

Cell 1 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Update Report 9: 'Partial Measures' Survey 2017



Durham Council
July 2017

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1.

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 (m			
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

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

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Beach nourishment	Artificial process of replenishing a beach with material from another 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).

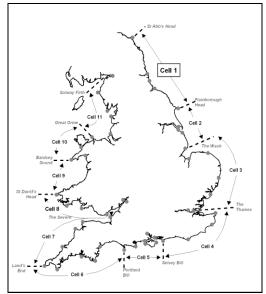


Figure 1 Sediment Cells in England and Wales

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

		Full Measures		Partial Measures		Cell 1
	Year	Survey	Analytical Report	Survey	Update Report	Overview Report
1	2008/09	Sep-Dec 08	May 09	Mar-May 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 1	Sep 11
4	2011/12	Sep 11	Aug 12	Mar-May 12	Feb 13	-
5	2012/13	Sep 12	Feb 13	Mar-Apr 13	May 13	-
6	2013/14	Oct 13	Feb 14	Mar-Apr 14	Jul 14	-
7	2014/15	Nov 14	Feb 15	Mar 15	Jun 15	-
8	2015/16	Nov 15	Feb 16	Apr 16	Jul 16	Jun 16
9	2016/17	Aug-Sep 16	Jan 17	Mar 17	Jul 17 (*)	

^(*) The present report is **Update Report 9** and provides an analysis of the 2017 Partial Measures survey for Durham Council's frontage.

1. Introduction

1.1 Study Area

Durham Council's frontage extends from Ryhope Dene to Crimdon Beck. For the purposes of this report, it has been sub-divided into five areas, namely:

- Featherbed Rocks
- Seaham (Dawdon)
- Blast Beach
- Hawthorn Hive
- Blackhall Colliery

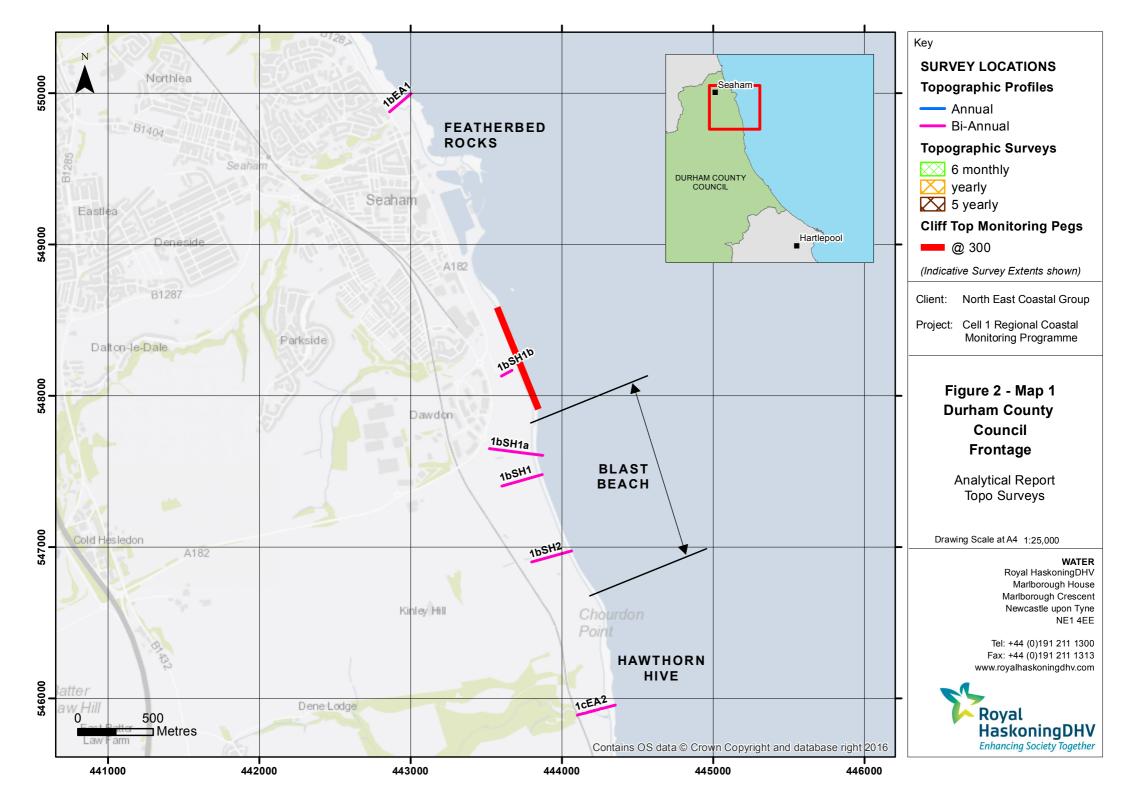
1.2 Methodology

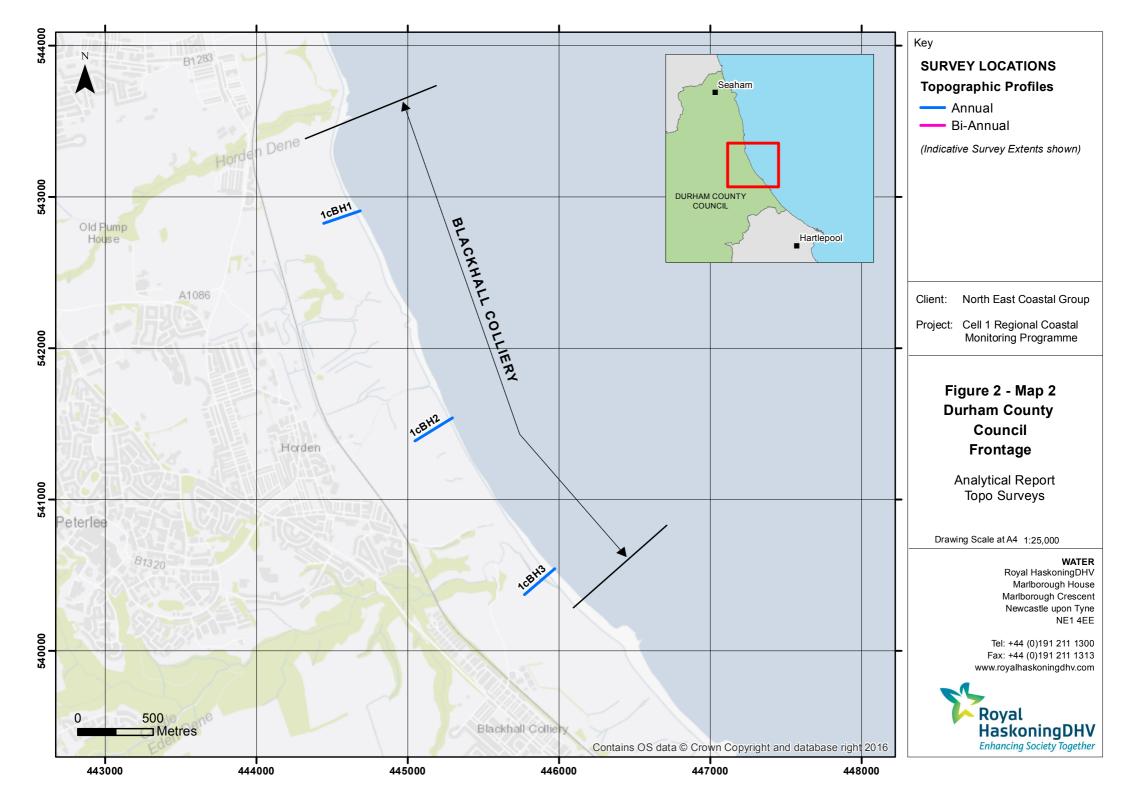
Along Durham County Council's frontage, the following surveying is undertaken:

- Full Measures survey annually each autumn/early winter comprising:
 - o Beach profile surveys along nine transect lines
- Partial Measures survey annually each spring comprising:
 - o Beach profile surveys along six transect lines
- Cliff top survey bi-annually at:
 - o Seaham (Dawdon)

The location of these surveys is shown in Figure 2. The Partial Measures survey was undertaken along this frontage on 31st March 2017. During the survey the weather was overcast and dry, with a force 4 wind from the west and a slight sea state.

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





2. Analysis of Survey Data

2.1 Featherbed Rocks

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
31 st March 2017	Beach Profiles: Featherbed Rocks is monitored by one beach profile line (EA1) during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). The previous survey was September 2016. Profile 1bEA1 has changed very little to 55m chainage, which covers the cliff and promenade. The uneven profile at the base of the sea wall than earlier surveys between 55m and 80m is due to the rock armour. From 80m chainage to 85m chainage there is little change since September 2016 due to the rocks being exposed in both surveys. Beyond 85m there has been little change over the winter of 2016/17, the beach profiles reflect the rocky nature of the foreshore and that there is no beach over the shore platform.	The rocky nature of the foreshore means it is unlikely to undergo significant changes in morphology unless sediment is deposited. Previous monitoring indicates that a veneer beach tends to accumulate over the summer and is stripped off by winter storms, giving rise to small and localised changed in profile. The upper part of the profile, which covers the cliff promenade and rock armour remains unchanged, as does the lower part of the profile which covers the beach.
		Longer term trends: The level of the beach in March 2017 was comparable with the lowest beach levels recorded in March 2010, April 2013 and October 2013. The shore platform is exposed and as a result any apparent changes are likely to be due to differences in the survey point locations and the way that survey points are joined to show an interpolated surface.

2.2 Seaham (Dawdon)

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
31 st March 2017	Cliff-top Survey: Three ground control points have been established along the cliff top at Dawdon (Figure B1). The separation between any two points is nominally 300m. These cliff top surveys are intended to inform on erosion rates of the undefended sea cliffs extending south of the rock armour revetment to the south of Seaham Harbour. The cliff top surveys at Dawdon are undertaken bi-annually. Measurements are taken from a fixed ground control point along a fixed bearing to the edge of the cliff top. Appendix B provides results from the March 2017 survey showing the position from the ground control point to the edge of the cliff top along the defined bearing and changes since the November 2008 baseline survey. The cliff monitoring data shows little change over the winter of 2016/17, with a small amount of recession, around 0.1m at the northern and middle posts.	Ground control point numbers 1 and 3 showed erosion of between 1m and 1.3m since November 2014. Point 2 has shown little change. Longer term trends: There is more confidence in the long-term pattern of change, where the cumulative measured erosion is greater than the error inherent in the technique. Ground control points 1 and 3 have both shown an average recession rate of 0.1m/yr, since monitoring began in 2008.

2.3 Blast Beach

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
31 st March	Beach Profiles:	Through the winter there has been erosion of the beach across the bay with the roll-back of beach
2017	Blast Beach is covered by four beach profile lines during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). Two of these commenced in November 2008, with 1bSH1a being added in October 2009, and 1bSH1b added in October 2015.	features such as berm crests. However although 1bSH1 shows roll-back of the berm crest it also shows accretion across the rest of the beach. The profiles
	Profile 1bSH1b is adjacent to the sewage works south of Seaham. The profile is cliff to chainage 30m and then gravel beach between 30m and 60m chainage, which has shown a slight decrease in level of	remained a similar gradient to the spring and autumn profiles.
	up to 0.2m since September 2016. There are two concrete blocks which have been upturned on the beach and are shown on the profiles as a protrusion in the profile between 60m and 65m chainage. The beach is visible again between 65m and 70m chainage, and has decreased in level by up to 0.2m. Below this point the rocks are exposed from 70m chainage to the end of the survey at 85m. Profile appears to show winter drawdown followed by summer build-up, however only two years of survey is	All the profiles show the beach level in the range of previous profiles, except where the berm crests have rolled back.
	available.	Longer term trends: The beach at SH2 shows an overall pattern of erosion
	At 1bSH1a there has been a drop in level at the toe of the eroding face of the spoil at chainage 141m, leading to an increase in height of the face by approximately 0.6m. Two small berms have formed at chainage 145m and 150m. The beach level has dropped by up to 0.8m compared with the September 2016 survey, exposing 10m more rock on the beach. With the exception of the upper beach (chainage 140m to 155m) the beach level is the lowest recorded by the previous surveys.	since October 2008. However, SH1 and SH1a show much more fluctuation in beach level, whereas SH2 is almost progressive recession.
	At 1bSH1 the beach crest previously stable at 75m has moved landwards by around 15m and dropped in height by up to 0.4m. The upper beach has flattened compared to the September 2016 survey with erosion of up to 0.7m between chainage 77m and 90m forming a depression, and the formation of a berm at chainage 97m, 1.4m above the Septemebr 2016 beach level. Beach levels from the berm to the exposed rock at chainage 130m have increased by 0.4m to 1.0m. Overall the beach levels are at a medium level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys, except for the berm which is the highest recorded level at that location, and the beach crest being in its most landwards position.	
	At 1bSH2 the berm's crest has moved further landwards by around 10m and increased in height by up to 0.2m compared to the September 2016 survey. Between chainage 135m and the exposed rock at 190m there has been a drop in beach level by 0.2m to 0.6m. Overallt eh ebach is at a medium level	

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
	compared to the range recorded from previous surveys, except where the crest has moved landwards, which shows the highest levels on record.	

2.4 Hawthorne Hive

Survey Date	Description of Changes Since Last Survey	Interpretation
31 st March 2017	Beach Profiles: Hawthorne Hive is covered by one beach profile line 1cEA2 during the Partial Measures survey (Appendix A). The survey report notes "unable to measure start of Section EA2 as the vegetation has choked out the section line and route over cliff faces" and therefore all surveys following October 2012 start at 95m chainage. Until the partial measures survey in April 2013, a channel was present between 95m and 105m chainage, but it has infilled. The majority of the beach, between 95m chainage and 145m chainage shows a drop in beach level of up to 0.5m compared to the September 2016 survey. The berm previously recorded at chainage 118m has moved landwards by around 5m and become more pronounced. From 145m chainage to the end of the survey at 260m chainage the boulders at the bottom of the beach remain exposed. Overall the beach remains at a medium level compared to the range recorded from previous surveys.	The beach has recovered since the low level in April and November 2014. The profile is in the middle of the range of previous profiles. Longer term trends: The profiles show the beach is undergoing progressive erosion. The infilling and incision of the channel seems to be an episodic process and is likely to reflect a combination of annual and seasonal variations in the flow of Hawthorn Burn and storm events which move sediment onshore to block the outflow of the burn.

3. Problems Encountered and Uncertainty in Analysis

Individual Profiles

The surveyor noted difficulties accessing the cliff top and edge at SH1 SH1A and SH2 due to dense vegetation.

At Hawthorne Hive the surveyor was unable to measure start of Section EA2 due to vegetation cover.

Cliff Top Surveys

While there is low confidence in the short term erosion rates due to the error in the method, longer-term data are more reliable and suggest erosion rates of up to 0.2m/yr.

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

No changes are recommended at the present time.

5. Conclusions and Areas of Concern

- The level of the beach at Featherbed Rocks in March 2017 was comparable with the lowest beach levels recorded in March 2010, April 2013 and October 2013. The shore platform is exposed on the lower beach
- At Seaham Cliffs, the survey data indicates that the average recession rate since monitoring began in 2008 is 0.1m/yr. Point 2 shows little change over the monitoring period.
- At Blast Beach colliery spoil still prevents the sea from actively eroding the cliffs.
 However, there have been significant changes in the beach profile. There is a periodic
 shift in the direction of sediment transport through the winter, this winter the profiles
 generally show erosion and roll-back.
- At Hawthorn Hive the beach level was low in April and November 2014. The beach has
 now recovered slightly and is close to the middle of the previous range of results.
 However, it is likely that the long term trend of progressive erosion will continue on this
 profile.

Appendices

Appendix A Beach Profiles

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

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 Dune (non-vegetated)					
D						
DV	Dune (vegetated)					
F	Forested					
X	Mixture					
FB	Obstruction					
CT	Cliff Top					
CE	Cliff Edge					
CF	Cliff Face					
SH	Shell					
ZZ	Unknown					

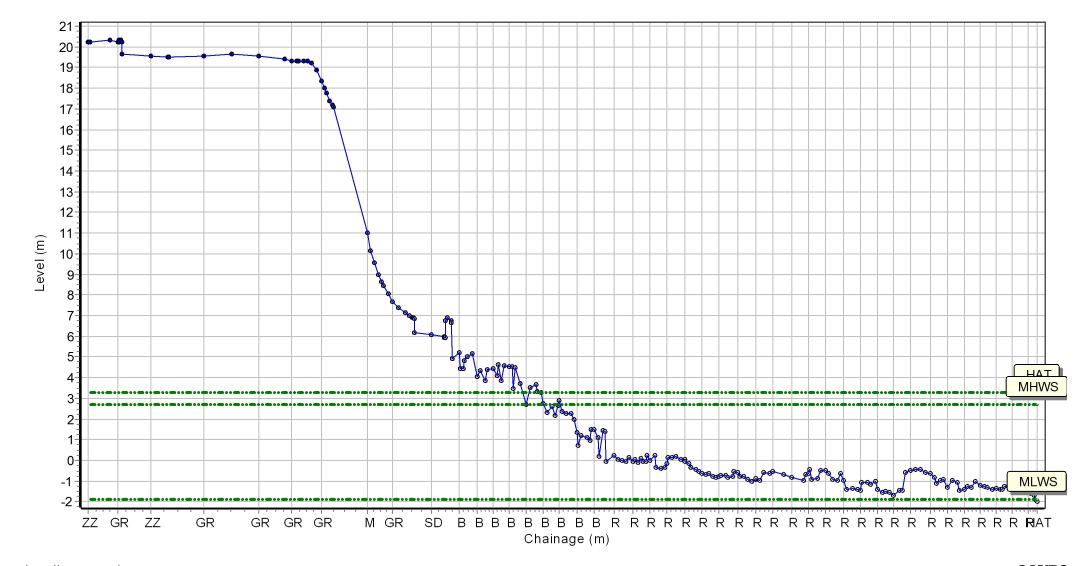
Location: 1bEA1

Date: 31/03/2017 Inspector: AG Low Tide: Low Tide Time:

Wind Sea State: Visibility: Rain:

Summary: 2017 Partial Measures Topo Survey

Easting: 442861.92 Northing: 549874.593 Profile Bearing: 50 ° from North



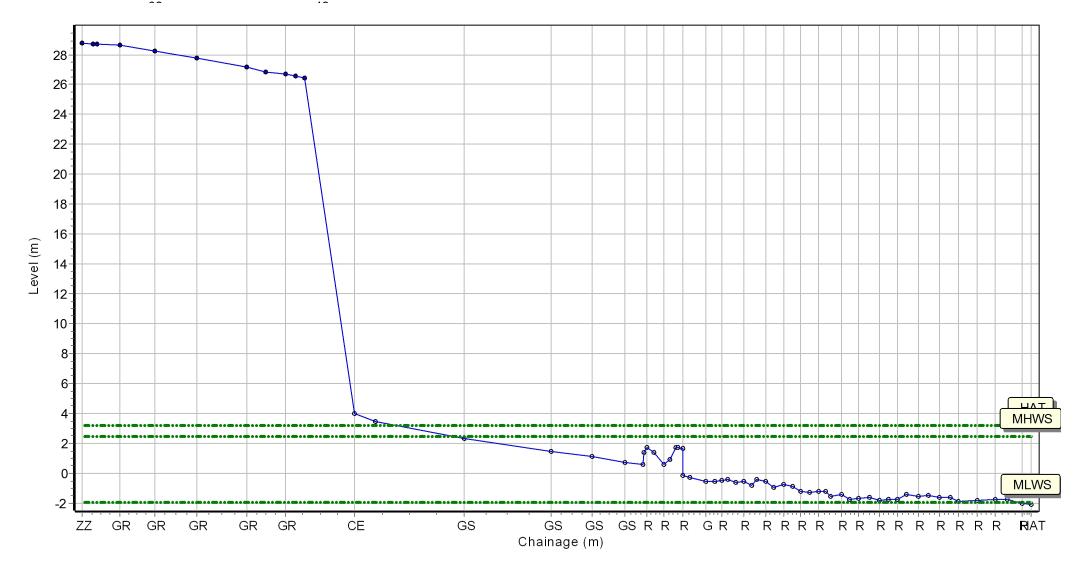
Location: 1bSH1B

Date: 31/03/2017 Inspector: AG Low Tide: Low Tide Time:

Wind Sea State: Visibility: Rain:

Summary: 2017 Partial Measures Topo Survey

Easting: 443599.944 Northing: 548130.378 Profile Bearing: 63 ° from North



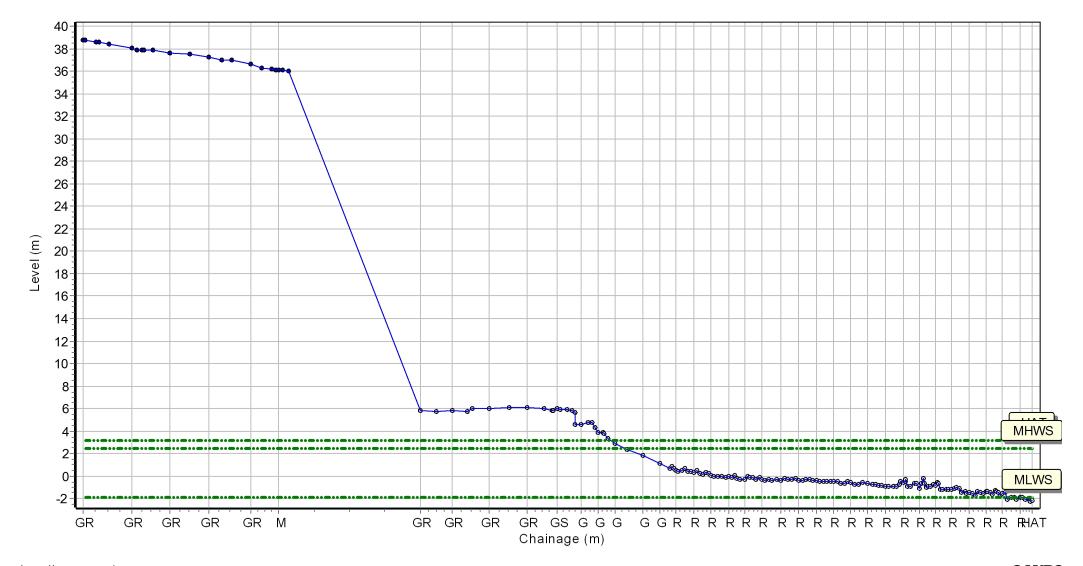
Location: 1bSH1A

Date: 31/03/2017 Inspector: AG Low Tide: Low Tide Time:

Wind Sea State: Visibility: Rain:

Summary: 2017 Partial Measures Topo Survey

Easting: 443519.427 Northing: 547648.502 Profile Bearing: 97 ° from North



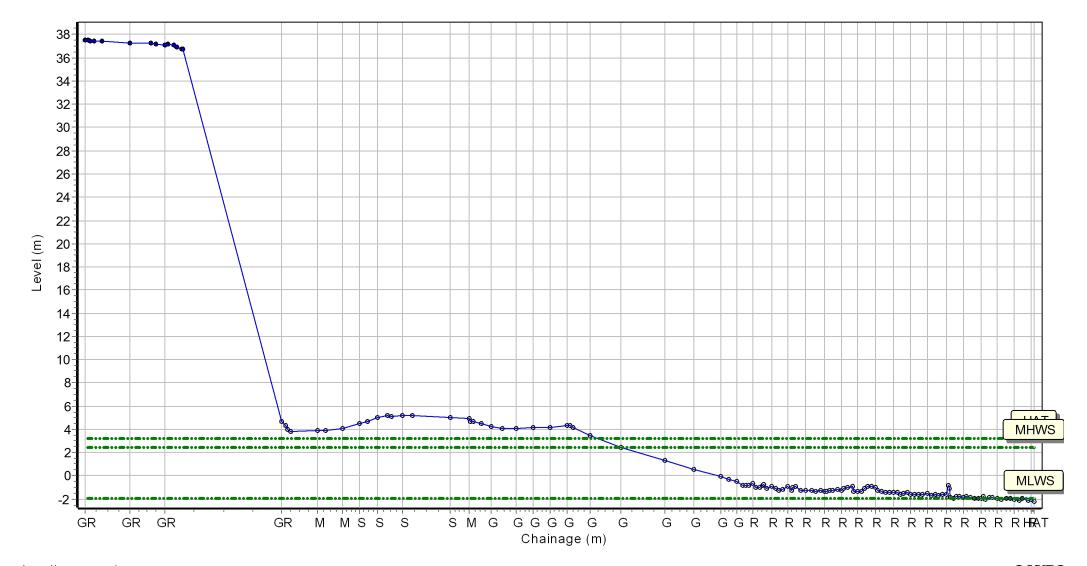
Location: 1bSH1

Date: 31/03/2017 Inspector: AG Low Tide: Low Tide Time:

Wind Sea State: Visibility: Rain:

Summary: 2017 Partial Measures Topo Survey

Easting: 443613.742 Northing: 547404.589 Profile Bearing: 74 ° from North



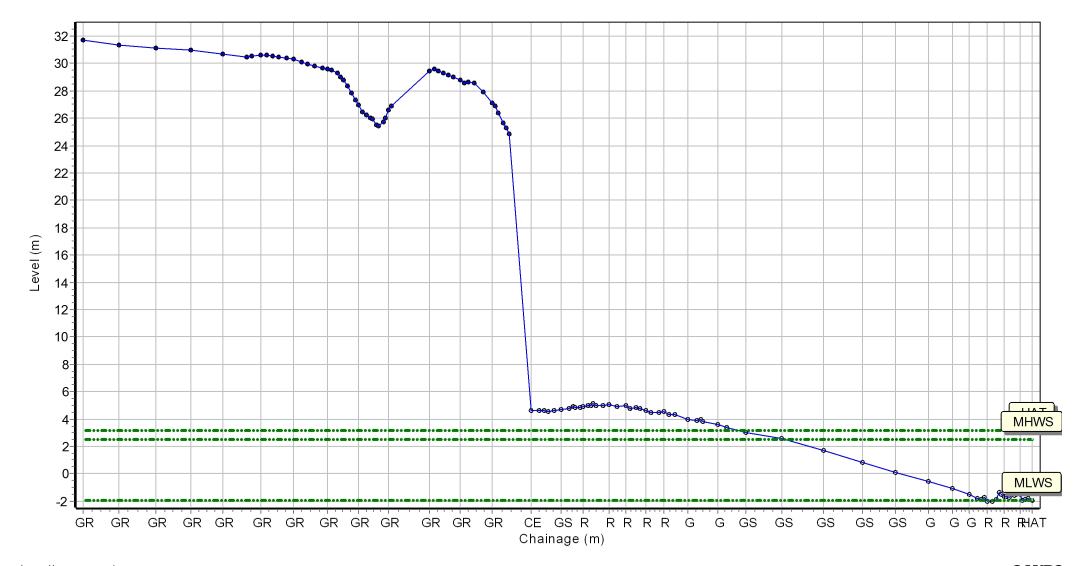
Location: 1bSH2

Date: 31/03/2017 Inspector: AG Low Tide: Low Tide Time:

Wind Sea State: Visibility: Rain:

Summary: 2017 Partial Measures Topo Survey

Easting: 443806.533 Northing: 546899.552 Profile Bearing: 74 ° from North



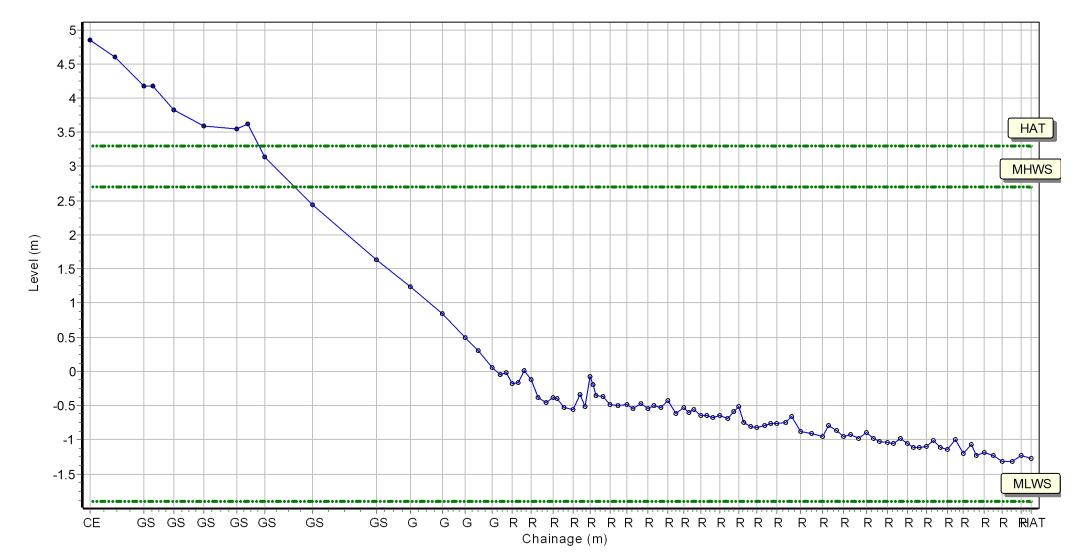
Location: 1cEA2

Date: 31/03/2017 Inspector: AG Low Tide: Low Tide Time:

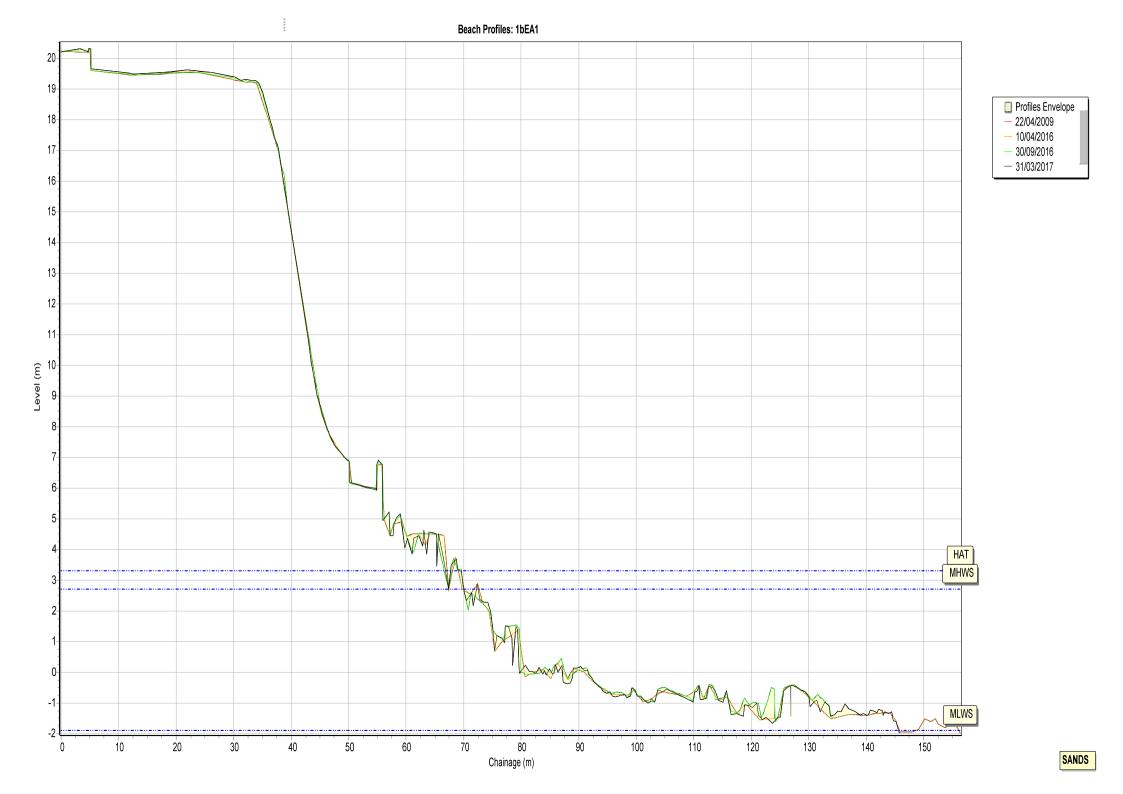
Wind Sea State: Visibility: Rain:

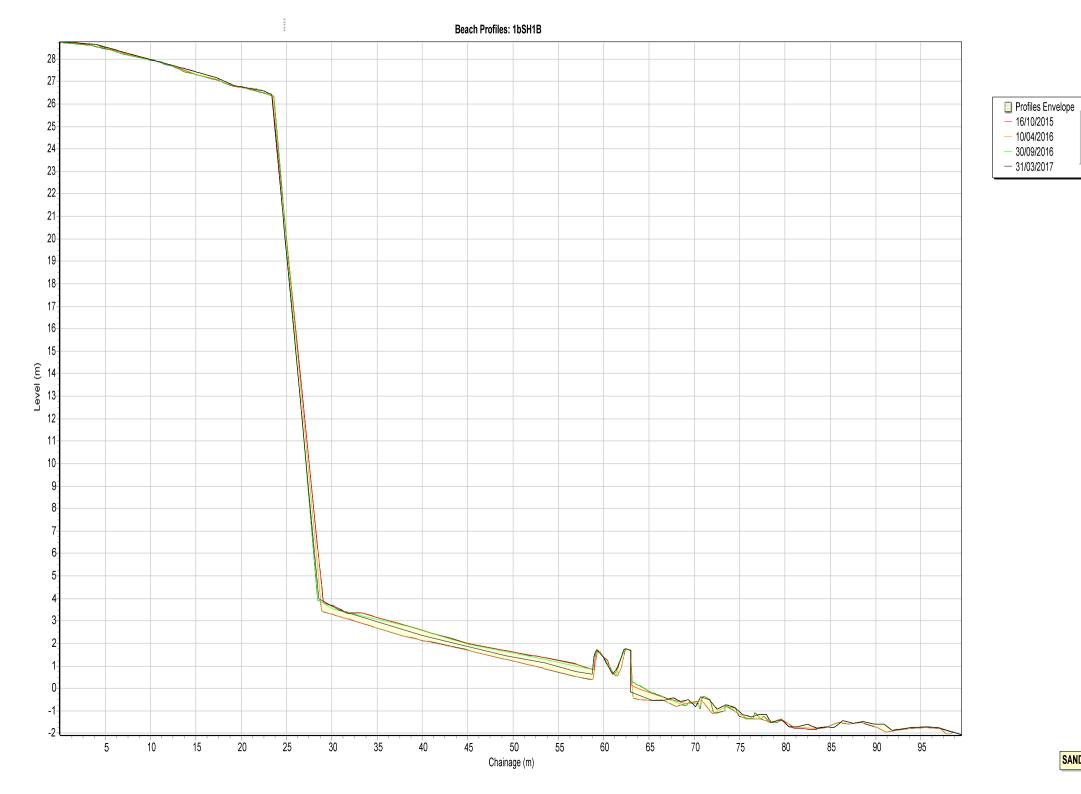
Summary: 2017 Partial Measures Topo Survey

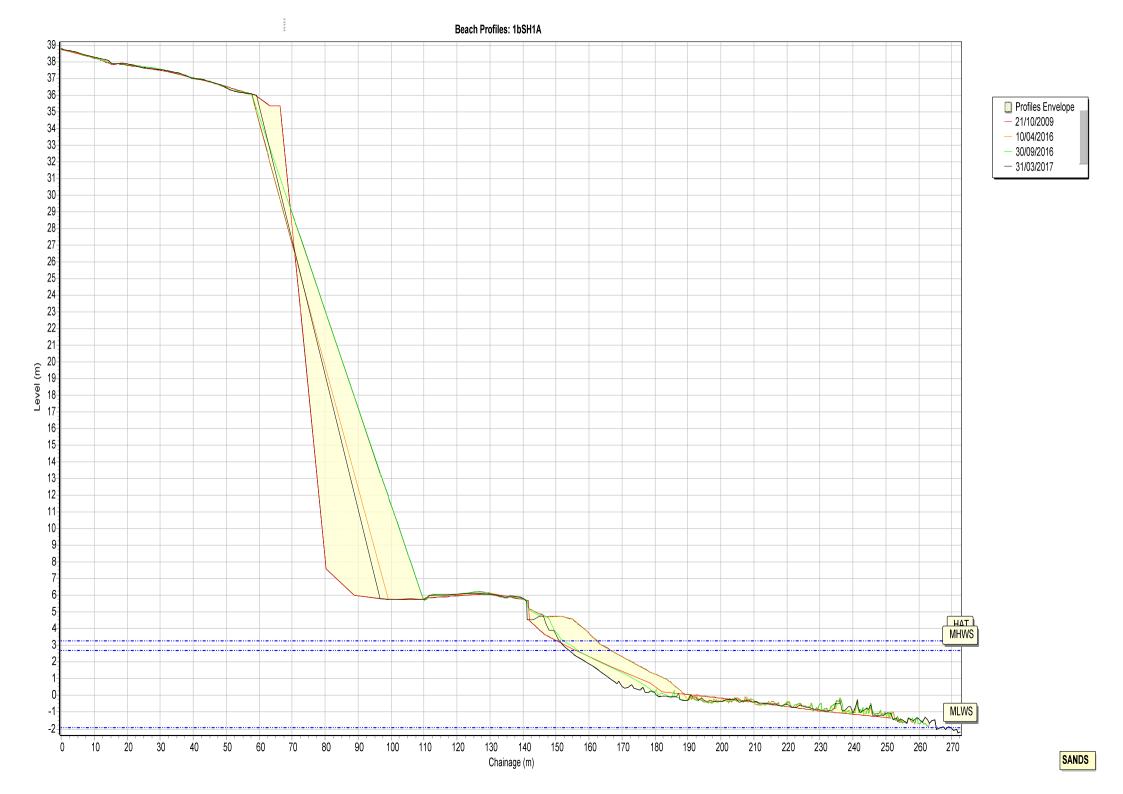
Easting: 444101.532 Northing: 545888.48 Profile Bearing: 75 ° from North

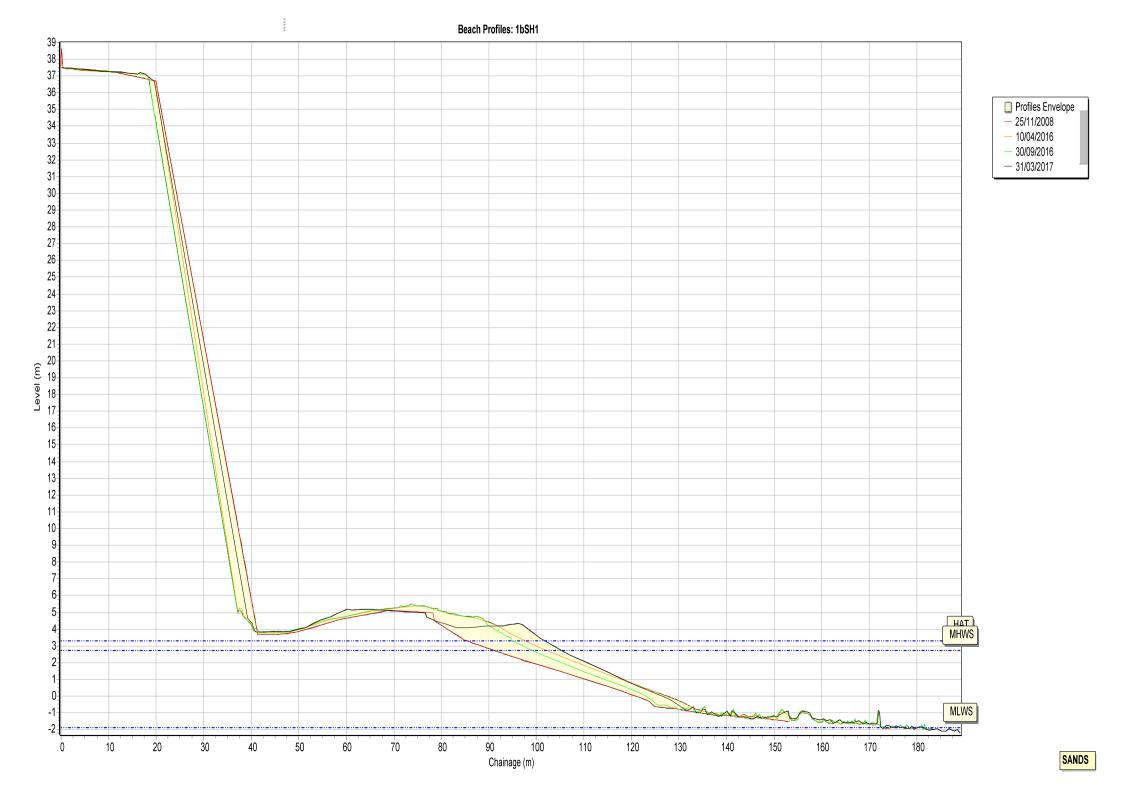


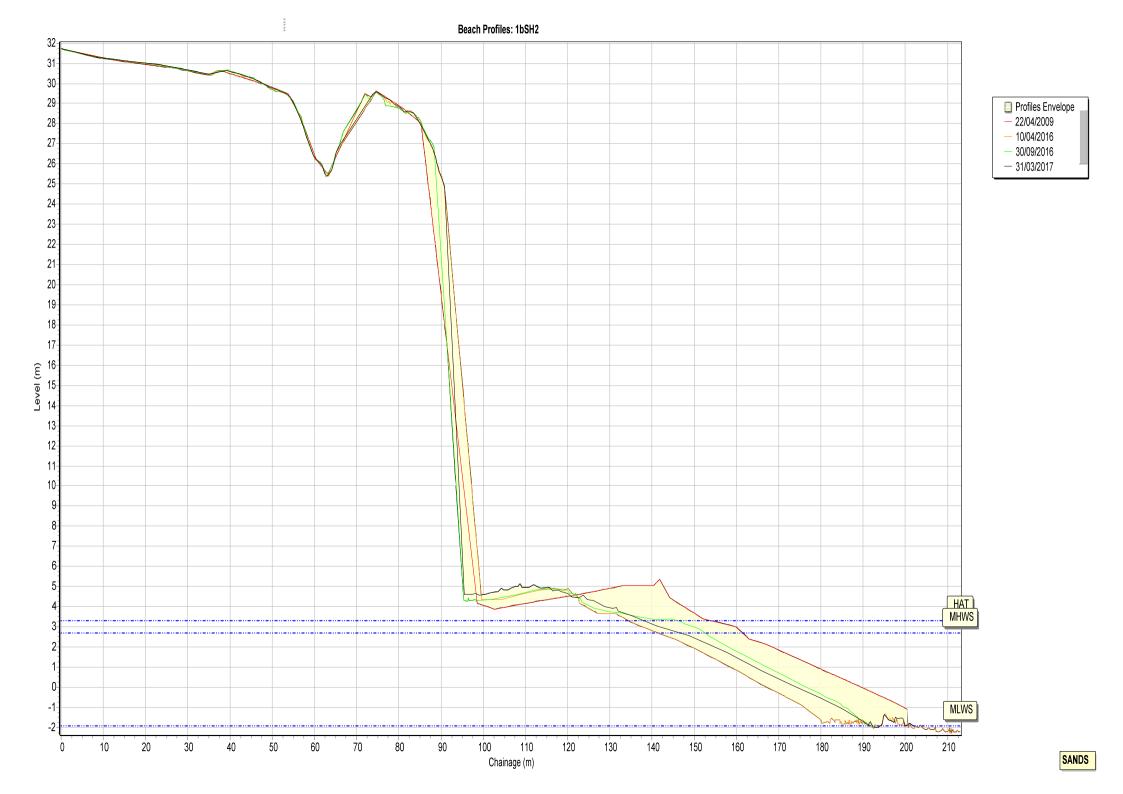
SANDS

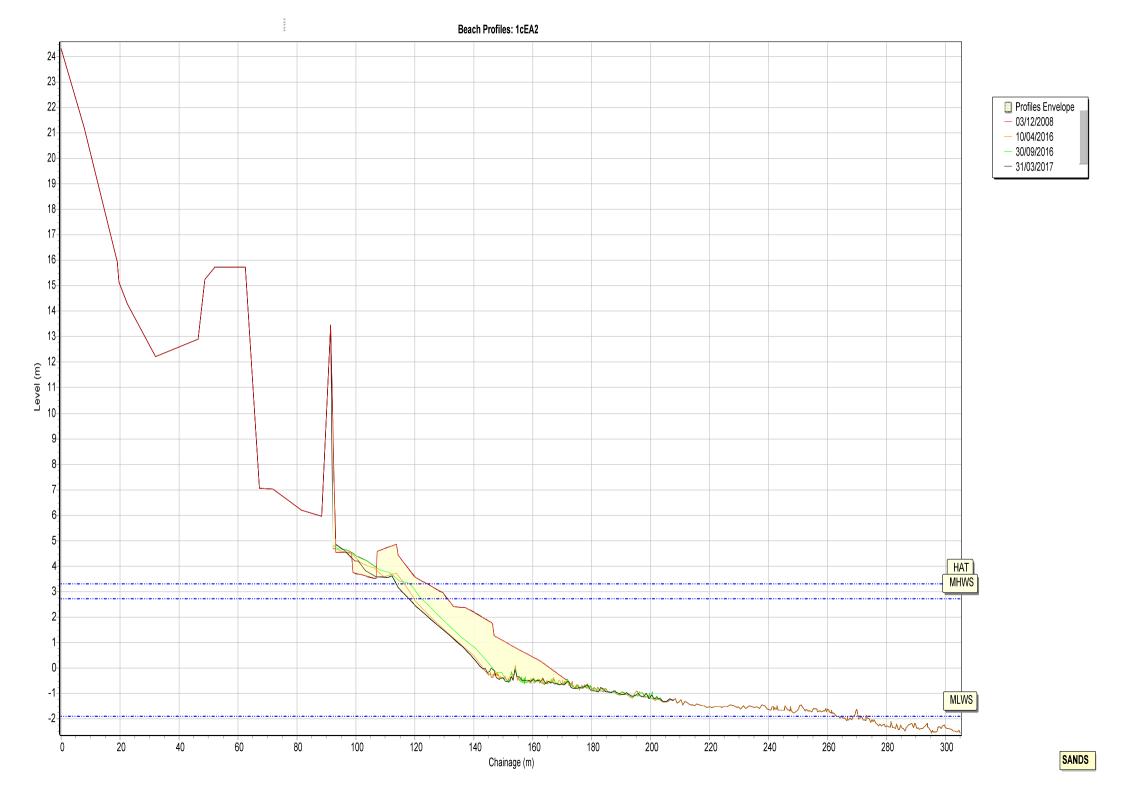












Appendix B Cliff Top Survey

Cliff Top Survey

Seaham (Dawdon)

Three ground control points have been established at Dawdon (Figure B1). The maximum separation between any two points varies along the coast, reflecting the degree of risk from the erosion.

The cliff top surveys at Dawdon are undertaken bi-annually. Measurements are taken from a fixed ground control point along a fixed bearing to the edge of the cliff top.

Table B1 provides baseline information about these ground control points and results from the 2008 (baseline) survey showing the position from the ground control point to the edge of the cliff top along the defined bearing. Future reports will show results from subsequent surveys and provide a means of assessing erosion since the baseline survey.

Table B1 - Cliff Top Surveys at Dawdon

Ground Control Points				Distance to Cliff Top (m)			Total Erosion (m)		Erosion Rate (m/year)
Dof	Faction	ng Northing	Bearing	Baseline Survey	Previous Survey	Present Survey	Baseline to Present	Previous to Present	Baseline to Present
Ref E	Easting		(°)	Nov 2008	Sep 2016	Mar 2017	Nov 2008 - Mar 2017	Sep 2016 - Mar 2017	Nov 2008 - Mar 2017
1	443515.4	548421.7	70	16.1	15.05	14.96	1.14	0.09	0.13
2	443607.8	548136.3	90	13.3	13.25	13.13	0.17	0.12	0.02
3	443756.1	547858.5	95	14.8	13.34	13.66	1.14	-0.32	0.13