

Coastal management at Milford on Sea

Teacher's Notes

Background

Coastal management is a key topic in all GCSE specifications. These resources aim to support the teaching of this topic through a case study of Milford on Sea, a small town in Christchurch Bay on the south coast of England.

Christchurch Bay extends from Hengistbury Head in the west to Hurst Spit in the east. This stretch of coastline is heavily developed. The town of Christchurch (population 31,000) with its associated harbour and extensive beaches is a thriving port and seaside resort. To the east, much of the coastal frontage has been developed, for example, at Highcliffe, Barton on Sea and Milford on Sea.

Christchurch Bay is managed in the east by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, and in the west by New Forest District Council (NFDC). BCP Council is the lead authority involved in formulating the Christchurch Bay & Harbour Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Strategy, a plan for sustainable management of the coast for the next 100 years. The strategy aims to address the challenges associated with climate change in implementing the policies published in the Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2). Following a thorough consultation process, the strategy will be published in 2024.

Aims of the study

These resources – a PowerPoint presentation and an accompanying student worksheet - focus on a genuine and 'live' coastal management scenario, the development and publication of a long-term strategy for addressing the challenges associated with future climate change.

In the PowerPoint presentation, students are introduced to coastal processes operating in Christchurch Bay with specific reference to sediment transport and the concept of the sediment cell. Students are then introduced to the issues associated with coastal management at Milford on Sea, which is threatened by cliff collapse to the west and flooding to the east. Using maps and photos, students will consider the options for coastal management within the context of the Shoreline Management Plan.

The extensive accompanying worksheet provides students with a range of activities, enabling them to interrogate the PowerPoint resources and to consider the options for coastal defence at Milford on Sea. The activities include a range of geographical skills including the interpretation of photos and the use of an OS map extract. The final activity involves a decision-making exercise.

Produced in collaboration with Geography Southwest (<https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/>) and the project partners.

Resources

The resources have been sourced from a wealth of information published by BCP Council (<https://www.twobays.net/index.htm>). Here you will find comprehensive details on the SMP2 together with extensive reports of the Christchurch Bay & Harbour Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Strategy and on numerous case studies of coastal management.

The resource pack comprises the following:

Resource 1 Coastal management at Milford on Sea – PowerPoint presentation.

Resource 2 Coastal management at Milford on Sea – student worksheet.

Feedback

We would really value your feedback on how you have found using these resources – both positive experiences and/or suggestions for improvements.

If you have any feedback, please email coastal@bcpcouncil.gov.uk.

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