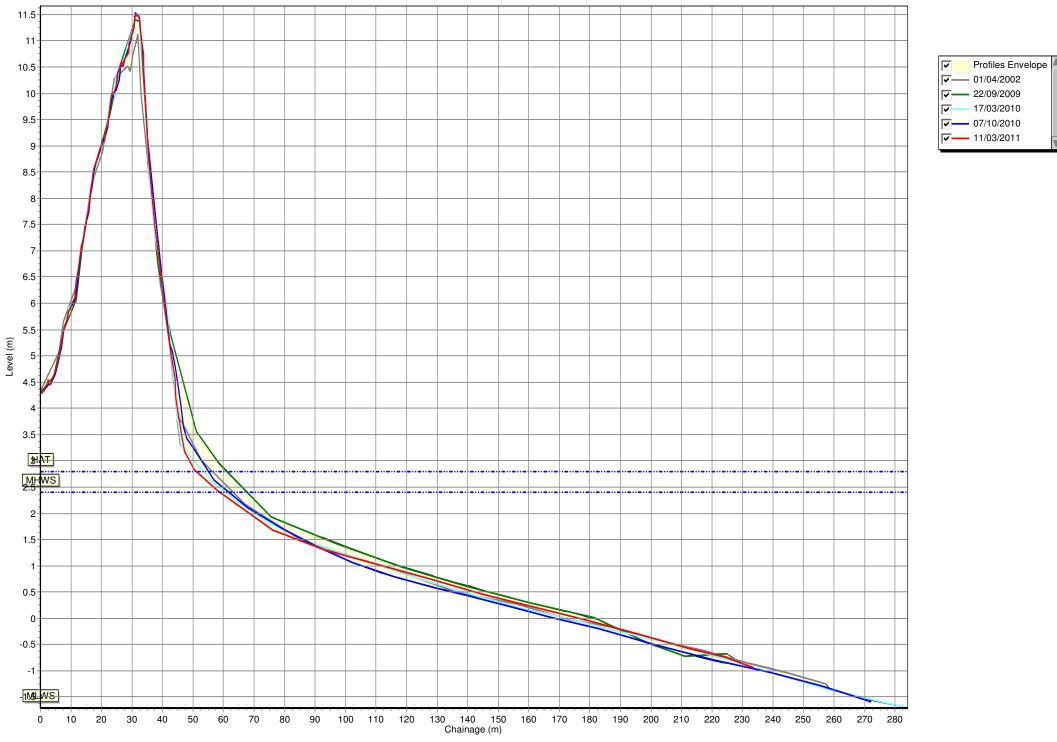
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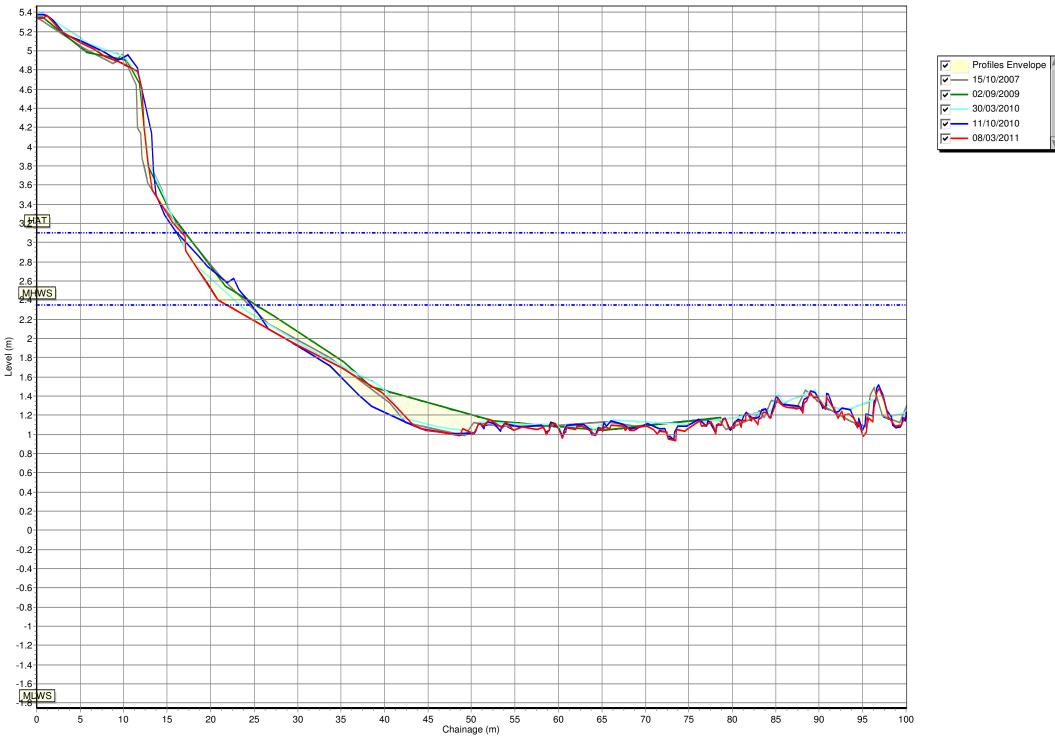


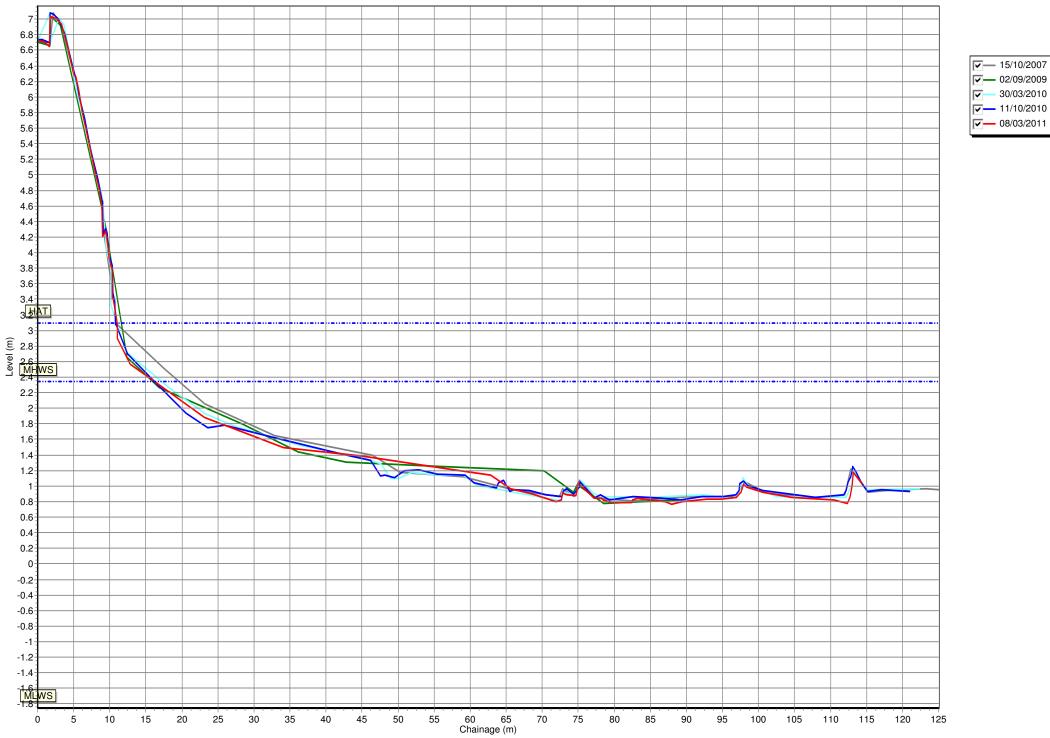
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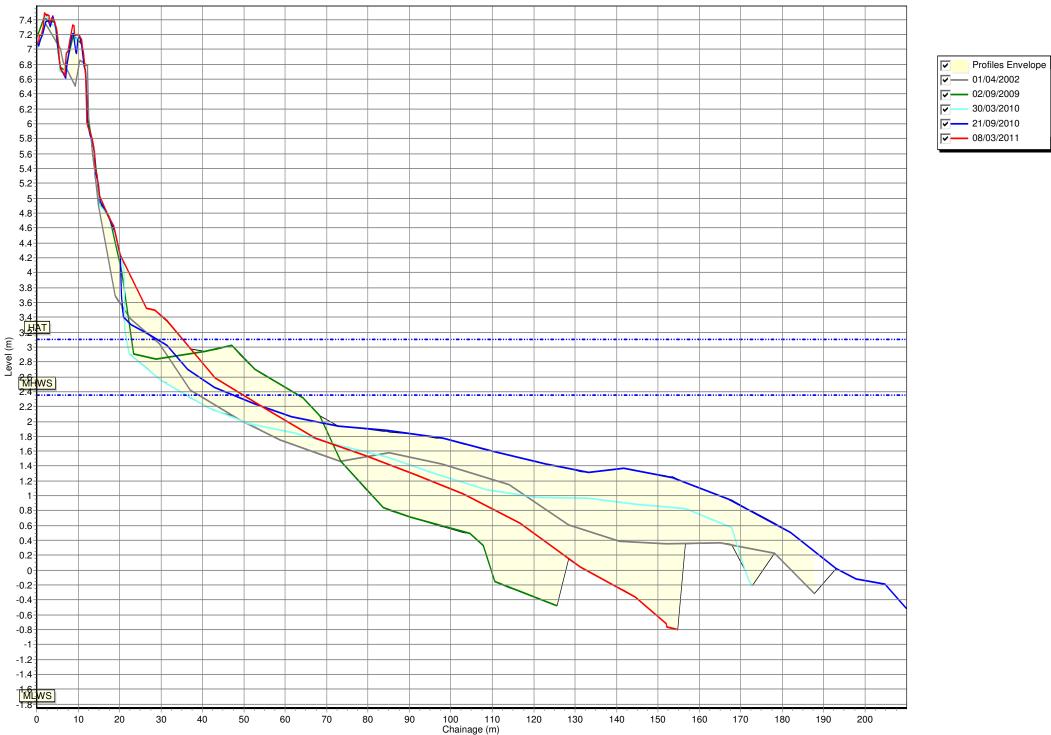


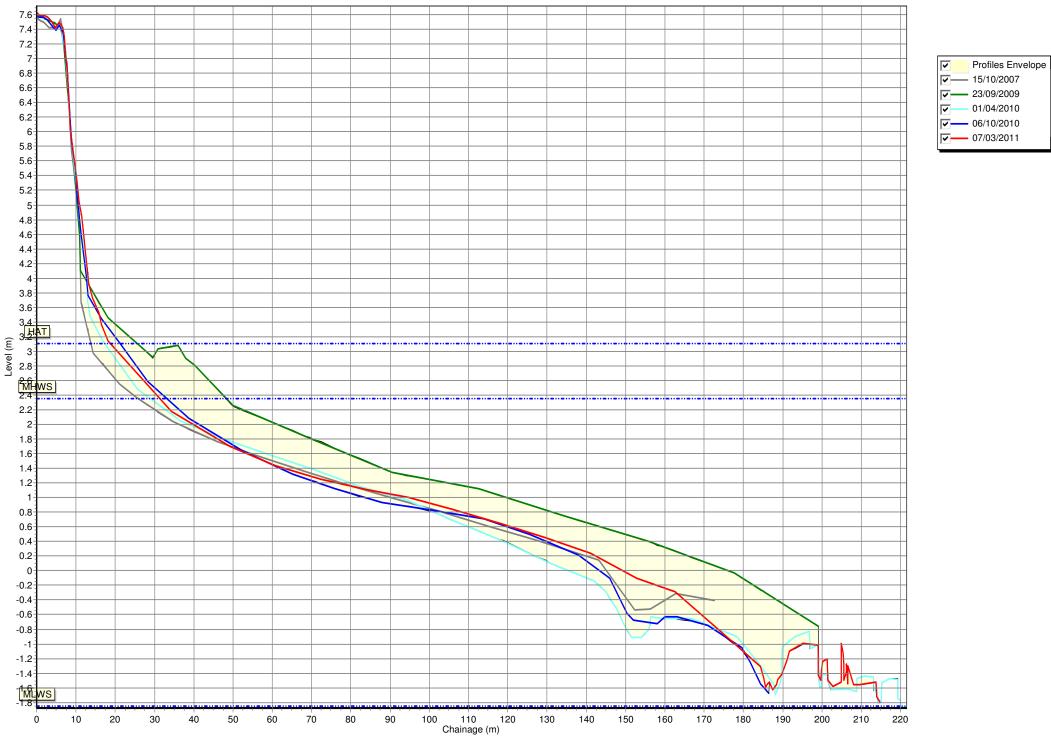


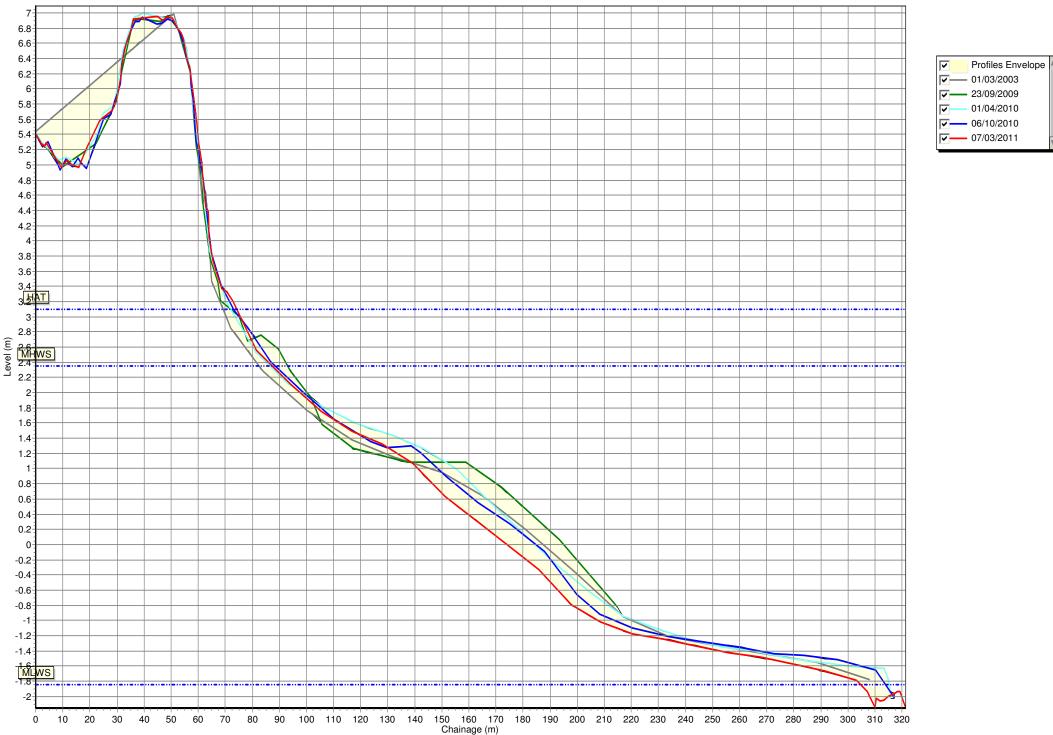


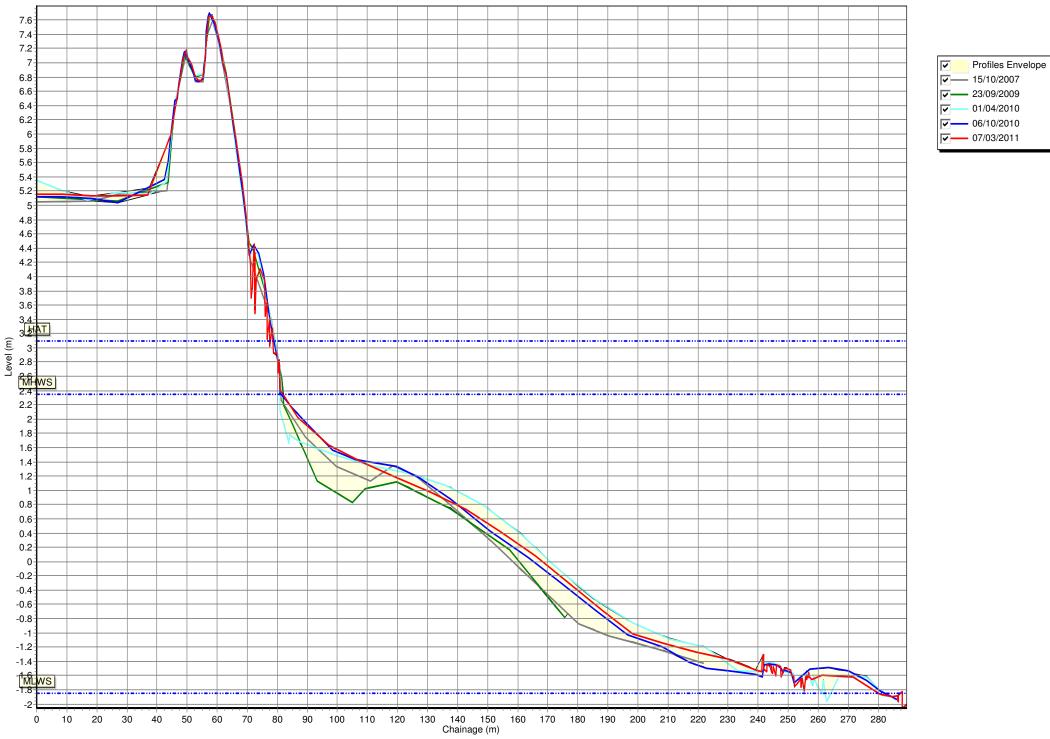




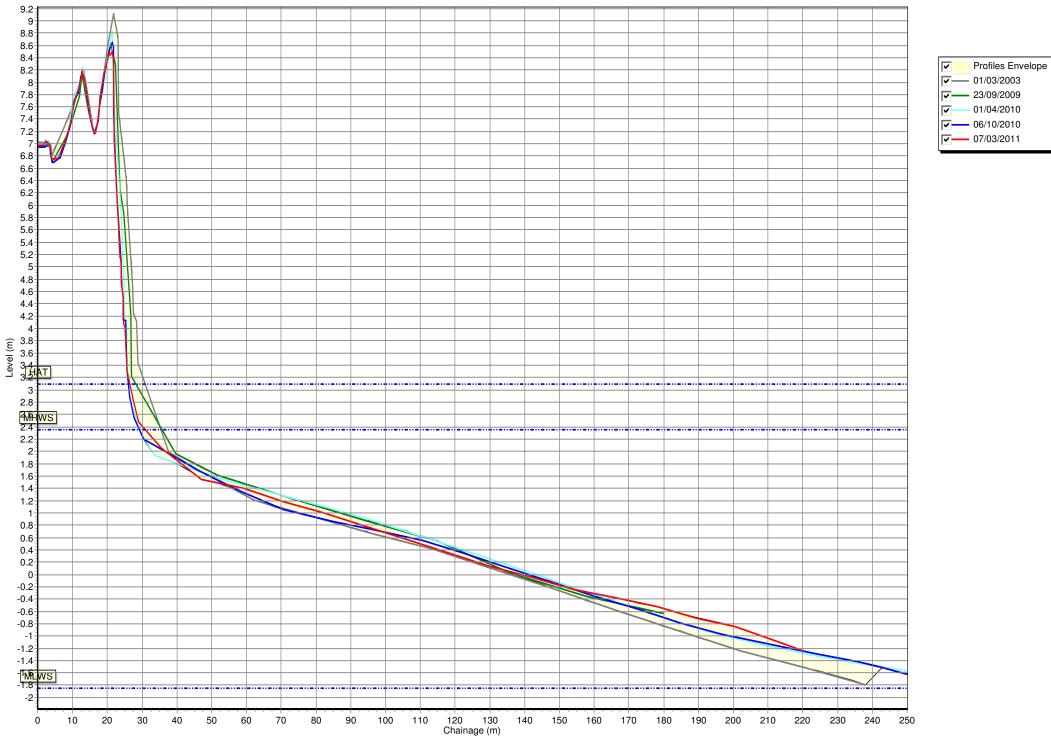


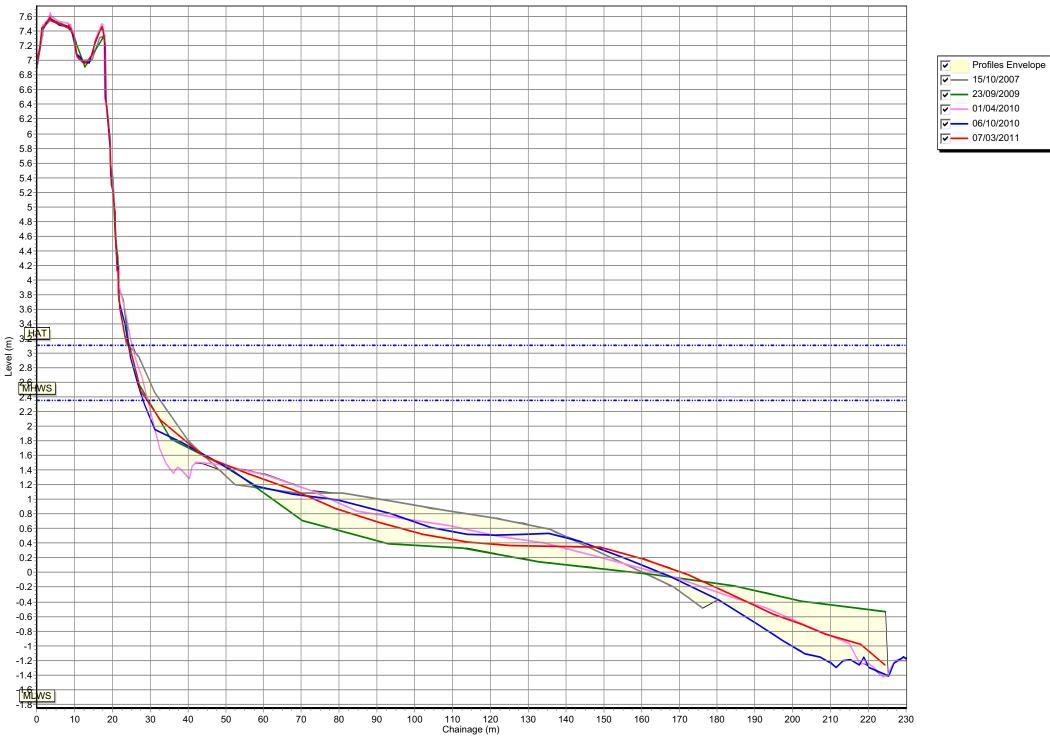




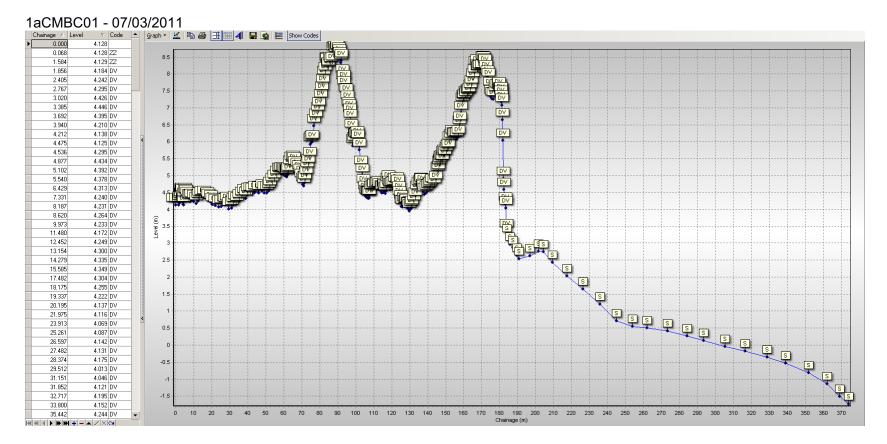




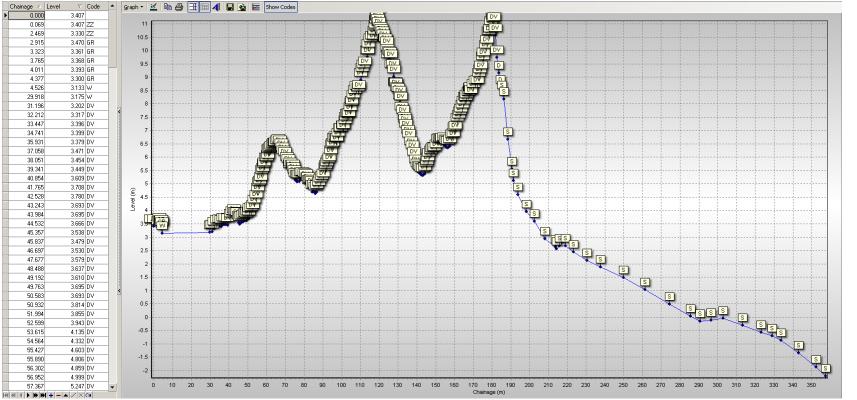


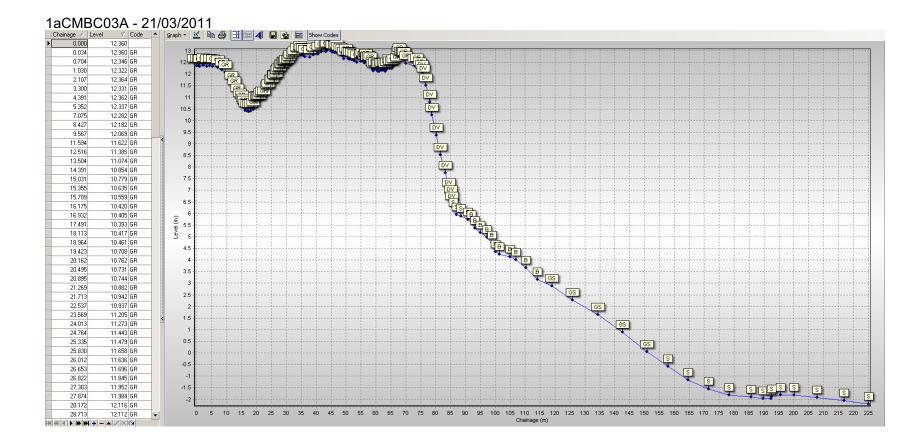


# **Castle Morpeth**

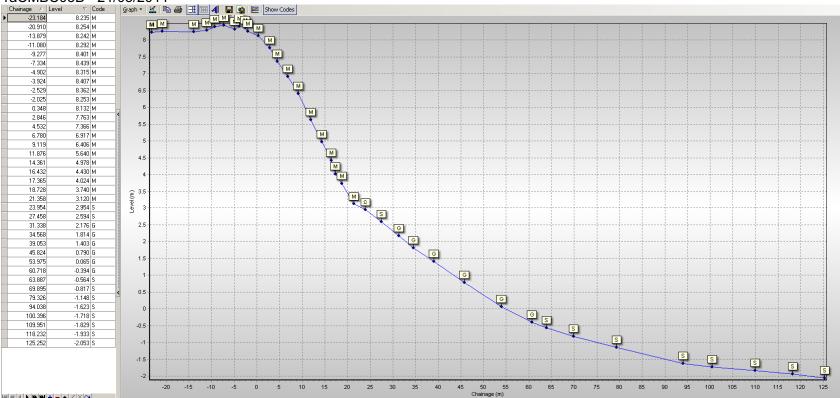


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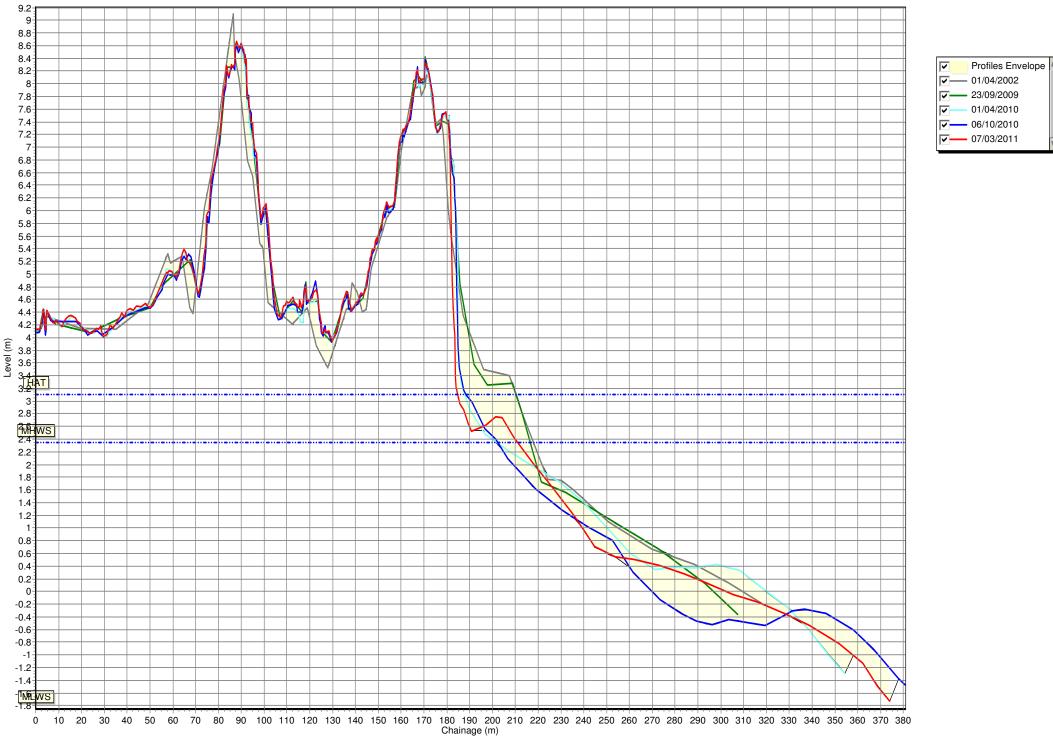




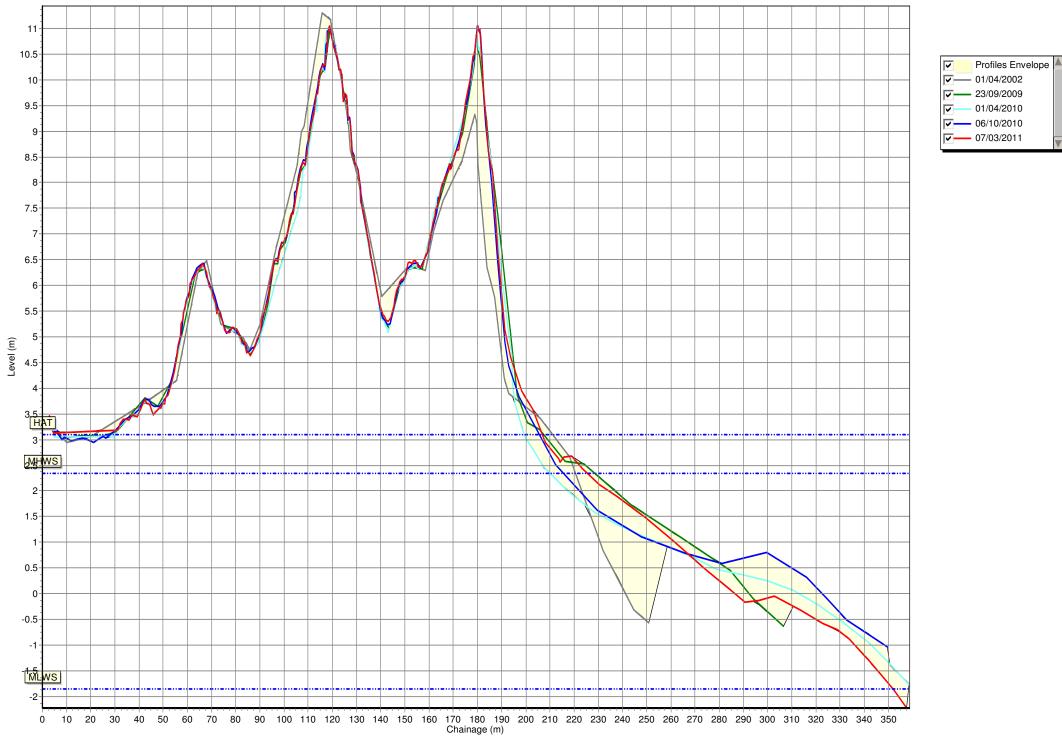
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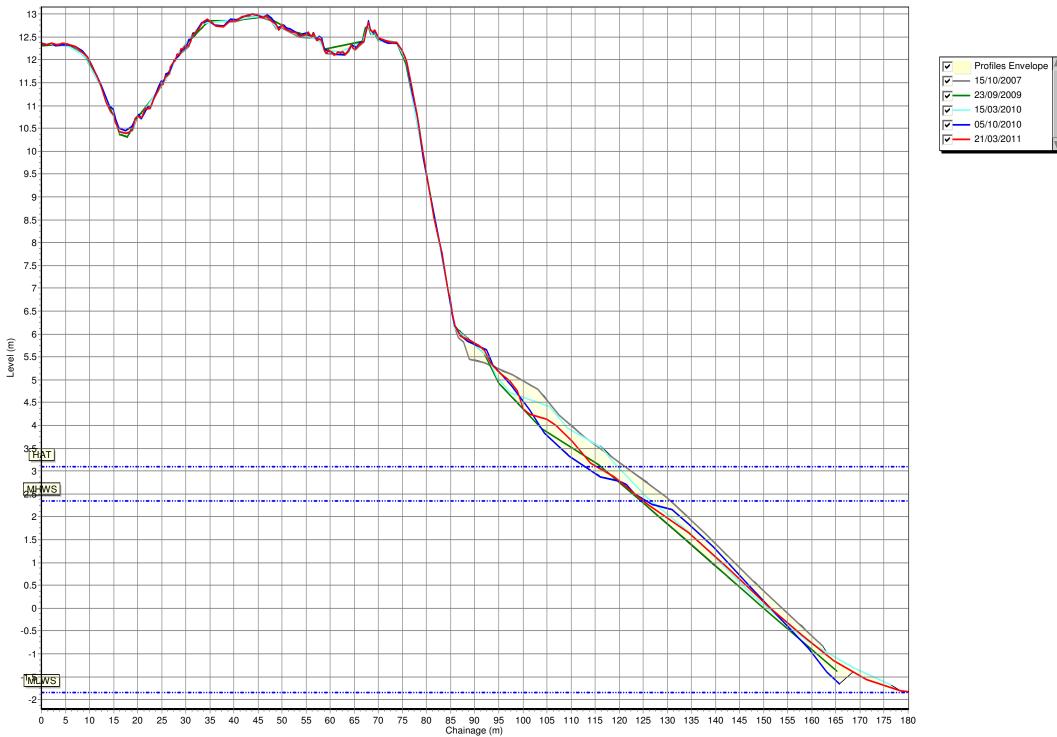
#### **Beach Profiles: 1aCMBC01**



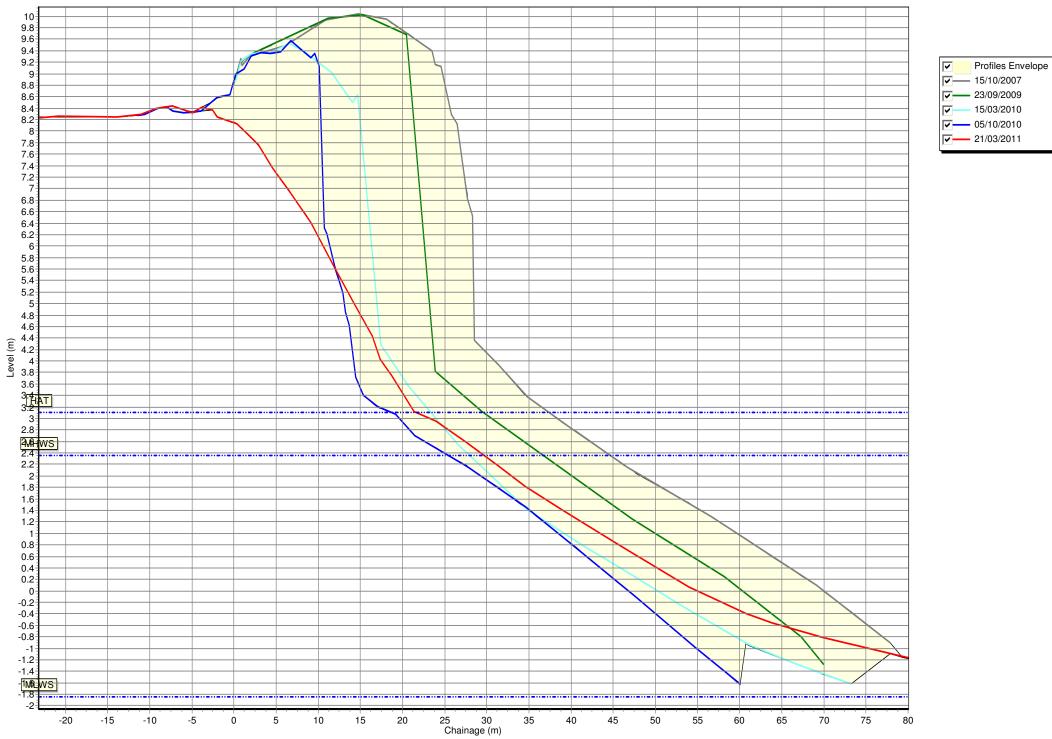
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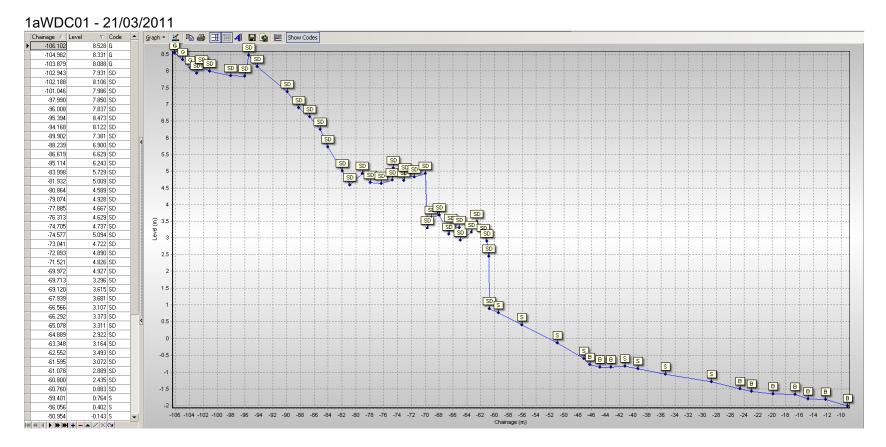
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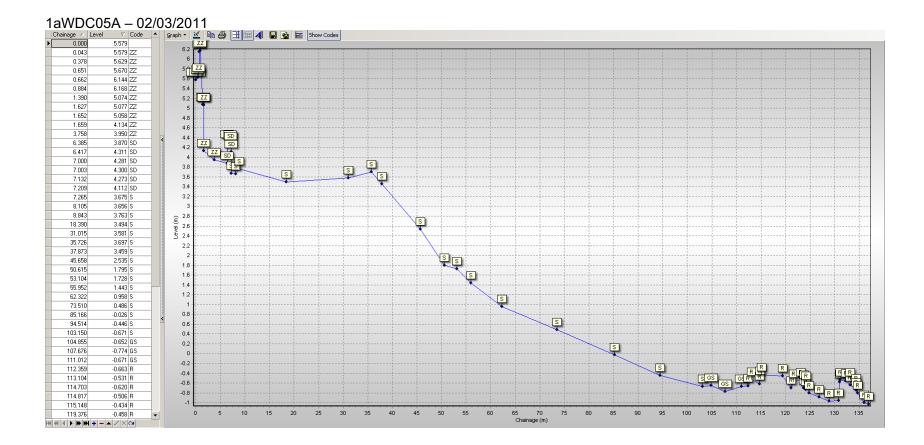


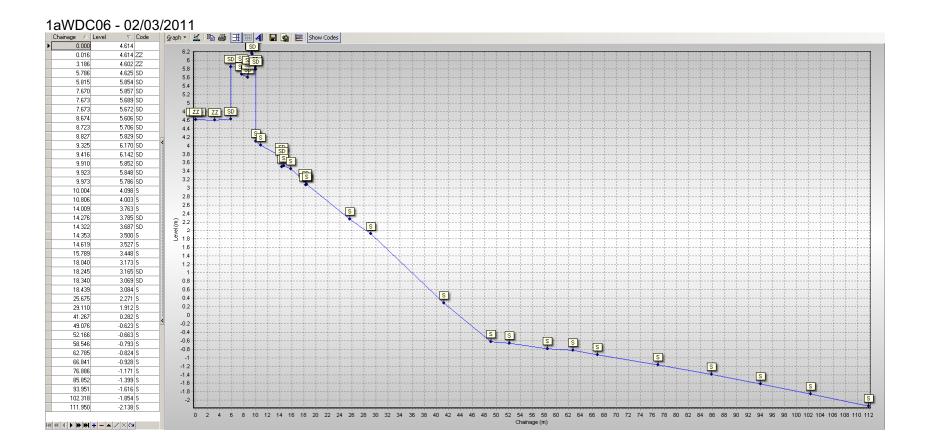
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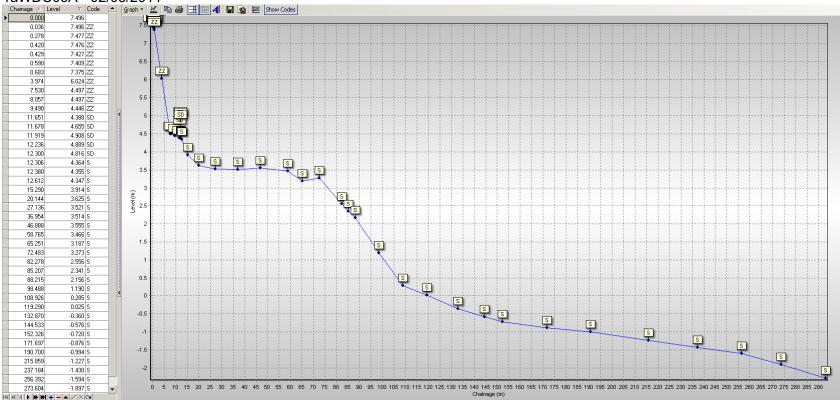
## Wansbeck

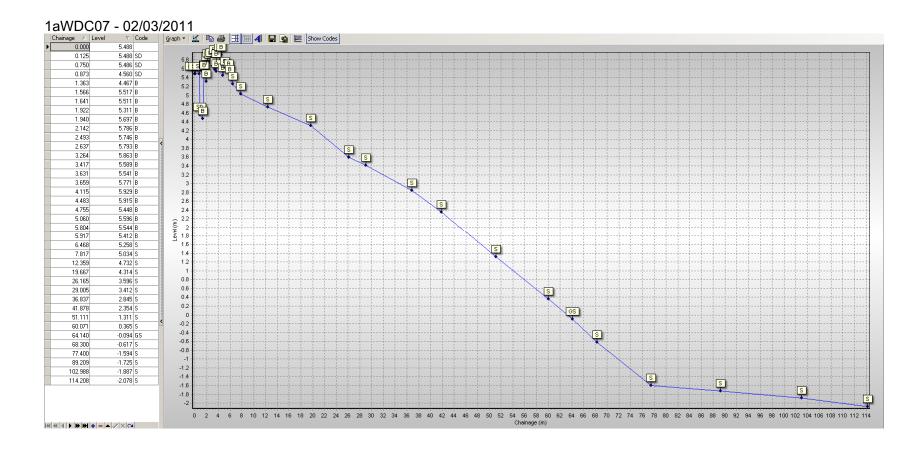






1aWDC06A - 02/03/2011

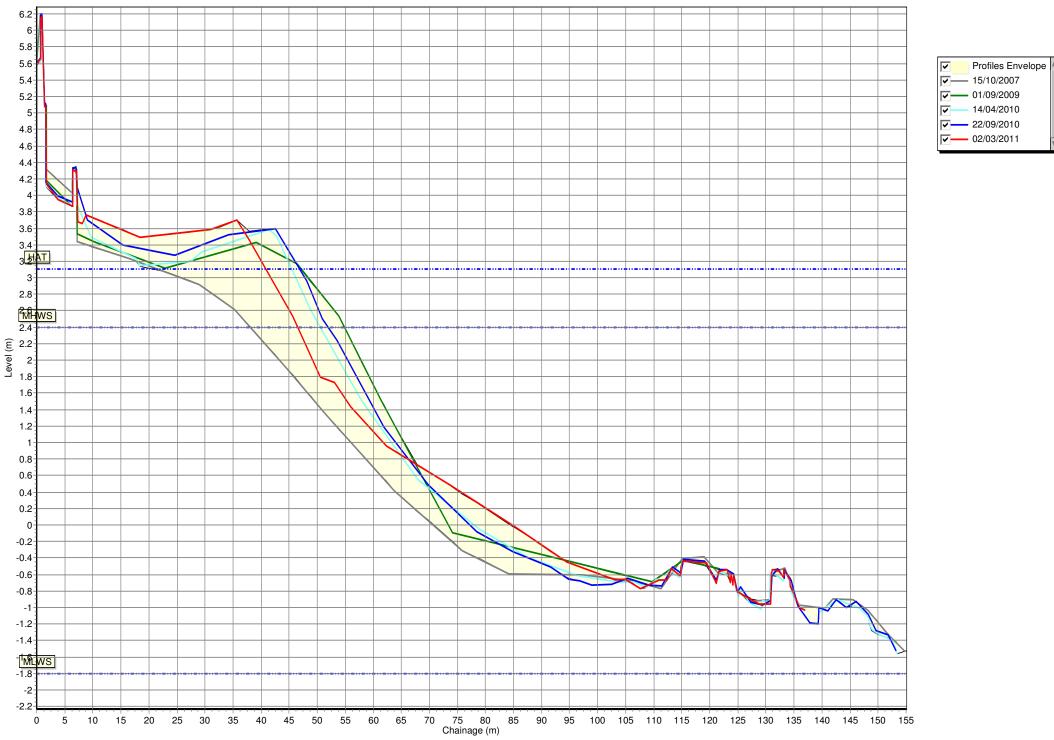




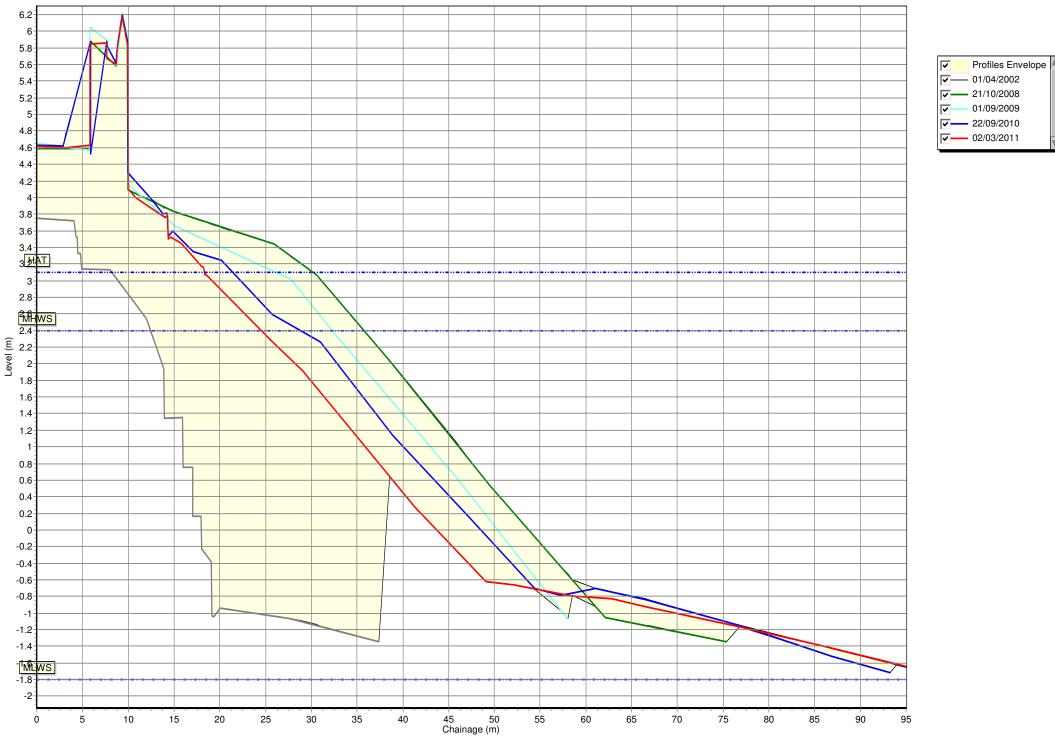
#### Beach Profiles: 1aWDC01



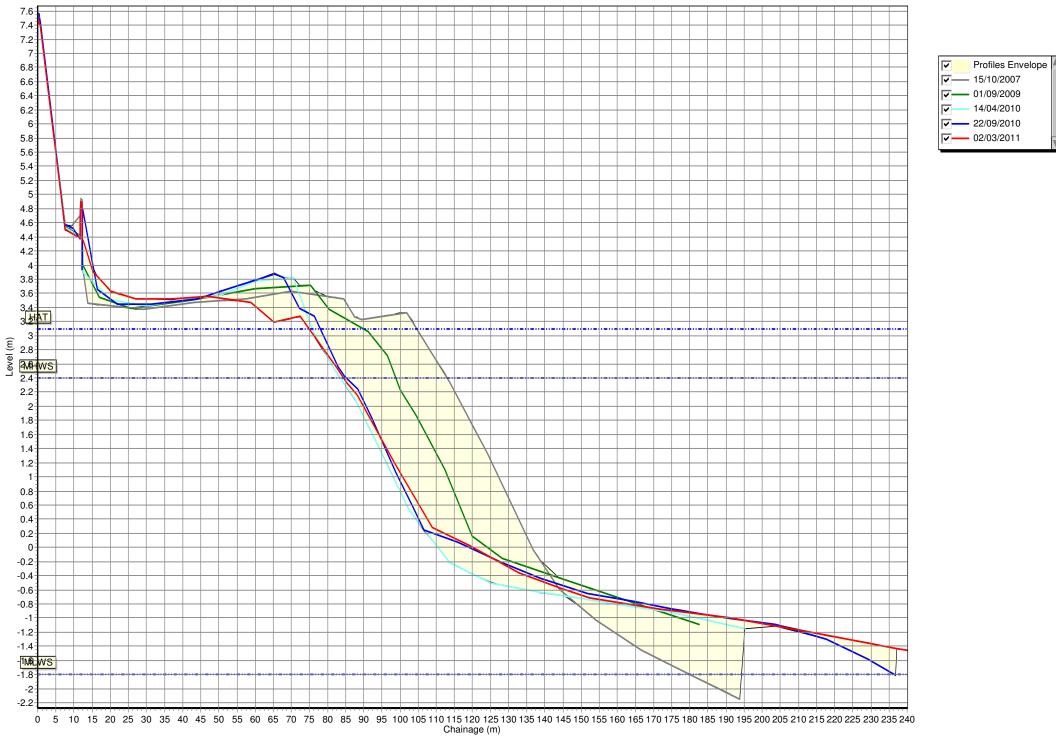
#### Beach Profiles: 1aWDC05A



#### Beach Profiles: 1aWDC06



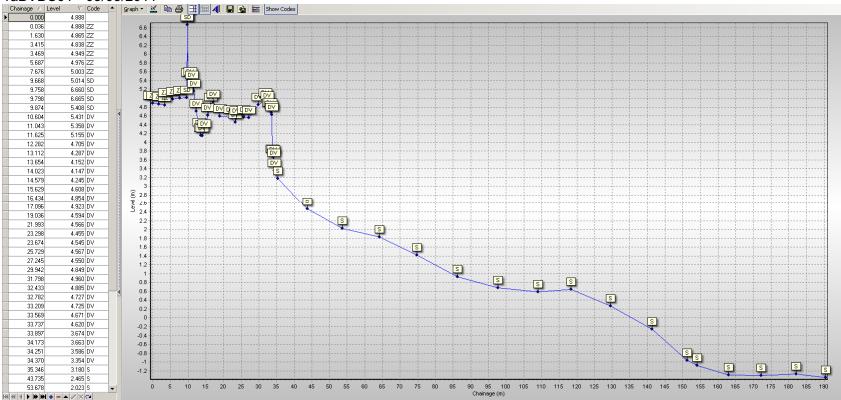
#### **Beach Profiles: 1aWDC06A**



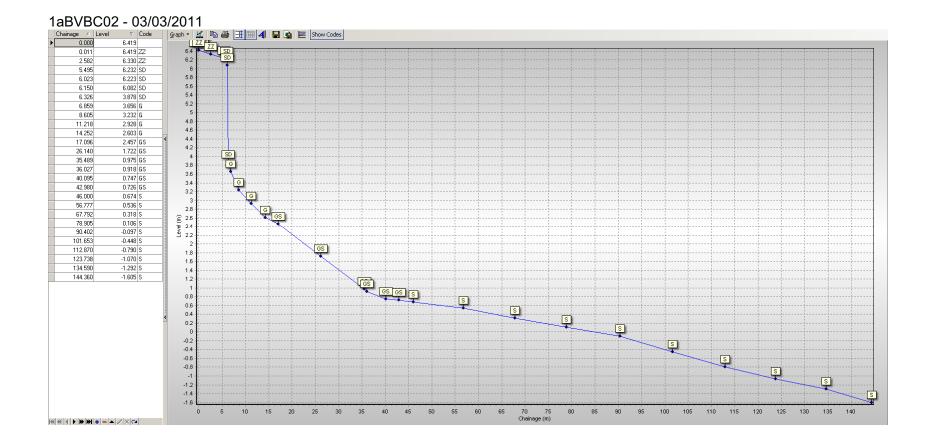
#### Beach Profiles: 1aWDC07

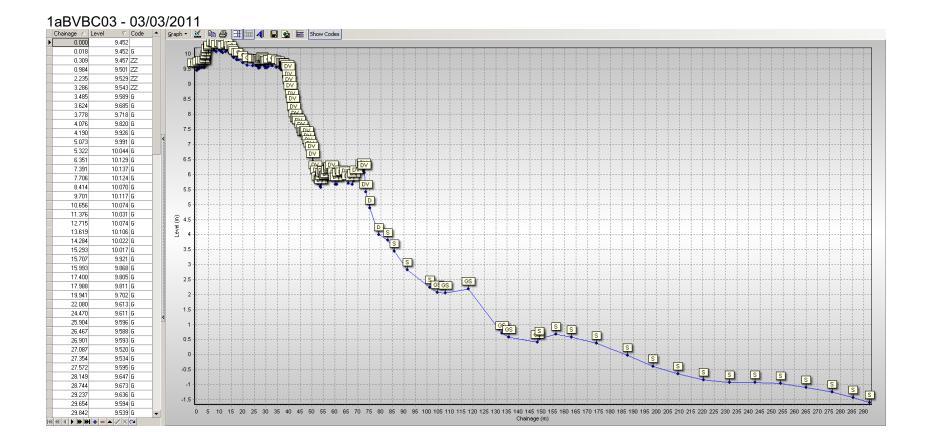


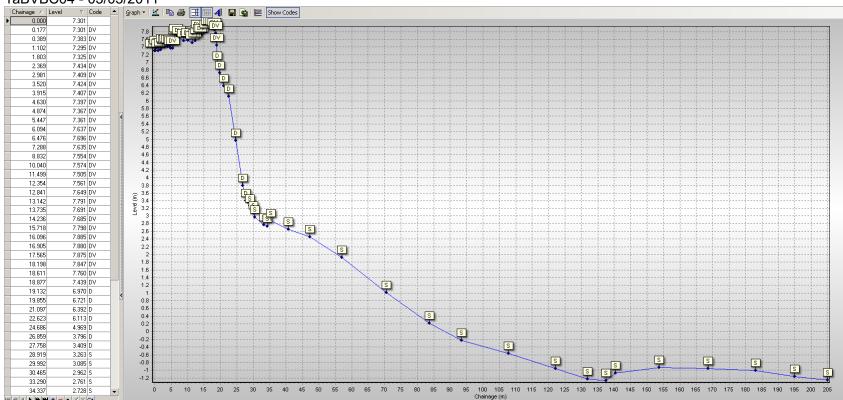




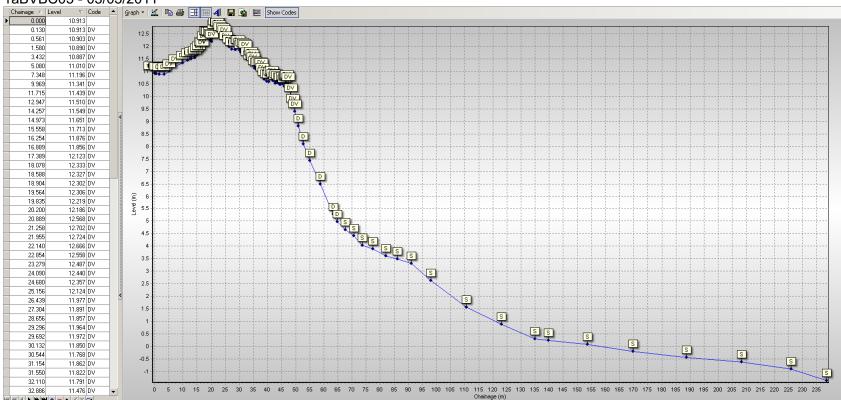
## 1aBVBC01 - 03/03/2011



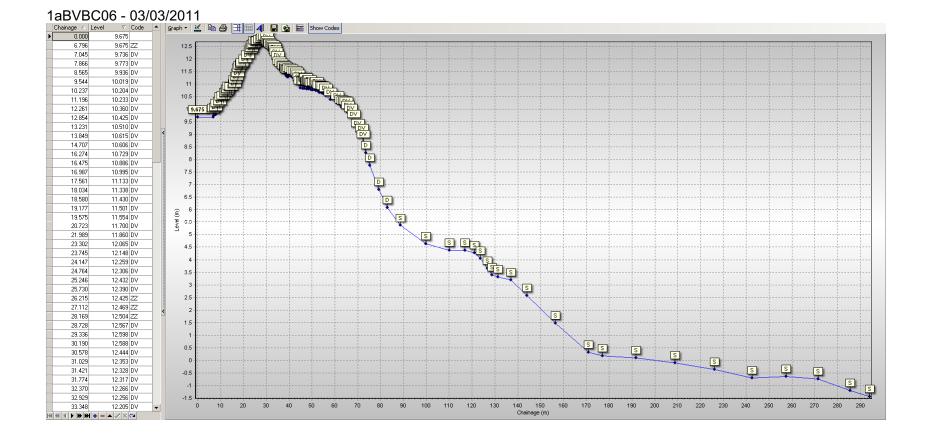


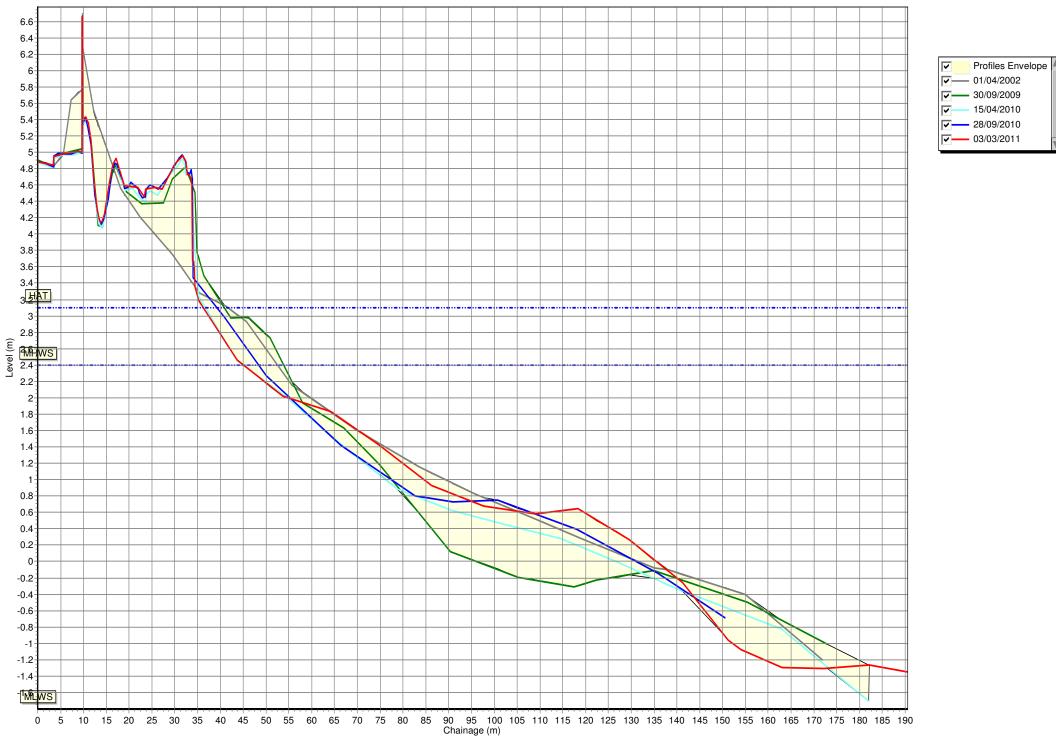


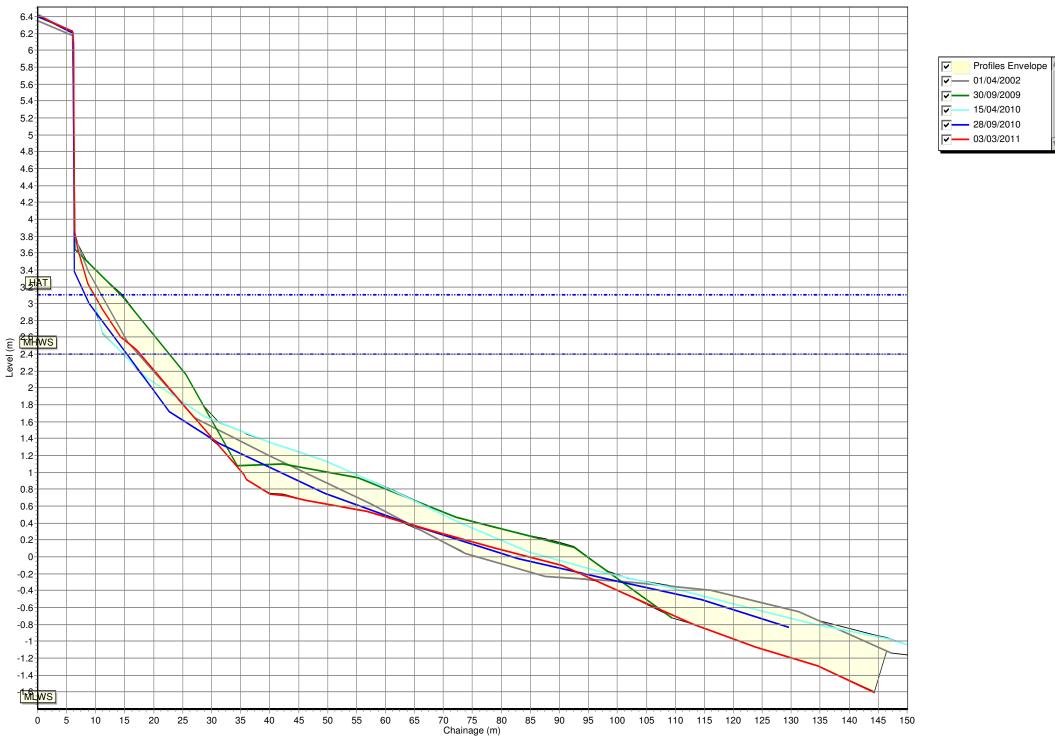
1aBVBC04 - 03/03/2011

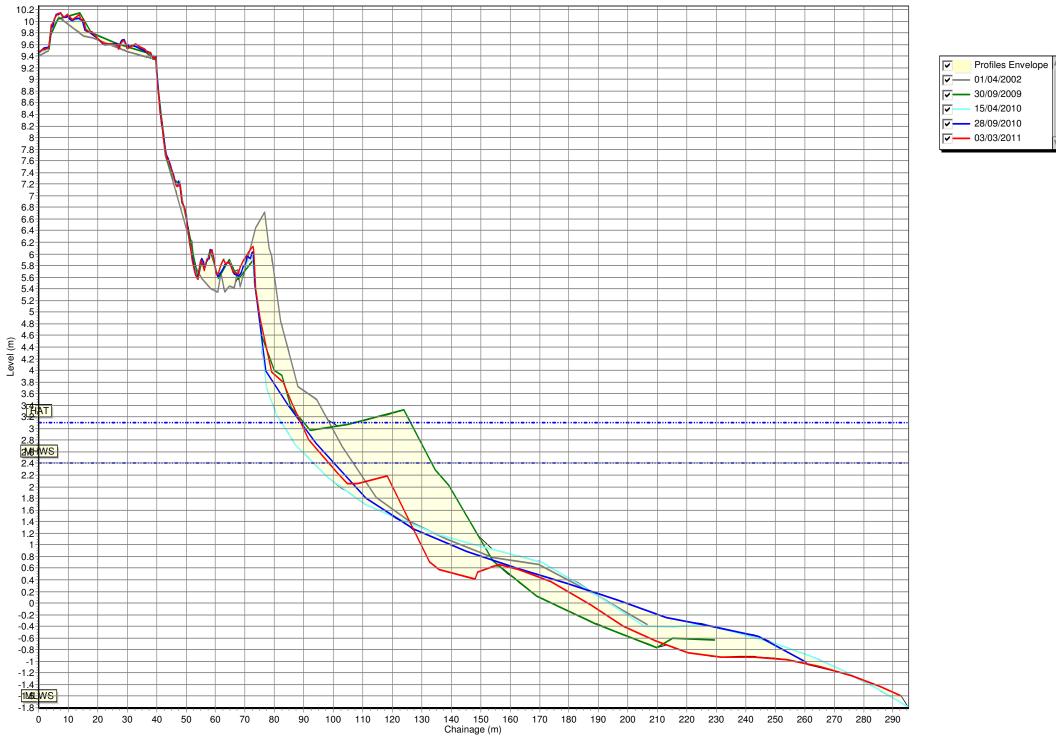


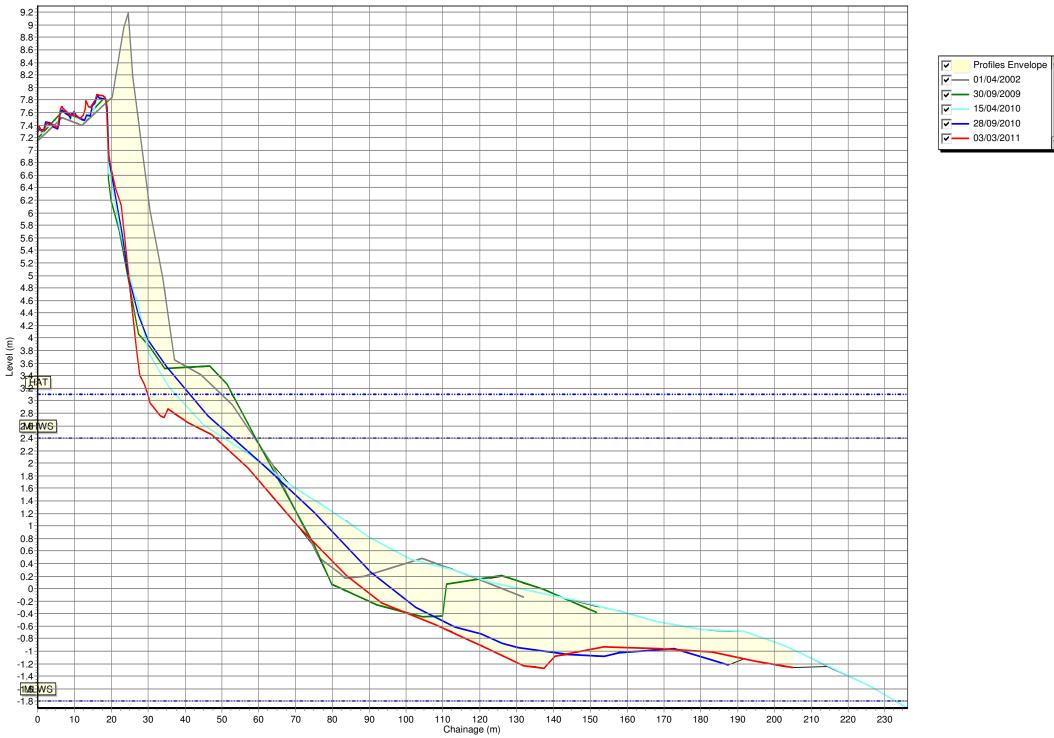
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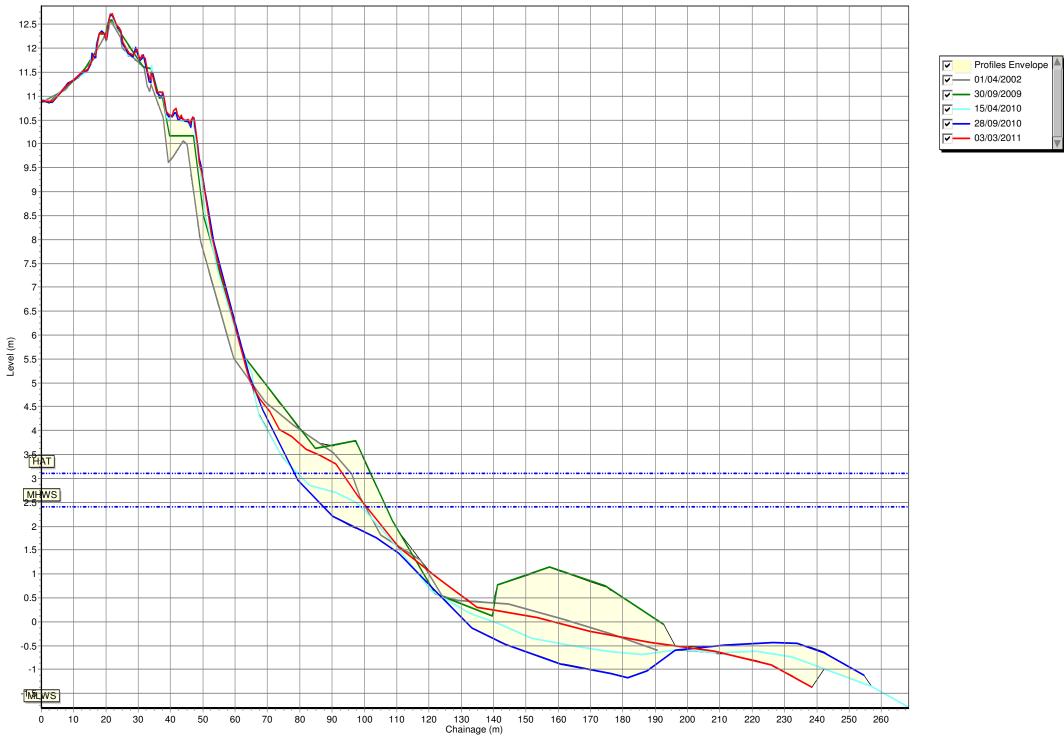


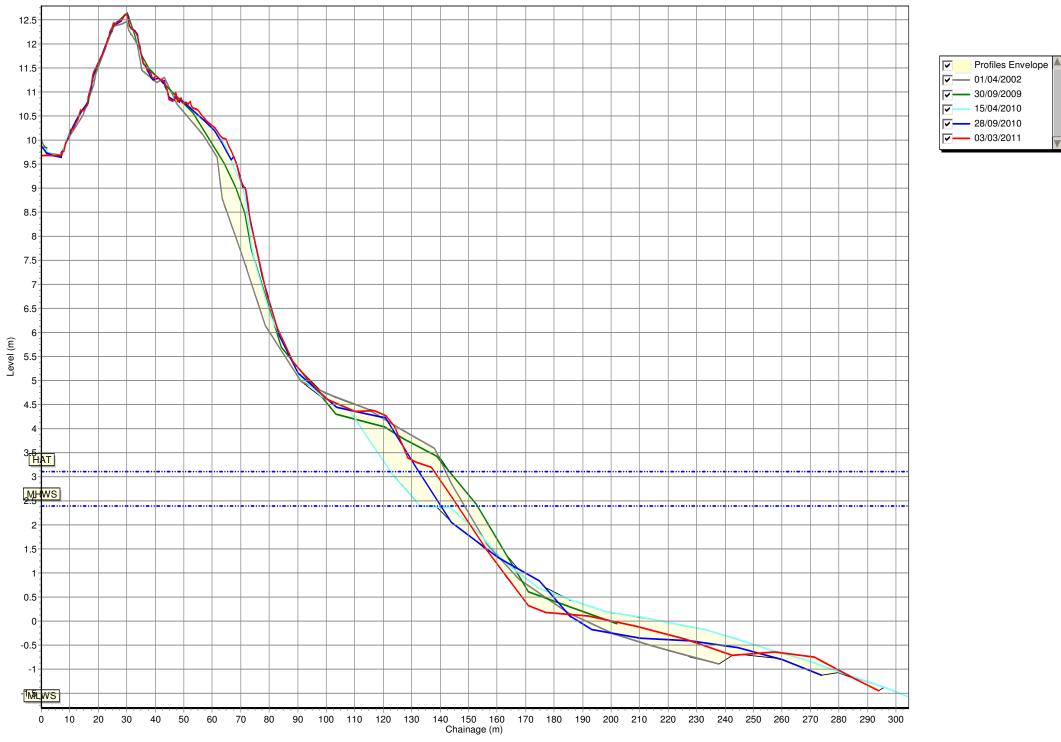






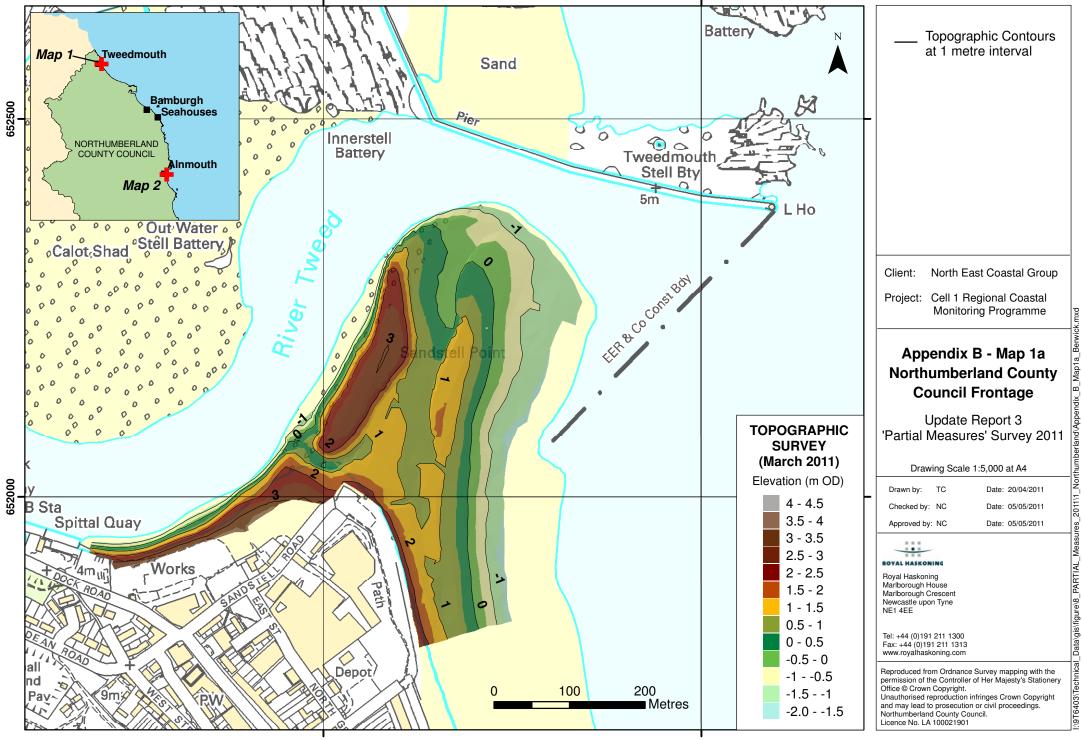


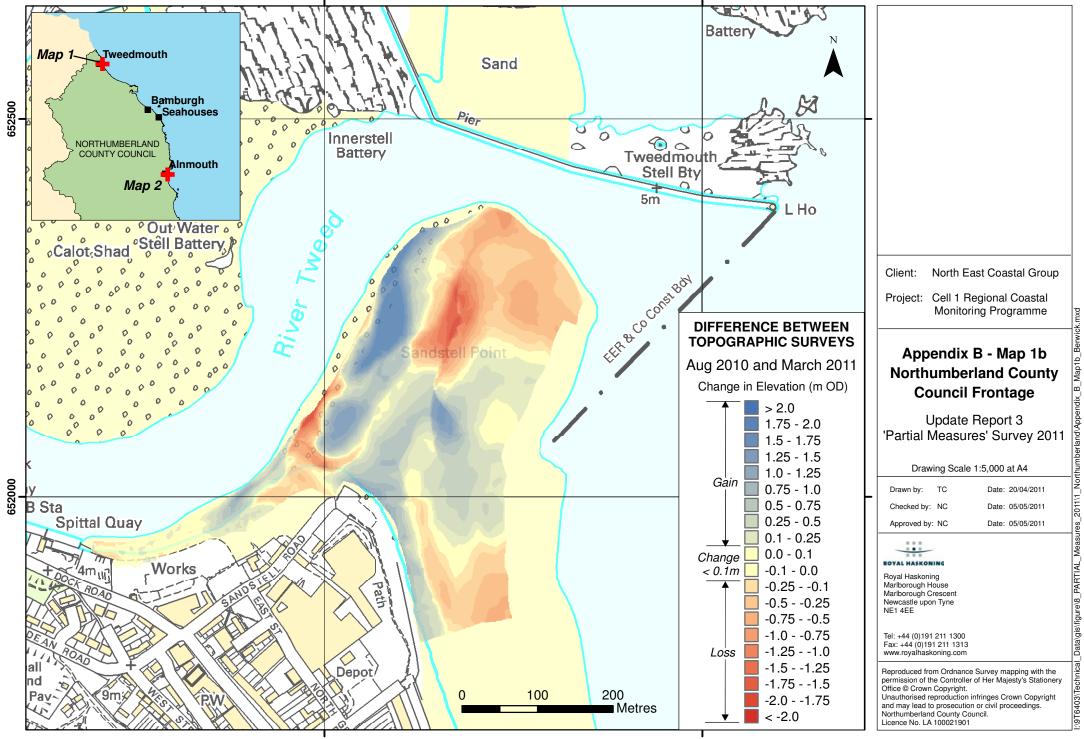


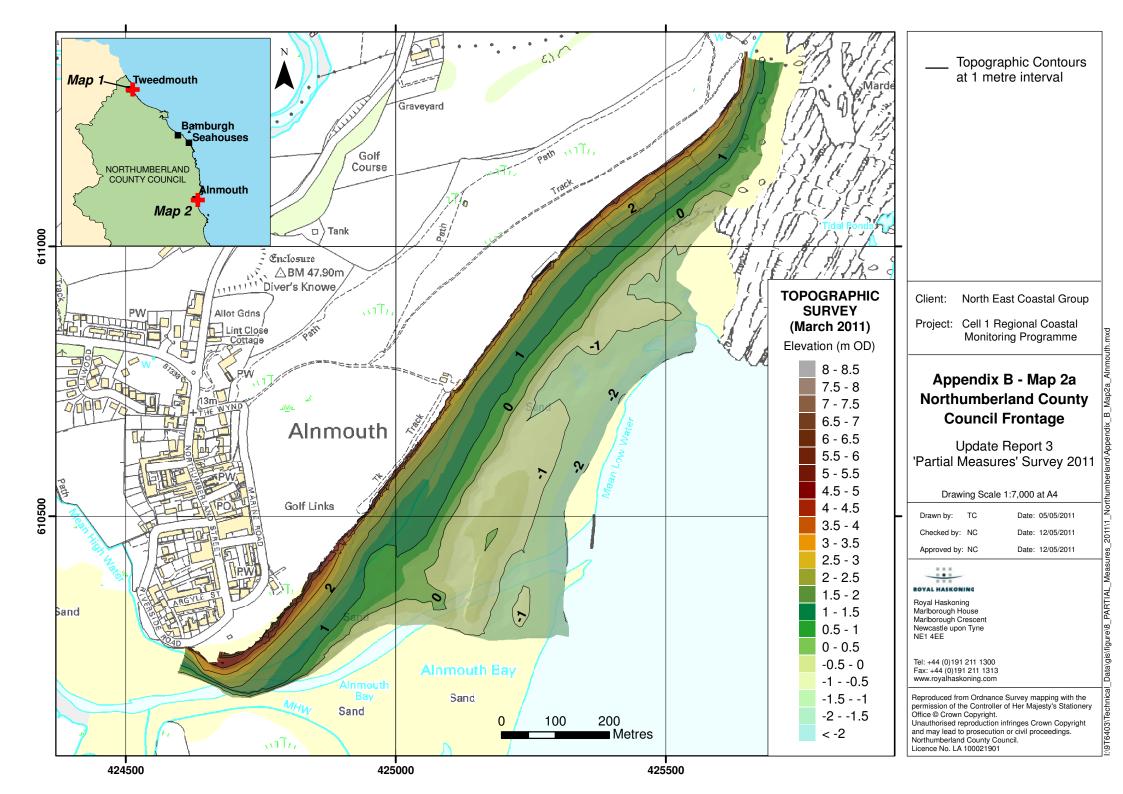


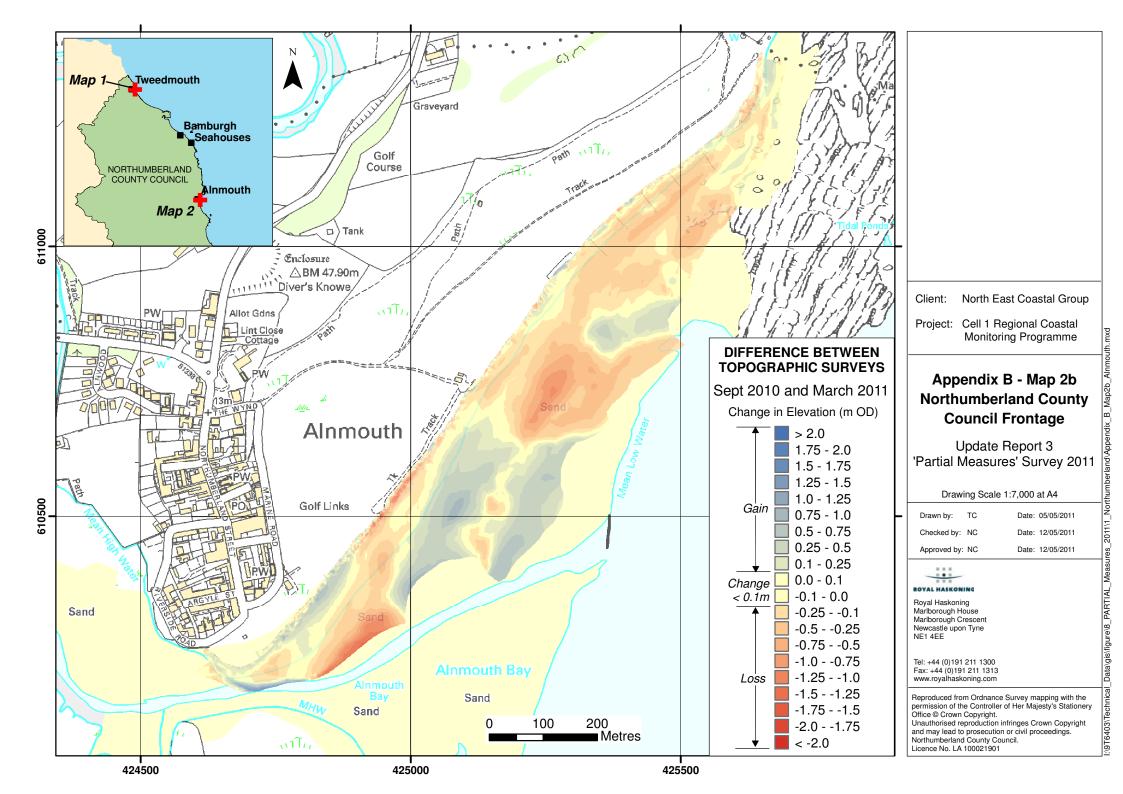
Appendix B

**Topographic Surveys** 









# Appendix C

## **Cliff Top Surveys**

Data relating to the cliff top surveys are best viewed as digital 'kmz' files loaded into Google Earth.