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## **EAST HEAD COASTAL ISSUES ADVISORY GROUP PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

16 December 2008

### **Plans for Scheme at East Head Submitted**

A planning application has been submitted to Chichester District Council to recycle some 15,000 tons of sand and shingle into the vulnerable hinge and neck area of East Head in Chichester Harbour.

The plan will involve recycling material from the north to the south of East Head to create an enlarged barrier beach that will significantly widen and strengthen the point of the beach where East Head joins the West Wittering car park.

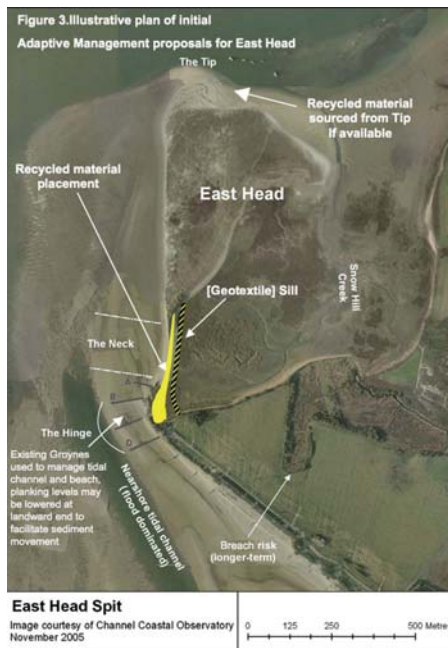
This work is the first step in implementing the new Coastal Defence Strategy for the West Wittering and East Head frontages, and it is hoped it will be undertaken in March 2009.

The strategy is based on the Adaptive Management of East Head and will seek to maintain the social, economic, environmental and navigational value of the feature for the life of the strategy. It will involve responding and adapting to changes at East Head caused by coastal processes and sea level rise with a number of different measures.

The project is being taken forward by a partnership consisting of West Wittering Parish Council, Chichester District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the National Trust, West Wittering Estate, Cakeham Manor Estate, the Woodger Trust and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The Harbour Conservancy will act as the contractor to undertake the works on behalf of the partnership.

The scheme enjoys widespread public support, and, despite no available government funding, will be paid for by some of the partnership members.

**ENDS**



## NOTES TO EDITORS:

For media enquires please contact:

- John Davis, Harbour Conservancy: [jdavis@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:jdavis@conservancy.co.uk) or 01243 512301
- Michelle Cleverley, National Trust: [michelle.cleverley@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:michelle.cleverley@nationaltrust.org.uk) or 01372 455045
- Diagram showing the proposed scheme available in high res JPEG or TIF format. Contact Ali Beckett [allie@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:allie@conservancy.co.uk) or 01243 510984
- Background information on East Head can be found at [http://www.conservancy.co.uk/environment/east\\_head.asp](http://www.conservancy.co.uk/environment/east_head.asp)

The East Head Coastal Issues Advisory Group is a working group consisting of stakeholders and regulators, formed to take forward the implementation of the Coastal Defence Strategy for the East Head and West Wittering frontages. The membership of the Group is: Environment Agency, Chichester District Council, Natural England, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, West Wittering Parish Council, the Woodger Trust, West Wittering Estate, Cakeham Manor Estate and the National Trust.

The Chichester Harbour Conservancy is the statutory harbour authority for Chichester Harbour with a legal duty to manage the harbour and the surrounding land for the purposes of recreation and leisure, conservation and landscape protection. It has a wide range of powers to control navigation, moorings, works and dredging, as well as to maintain and improve the wildlife value and the landscape.

The Conservancy also manages the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to ensure that it is conserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of all. AONB officers and their staff work with national and local government, environment organisations, landowners and managers and their local businesses and communities to ensure that these unique landscapes and the rare and wonderful wildlife living in them are protected and enhanced.