

Broomhill Sands coastal defence scheme

January 2016

This newsletter provides an update on the Broomhill Sands coastal defence scheme.

Round-up of 2015

The Broomhill Sands Coastal Defence Scheme successfully ended 2015 having finished the vast majority of the construction works, although stormy weather in November and early December have pushed the final completion of the scheme into early 2016.



Completed rock revetment and promenade

Nevertheless we were able to open most of the work area to the public over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, allowing the first members of the public to enjoy the new promenade.

Health and safety has been paramount during the construction of the works and by working well together, we have been able to carry out the works with no lost time injuries or any environmental incidents.

Beach recharge complete

In November 2015 the last bay for the shingle recharge works was signed-off, completing the 700m section in front of The Suttons and Camber Holiday Park. All of the shingle is now on the beach.



Final levelling works on the recharge

Major challenges

2015 was the year of big works! We constructed 6 sets of timber steps from the promenade down to the beach and 2 large maintenance ramps going down to the beach. These were tricky as we had to work several metres below the usual beach level, but will mean we can get onto the beach after a big storm to do repairs.

And then there was the rock-work. To date we have installed over a quarter of a million tonnes of rock which will absorb the wave energy and protect the new defence.



Maintenance ramp toe works on its way

Arts Council sculptures

Using Arts Council England funding, we've employed Will Nash, a local artist, to use the old eroded groynes to make a series of sculptures inspired by the material and location.

The sculpture's craggy ruinous forms are designed to act as habitable landmarks to be colonised as ad-hoc beach shelters for lounging in the sun or sheltering from the wind.

Will worked with local schools to develop his designs for 3 large sculptures, which were then carefully constructed by the Mackley 'Timber Gang'.



New sculpture at the Broomhill car park

Reduce, reuse, recycle

Although we have needed to replace the groynes on the beach, the old groynes still have plenty of life left in them for other purposes.

We have used the planking from the groynes to clad the sides of concrete ramps and steps to help the new defence blend into its surroundings.

Some timber has gone to Camber Parish Council for them to use at Jubilee Green in the village. The rest of the usable material has been donated to the Kitesurf Centre on the Broomhill Sands Car Park to help blend the cabins in with the new sea defence.



Donated groyne timber for use at Jubilee Green

What is going to be happening over the next month?

On the seaward side we will continue to place the final rock around the maintenance ramp at Jury's Gap and clean the beach to remove any rock shards where rock has been stockpiled.

On the landward side of the project we will continue the final concrete works at the disabled access ramp and complete the wave wall. Once the concrete works are complete we will install the final touches, such as bollards, handrails, benches, gates, white lining works and safety signage.

We will also carry on finishing off any minor details – known as “snagging”.

Project successes

The project team has been working on the scheme for over 70 weeks, with approximately 80 people involved continuously. This has resulted in over 200,000 working hours!

The team have worked really well together - we've delivered the scheme to budget, the quality

is excellent and we're pretty much spot on programme. The extension to protect the Jury's Gap lookout has been paid for through savings identified by the project team.

These are great achievements and our site manager Jasper Blaauw is presenting a case study on the scheme at the Flood and Coast Conference in February 2016.

And finally...

The scheme was given an in-depth write up in the “New Civil Engineer” magazine, which includes a video of the construction work and details about many aspects of the project including the “Broomhill extension”.

There's a link below, or if you are reading a printed copy of this newsletter just Google “New Civil Engineer Broomhill Sands”

<http://www.newcivilengineer.com/technical-excellence/sea-defences-broomhill-sands-coastal-scheme/10001176.article>

Opening Ceremony

We intend to hold a formal opening ceremony for the scheme a little later in the year once the weather has improved – watch this space!

Any questions?

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