







## Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Update Report 16: 'Partial Measures' Survey 2024



North Tyneside Council

June 2024

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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	
MHWN	Mean High Water Neap	
MHWS	Mean High Water Spring	
MLWS	Mean Low Water Neap	
MLWS	Mean Low Water Spring	
m	metres	
ODN	Ordnance Datum Newlyn	

## Water Levels Used in Interpretation of Changes

Water Level Parameter	Water Level (m AOD) Whitley Sands to King Edward's Bay
HAT	3.1
MHWS	2.4
MHWN	1.3
MLWN	-0.8
MLWS	-1.9

Source: UKHO Admiralty Tide Tables, 2020

## **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 Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme 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. This coastline is often referred to as 'Coastal Sediment Cell 1' in England and Wales (Figure 1). Within this frontage the coastal landforms vary considerably, comprising low-lying tidal flats with fringing salt marshes, hard rock cliffs that are mantled with glacial sediment to varying thicknesses, softer rock cliffs and extensive landslide complexes.

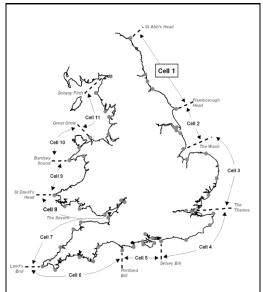


Figure 1 Sediment Cells in England and Wales

The programme commenced in its present guise in September 2008<sup>1</sup> and is managed by North Yorkshire Council on behalf of the North East Coastal Observatory. It is funded by the Environment Agency, working in partnership with the following organisations:



Royal HaskoningDHV has been appointed to provide Analytical Services in relation to the present phase of the Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme, between 2016 - 2027.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Prior to 2008, coastal monitoring was undertaken on a consistent basis across Northumberland and North Tyneside as part of the (then) Northumbrian Coastal Authorities Group's monitoring programme which commenced in 2002, whilst several authorities between the River Tyne and Flamborough Head undertook their own local monitoring programmes.

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

- beach profile surveys
- topographic surveys
- cliff top recession surveys
- real-time wave data collection
- bathymetric and sea bed characterisation surveys
- aerial photography
- LiDAR surveys
- walk-over cliff and coastal defence asset surveys

The beach profile surveys, topographic surveys and cliff top recession surveys are 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.

Each year, an Analytical Report is produced for each individual authority, providing a detailed analysis and interpretation of the 'Full Measures' surveys. This is followed by a brief Update Report for each individual authority, providing ongoing findings from the 'Partial Measures' surveys.

At the end of each phase of the programme, a Cell 1 Overview Report is also produced. This provides a region-wide summary of the main findings relating to trends and interactions along the entire Cell 1 frontage.

To date the following reports have been produced:

Table 1 Analytical, Update and Overview Reports Produced to Date

Year		Full Measures		Partial Measures		Cell 1
		Survey	Analytical Report	Survey	Update Report	Overview Report
1	2008/09	Sep-Dec 08	May 09	Mar-May 09	Jun 09	
2	2009/10	Sep-Dec 09	Mar 10	Feb-Mar 10	Jul 10	
3	2010/11	Aug-Nov 10	Feb 11	Feb-Apr 11	Aug 11	Sep 11
4	2011/12	Oct-Nov 11	Oct 12	Mar-May 12	Feb 13	
5	2012/13	Sep-Oct 12	Mar 13	Mar-Apr 13	Jun 13	
6	2013/14	Sep-Oct 13	Feb 14	Mar-Apr 14	Jul 14	
7	2014/15	Oct-Nov 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Jul 15	
8	2015/16	Oct-Nov 15	Feb 16	Mar 16	Jul 16	Jun 16
9	2016/17	Sep 16	Feb 17	Mar 17	Jul 17	
10	2017/18	Sep-Oct 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	May 18	
11	2018/19	Sep-Oct 18	Jan 19	Feb-Mar 19	Aug 19	
12	2019/20	Sep-Nov 19	Dec 19	Mar 20	Mar 20	
13	2020/21	Sep 20	Nov 20	Mar 21	Apr 21	Aug 21
14	2021/22	Aug 21	Dec 21	Mar-Apr 22	May 22	
15	2022/23	Aug 22	Jan 23	Feb-Mar 23	May 23	
16	2023/24	Aug 23	Oct 23	Mar 24	Jun 24(*)	

<sup>(\*)</sup> The present report is **Update Report 16** and provides an analysis of the 2024 Partial Measures survey for North Tyneside Council's frontage.

#### 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Study Area

North Tyneside Council's frontage extends from Hartley (just south of Blyth) in the north to River Tyne in the south. For the purposes of this report and for consistency with previous reporting, it has been sub-divided into four areas, namely:

- Whitley Sands
- Cullercoats Bay
- Tynemouth Long Sands
- King Edward's Bay

#### 1.2 Methodology

Along North Tyneside Council's frontage, the following surveying is undertaken:

- Full Measures survey annually each autumn comprising:
  - Beach profile surveys along eight transect lines (commenced 2002)
  - Beach profile surveys along an additional two transects (commenced 2010)
  - Topographic survey along Whitley Sands (commenced 2010)
  - Topographic survey along Tynemouth Long Sands (commenced 2011)
- Partial Measures survey annually each spring comprising:
  - Beach profile surveys along all ten transect lines (commenced 2010)

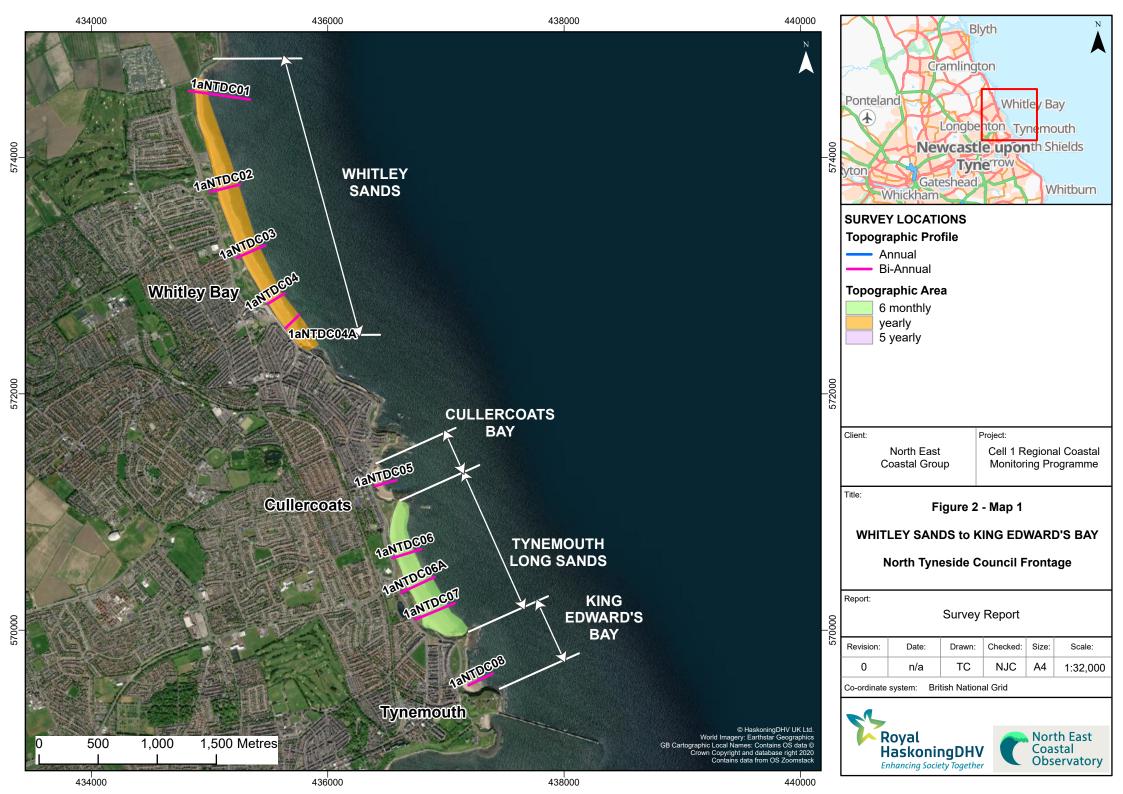
The location of these surveys is shown in Figure 2. The Partial Measures 2022 surveys were undertaken along this frontage on the 11<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024. During this time weather conditions varied; refer to the survey reports for details of the weather conditions over this survey period.

All data have been captured in a manner commensurate with the principles of the Environment Agency's *National Standard Contract and Specification for Surveying Services* and stored in a file format compatible with the software systems being used for the data analysis, namely SANDS and ArcGIS. This data collection approach and file format is comparable to that being used on other regional coastal monitoring programmes around England.

The 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); and
- key conclusions and highlighting of any areas of concern (Section 5).

Data from the present survey are presented in a processed form in the Appendices.



## 2. Analysis of Survey Data

## 2.1 Whitley Sands

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
	Beach Profiles:  Whitley Sands is covered by five beach profile lines for the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Four of these (1aNTDC01 to 1aNTDC04) were initially surveyed in April 2002 and were then re-surveyed annually to 2009 (Full Measures, autumn 2009) after which time they have been surveyed bi-annually. From March 2010 (Partial Measures, spring 2010) onwards, an additional beach profile line (NTDC04A) has been surveyed at the southern end of the frontage for the same time periods listed above. All profiles were last surveyed in autumn 2023 for the Full Measures survey.	Since the last survey, beach levels across Whitley Sands have generally lowered, except at profile 1aNTDC01 and some short sections at profiles 1aNTC02 and 1aNTDC03 which have risen. The undefended cliffs in the north of Whitley Sands are at their most landward position recorded.  Longer term trends:
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>1aNTDC01</b> is located in the north of Whitley Sands, along the undefended cliffs immediately south of Trinity Road car park. According to the survey report, the cliff was not measured due to dangerous access. There has been a short section of lowering by up to 0.1m from the toe of the cliff to chainage 34m. Seaward of this point, the beach has risen by up to 1.0m, covering up previously exposed rocks at chainage 70m. The lower beach seaward of chainage 90m has remained similar to the previous survey. Overall, the cliff toe is at its most landward position recorded, and the beach profile is at a medium-low level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	The data show that profiles are within the bounds of previous surveys.
	Profile <b>1aNTDC02</b> is located towards the north of Whitley Sands. From the sea wall to chainage 105m, the beach has lowered by up to 1.0m on the upper and middle beach, whilst the lower beach seaward of chainage 105m has risen by up to 1.6m. Overall, the upper beach profile is at one of its lowest levels recorded, and a high level on the lower beach compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	
	Profile <b>1aNTDC03</b> is located at the centre of Whitley Sands. Beach levels have lowered between the sea wall across the upper beach to chainage 52m by up to 1.2m. The upper beach between chainages 52-120m has risen by up to 0.4m. The lower beach seaward of chainage 120m has lowered by up to 0.3m. Overall, the upper beach is at a low level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys, whilst the middle and lower beach is at a medium-high level.	

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
	Profile <b>1aNDC04</b> is located to the south of Whitley Sands. There has been a small section from the toe of the dunes to chainage 16m where the beach level has risen by up to 0.4m. The rest of the beach profile has lowered by up to 0.9m on the middle beach and up to 1.2m on the lower beach. Overall, the upper beach fluctuates between a medium – low level, whilst the middle and lower beach is at a medium level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.  Profile <b>1aNTDC04A</b> is located to the south of Whitley Sands. The beach from the toe of the dunes across the beach profile has lowered by up to 1.8m on the upper beach, 0.6m on the middle beach, and	
	up to 1.5m on the lower beach. There is a small patch of rocks exposed at chainage 75m on the lower beach during the survey. Overall, the beach profile is at a medium-low level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	

## 2.2 Cullercoats Bay

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Beach Profiles:  Cullercoats Bay is covered by one beach profile line for the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). This was surveyed annually each autumn between 2002 and 2009. From spring 2010 onwards, it has been surveyed bi-annually. The last survey was the autumn 2023 Full Measures survey.  The cliff at 1aNTDC05 is not measured (through agreement) due to dangerous access. The upper beach has alternated between erosion and accretion by up to ±0.2m. The middle beach has lowered by up to 0.2m between chainages 52-98m, before switching to accretion on the lower beach by up to 0.6m. Overall the beach is at a medium level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	The beach profile has not undergone any significant change since the previous survey, with alternating sections of erosion and accretion across the profile.  Longer term trends: The beach levels observed are within the bounds of previous surveys, indicating generic behaviour with no clear trend.

## 2.3 Tynemouth Long Sands

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
	Beach Profiles:  Tynemouth Long Sands is covered by three beach profile lines for the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Profiles 1aNTDC06 and 1aNTDC07 were initially surveyed annually each autumn between 2002 and 2009. A third profile, 1aNTDC06A, was later added in the centre of the frontage. From spring 2010 (Partial Measures) onwards, they have been surveyed bi-annually. The last survey was the autumn 2023 Full Measures survey.	At Tynemouth Long Sands, the dune-cliff face was not surveyed due to access constraints, but survey photographs suggest that wind-blown sand continues to accrete in the lee of the defences.  Beach levels have generally lowered across the profiles.
11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>1aNTDC06</b> is located approximately 150m south of the access road/ramp towards the north of the bay. The profile for the dune-cliff face is limited due to a lack of data points in the profile plot; the survey report for this monitoring period and previous survey reports have noted "no access to middle of section 6 due to seed protection fences". The beach from the toe of the cliff to chainage 155m has lowered by up to 1.2. The cliff toe has retreated landward by up to 7m and is now at its most landward position recorded. Overall, the upper and middle beach profile is at a low level, whilst the lower beach is at a medium-high level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	Longer term trends: Overall, the beaches have retained a similar form and are within the bounds of previous surveys, however the cliff toe at profile 1aNTDC06 is at its most landward position recorded.
2024	At profile <b>1aNTDC06A</b> , the profile for the dune-cliff face is a straight line; a result of a lack of data points in the profile plot; the survey report for this monitoring period and previous survey reports have noted 'no access to middle of section 6A due to seed protection fences'. The beach profile has mostly lowered by up to 0.6m, except for the beach at the end of the survey which has risen by up to 0.1m. Overall, the upper and middle beach profile is at medium level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys, whilst the lower beach is at a high level.	
	Profile <b>1aNTDC07</b> is located approximately 50m south of the access route through the dunes towards the southern end of the bay. As with the other profiles the dune-cliff face is a straight line; a result of a lack of data points in the profile plot. The survey report for this monitoring period and earlier reports note 'no access to middle of section 7 due to seed protection fences' and also 'no access to the top of section 7 due to building site'. The beach profile at the toe of the cliff has risen for a short section by up to 0.2m to chainage 77m, before switching to erosion across the rest of the profile by up to 0.4m on the middle beach and 0.5m on the lower beach. Overall, the beach is at a medium level compared to the	

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
	range recorded from previous surveys.	
March 2024	Topographic Survey:  The first survey for Tynemouth Long Sands was undertaken for the Full Measures survey in October 2010.  Data from the current topographic survey have been used to create a digital ground model (DGM) (Appendix B – Map 1) using a Geographical Information System (GIS). A difference plot has also been produced by comparing the current DGM (Appendix B – Map 2) with that produced from the last topographic survey (August 2023).  The difference plot shows that the bay is dominated by erosion across the upper and middle beach. Erosion rates vary between 1.5-1.75m at the top of the dunes in the centre of the bay, to lower rates of erosion (0.5m) on the middle to lower beach. Accretion is isolated to the lower beach of the northern half of the bay, with rates up to 1.5m. There is patchier areas of change at the northern and southern extent of the bay, with lower rates of erosion / accretion.	Since the last survey, the beach at Tynemouth Long Sands is generally dominated by erosion, except for the lower beach in the northern half of the bay. There is no clear trend of sediment movement since the previous survey.

## 2.4 King Edward's Bay

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Beach Profiles:  King Edward's Bay is covered by one beach profile line for the Full Measures survey (Appendix A). This was surveyed annually each autumn between 2002 and 2009. From spring 2010 onwards, it has been surveyed bi-annually. The last survey was the autumn 2023 Full Measures survey.  At profile 1aNTDC08 the upper and middle beach between chainages 15m to 140m has lowered by up to 1.2m, removing an upper beach berm recorded in previous surveys. The lower beach seaward of chainage 140m has risen by up to 0.8m, infilling a hollow from the previous survey at chainage 170m. Overall, the beach is at a medium-low compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	Since the last survey, the beach at King Edward's Bay has lowered on the upper and middle beach and risen on the lower beach.  Longer term trends: Changes recorded are within the bounds of previous surveys. The upper beach berm has been eroded and maintained a similar form and height compared to previous surveys, with a slight landward retreat compared to the autumn 2022 survey.

#### 3. Problems Encountered and Uncertainty Analysis

#### **Individual Profiles**

- At profiles 1aNTDC01 and 1aNTDC05 (through prior agreement) the cliff was not measured due to dangerous access.
- At Tynemouth Long Sands (profiles 1aNTDC06, 1aNTDC06A and 1aNTDC07) there was
  no access to the dunes in the middle of the profile due to seedling protection fences, and
  no access to the top of section 7 due to building site. This means it has not been
  possible to directly monitor the effectiveness of the dune stabilisation scheme, although
  observations have been made from the survey photographs.

#### **Topographic Survey**

No problems were encountered.

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

It is recommended that the effectiveness of the stabilisation fences installed at the dunes along Tynemouth Long Sands be monitored by means of walkover inspection and aerial photography, rather than trampling in the restricted access sections.

#### 5. Conclusions and Areas of Concern

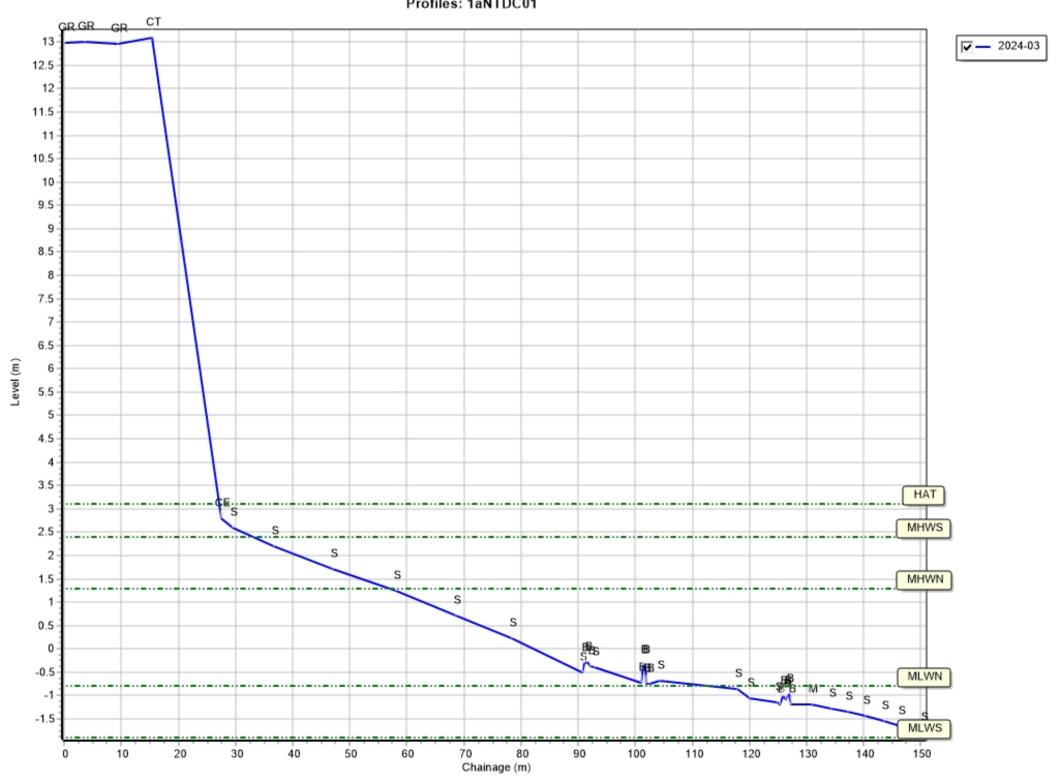
- At Whitley Sands, beach levels have generally lowered across their profiles. Profiles are
  within the bounds of previous surveys and there is no cause for concern, although the
  undefended cliffs in the north of Whitley Sands (fronting the municipal golf course) are at
  their most landward position recorded.
- At Cullercoats Bay, at profile 1aNTDC05, there has been varying sections of accretion and erosion, but there are no causes for concern.
- At Tynemouth Long Sands, the dune face was not surveyed due to access constraints.
  The beach profile has generally lowered since the previous survey and there are no
  causes for concern. The toe of the cliff at profile 1aNTDC06 is at its most landward
  position recorded and should be monitored in future surveys.
- At King Edward's Bay, the beach has lowered on the upper and middle beach and risen on the lower beach, beach. There are no causes for concern.

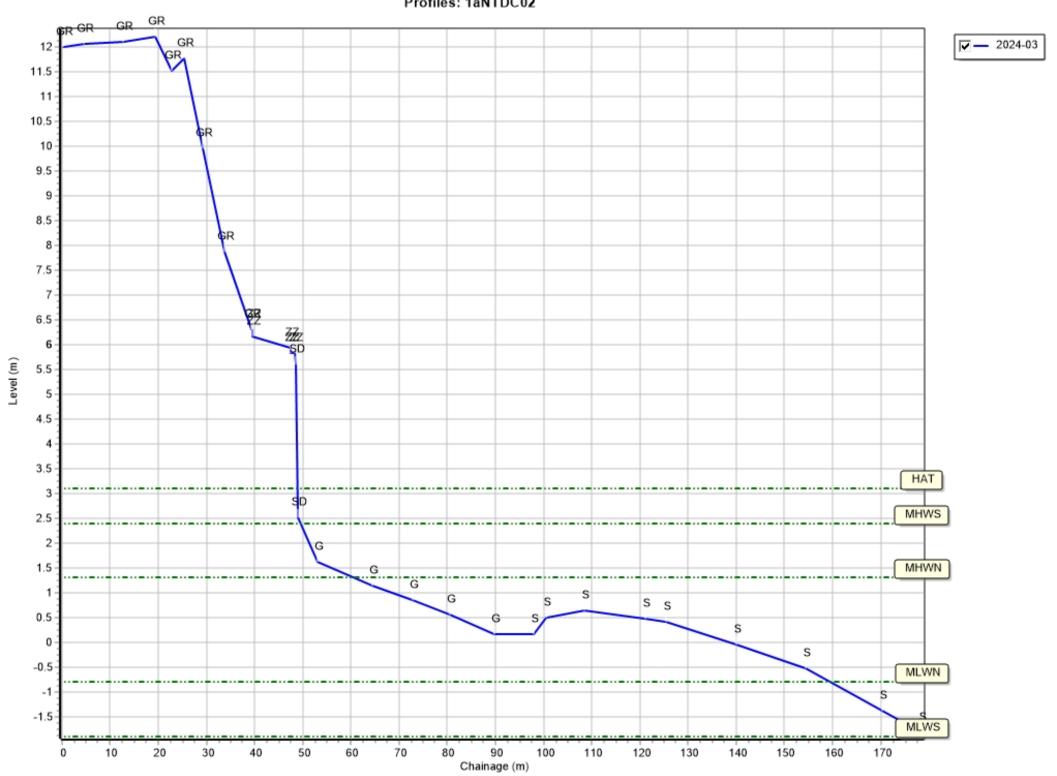
## **Appendices**

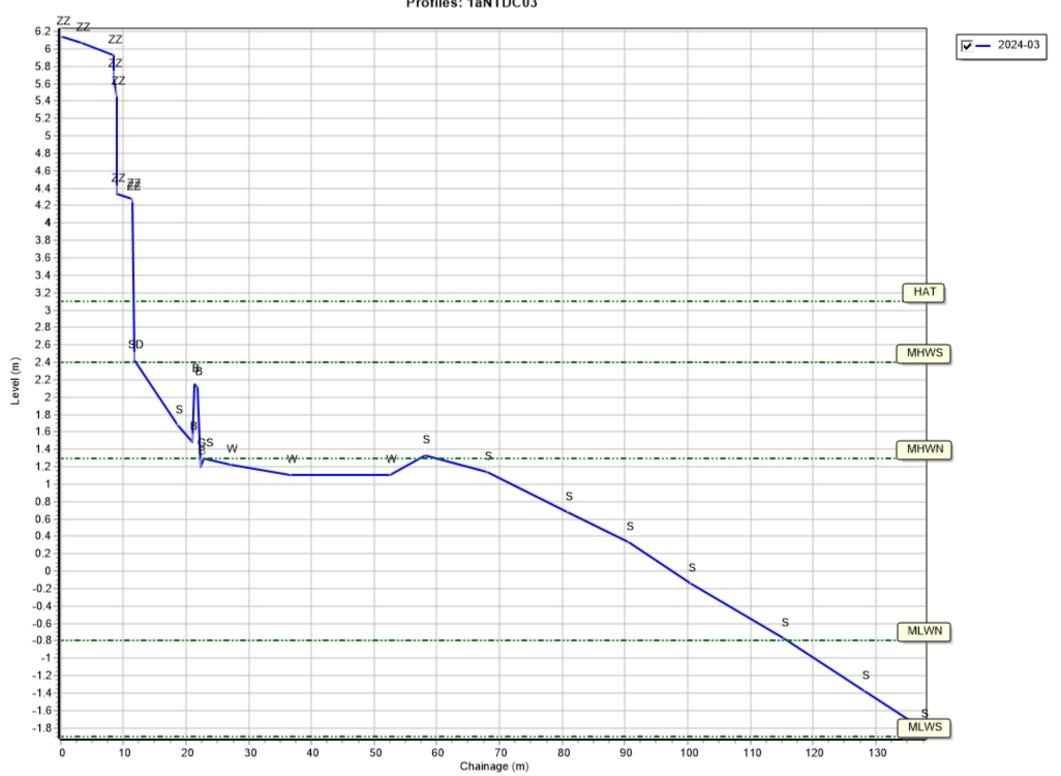
## Appendix A Beach Profiles

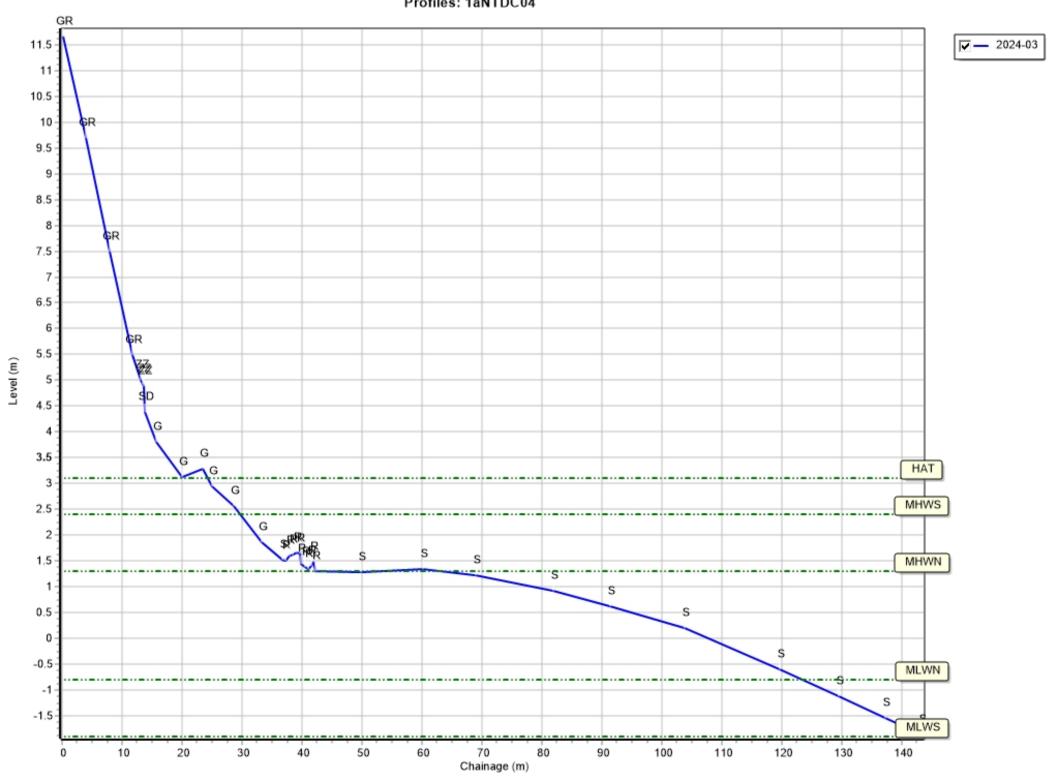
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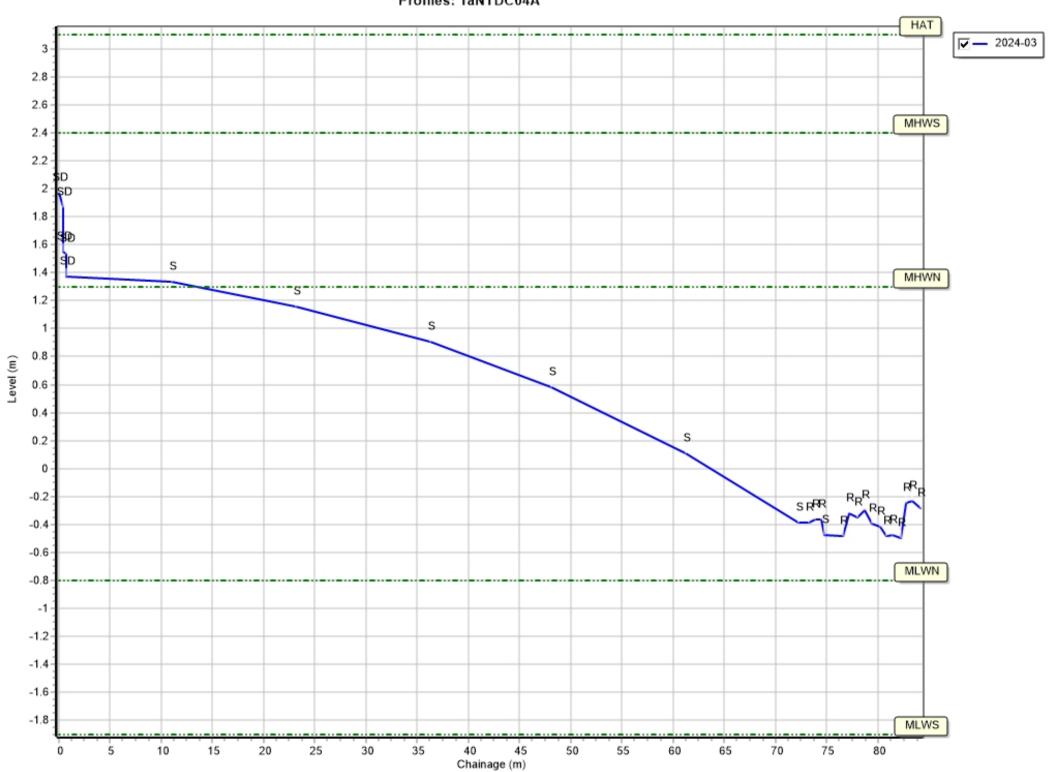
Code	Description
S	Sand
M	Mud
G	Gravel
GS	Gravel & Sand
MS	Mud & Sand
В	Boulders
R	Rock
SD	Sea Defence
SM	Saltmarsh
W	Water Body
GM	Gravel & Mud
GR	Grass
D	Dune (non-vegetated)
DV	Dune (vegetated)
F	Forested
X	Mixture
FB	Obstruction
CT	Cliff Top
CE	Cliff Edge
CF	Cliff Face
SH	Shell
ZZ	Unknown

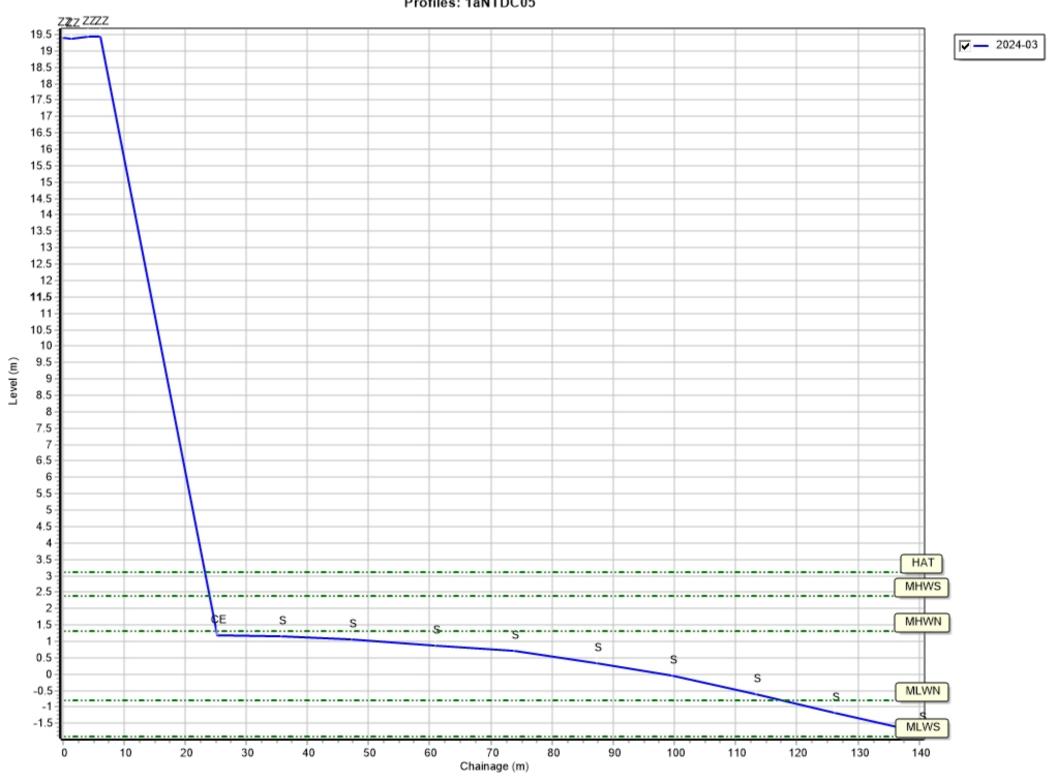


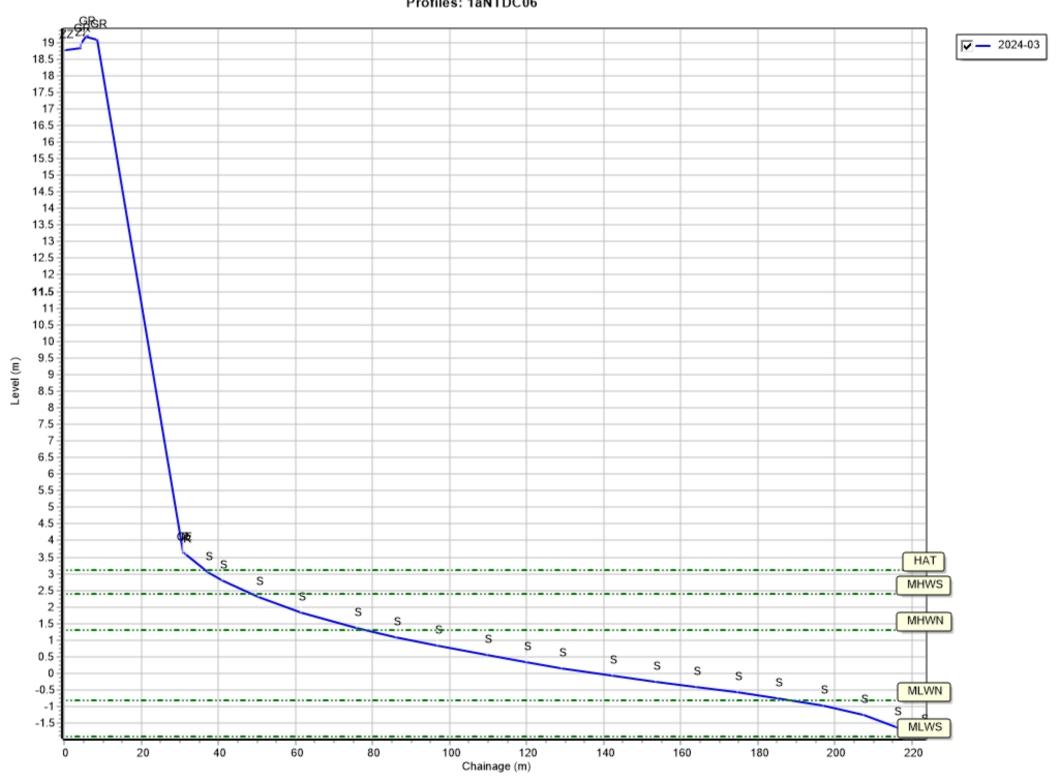


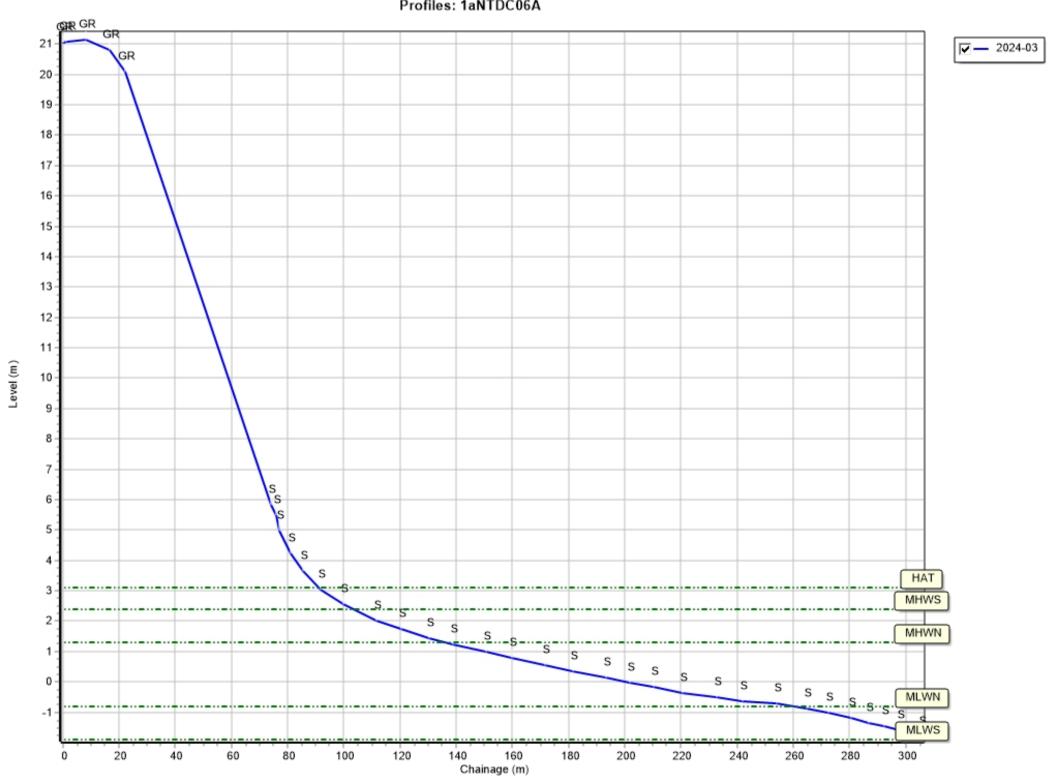


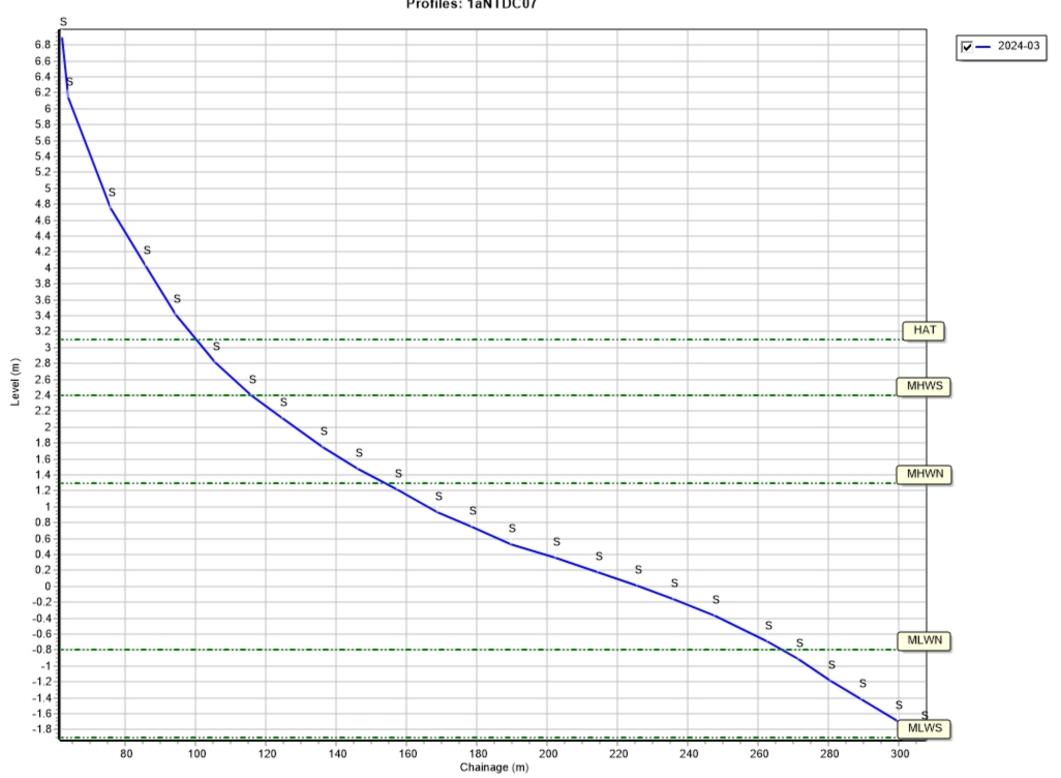


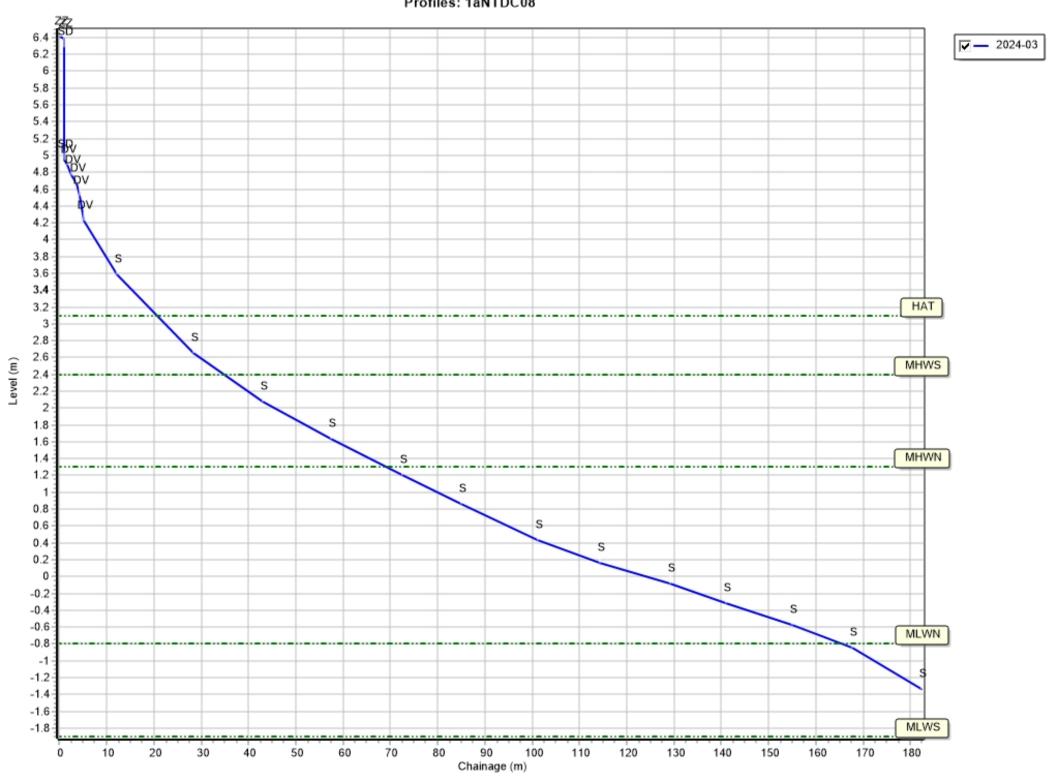


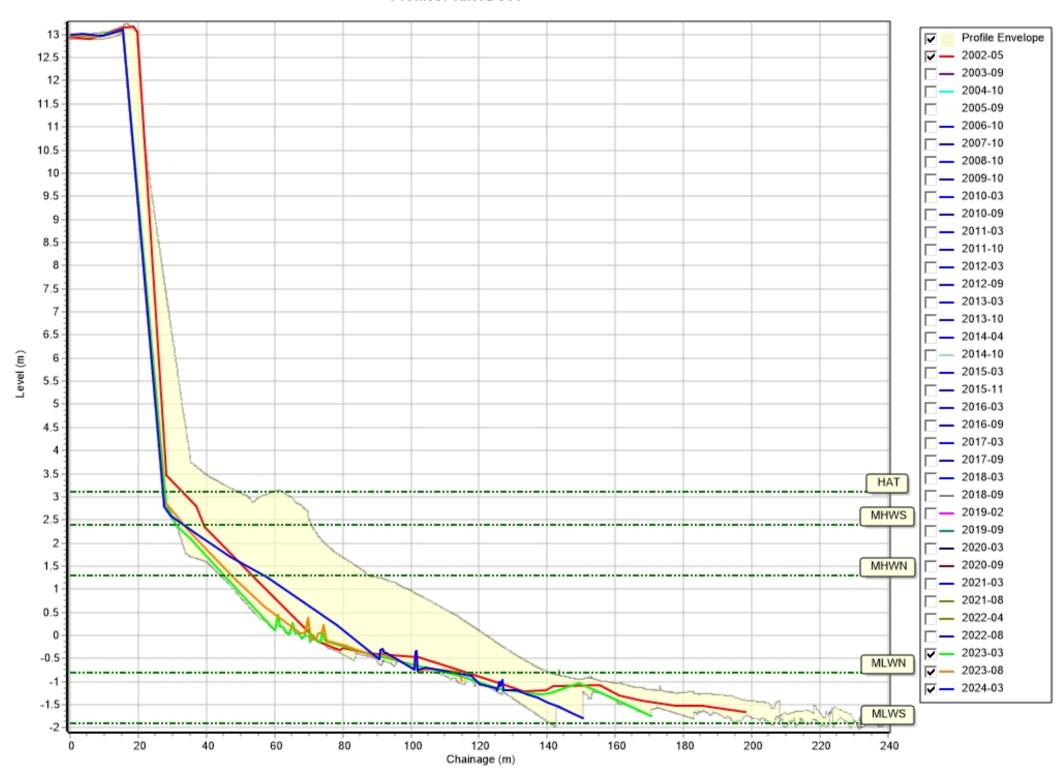


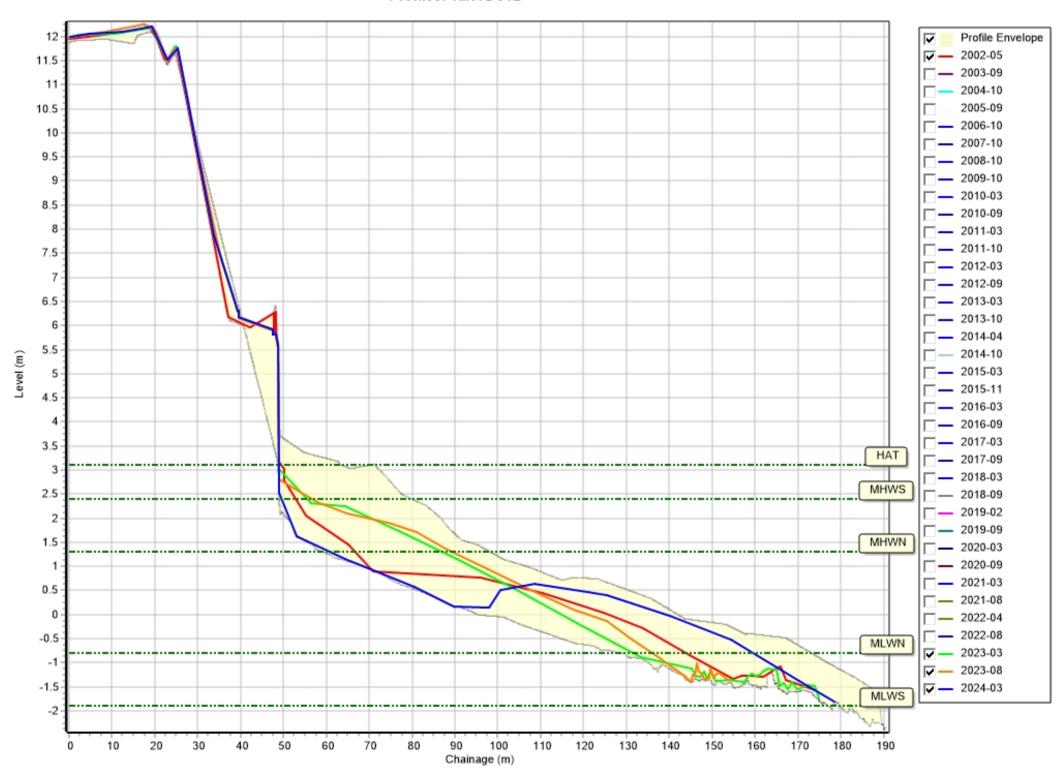


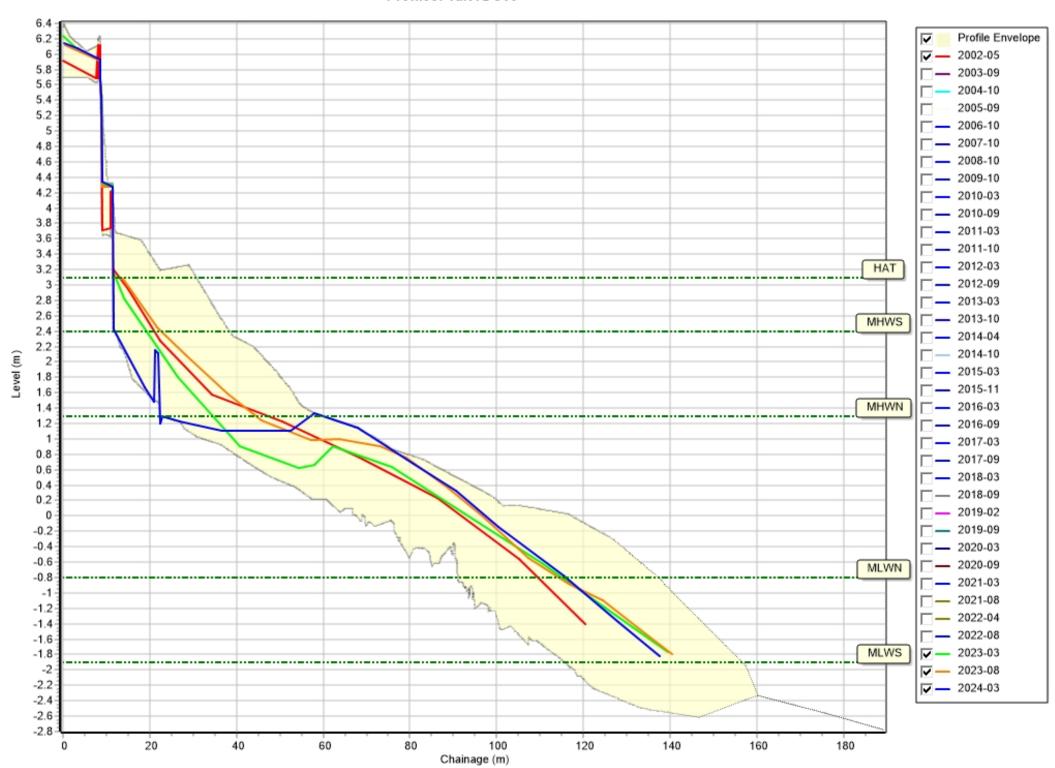


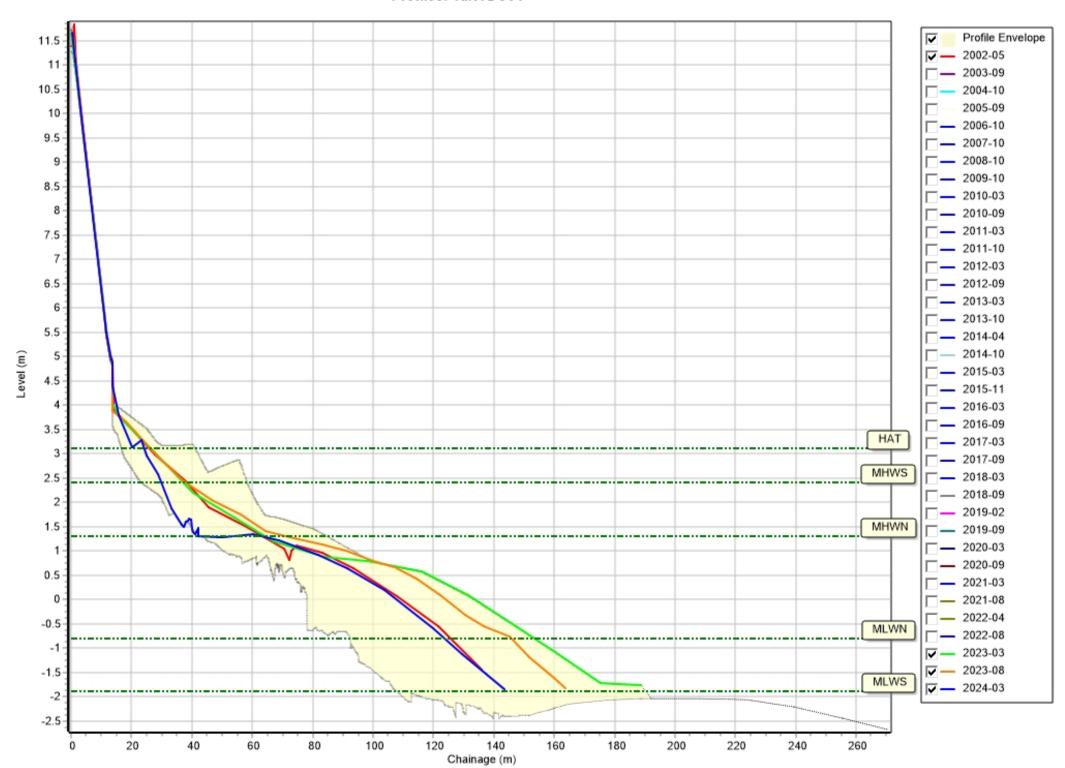




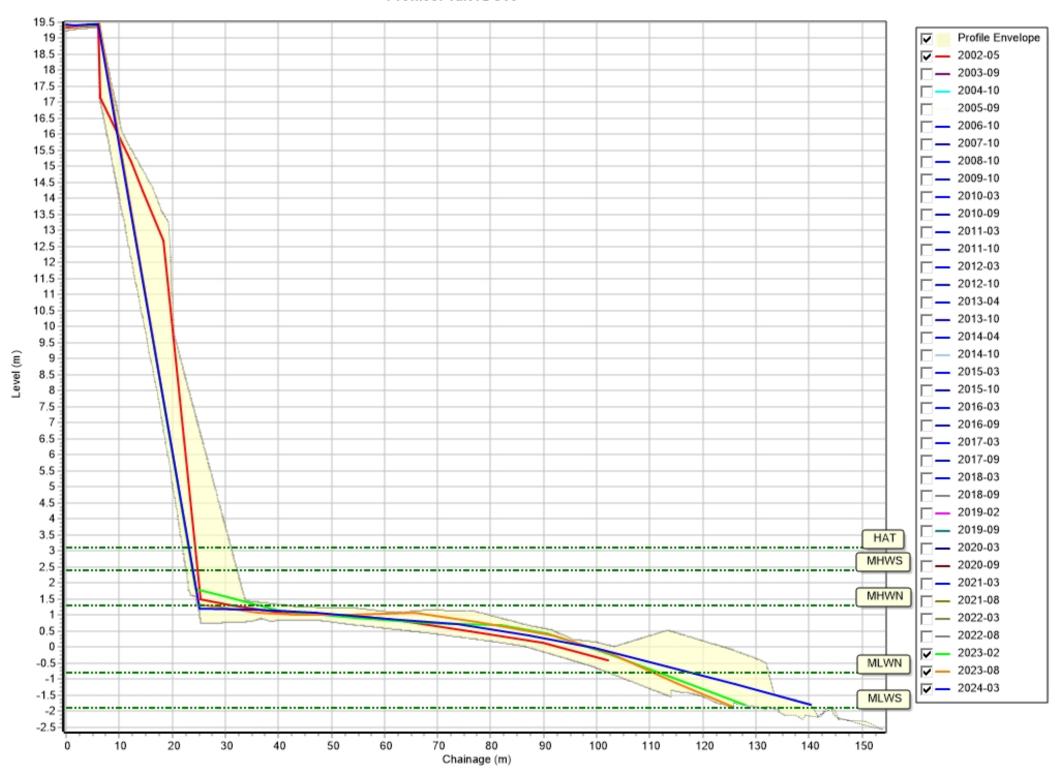


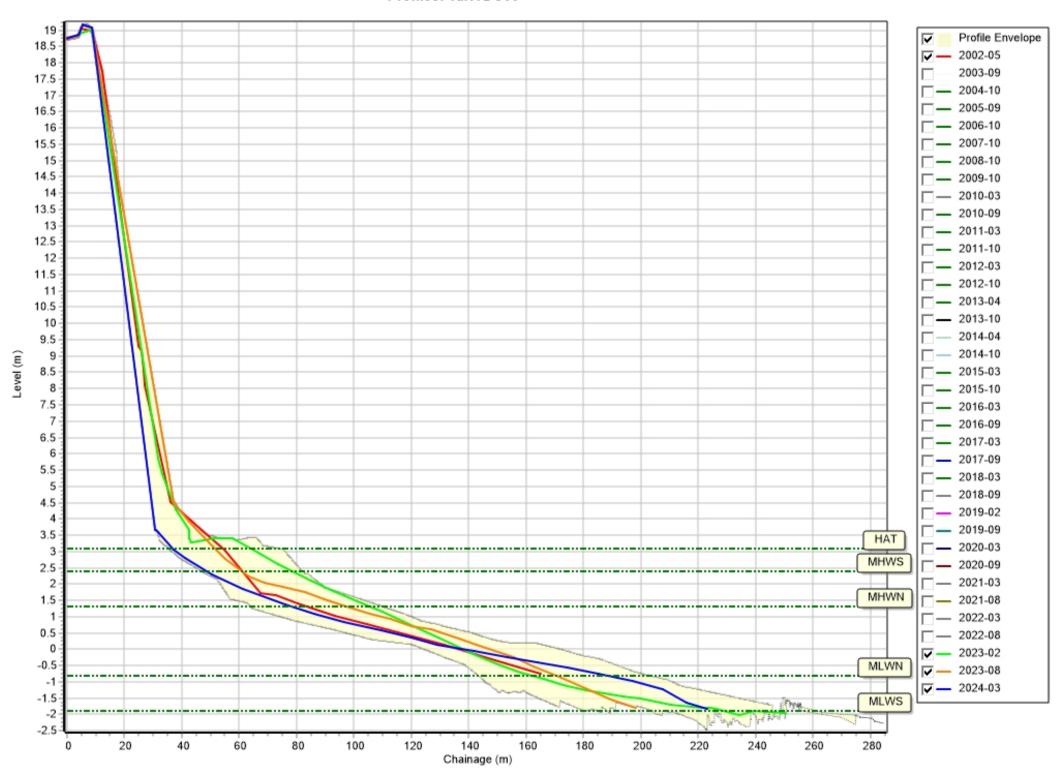


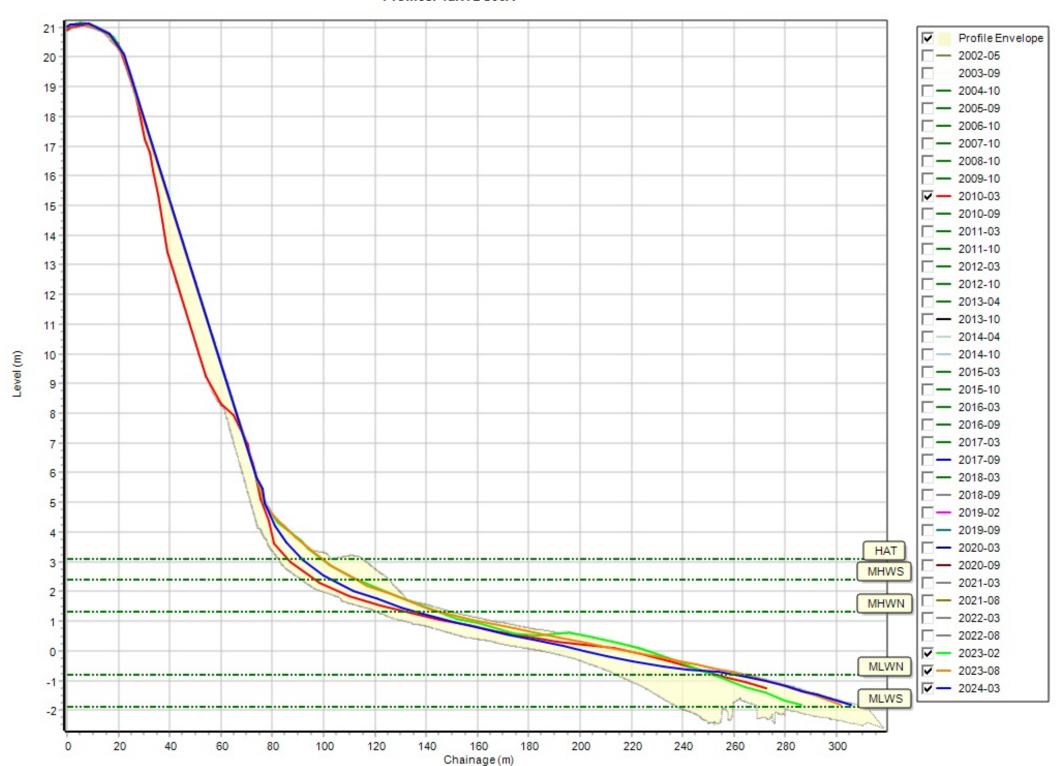


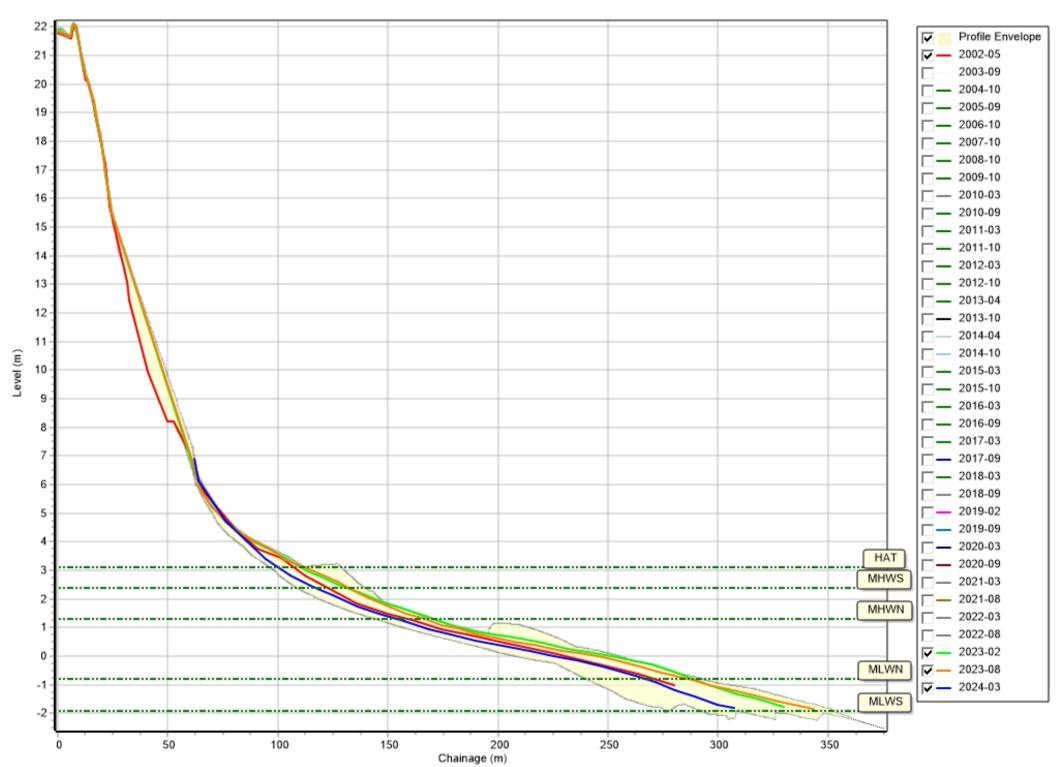


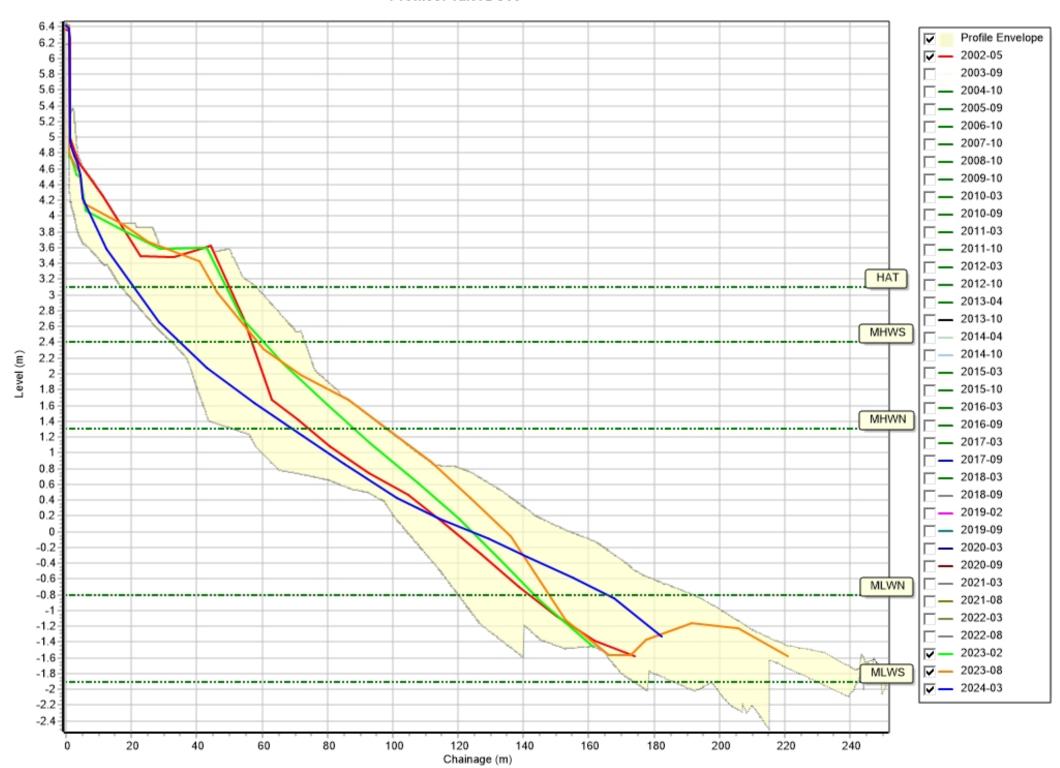












# Appendix B Topographic Survey

