

NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

Welcome to the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management scheme newsletter. This scheme covers the flood and coastal erosion risk from Holywell in Eastbourne through to Cooden Beach.

Flood Action week: Pevensey Bay in the spotlight

In October, DEFRA announced that out of 151 flood defence schemes completed in the past year, our short-term project ranks at the very top - protecting the largest number of properties in England. This achievement places us in the spotlight at the highest levels of government and emphasises our commitment to safeguarding local communities.

This milestone coincided with **Flood Action week**, an annual campaign that raises awareness of flood risks and the steps we can all take to prepare.



Visit www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding for more information.

Pevensey Bay welcomes Alan Lovell and Emma Reynolds MP

As part of Flood Action week, we were proud to welcome Alan Lovell, Chair of the Environment Agency, and Emma Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to Pevensey Bay.

During their visit, our team demonstrated beach management activities, showcasing how shingle beach defences are maintained to reduce flood risk. Alan and Emma engaged enthusiastically with the team, asking insightful questions about our operations, the properties at risk, and the environmental challenges we face.

This was a fantastic opportunity to highlight the importance of our work and the dedication of our team in protecting communities now, and as the scheme progresses.



The Secretary of State visit



→ See the [News](#) section on our website for more information.



The Sospan Dau spraying shingle onto the beach near Sovereign Harbour

Short-term phase: What's happening now

Our beach management works at Pevensey Bay are well underway. The site is set up, and we have already recharged 20,000m³ of shingle east of Sovereign Harbour using the dredger 'Sospan Dau'. This vital work helps maintain beach levels and strengthen coastal defences ahead of winter storms.

Over the past three months, we have been busy recycling and re-profiling shingle, and also completed a shingle bypass around Sovereign Harbour at the end of November.

Despite minor storms and high tides, the beach has held up well. A spell of good weather in late September and early October helped us build it to the right size for winter.

We have also tackled early challenges - from dumper speeds and access at Cooden to security alarms at Normans Bay - and operations continue to improve. Work will carry on through the winter, with contingency plans in place for Christmas.



Recycling and re-profiling shingle

Pevensey Beach Managers

You may have spotted some familiar faces on site. Amber Carr has joined Paul Levitt as Beach Manager, supported by many of the same machine drivers.

We have been keeping the community updated through Paul's Beach Manager emails - thank you for signing up and sharing your feedback.



Amber Carr

→ If you have not yet subscribed to email updates, you can [sign up on our website](#).

Phase 1 (2027-2037): Progress so far

It has been a busy few months along the seafront! Our team has completed **ecological surveys** - a key step in securing licences and consents - and used a LIDAR drone to capture detailed scans of the beach.

Working with our design partners at JBA, we now have a 3D digital model of the coastline. They are putting it through storm-scenario simulations to make sure the final design is resilient, sustainable, and ready for the future.



Using the LIDAR drone

Looking ahead, we will begin **ground investigation work** in the spring to check the condition of groynes and other structures across Pevensey Bay and Eastbourne. The findings will then guide the design stage of these structures.

Meanwhile, the **landscape masterplan** is taking shape. Together with our partners, we are exploring ways to boost accessibility, amenity, and ecology along the seafront. We will be sharing designs with the public in 2026 - keep an eye out for updates on this.

Sharing ideas with Southsea

Members of our team recently visited the Southsea Coastal Defence Scheme, where an incredible 1 million tonnes of shingle is being imported to reinforce sea defences. The visit gave us valuable insight into the logistical and environmental challenges of moving such vast amounts of material in tough coastal conditions. We will be applying those lessons directly to the planning and delivery of Phase 1.



Some of our team during a site visit to Southsea



Keep reading



Shaping tomorrow: Future phases

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our **recent survey!** We received over 1,000 responses, and your feedback is now being carefully reviewed to help shape the next steps for our coastline. The prize draw winner has been notified, and we will share a summary of the results on our website soon.



Our **school visits** are also continuing. Most recently, we met Year 7 Geography students at Cavendish School in Eastbourne, who were eager to learn about today's coastal management practices and why these will need to evolve in the future.

You can explore these same themes in 'Our changing coast', an **interactive StoryMap** that takes you through the past, present, and possible futures of the coastline. You can [access the StoryMap anytime through our website](#).

→ We would love to make StoryMap even richer with **your contributions**. If you have historical photos or memories to share, please [email us](#) - your contributions make a real difference.



Bathing Machines near the Wish Tower, Eastbourne, late 19th Century (Image courtesy of Eastbourne Society)

Stay informed

Thank you for following our progress. We will continue sharing updates as the project develops, and we would love to hear from you.

Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone to access our website, StoryMap, and more.



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