





Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Update Report 2: 'Partial Measures' Survey 2010



South Tyneside Council

South Tyneside Council Final Report

May 2010

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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
MLWS	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 (mODN)			
Water Level Parameter	River Tyne to Frenchman's Bay	Frenchman's Bay to Souter Point	Souter Point to Chourdon Point	Chourdon Point to Hartlepool Headland
1 in 200 year	3.41	3.44	3.66	3.91
HAT	2.85	2.88	3.18	3.30
MHWS	2.15	2.18	2.48	2.70
MLWS	-2.15	-2.12	-1.92	-1.90
		Water Lev	el (mODN)	
Water Level Parameter	Hartlepool Headland to Saltburn Scar	Skinningrove	Hummersea Scar to Sandsend Ness	Sandsend Ness to Saltwick Nab
1 in 200 year	3.87	3.86	4.1	3.88
HAT	3.25	3.18	3.15	3.10
MHWS	2.65	2.68	2.65	2.60
MLWS	-1.95	-2.13	-2.15	-2.20
		Water Lev	el (mODN)	
Water Level Parameter	Saltwick Nab to Hundale Point	Hundale Point to White Nab	White Nab to Filey Brigg	Filey Brigg to Flamborough Head
1 in 200 year	3.88	3.93	3.93	4.04
HAT	3.10	3.05	3.05	3.10
MHWS	2.60	2.45	2.45	2.50
MLWS	-2.20	-2.35	-2.35	-2.30

Source: *River Tyne to Flamborough Head Shoreline Management Plan 2.* Royal Haskoning, February 2007.

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
De estatit	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
Fetch	low water.
Feich	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	The average of all high waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
Water (MHW)	
Mean Low	The average of all low waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
Water (MLW) Mean Sea Level	Average beight of the see surface over a 10 year period
(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
Tanaanka	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
112113916351011	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.
l	

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.

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
- walk-over 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.

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	June 09	-
2	2009/10	Sep-Dec 09	Mar 10	Mar-May 10	May 10 ^(*)	-

^(*) The present report is **Update Report 2** and provides an analysis of the 2010 Partial Measures survey for South Tyneside Council's frontage. It is intended as a brief update of the key findings from this survey to maintain an understanding of ongoing changes.

1. Introduction

1.1 Study Area

South Tyneside Council's frontage extends from the mouth of the River Tyne estuary in the north, to the outfall south of Whitburn. For the purposes of this report, it has been sub-divided into four areas, namely:

- Littlehaven Beach
- Herd Sands
- Trow Quarry (incl. Frenchman's Bay)
- Marsden Bay

1.2 Methodology

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

- Full Measures survey annually each autumn/early winter comprising:
 - Beach profile surveys along 17 no. transect lines
 - o Topographic survey along Littlehaven (commenced in 2010)
 - o Topographic survey along Herd Sands
 - Topographic survey along Trow Quarry (extending to Frenchman's Bay)
- Partial Measures survey annually each spring comprising:
 - Beach profile surveys along 11 no. transect lines
 - Topographic survey along Littlehaven (commenced in 2010)
- Cliff top survey (once every 2 years) at:
 - Trow Point (during Full Measures survey)

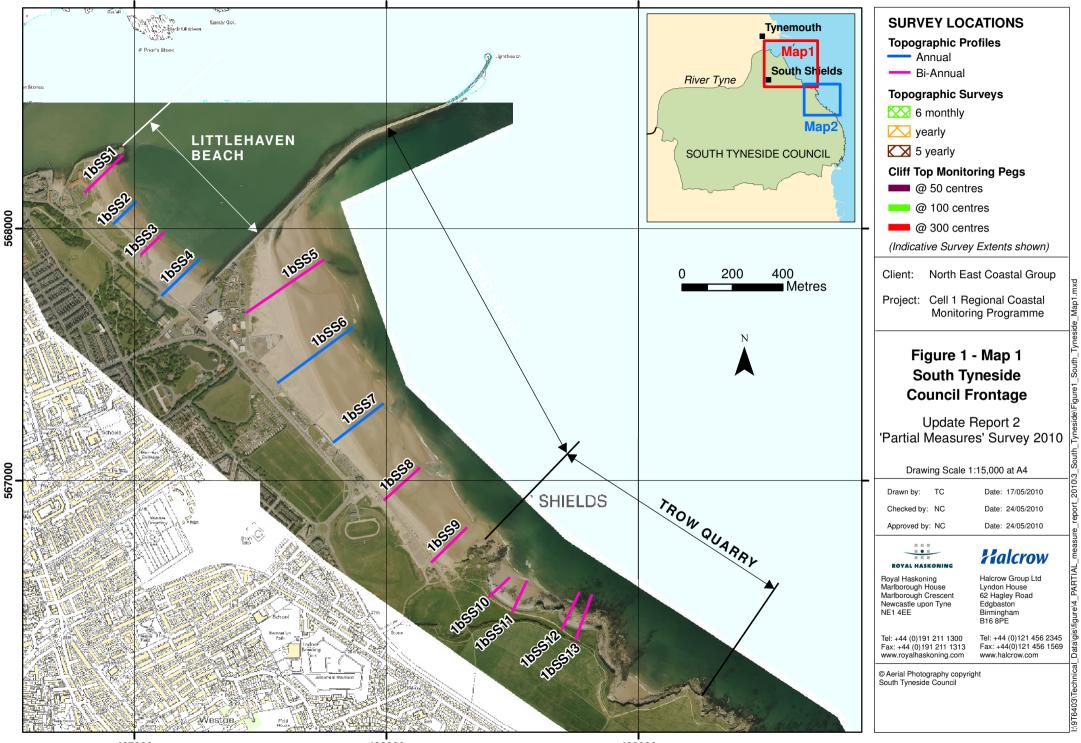
The location of these surveys is shown in Figure 1. Previously supplied on a CD-rom was a file which can be opened in Google Earth showing the locations of the surveys.

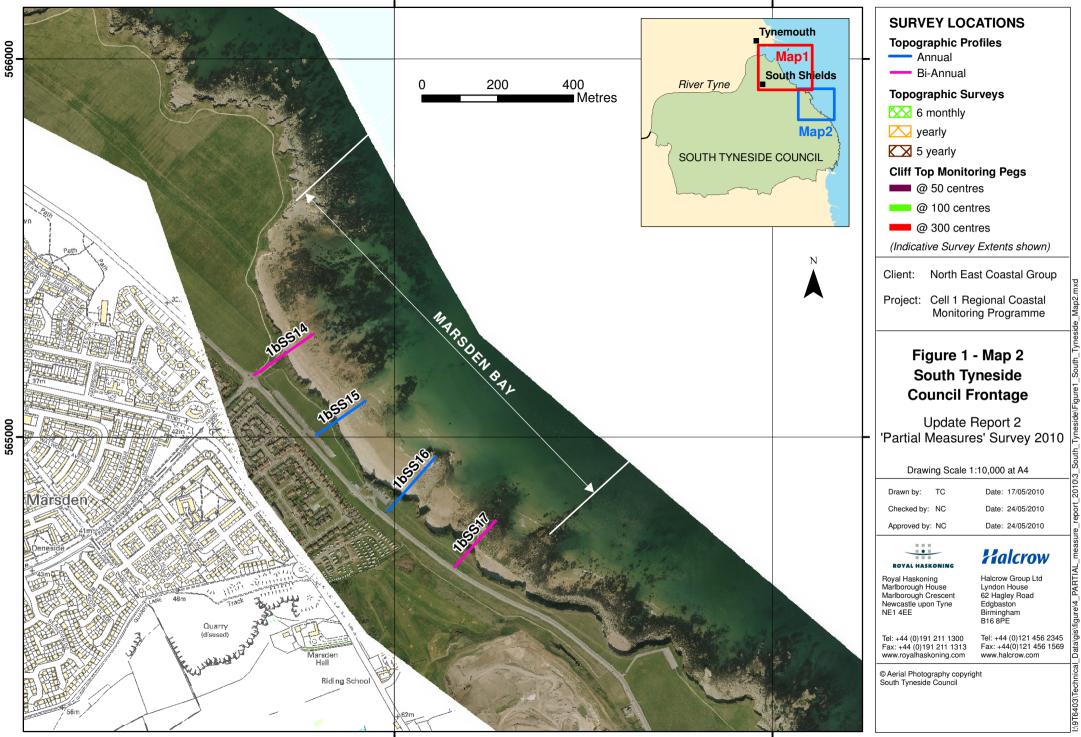
The Partial Measures survey was undertaken along this frontage in March 2010, when weather conditions were generally fine with a slight breeze and the sea state was calm.

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
- providing key conclusions and highlighting 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 Littlehaven Beach

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2010	 Beach Profiles: Littlehaven Beach is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). SS1 shows some redistribution of material from the mid and upper beach, where the lowest levels were recorded since surveys began in November 2008, to both the lower beach and the toe and crest of the dunes, where in all of these zones the highest levels to date were recorded. The particularly low tides at the time of the survey revealed boulders along the lower foreshore, at a chainage of around 155m to 165m. Note: This survey was completed before the highest tides of the spring equinox and these did cause notable changes in dune position and foreshore levels elsewhere across the north east on a quite widespread basis. 	SS1 demonstrated a greater degree of redistribution of sediment from the mid beach to the upper and lower sections than previously recorded, although these are considered to be seasonal trends particularly affected over winter 2009/10 by easterlies and a number of storm events. This shows natural variability that is expected to continue to be observed along this profile. General ongoing accretion of the dune toe and crest means they remain healthy in this area, and the boulders along the lower foreshore will assist in protecting this frontage to a degree.
	SS3 exhibited the lowest foreshore levels recorded to date along its length. The foundations at the toe of the sea wall were exposed to a depth of 1.7mODN and beach levels along the foreshore were typically some 0.4m lower than the previous survey which already was recording low values.	The already very low levels at the toe of the sea wall dropped further, exposing the foundation of the wall and leaving it vulnerable to direct wave attack, overtopping and failure due to undermining. This is an area of ongoing concern.



Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2010	Topographic Survey: Following a recommendation made in the previous Analytical Report (March 2010), topographic surveys have been introduced to the Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme from March 2010 onwards at six-monthly intervals. In addition, Littlehaven Beach has previously been covered by a topographic survey in January 2007 (as part of the earlier Littlehaven Sea Wall Condition Assessment) and in August 2009 (as part of the earlier Littlehaven Sea Wall Options Appraisal). The topographic survey data from March 2010 have been used to create a Digital Ground Model (DGM) of the site using a Geographic Information System (GIS) computer software package (Appendix B – Map 1a). This DGM shows how the beach contours between 2.0 and 3.0mODN are interrupted by the protruding sea wall in the centre of the bay. In contrast, beaches to both the north and south of the bay have wide and high sandy foreshores which provide a suitable buffer against the sea to the assets that are located behind the dunes (in the north) or sea wall (in the south). It is also known from the earlier August 2009 DGM (not presented here), which covered topographic survey of the land backing the sea wall, that the older Littlehaven Car Park, immediately behind the sea wall, is notably lower in level (at around 4mODN) than both the land to its nort (at around 5mODN) and the amenity land to its north (at around 6mODN). This is the main reason why sea water tends to pond in the car park when it (frequently) overtops the sea wall. The GIS has also been used to calculate the differences between the recent March 2010 survey and the earlier August 2009 survey, as shown in Appendix B – Map 1b, to identify areas of erosion and accretion.	From Appendix B – Map 2a it can be seen that the foreshore between around MHWN and around HAT experienced erosion extensively along the length of Littlehaven, with the worst affected areas concentrated around the toe of the protruding section of sea wall in the centre of the bay. Some of the eroded material was redistributed to the dunes (in the north of the bay) and the lower foreshore (along most of the bay) although there appears to have been a net export of sediment from the beach during the winter of 2009/2010. It is known that storms during the winter were particularly severe and beach drawdown occurred on a widespread basis across the north east. It is expected that over time the sediment will slowly be returned to the foreshore by calmer wave action during the summer of 2010 (further storm events notwithstanding).

2.2 Herd Sands

Beach Profiles: Herd Sands is covered by three beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). SS5 has experienced continued redistribution of the sediment that was previously scraped up the beach prior to the November 2008 survey; a process which formed a distinct slope around and above MHWS. Material has been re-worked by marine processes and by the wind, leading to further flattening between around MHWS and around HAT and accretion to both the dune toe (immediately landward of the flattened zone) and the foreshore between around MHWN and MHWS (immediately seaward of the flattened zone). This has resulted in a more 'natural' profile form, with a more concave slope between the dune toe and mid foreshore, rather than the previously observed artificially steep berm at around HAT formed by the beach scraping. Along the lower foreshore, a trough and seaward berm feature has developed, indicating higher wave energy than prior to the September 2009 survey. The dune field remains stable. SS8 has experienced a major change since the last survey, with very notable draw-down of beach material from the mid and upper beach and its deposition on the lower foreshore in the form of a low but very wide berm. It is anticipated that some material would also have been moved further offshore into the sub-tidal zone. The cut-back along the upper beach has resulted in record low beach levels (since surveys began in November 2008); at a chainage of approximately 25m, the beach levels are over 1.5m lower than those recorded in November 2008. Despite this, the beach levels directly at the toe of the sea wall and promenade were very high, only 0.2m below the crest level of the wall Along SS9 the position of the dune crest has remained constant, but very notable draw-down of beach material has occurred from the mid and upper beach (similar to the chang	Dunes at the northern end appear healthy and have accreted at the toe since the last survey, caused mainly by further redistribution of sediment from the scraped berm. The profile now appears much more natural in shape and level. A trough and berm has formed on the lower foreshore. In front of Gypsies' Green Stadium, where the beach is at its narrowest and most vulnerable, the draw-down of material along SS8 has been very significant. Some of the eroded material was redistributed to the upper beach (and extensively across the promenade) and some to the lower foreshore (to form a low and wide berm) although there appears also to have been a net export of sediment from the beach during the winter. The build up at the toe of the wall and promenade is due to the presence of chestnut fencing which is erected for this purpose each winter. At the southern end of Herd Sands, the beach has experienced significant draw-down leading to over-steepening of the seaward toe of the dunes. This is likely to result in some localised slumping in the dunes. It is known that storms during the winter of 2009/2010 were particularly severe and beach drawdown occurred on a widespread basis across the north east. It is expected that over time the sediment will slowly be returned to the foreshore along Herd Sands by calmer wave action during the summer of 2010 (further storm events notwithstanding). Nonetheless, the central

2.3 Trow Quarry

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
03-2010	 Beach Profiles: Trow Quarry is covered by four beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A), two in Graham's Sand and two in Southern Bay. SS10 demonstrates good stability in the coastal slope and revetment that were constructed along Graham's Sand during 2008, although one point along the revetment appears more landward than in previous surveys. Seaward of the revetment foreshore changes continue, with material eroded from the lower profile being deposited on the foreshore between around MHWN and the toe of the revetment. SS11, also in Graham's Sand, shows similar stability in the coastal slope and revetment but the sand veneer has been stripped off the foreshore, exposing the underlying bedrock along much of the lower profile length. SS12 and SS13 are both located in Southern Bay and both show stability in the coastal slope and rock revetment, In both cases, the thin sand veneer observed in places along each profile during the 	The coastal slope and rock revetment constructed as part of the coastal defence scheme in 2008 are showing good stability, and although the slight difference in one survey point along SS10 may be indicative of local displacement of rock armourstone, this will be further checked during the forthcoming 2010 visual walk-over inspections. There continues to be natural variability in the thickness and location of the sand veneer covering the rocky foreshore at Trow Quarry.
	September 2009 survey was stripped, exposing the underlying rocky foreshore.	

2.4 Marsden Bay

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
	Beach Profiles: Marsden Bay is covered by two beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A).	The northern end of Marsden Bay is showing mod natural variability in beach levels, whilst the south end shows very little foreshore change.
03-2010	SS14 shows a good degree of comparability in the shape, level and position of the bevelled cliff profile adjacent to the Redwell Steps compared with the first two surveys along this frontage. Foreshore levels at the toe of the cliffs were marginally higher than the previous survey, and substantially (over 1.0m) higher than the November 2008 survey.	The better comparability between the September 2009 and March 2010 surveys along SS14 shows that the surveyors are paying particular attention to this profile,
	SS17 shows relatively stable foreshore levels and stable cliff face and cliff top positions.	including the difficult to survey section along the bevelled cliff top.

3. Problems Encountered and Uncertainty in Analysis

Beach Combing and Re-profiling

Herd Sands is subject to occasional re-profiling and regular 'summer season' beach combing activities by the Council's Foreshore Team using a tractor and boon.

The results in changes in the measured beach profiles on occasions, especially when re-profiling scrapes the beach in to an artificially steepened berm in front of the dunes in the north of the bay.



Rock Foreshores

Surveys of foreshore areas that are covered by inter-tidal rock outcrops present some problems to our surveyors. It is logistically difficult for staff to access across the foreshore but more importantly it is very difficult to ensure that identical rock features are re-surveyed on each occasion. Due to the fragmented, creviced and 'rocky' nature of the foreshore it is extremely likely that different features will be recorded on successive surveys due to this.



We would expect that the rock foreshore would not experience significant down-weathering over short timescales and therefore any apparent changes between successive surveys are likely to be due to surveying different features rather than erosion.

Notwithstanding this, the rock foreshore areas are periodically covered with a thin veneer of beach sand, which due to its mobility, can be absent on subsequent surveys.

Such changes are identified through inspection of the photographs that are taken by the surveyors along each transect line and analysis of the sediment coding that is included in the raw data file, depicting areas of 'sand' or 'rock'.

Marsden Bay

Beach Profile SS14 is located at the northern end of Marsden Bay, close to the Redwell Steps. Surveys of the beach and the concrete platform and steps at the base of the cliffs are accurately undertaken on each survey. Due to this, it has become clear that the changes in the cliff form above the structure are 'apparent' changes caused by survey difficulties on this steeply bevelled cliff face. In particular, the rock that outcrops at the seaward face of the cliff is showing apparent signs of change (see Appendix A - Beach Profile 1bSS14).



A slight change in alignment of the profile across the cliff section can result in an apparently large change in form simply due to different rock features being picked up on each survey.

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

Following implementation of the recommendation made in *Analytical Report 2* for the introduction of 6-monthly topographic surveys along Littlehaven, there are no further changes recommended at the present time.

5. Conclusions and Areas of Concern

• There remains an ongoing and high level of concern regarding the alignment of the sea wall in the centre of the Littlehaven frontage. In its present alignment, the sea wall intercepts high water and is therefore highly exposed to direct wave and fatigue loading. Furthermore, when beach levels become low, as recorded in March 2010, the wall is highly vulnerable to overtopping, leading to sea flooding of the backing promenade and land as occurred shortly after the survey was completed, and exposure and potential undermining of the foundations.



Littlehaven - Violent wave overtopping



Littlehaven – Sea flooding of hinterland



Littlehaven – Exposed sheet pile foundations



Littlehaven – Exposed timber foundations

• Along Herd Sands there has been very significant draw-down of material from the beach, except in the north where there is more shelter provided by the South Pier. In some places beach levels have been observed to have dropped by over 1.5m. Some eroded material has been deposited across the promenade by wind and wave action, requiring maintenance of the promenade. Despite this significant draw-down, beach levels have accreted at the toe of the sea wall and promenade where chestnut fencing has been placed over the winter. This activity may well have prevented quite severe

damage to, or undermining of, the sea wall in these locations. The dunes at the southern end of the frontage have experienced erosion at their toe, leaving over-steep conditions which are likely to result in future local slumping.



Sandhaven – Sand deposited on the prom.



Sandhaven – Chestnut fencing



Sandhaven – Low foreshore levels



Sandhaven – Over-steepened dunes

- The coastal slope and rock revetment constructed as part of the Trow Quarry Coastal Defence Scheme in 2008 showed good stability. There was continued natural variability in the sand veneer covering the rocky foreshore in both Graham's Sand and Southern Bay.
- The northern end of Marsden Bay showed natural variability in beach levels, but the southern end experienced very little foreshore or cliff change.

Appendices

Appendix A

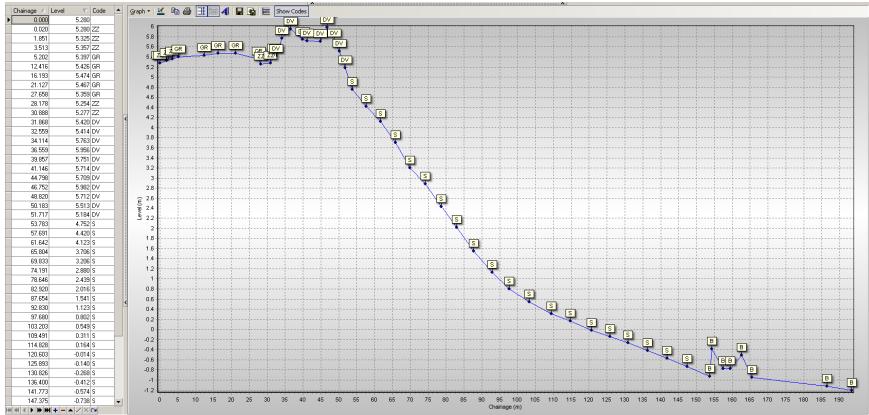
Beach Profiles

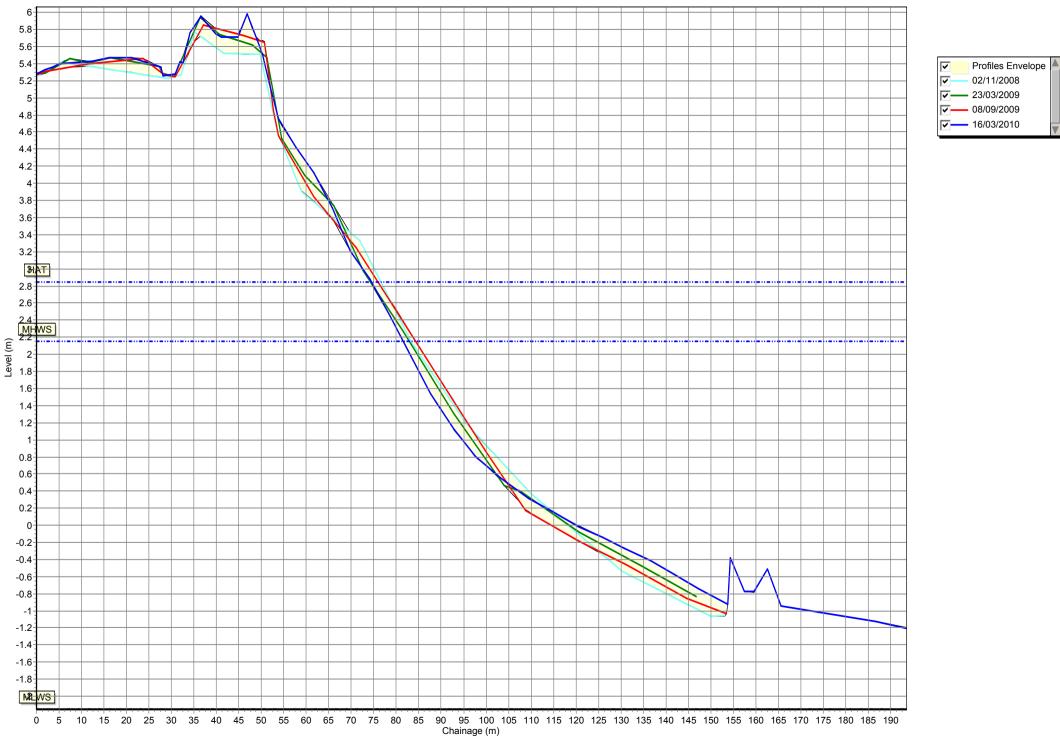
The following sediment feature codes are used on some profile plots:

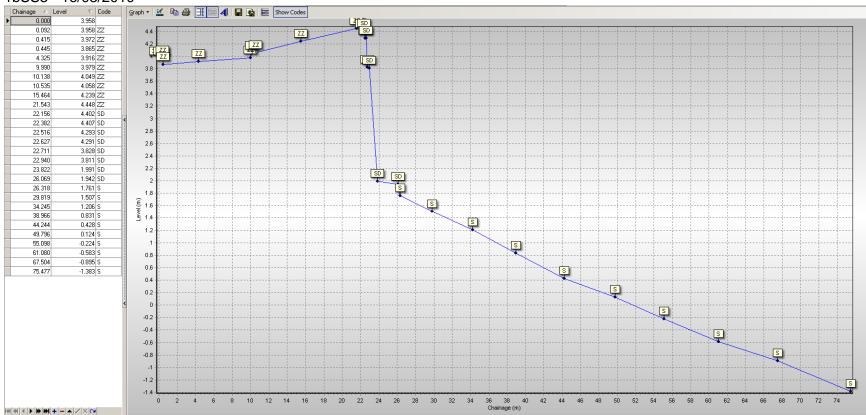
Code	Description
М	Mud
S	Sand
G	Gravel
GS	Gravel & Sand
GM	Gravel & Mud
MS	Mud & Sand
В	Boulders
R	Rock
SD	Sea Defence
SM	Salt Marsh
GR	Grass
D	Dune (non-vegetated)
DV	Dune (vegetated)
F	Forested
Х	Mixture
FB	Obstruction
СТ	Cliff Top
CE	Cliff Edge
CF	Cliff Face
SH	Shell
W	Water Body
ZZ	Unknown

South Shields

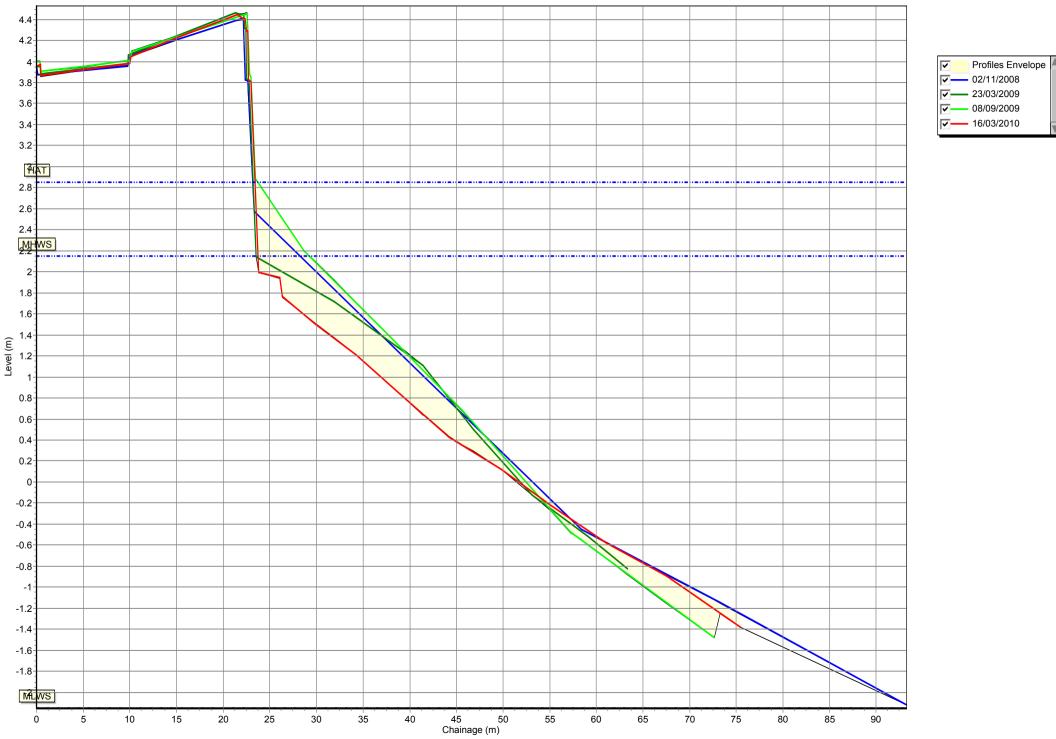
1bSS1 - 16/03/2010

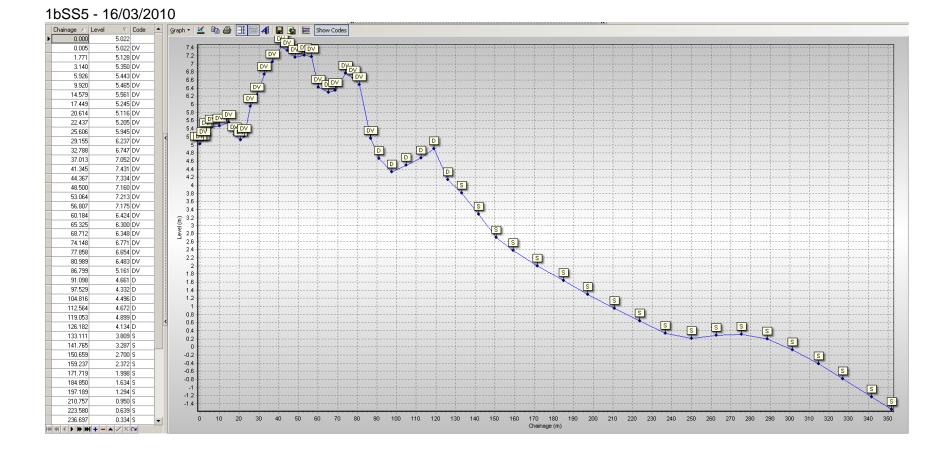




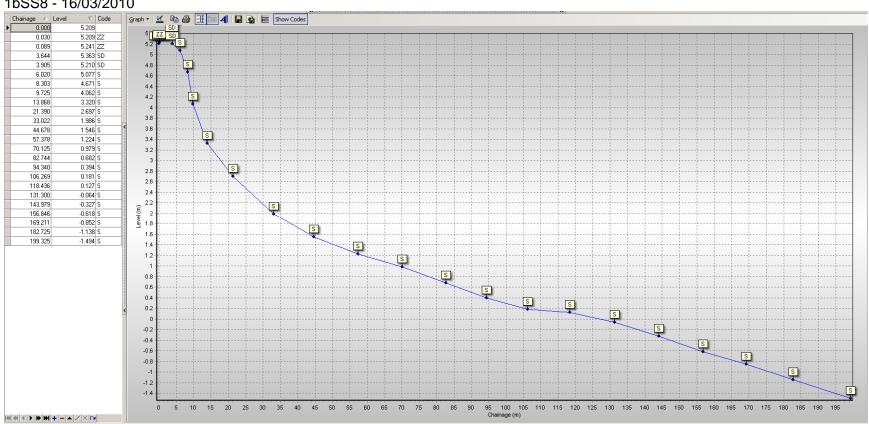


1bSS3 - 16/03/2010



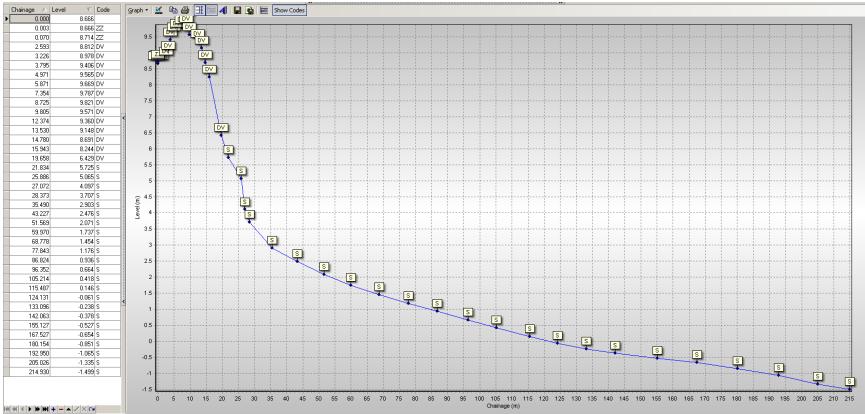




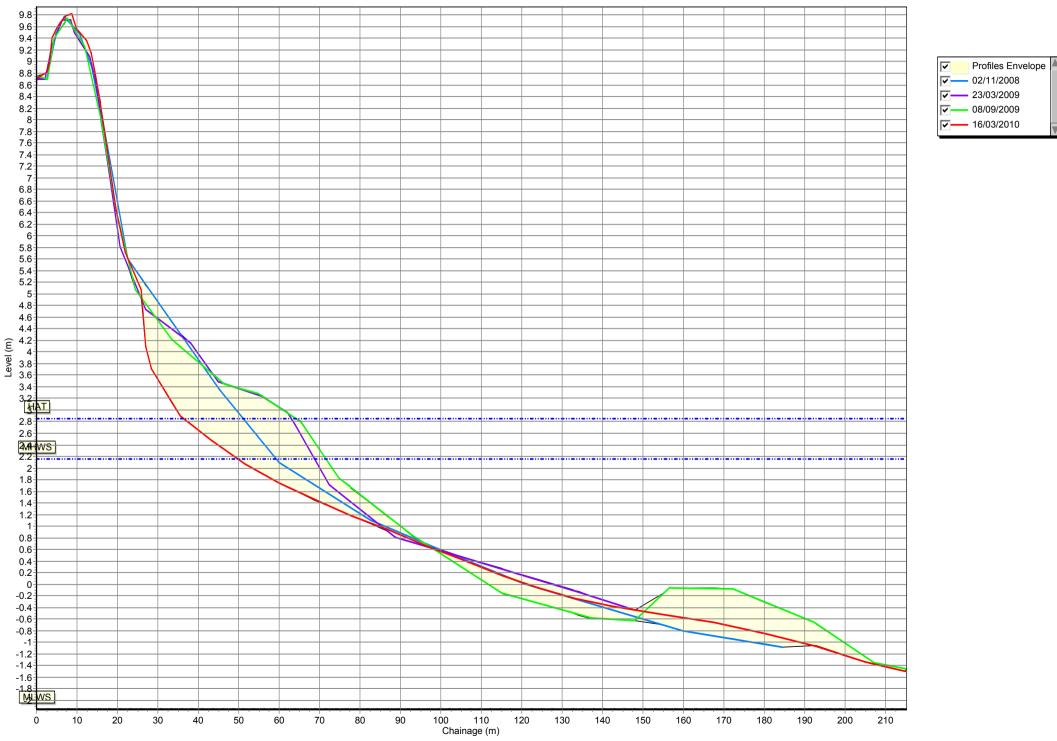


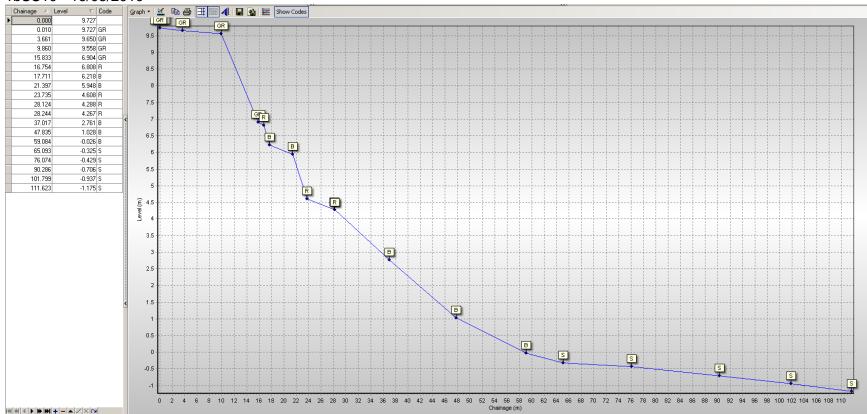
1bSS8 - 16/03/2010





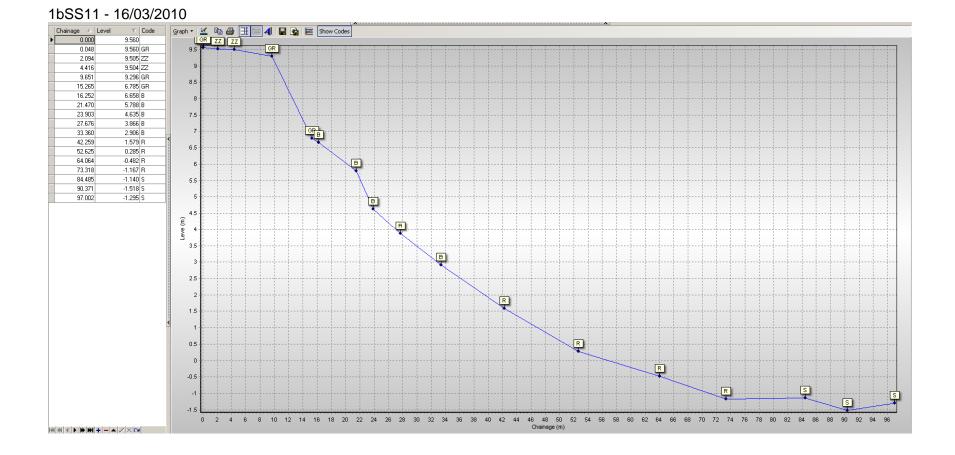
1bSS9 - 16/03/2010

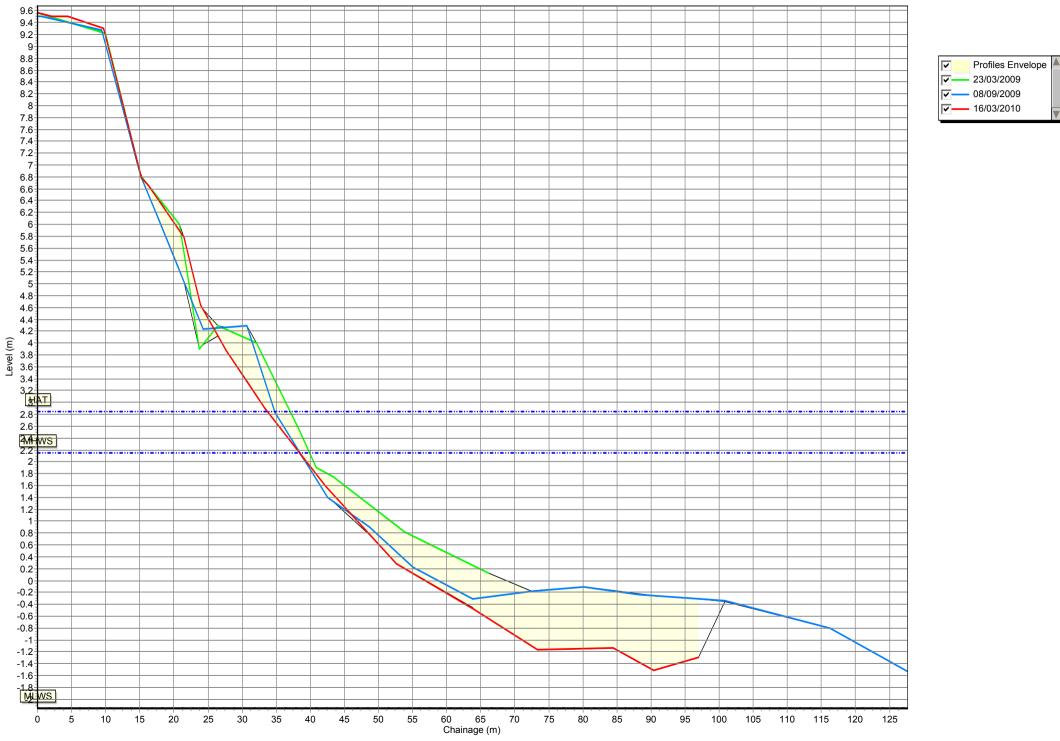


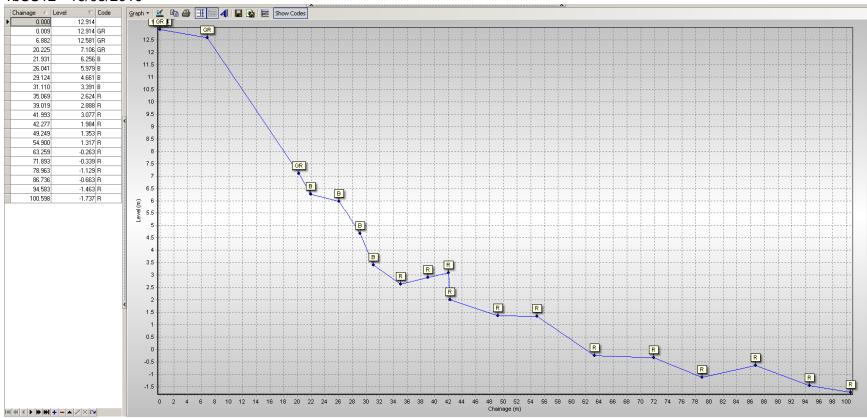


1bSS10 - 16/03/2010



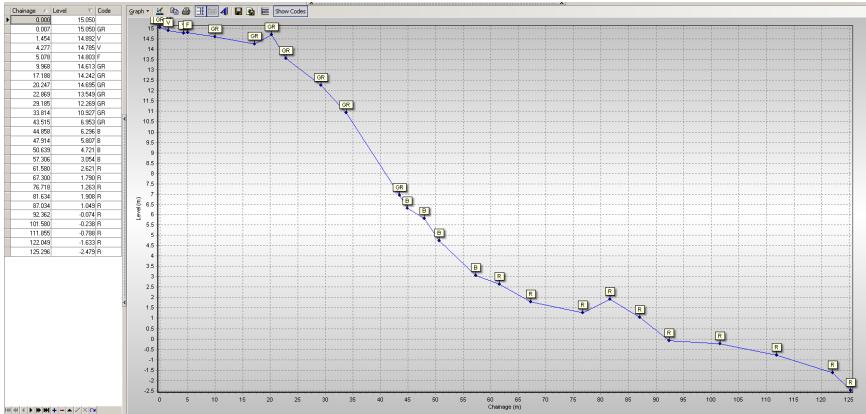






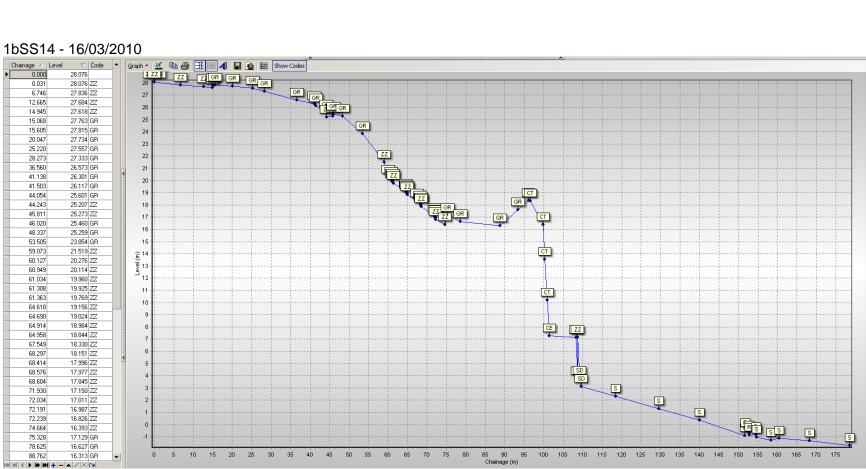
1bSS12 - 16/03/2010



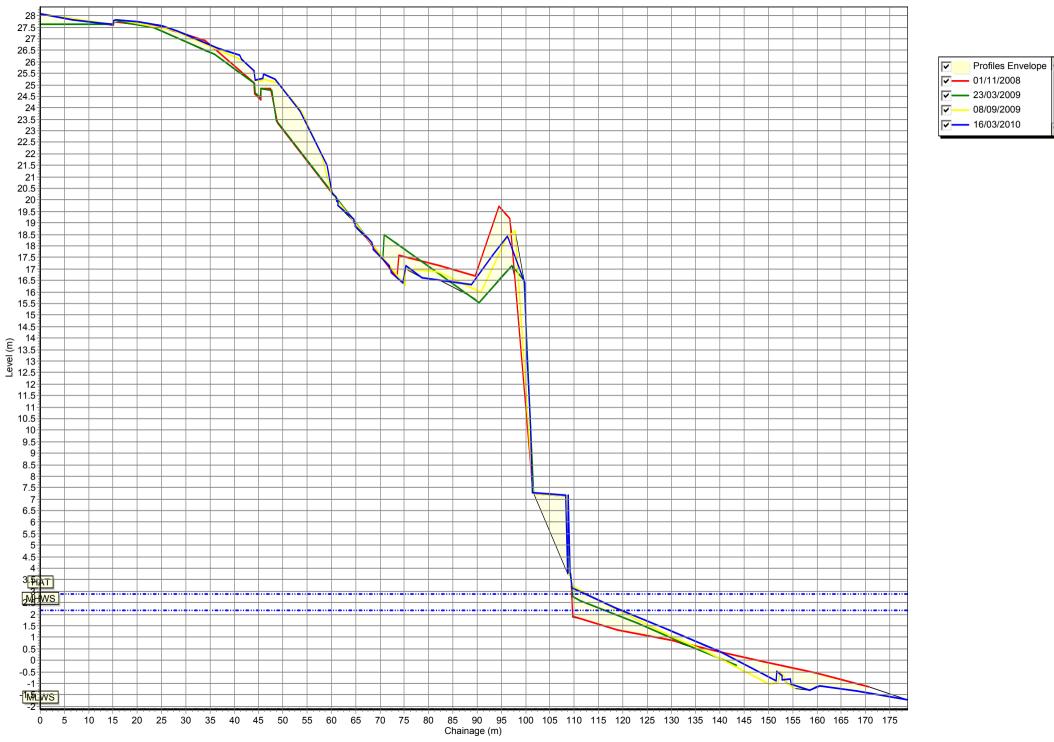


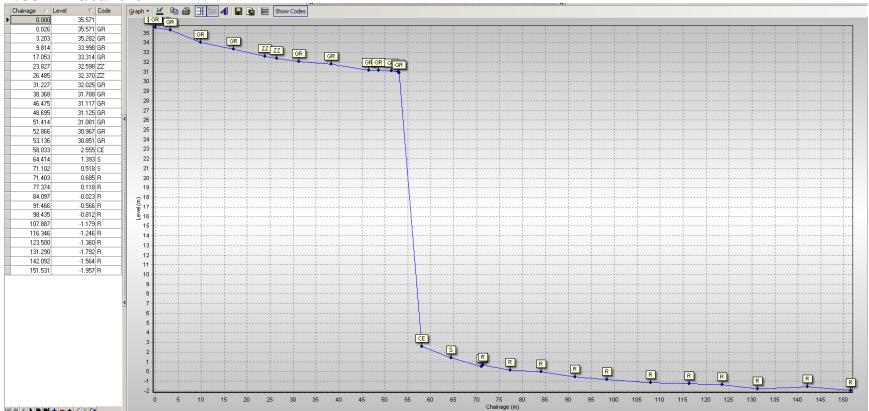
1bSS13 - 16/03/2010





1bSS14 - 16/03/2010





1bSS17 - 16/03/2010



Appendix B

Topographic Survey

