

# Save East Head Chichester Harbour at Risk

January 2005



The Hinge at East Head was breached by the high tides at the end of October 2004. The breach now extends over 70 metres and is at risk of widening further.

Only the rock berm installed by the Conservancy in the year 2000 is preventing the formation of a new tidal channel. The effects of not taking any action could lead to the complete disappearance of East Head, accelerate the erosion of already fragile footpaths around the Harbour and substantially reduce the ability of vessels to navigate. In addition to depriving people of a unique and highly appreciated leisure facility, it would be harmful to the local economy.

## Finding a Solution Will Not be Easy

There are many different organisations all with their own agenda who must agree on a way forward and it must be in line with the Coastal Defence Strategy, which is to be published shortly. The proposed solution must also be sustainable, environmentally sympathetic and economically viable.

Importantly it must be a scheme that potential donors are persuaded will work and that they are prepared to contribute towards financially. Flexibility will need to be shown by all parties.

East Head - a leisure facility which thousands enjoy every year



[www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)

*'I thank you all for your support in our efforts to protect East Head to date. We are making progress, but please can I encourage you to register with our website - [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) so that we can again call for your support when and if required.'*

*John Q Davis  
Manager & Harbour Master*



Approximate  
line of the  
dunes in 1998

Rock berm on  
eastern side of  
the hinge

The tide has breached the sand dunes at the Hinge. Only the rock berm prevents a new tidal channel forming

## A Step in the Right Direction

All parties are now committed to finding a sustainable long term solution. This is a step forward since the latter part of 2004, although there are differences on how it should be achieved.

As yet there is no preferred solution with wide support. However, it is the clear objective of the Conservancy to work with the parties concerned to find such a solution and to submit a planning application which, if approved, will allow work to start on the site by the onset of Winter 2005/6.

## A Possible Hiccup in The Short-term

The berm that is already in place may need to be extended or re-charged in the short-term to prevent the tide getting around it. Whilst all parties agree this can happen, exactly how it should be done is not yet agreed. There may be a need to mobilise public support.

## Funding - The Community's Role

It is unlikely that there will be central government funding for any scheme to protect East Head. Funding will have to come primarily from the public and



The effects of not taking any action could lead to East Head disappearing as well as putting the rest of the Harbour at risk

businesses with some help from local authorities and organisations.

It is unrealistic to attempt to estimate costs at this stage, but we have been encouraged by generous pledges to believe that a sum which is adequate for the task might be forthcoming.

Once we are aware of the amount which will be needed, and when it is required, the Save East Head fund raising campaign will be launched through the charity Friends of Chichester Harbour. It will include an array of opportunities for the public to contribute financially.



The berm that is already in place may need to be extended or re-charged. These works would require planning permission which cannot be taken for granted

## Public Support

If the public are to provide a substantial part of the funds, it is important that their views should be taken into account. Also with so many organisations involved, public opinion can be an encouragement for them to remain focussed on achieving a solution. We believe that the clear expression of public opinion will have a major influence on the result.

## What Should You Do When?

As discussions progress, a short list of options will become clear and that will be a critical time for public opinion to be heard. This will probably be in April.

More immediately, should there be any controversy over planning permission to extend or recharge the berm, that could be another occasion for the public to raise its voice.

The Conservancy will keep people advised of developments through its website and local press, radio and television. We will try to give the public as much time as possible to react.

If you register with our website - [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk), we can advise you directly of any developments that may call for your reaction.

## Make Sure You Keep in Touch

To make sure you are kept informed, go to [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk) simply click on the Keep in Touch option and enter your name and e-mail address, then tick the East Head option.

You will receive regular updates and will be advised of how you can help.



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