

Cliff Stabilisation and Management at Beer, East Devon *- balancing risks between cliff safety and beach activities*

A series of cliff falls occurred during January – March 2001 at Beer, East Devon, which wrecked some beach huts and cafes. Fortunately no people were injured but it was necessary to close the coastal footpath and parts of the beach from public access. From a range of options identified and evaluated, a relatively cost effective interim solution was implemented, rather than permanent closure or high cost full scale engineering works.

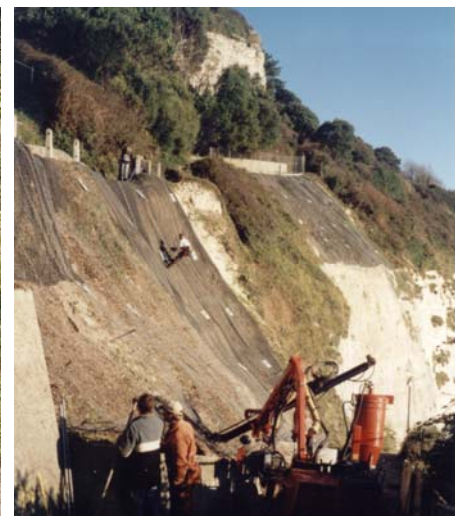
The stabilisation works involved some cliff slope reprofiling and extensive reinforcement with rock net, soil mesh and rock bolts, and soil nailing, and also drainage measures, safety fences and reinstatement works.

The overall plan also involves regular inspections and review as part of ongoing management of the cliffs, aiming to balance the inherent risks posed by steep cliffs with the need to maintain public access at reasonable costs to the public coffers and the environment.



- 45 m³ of local excavation / cliff reprofiling
- 2423 m² of rock net reinforcement to cliffs
- 877 m² of second layer geogrid soil mesh
- 547 rock bolts to secure rock reinforcement
- 165 soil nails for deep soil reinforcement
- 185 duckbill anchors to soil slopes
- 63 m rock catch fences to arrest falls
- 75 m security fencing to rock fall zone
- 80 m drainage channel to top of cliff

The project was undertaken for East Devon District Council, with an overall works value in the order of about £0.3 million. **David Roche GeoConsulting** carried out the inspections, assessments, investigations, reporting, engineering design, works supervision and project management. The main cliff stabilisation works were constructed during 2001 and 2002. Stability **monitoring** and annual **inspections** continue to present.



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