



East Head – A Way Ahead Agreed

The absence of an approved Coastal Defence Strategy for East Head has blighted its management for many years and the Conservancy is pleased, therefore, to report that it is supporting the current draft strategy

The strategy for East Head, which has received widespread endorsement, recommends a process of Adaptive Management of this important feature for the 100 year life of the Strategy. The aim will be to maintain the socio-economic, amenity, environmental and navigation value of East Head but it will not try to lock the feature into its current size, shape and orientation. It will be based on regular monitoring of the feature and responding to changes that may damage its socio-economic and environmental value with a suite of measures.

There will be an initial scheme to safeguard East Head in the early years of the strategy and this will involve a significant recycling of beach material into the vulnerable hinge and neck at the southern end of the feature. It will also see the construction of a buried sill behind the recharged area to ensure that, if there is a catastrophic break through into Snowhill Creek, a tidal channel does not develop. It also promotes the controlled management of the groynes and breastworks to allow improved sediment flow into East Head and the development of natural beaches (see photograph). These and other measures will be available in the medium and long term to manage and respond to the evolution of East Head in the face of predicted sea level rise and increased storminess.

The Working Group that developed the strategy consisted of the Regulating Authorities, local stakeholders and the Conservancy and this group will now take forward its implementation. A new monitoring regime is being put in place and it is intended to undertake the beach recharge in the spring of 2009 and the installation of the buried sill either in the autumn of 2009 or early 2010.

The schemes for East Head will not attract Government funding and this will have to come from local organisations and private donations. ❄️

