

BOURNEMOUTH BEACH REPLENISHMENT 2006-07

This winter 700,000 cubic metres of sand will be deposited on Bournemouth Beach to protect it from erosion



Last winter more than 1 million cubic metres of beach material was dredged from Poole Harbour channels and approaches and used to replenish the beaches of Poole Bay and Swanage. Approximately half of that amount was pumped on to Bournemouth beach between Hengistbury Head and Southbourne but there was insufficient material to replenish beaches further west.

This winter the project continues with material being pumped ashore between Boscombe and the Borough Boundary with Poole. On this occasion the material comes from a Licensed Dredging Area east of the Isle of Wight.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

During the 20th Century the cliffs were protected from erosion by building concrete seawalls, promenades and groynes. This allowed houses to be built on the cliff tops but it also stopped the natural supply of sand and gravel to the shore. Bournemouth's frontage has been replenished on four previous occasions and is now effectively an artificial beach. Our replenishment projects are known as "Beach Improvement Schemes" (BIS):

BIS1	1970	84,000 m3
BIS2	1974-75	1,400,000 m3
BIS3	1988-90	1,000,000 m3
BIS4.1	2005-06	600,000 m3 (last winter's project)
BIS4.2	2006-07	700,000 m3 (the current contract)

HOW WILL THE SAND GET ON TO THE BEACH?

Sandy material will be transported by dredger from the Licensed Dredging Area and brought close to the beach. Because the waters of Poole Bay are shallow the dredger will pump the sand ashore through a long (1150m) pipe. To assist it being pumped the sand is mixed with a considerable amount of water. As the mixture exits the pipe the water flows back to sea, leaving the sand behind. The beach is then levelled by bulldozers.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The work begins early in December 2006 and will be completed by the end of January 2007, when the dredger leaves for work elsewhere.



BIS4.1 - the replenishment project 2005-06



Pumping sand on to the beach at Southbourne last winter

WHAT WILL THE BEACH LOOK LIKE?

Initially the sand will look darker than that on the current beach but will lighten to a normal colour with exposure to oxygen and daylight. In the first few weeks small ledges may appear in the beach as wave action sorts the new sand into a natural beach profile.

The new beach will be regularly inspected for any unsuitable material.

WILL I STILL BE ABLE TO USE THE BEACH?

Yes, but in the interests of health & safety it will be necessary to stop people using short lengths of beach while sand is being pumped ashore by the dredger and being moved by bulldozers.

There's a risk that sand will be waterlogged and it is best not to go onto the new beach for a few days until the water drains away.

The promenade will remain open even when pumping is underway.

WILL ANY FURTHER WORK BE NEEDED?

Bournemouth's existing timber groynes will last another 8 years or so, after which consideration will be given as to what should replace them; perhaps rock groynes or offshore reefs.

In the past the beach has been replenished at intervals of 15 years or so, by which time most of the sand has been lost. For the next 3 years small scale top-ups will be used to keep the volume high.

CONTACT & FURTHER INFORMATION?

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or visit the project web site at

www.poolebay.net



The dredger "Oranje"



The estimated cost of BIS4.2 is £4 million. Bournemouth Borough Council has received 100% Grant Aid from Defra (the government Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs).



Replenishment work is being carried out by Westminster Dredging Company, and the dredger Oranje

