

Coastsnap Information

Purpose

Plymouth Coastal Observatory (website - <http://southwest.coastalmonitoring.org/>) has been responsible for the collection, collation and provision of coastal monitoring data, to include topographic beach surveys, aerial imagery, LiDAR surveys, bathymetry surveys and habitat mapping data from around the SW of England (Portland Bill to the Severn Estuary) from 2007 to the present. All the collected data is freely available for anyone to use at our central website (<https://www.channelcoast.org/>). The Coastsnap project offers an exciting and engaging method of collecting publicly sourced data on beach state while engaging members of the public with their local or visiting coastal environment.

Background

The project aim is to provide a coastal monitoring resource which can promote public engagement, including education on coastal processes. The project uses Fixed Point Photography (FPP) to provide a visual record of coastal change at chosen sites throughout the South West.

Typically for most coastlines, there is limited observation data available to provide an understanding of the rates and magnitudes of shoreline response from storm events and longer-term underlying coastal processes. Recent advances in smartphone camera-lens technology allows untapped opportunities for shoreline monitoring using publically sourced imagery. Thousands of people visit our beaches every day, carrying camera devices more advanced than the technology used over the past several decades in coastal imaging.

Hence, CoastSnap offers beach and coastal managers an insight into the continual erosion and recovery cycles along with long term changes occurring along our beaches, while also acting as an effective community engagement tool, encouraging members of the public to learn more about their beach and how they undergo change.

The original design of the project is fully attributable to the CoastSnap team as part of the water research laboratory in UNSW (Mitch Harley as lead contact), who have now set up five sites in eastern Australia.

Our Sites

We currently have three sites installed at Wembury (South Devon), West Bay (East Beach) and West Bay (West Beach). However, we currently have plans to install at several other sites around the Southwest over the coming months.

The sites at West Bay are in collaboration with the Environment Agency and Dorset Council under the Dorset Coast Forum.

How to get involved

When you are passing by one of our sites, look out for the camera mount and join in with the monitoring programme:

Place your smartphone on its side in the camera mount so that the camera is facing the beach through the gap. Take your photo, without using zoom, square or panoramic. Carefully remove your phone and share your photo with us either by:

Submitting on our website <http://southwest.coastalmonitoring.org/coastsnap/>

Emailing us at: coastal.observatory@plymouth.ac.uk

For more information about the project please visit our CoastSnap page:

<http://southwest.coastalmonitoring.org/coastsnap-home/>