



Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
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## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

by

**Chichester District Council, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, National Trust,  
English Nature, West Wittering Estate**

21 October 2005

### **SHORT TERM ACTION TO PROTECT EAST HEAD AGREED**

Agreement has been reached by all interested parties that short term action should be taken to repair the 90 metre long eroded section of sand dunes at the neck of East Head. This will be done by recycling approximately 8000 cubic metres of sand and shingle from the northern tip of East Head, back to its original source at the Hinge.

This short term measure will 'hold the line' pending the implementation of a sustainable and environmentally sound long term solution that will flow from the Coastal Defence Strategy for this sector of coastline. The Strategy is due for public consultation this Spring.

The recharge of material at the Hinge will be placed both in front of and behind the existing rock berm. The material in front will act as a sacrificial barrier to delay the erosion of the existing dunes, while at the rear it is planned to erect simple sand breaks, plant marram grass and to install a walkway. This will provide safe access for walkers onto East Head and it might allow new dunes to become established on the Snowhill Creek side of the rock berm.

The scheme will cost in the order of £11,000 and will be jointly funded by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Chichester District Council. Subject to prevailing weather conditions and the time it takes to implement the long term solution for East Head, there may be a requirement to repeat the recharge in the future.

**MORE OVER**

This short term measure will still require planning permission and it is estimated by Chichester District Council, who will be managing and undertaking the project, that work may not be able to start on site for about 8 weeks.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Photographs of East Head can be supplied please contact Ali Beckett on 01243 512301.**

**Interviews can be arranged with representatives from any of the organisations again please contact Ali Beckett.**

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.

For more information please contact the Harbour Master - Lt Col John Davis RM on 01243 512301.