

Resource 9: Teacher's Notes

Background

Coastal management, in the context of the coastal system, is a key topic with A level specifications. This resource pack aims to support the teaching of this topic through a case study of a classic stretch of coastline, Christchurch Bay which straddles the Dorset/Hampshire border 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 west by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, and in the east 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

The resource pack focuses 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. Students are introduced to coastal processes operating in Christchurch Bay with specific reference to sediment transport and the concept of the sediment cell. They are then introduced to the process of developing a strategy for coastal management, including the important role of community consultation.

The main focus of the resources is a detailed investigation of one of the Shoreline Management Zones within Christchurch Bay, the actively eroding cliffs at Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea. Charged with delivering a SMP2 policy of 'managed realignment', the Christchurch Bay & Harbour Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Strategy has the challenging task of deciding which measures will best deliver this policy whilst at the same time maximising the defence of existing properties. Students will have the opportunity to assess the issues and suggest their own recommendations.

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 Strategy overview
- Resource 2 Christchurch Bay sediment cell
- Resource 3 Developing the strategy
- Resource 4 Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea background details
- Resource 5 Photos of Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea
- Resource 6 OS map extract of Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea
- Resource 7 Naish Cliff and Barton on Sea – strategic options
- Resource 8 Selective measures of coastal management
- Resource 9 Teacher's Notes
- Resource 10 Student activities.

Student Activities

This resource pack is intended to provide maximum flexibility for study. It can be used in its entirety or 'cherry-picked' as appropriate and it can be studied individually or in small groups. The student activity questions are suggestions and can of course be edited to suit individual demands of specifications. The concluding decision-making activity would certainly work well as a group activity followed by a plenary discussion. Student decisions can be compared to the strategy's final decision published in 2024.

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.