



Welcome to the first edition of the Ventnor Coastal Protection and Slope Stabilisation Scheme newsletter

August 2023 – ISSUE #1

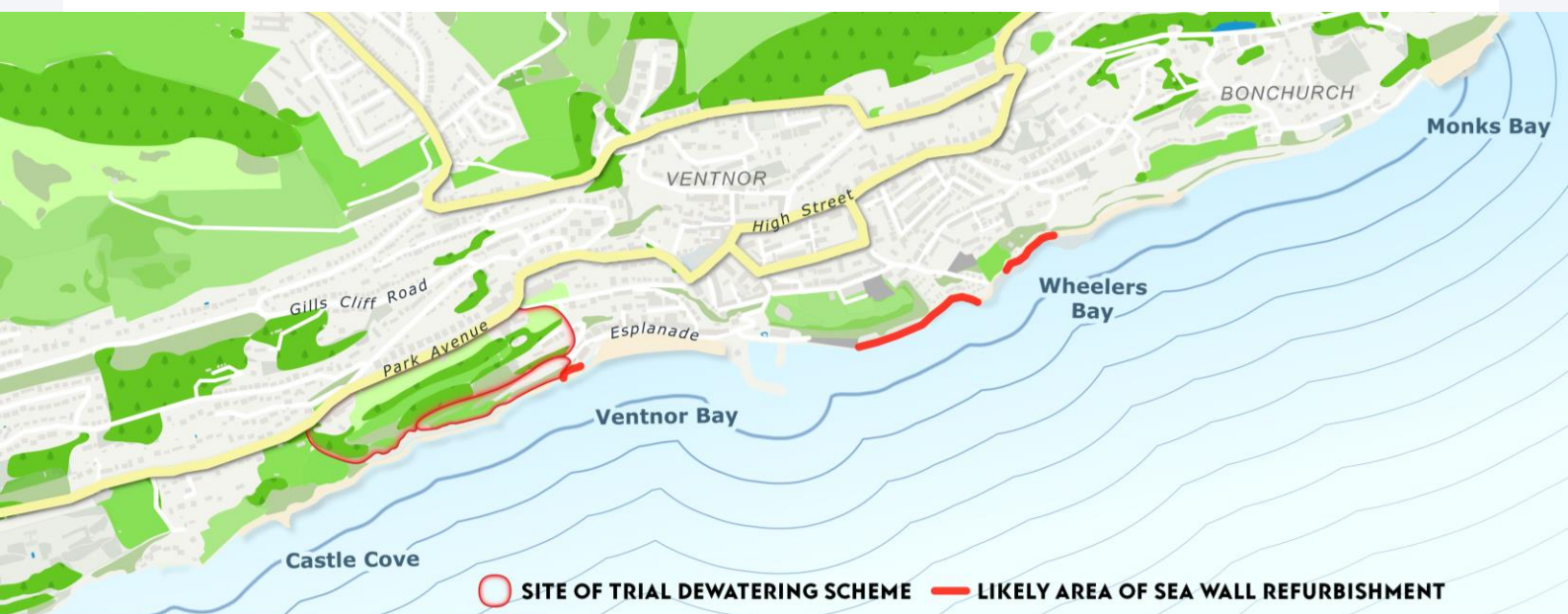
The Ventnor Coastal Protection and Slope Stabilisation Scheme is seeking to create a sustainable future for the town of Ventnor and west Bonchurch, that current and future generations can enjoy. The scheme will be delivered on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council by the Environment Agency with expert support from JBA Consulting and VolkerStevin.

Sections of the coastal defences are reaching the end of their useful life, as evidenced by the recent failure of the defences along the Eastern Esplanade. For the latest news on these specific, urgent works please visit <https://www.iow.gov.uk> > Search filter > Ventnor Eastern Cliffs Esplanade

As well as the urgent works, a longer-term solution is being investigated. Any future scheme must ensure the coastal defences, between Monks Bay and Castle Cove, remain resilient to storms, coastal erosion and projected sea level rise. Failure to do so would lead to widescale instability and property damage throughout the Ventnor Undercliff.

Works undertaken to date

To find out what works have been undertaken to date, please visit <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/solent-and-south-downs/ventnor-coastal-defence-scheme-informatio/>



Next Steps

To ensure the best possible choices are made for the coastal protection scheme various investigations must be undertaken.

Ground Investigation works, wheelers bay to Horseshoe cove

We need to **investigate the structural integrity of the existing coastal defences** and **understand the condition of the ground beneath them**. This will inform how best we replace or refurbish them. It will also provide important information to help us understand the speed at which we must deliver this project so **we can avoid premature asset failure like that experienced at Eastern Cliffs last winter**.

To do this, we must undertake intrusive ground investigative works in the form of coring, trench pits and boreholes along the esplanade between Wheelers Bay and Horseshoe Cove. **To carry out these works safely, we must close the esplanade in this area for approximately 18 weeks from early September.**

Whilst we recognise the disturbance this may have on esplanade users, we have delayed these works until after the school holidays to avoid peak tourist season, whilst balancing the risk of working safely on the seafront during the winter season.

VENTNOR - GROUND INVESTIGATION

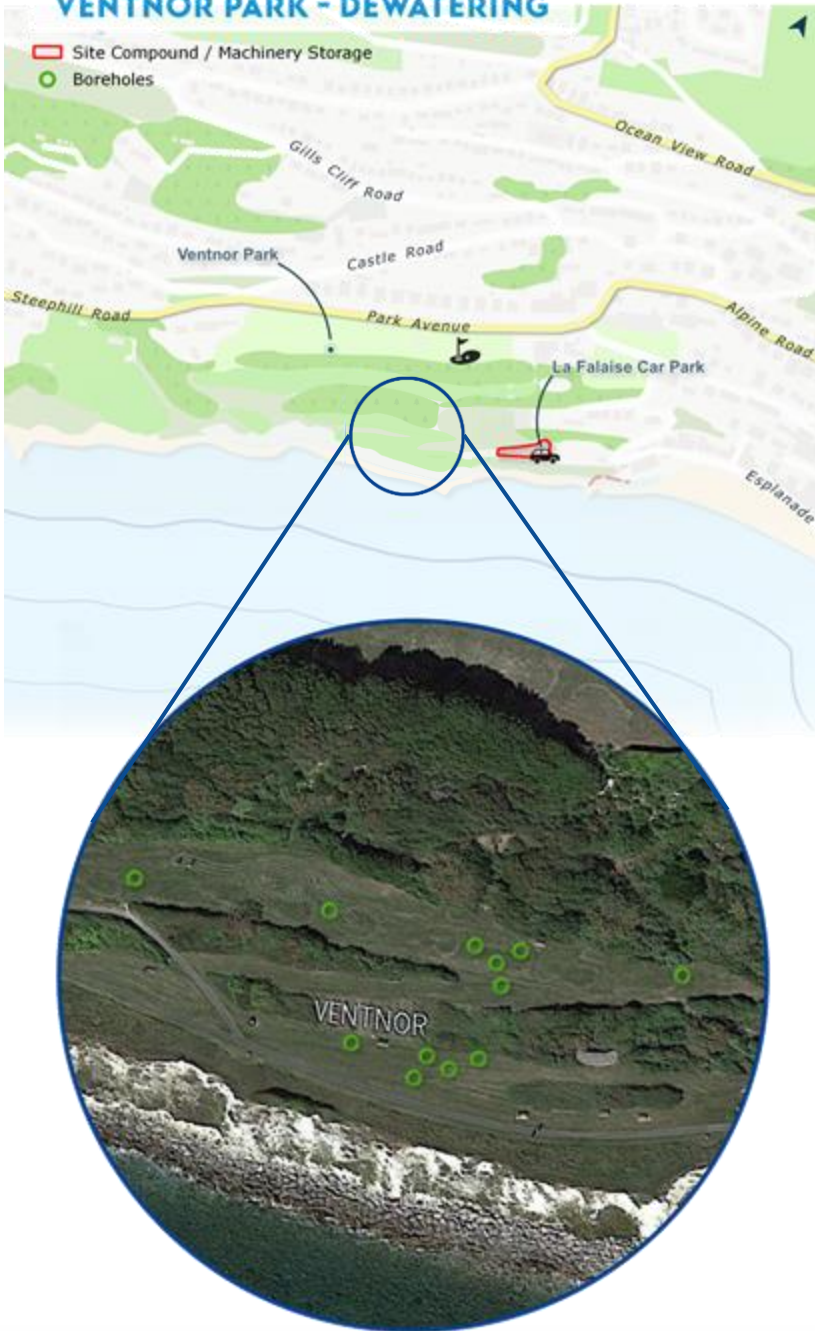


Dewatering Scheme, western cliffs area

As there is a relationship between high groundwater levels and land movement in the Ventnor Undercliff, we want to investigate whether groundwater management in the form of a supplementary dewatering scheme could **better protect the coastal defences** and reduce landslide movement in the town.



VENTNOR PARK - DEWATERING



Above Ventnor's Western Cliff we will install **subsurface monitoring equipment and drill an abstraction borehole**, before undertaking a pump test to inform us about water quality, extractable quantities, and groundwater behaviour. **It is important that this work starts as early as September so that we can collect data over winter when groundwater levels are highest.**

For approximately 16 weeks there will be a temporary construction site and a welfare compound, above the Western Cliffs, at the western end of the La Falaise car park.

The coastal path between La Falaise Car Park and the eastern end of Ventnor Park will be closed for approximately 2 weeks at the start and again at the end of these works. A diversion will be put in place.

We recognise that the works may have a significant impact on your access and enjoyment of the coastal path over the next few months, and we would like **to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding**. We are talking to the residents and businesses that will be impacted directly to understand their concerns and help shape our plans to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Find out more

Please join us on **Tuesday 22 August, at 6pm in St Catherine's Church (11 Church St, Ventnor PO38 1SW)** where we will provide more details about the project and the investigative works that are required this autumn. This will be an opportunity to meet members of the team and find out more.

In the coming months we will share more information via our web page: [Ventnor Coastal Protection and Slope Stabilisation Scheme Information Page](#). This will include any revisions to timings of works. The website also contains a section of frequently asked questions which will be periodically updated.

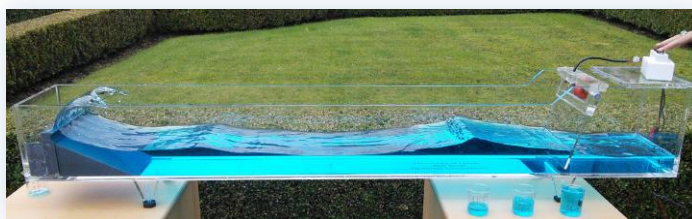
Alternatively, please contact us at IOW_FDschemas@environment-agency.gov.uk



Modelling

A new coastal model for Ventnor is currently being developed by industry experts JBA to assess tidal flood risk and wave over topping. The model will help us better understand how the existing seawall might perform in different scenarios, ranging from the storms we experience today, and those we might expect in the future. Considerations include projected increases in sea level and wave heights, as result of climate change, through to 2125. The model will be used to inform the design of the future scheme.

Please visit the JBA Trust website to better understand how different coastal defences can protect against wave overtopping: [Wave tank demonstration showing the impact of coastal defences on flood risk - YouTube.](#)



Autumn 2024: Consultation Period

Once we have completed our ground investigations and other technical assessments, we will use this information to confirm a list of feasible options to be considered in more detail. We will seek your views on these options and will use your feedback to help us refine the list down to a single preferred option. We are hoping to gather as many views as possible during the consultation period, which is currently expected to take place in summer / autumn 2024.



Topographic, visual condition, GPR surveys and ground investigation works
Summer 2022 – Winter 2023 / 2024



Consultation – preferred option
Spring – Summer 2025



Coastal Processes and flood modelling outputs
Summer 2022 – Autumn 2023



Outline design of preferred options
Winter 2024 – Spring 2025



Trial scheme: Dewatering landslide complex – 4 phases
Autumn 2023 – Spring 2027



Outline Business Case - Approval
Summer 2027



Options Modelling
Spring 2024 – Summer 2024



Full Business Case complete
Summer 2027 – Autumn 2028



Consultation – short list of options
Summer – Autumn 2024



Construction
Winter 2028 / 2029 – Winter 2030 / 2031

