

# Review of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS) Programme

Historic England Project No. 7693



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## Executive Summary

This report presents the results of the first systematic review of the ongoing Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS) programme, which was instigated by English Heritage (now Historic England) in the late 1990s. As a publicly-funded body, Historic England is now subject to the Government's mandatory evaluation programme which expects that every pound of public money spent should be evaluated in terms of the outcomes achieved. This review assesses the availability and uses of RCZAS data and reports, and evaluates how effective the RCZAS programme has been in terms of recording and improving the management of coastal heritage assets. Its findings are informed by the extensive published outputs and archives produced by the RCZAS, and engagement with a wide range of RCZAS data-managers and report-users, as well as key stakeholders, many of whom have contributed to its findings via online questionnaires, telephone interviews and face-to-face meetings. This report includes a series of recommendations to improve the impact of the RCZAS programme in terms of delivering understanding and protection to England's coastal historic environment.

During the last twenty years, considerable time and resources have been expended on the RCZAS programme, the results of which have transformed our understanding of the nation's coastal heritage. Once the ongoing Phase 1 survey work in the inner Humber Estuary concludes, the entire English coastline, with the exception of the upper reaches of the Thames, will have been subject to detailed archaeological desk-based assessment, in most cases incorporating or augmented by complementary aerial investigation and mapping (formerly called the National Mapping Programme). This is a significant achievement and should be celebrated.

Phase 2 fieldwork surveys are also virtually complete for the English coast north of a line drawn from North Somerset to the Thames Estuary, but much less so to the south of that line. Several tasks remain outstanding for the completion of some Phase 2 surveys, for example the analysis and synthesis of the Norfolk Phase 2 RCZAS remains incomplete, while areas of the north Kent coast remain to be surveyed. In areas where Phase 2 surveys have yet to begin, area-specific fieldwork proposals have been made as part of the Phase 1 assessments and it is recommended that these are reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. Both the verification of Phase 1 results offered by Phase 2 fieldwork and the new data which Phase 2 generates in its own right should be seen as a crucial parts of the RCZAS process, and the completion of Phase 2

fieldwork along the length of the English coastline should remain a priority for the programme.

In terms of the accessibility of information, reports and data pertaining to the RCZAS programme, almost all of the reports produced by the various RCZASs have been placed in the public domain via the Historic England website, although these are not always easily located using the current search interfaces. There is a need for a specific section of the Historic England website focussing on the RCZAS, which should include an explanation of the programme, a visual interface such as a clickable map in order to explain the coverage of the different survey areas, details of the individual RCZAS projects, and links to online copies of reports, data archives and relevant HERs. A definitive list of RCZAS reports and related publications should also be created and curated by Historic England. Similarly, the RCZAS has had a dedicated section of the Archaeology Data Service website for over a decade, but this has not been updated for many years and to date only four RCZAS project archives have been added to the site. Consequently, it is recommended that a coordinated effort is made to collate the digital archives of the completed RCZAS projects and ensure that they are all published online.

With regard to improving the promotion of the RCZAS programme and its products, the consultations undertaken for this assessment have highlighted the fact that for such a long-running scheme the RCZAS currently has a relatively low profile within the heritage sector. Fortunately, the twin milestones of 20 years since the formal start of the programme and the imminent completion of the Phase 1 survey of the entirety of the English coastline represent a considerable opportunity to promote and publicise the significance of the RCZAS programme within the heritage sector and beyond using a variety of different approaches and this opportunity should be exploited. This assessment has identified an apparent lack of awareness of the RCZAS programme among Historic England and Historic Environment Record staff, which may in part be due to the turnover of staff and loss of key personnel, and it is recommended that this lack of staff awareness is addressed via professional development sessions or internal staff briefings, so that those working in relevant fields are made aware of the significant resources offered by the RCZAS and encouraged to use them.

There has also been a marked lack of engagement with the RCZAS programme from key stakeholders such as the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, and it is suggested that Historic England promote the RCZAS among these agencies at a strategic level. There is a parallel need to engage the academic community with the processes and results of the RCZAS programme, both

in terms of contributing to the ongoing programmes and also building upon the legacies of earlier projects in order to realise the full potential of the data and the sites identified during the RCZAS programme.

This assessment has highlighted that by far the most important factor in ensuring the accessibility of the data produced by the RCZAS programme and enabling it to make a meaningful contribution to heritage management in the coastal zone is to ensure that the new and enhanced datasets created by RCZAS projects are all properly integrated into the relevant HERs. At present, some HERs have integrated data, but far too many HERs, especially those affected by earlier RCZAS projects, have found that the data passed back to them has not been fit for purpose and has not been in a usable or compatible format to enable data re-integration. Where RCZAS data are not yet fully integrated into the relevant HER(s), consideration should be given to how this might be resourced and undertaken in order to maximise usage of the data. In some cases this will require technical solutions to data migration problems where the same platforms are used, and in others it will require additional staff time to undertake the necessary data integration manually. Only when full HER integration is achieved will we truly be able to say that the results of the RCZAS are informing heritage management decision-making nationwide.

Together with a full programme of HER enhancement, the most effective way in which the impact of the RCZAS programme can be improved is to use the data collected and analysed by the RCZAS to drive a strategic programme of designation reviews in the coastal zone, focussing on particular geographical areas, periods and/or types of sites. While it is recognised that RCZAS reports rarely contain the level of detail required to trigger or inform a designation case in their own right, the instigation of such reviews is recommended as the logical course of action following on from the successful completion of Phase 2 fieldwork within the RCZAS project areas. The formal recognition of this approach as a next step would go some way to ensuring that the intention for the RCZAS to inform the designation process is met, and that England's coastal historic environment continues to be understood and protected.

## Summary of Recommendations

The recommendations made as a result of this assessment are systematically highlighted throughout the text of this report. For ease of reference, these are reproduced here as a single list, sub-divided by subject heading, with cross references to the relevant sections of this report. The full list of recommendations is reproduced in numerical order in Appendix 1.

## Programme-wide Recommendations

- The importance of Phase 2 fieldwork should continue to be recognised and the remaining Phase 2 projects commissioned as a matter of priority in order to bring the RCZAS to a suitable conclusion, with the aim of the entire length of the coastline having been subjected to Phase 2 study. (Recommendation 27, see Section 3.15)
- The importance of local knowledge, professional networks and specialist expertise with the local HERs and the wider RCZAS programme should be stressed in the commissioning of any future RCZAS projects. (Recommendation 28, see Section 3.15)
- It is important that future commissions give due consideration and resource to the issue of data integration into the relevant HERs and the archiving of project data in a publicly accessible manner. (Recommendation 29, see Section 3.15)
- The approaches taken by the Dorset HER and the Cornwall and Scilly HER to recording and managing heritage assets between the Lowest Astronomical Tide and the 6- and 12-nautical-mile limits respectively should be used as good practical examples to inform the development of the National Maritime Historic Environment Record. (Recommendation 7, see Sections 3.5–3.6)
- The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS should be heralded as a model of best practice for the RCZAS programme, from Phase 1 assessments through to detailed Phase 3 fieldwork, archiving and HER integration. (Recommendation 10, see Section 3.8)
- The partnership working established as part of the North-East RCZAS, which enabled the extension of the survey area and brought academic input into the project, should be cited as opportunistic examples of collaboration which future projects might follow. (Recommendation 12, see Section 3.9)
- The inclusion of volunteers in the New Forest RCZAS fieldwork programme should be treated as a good example of public engagement for other RCZAS projects to follow. (Recommendation 15, see Section 3.11)
- The remote access arrangements enabling direct data entry into the Dorset HER should be cited as an example of best practice for other projects to follow. (Recommendation 19, see Section 3.13.1)
- The hosting of project staff by the local authority to enable direct data entry into the Devon HER should be cited as an example of best practice for other projects to follow. (Recommendation 21, see Section 3.13.2)

## Project-specific Recommendations

- The Isle of Wight coast should be subject to AIM mapping, to complement the Coastal Audit and help complete the coastal NMP/AIM coverage nationwide. (Recommendation 1, see Section 3.1)
- Heppell and Brown's 2008 published article about the Essex RCZAS should be made open-access, either via the *Journal of Wetland Archaeology* or the Historic England website, in order to bring its contents to a wider public audience free of charge. (Recommendation 2, see Section 3.2)
- Further efforts should be made to locate Ringwood's 2003 desk-based assessment report for the Norfolk and Suffolk RCZAS, and associated archive, and digitise them for inclusion in the online RCZAS archive. (Recommendation 3, see Section 3.3)
- The requirements for completing the Norfolk Phase 2 fieldwork to a standard consistent with other RCZAS projects, including the consolidation of the project archive and integration of the results into the Norfolk HER, should be reassessed and commissioned. (Recommendation 5, see Section 3.3.2)
- Phase 2 surveys should be completed for the four outstanding survey Stretches of the Kent RCZAS – Sheerness, Whitstable, Wantsum and Thanet – and, where possible, for the unsurveyed parts of the other Stretches. (Recommendation 6, see Section 3.4)
- The recommendations made for additional Phase 2a and Phase 3 fieldwork in the Severn Estuary RCZAS area should be revisited and their desirability assessed. (Recommendation 8, see Section 3.7)
- The proposed 'Phase 3' report for the New Forest RCZAS, setting out priorities for future work, should be revisited and its desirability assessed. (Recommendation 16, see Section 3.11)
- The proposed Phase 2 fieldwork within the South East RCZAS study area should be revisited and its desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Recommendation 18, see Section 3.12)
- The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the Dorset RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Recommendation 20, see Section 3.13.1)

- The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the South Devon RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Recommendation 22, see Section 3.13.2)
- The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the Exmoor National Park RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Recommendation 23, see Section 3.13.3)
- The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the South Cornwall RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Recommendation 24, see Section 3.13.4)
- The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the North Cornwall and North Devon RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Recommendation 25, see Section 3.13.5)

## Designation Reviews

- The assessments produced for the Suffolk RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Suffolk coast. (Recommendation 4, see Section 3.3.1)
- The assessments produced for the Severn Estuary RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the English side of the Severn Estuary. (Recommendation 9, see Section 3.7)
- The assessments produced for the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coasts. (Recommendation 11, see Section 3.8)
- The assessments produced for the North-East RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the coast. (Recommendation 13, see Section 3.9)
- The assessments produced for the North-West RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the coast. (Recommendation 14, see Section 3.10)
- The assessments produced for the New Forest RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Hampshire coast. (Recommendation 17, see Section 3.11)



## The Historic England Website

- A specific landing page for the RCZAS should be developed on the Historic England website and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) techniques should be used to ensure that this page appears within the top few results returned. (Recommendation 30, see Section 4.4)
- A definitive list of RCZAS publications should be created and centrally maintained as part of a core body of information presented about the RCZAS programme. The abbreviations employed by Murphy (2014) should be rationalised and adopted as part of this process. (Recommendation 31, see Section 5.1)
- The Publication search interface should be more clearly signposted within the Historic England website. (Recommendation 32, see Section 5.2)
- The Research Report search interface should be more clearly signposted within the Historic England website and be better integrated with the Publications search interface. (Recommendation 34, see Section 5.2)
- The 'Series: RCZAS Reports' tag should be applied to all relevant reports and given as an option on the initial search screen, not just the results page. (Recommendation 33, see Section 5.2)
- The 'Series: RCZAS Reports' filter functionality should be applied to the Research Reports results to allow filtering. (Recommendation 35, see Section 5.2)
- It should be ensured that the RCZAS reports are made fully accessible via the new Research Report map interface and that this is fully integrated into and new RCZAS web content. (Recommendation 36, see Section 5.2)
- There is a need for the RCZAS-related contents of the Publications and Research Reports areas of the Historic England website to be fully audited and reconciled, so that the same reports are able to be accessed via both search methods. As part of this work, previously used and publicised URLs need to be reinstated. (Recommendation 37, see Section 5.2)
- Where they exist, high resolution PDFs of RCZAS reports should be provided online and these should be combined into as few files per report as possible. (Recommendation 38, see Section 5.2)

- More detailed web analytics data for the RCZAS pages of the Historic England website should be captured and analysed in order to better understand the usage and reach of online RCZAS resources. (Recommendation 39, see Section 5.2)

### The ADS Website

- The RCZAS landing page on the ADS website should be updated in tandem with the revisions to the Historic England website recommended above. (Recommendation 40, see Section 6.1)
- The digital archives for completed RCZAS projects which are not currently held by the ADS should be prepared and deposited as a matter of priority by the archaeological contractors responsible for them. (Recommendation 41, see Section 6.1)

### HER Data Management and Integration

- It should be recognised that HERs are the primary repository for RCZAS data, not standalone reports and archives. Therefore, the best way to ensure that the results of the RCZAS programme are achieving their widest application is to ensure that they are fully integrated into the relevant HERs. (Recommendation 48, see Section 7.1)
- It should be recognised that few landowners and land-managers are interested in the RCZAS in its own right, as they rely instead on the integrated heritage datasets provided by HERs as required. (Recommendation 53, see Section 7.3)
- The mechanism for HER enhancement needs to be considered at the outset of the project, with an emphasis placed on working into a live HER database or having hosting staff where possible. (Recommendation 42, see Section 6.2)
- There needs to be better communication between contractors and HER officers regarding recording practices and criteria for inclusion in the HER. (Recommendation 43, see Section 6.2)
- The degree of RCZAS data integration into coastal HERs should be audited in order to inform the development of future data-integration strategies. (Recommendation 44, see Section 6.2)
- Where RCZAS data are not fully integrated into the relevant HER(s), consideration should be given to how this might be achieved in order to maximise the usage of the data. (Recommendation 47, see Section 7.1)

- Efforts should be made to ensure that RCZAS survey areas, data, resources and reports are integrated, or at least flagged, in the National Trust HER and in the MMO's online Marine Evidence Planning Base mapping service. (Recommendation 52, see Section 7.3)
- Local authority staff, particularly HER teams, should be involved in the development of the RCZAS programme in order to ensure that data are managed appropriately and are fit for purpose. Project designs should be compiled with the full involvement of the HER(s) concerned. (Recommendation 45, see Section 6.2)
- In developing projects in which data-collection and integration in the HERs is a key outcome, it is essential that a joined-up, consultative approach in which HERs are included is followed in order to maximise the return on any available resources. (Recommendation 46, see Section 6.3)

## Promotion and Engagement

- The completion of Phase 1 coverage of the English coast should be used as an opportunity to celebrate the success of the RCZAS programme and raise its profile within the heritage sector and beyond. (Recommendation 26, see Section 3.15)
- There is a need to raise awareness of the results of the RCZAS programme within Historic England and encourage staff in the relevant teams to promote and make use of the RCZAS programme's outputs. (Recommendation 49, see Section 7.2)
- Within Historic England, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the part which RCZAS-derived data can play in the instigation of formal designation reviews and also feed into the Heritage At Risk programme. (Recommendation 50, see Section 7.2)
- Historic England staff should ensure that the RCZAS programme and its results are promoted to the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation at a strategic level at every opportunity. (Recommendation 51, see Section 7.3)
- Greater efforts need to be made to engage the academic sector in the RCZAS programme and related follow-up work, perhaps by highlighting research opportunities for post-graduate dissertations and doctoral research, as well as fieldwork and collaborative research projects. (Recommendation 54, see Section 7.4)
- More popular publications focussing on the dissemination of the results of the RCZAS programme should be produced, with *Suffolk's Defended Shore* (Hegarty and

Newsome 2007) heralded as an example of good practice. (Recommendation 55, see Section 7.5)

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## List of Abbreviations

ADS	Archaeology Data Service
AIM	Aerial Investigation and Mapping
ALGAO	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
AMIE	Archives Monuments Information England
CITIZAN	Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EH	English Heritage
GIS	Geographical Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
HE	Historic England
HER	Historic Environment Record
HIAS	Heritage Information Access Strategy
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Lidar	Light imaging, detection and ranging
MoLA	Museum of London Archaeology
MHW	Mean High Water
NMHER	National Maritime Historic Environment Record
NMP	National Mapping Programme
NMR	National Monument Record
NRHE	National Record of the Historic Environment
OASIS	Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS
PDZ	Policy Development Zone
PSA	Policy Scenario Area
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England
RCZAS	Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey
SEO	Search Engine Optimisation

SMP Shoreline Management Plan  
SMR Sites and Monuments Record)

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Finally, an overwhelming debt of gratitude is owed to all of those in the heritage sector who took the time to complete our questionnaires, sent feedback and comments, and were happy to talk to us about their experiences of the RCZAS programme. Their contributions rightly remain anonymous, but their efforts have greatly informed the content, conclusions and recommendations of this report.



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The Current Review

As a publicly-funded body, Historic England is now subject to the Government's mandatory evaluation programme which expects that every pound of public money spent should be evaluated in terms of the outcomes achieved. This report presents a review of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS) programme which was instigated by English Heritage (now Historic England) in the late 1990s and is still ongoing. The results and outcomes of the RCZAS programme were reviewed in general terms by Murphy (2014), but to date there has been no specific assessment of the overall scheme or of the individual projects within it, although a brief review of recording practices was undertaken in 2005 (Wessex Archaeology 2005d). This report therefore presents the first detailed review of all of the RCZAS projects undertaken so far, and assesses the availability and uses of RCZAS data and reports. It also assesses how effective the RCZAS programme has been in terms of recording and improving the management of coastal heritage assets. This report includes recommendations of actions for Historic England to take to improve the impact of the RCZAS programme in terms of delivering understanding and protection to England's coastal historic environment.

In order to undertake this review, this project has engaged with a wide range of RCZAS data- and report-users, many of whom have contributed to its findings via online questionnaires, telephone interviews and face-to-face meetings. Key user-groups consulted during the project included: Historic Environment Record (HER) officers; coastal landowners and land managers, such as the National Trust and the English Heritage Trust; the Marine Management Organisation; the Environment Agency; Historic England managers engaged in key projects, such as Heritage at Risk (HAR), the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS) and Designations; academic researchers; and volunteers and staff engaged in projects relating to coastal heritage (e.g. CITIZAN).

## 1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this review is to assess how effective the RCZAS programme has been in terms of recording and improving the management of coastal historic assets, particularly in leveraging in protection or mitigation in advance of loss where assets of national significance are threatened by inevitable destruction as a result of coastal change.

Nested beneath this are a series of specific objectives:

- to chart the areas, scope and focus of all RCZAS projects, and how they have differed;

- to determine what added value the Phase 2 and occasional more detailed survey elements bring;
- to determine how accessible the data and project reports are;
- to determine what use is being made of RCZAS data;
- to determine who is using them (and who is not but should be);
- to make recommendations as to how the existing body of work (both monument records and project reports) could be better promoted; and
- to make recommendations as to how the impact of the RCZAS programme in delivering understanding and protection to England's coastal historic environment might be improved.

### 1.3 Methodology

The central tenet of this project has been communication with those individuals and organisations who are responsible for the management and presentation of the data collected and reports written during the course of the RCZAS programme. In particular, the project has focussed upon the use which has been made of the data collected and how they have been curated and integrated into the relevant HERs. Funding was not available to facilitate participation in this review process, and the authors are grateful to all those members of the heritage sector and users of RCZAS heritage data who have given freely of their time and thoughts to help shape the conclusions and recommendations which are presented here.

Initial contact with HERs and other key stakeholders regarding the establishment of the project was made by Historic England, primarily via postings to the HER forum email group, and this was followed up by a written project briefing circulated to project stakeholders informing them about the project and encouraging their participation. The convenors of the Regional HER forums were contacted by the project team to request that this review be discussed at their next meeting, and the relevant regional HER meetings were subsequently attended by members of the project team.

During this initial stage of the project, web analytics were requested from organisations hosting RCZAS data or reports online, including Historic England, HERs, CITIZAN, the Heritage Gateway and the Archaeology Data Service. All RCZAS reports and datasets were downloaded, and their online availability and accessibility assessed.



The second stage of the project involved collecting and recording baseline information about all of the RCZAS projects. The information collected directly informed the summaries of the various RCZAS projects presented in Section 3 of this report, and a tabulated version of the data is presented in Figure 4 at the end of that section. The information collected included the following details (where they could be ascertained):

- the specific circumstances surrounding the commissioning of the project, fieldwork dates and details of the appointed contractor;
- the geographical scope of the project, including the seaward and inland limits of the survey area, the overall size of survey area, and the size of any area(s) subsequently subjected to more detailed investigation;
- the RCZAS survey phases undertaken for each project, e.g. Phases 1, 2, 2a and 3, and details of the survey methods employed;
- integration of the RCZAS project with Historic England-funded aerial investigation and mapping data (formerly called the National Mapping Programme (NMP)), including overlap with pre-existing NMP survey areas;
- the local authority and/or Historic Environment Record collection areas covered by the surveys;
- the number of new records created and existing records enhanced as a result of the different phases of the RCZAS survey;
- any relationships between the RCZAS survey and related projects undertaken before, during or after the RCZAS;
- the ease with which the RCZAS reports and data can be accessed, including the integration of new and enhanced data into the relevant HERs and the hosting of project data online with the Archaeology Data Service;
- any parts of the project which remain incomplete and recommendations for further work made by the various project teams.

The third stage of the project aimed to collect feedback from users of RCZAS reports and data via a series of online questionnaires tailored to different user groups (e.g. HER officers, landowners, academic researchers). Participants in the online survey were also invited to elaborate on their questionnaire responses via email or through telephone interviews and follow-up meetings. Copies of these sector-focussed questionnaires are included as Appendices 3, 4, 5 and 6. Links to the online questionnaires were circulated

via email and via online discussion forums, such as the HER forum and the ALGAO mailing lists. Where uptake was poor, individuals and organisations were contacted directly to encourage participation, although in some cases this also failed to elicit a response. This was especially problematic in the academic sector, from which there has been almost no engagement with this project.

The fourth stage of the project comprised a series of follow-up discussions with project participants, including those who had indicated on the online questionnaires that they had additional information that they wished to share with the project, and those who had not completed the online questionnaire, but whom the project team had identified as being able to make a useful contribution to this review. The regional HER forum meetings also provided useful opportunities for further discussions, as the questionnaires had been circulated in advance of these so several HER staff had prepared information relating to their experiences of the RCZAS to share at these meetings. Telephone discussions were booked with HERs in the north-west, as staffing cuts in this region meant that the expected HER meetings were not held during the review phase of this project.

Following these consultation exercises, the fifth stage of the project concerned analysing the feedback from project participants in order to highlight general trends and issues, identify specific examples, and provide further information about typical user experiences of accessing and using RCZAS data and reports. Web analytics from organisations hosting RCZAS data and reports online were also analysed in order to gain a better understanding of how and where RCZAS data are being accessed and by whom.

The final stage of the project has been the writing of this report, which begins with an overview of the background and instigation of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey programme in the late 1990s, and examines the circumstances which resulted in its inception (Section 2). Following this, a detailed review is presented of each of the RCZAS projects undertaken to date, including, as far as possible, those which have recently been commissioned and which are still ongoing. The results of each project are summarised, and this report represents the first time that the work of the RCZAS programme has been brought together in this fashion (Section 3). Three sections present sequential examinations of the nature and accessibility of the main products of the RCZAS programme, beginning with general information about the RCZAS programme (Section 4), the numerous reports produced during the programme (Section 5), and the archiving and integration into HERs of the data and GIS generated by the various RCZAS projects (Section 6). The final section of the report presents an assessment of the awareness and interaction which different elements of the heritage sector have with the products of the

RCZAS programme, including local authorities, Historic England staff, landowners and land-managers (Section 7). The project concludes with a series of recommendations to improve the impact of the RCZAS programme in terms of delivering understanding and protection to England's coastal historic environment (Section 8).

## 2 Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Programme

### 2.1 England's Coast

As part of an island nation, England is physically defined by its long and varied coastline, which ranges from the high rocky cliffs of the south-western Atlantic coast to the soft and rapidly-eroding cliffs of East Anglia, and encompasses bays, estuaries, islands, harbours, mud-flats, salt-marshes, and extensive beaches (Champion and O'Regan 1997; Murphy 2014, 1–16). The English coastal zone contains a rich variety of heritage assets, including a complex array of fragile and irreplaceable archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains of all periods, such as wrecks, wartime defences, historic buildings, and even entire landscapes (Allen *et al.* 1997; Bradley *et al.* 1997; Murphy 2014, 47–110). In many cases, these remains are of national or even international significance due to the circumstances of their survival and subsequent exposure at the coast. Such was the case, for example, with the Bronze Age timber circle, popularly known as 'Seahenge', excavated at Holme-next-the-Sea in Norfolk (Brennand and Taylor 2003) and the Palaeolithic deposits, artefacts and footprints revealed by coastal erosion at Happisburgh, also in Norfolk (Parfitt *et al.* 2010; Ashton *et al.* 2014).

### 2.2 Coastal Management

The coast has always been a dynamic environment, but it is now generally accepted that coastal physical processes are being accelerated and magnified by changes in annual rainfall distribution and wave direction, relative sea-level rise and an increase in storm incidence, all associated with wider climate change (Long and Roberts 1997; Murphy 2014, 32–46). England's coastal heritage assets are therefore vulnerable to a wide range of natural threats and pressures, but they are also vulnerable to anthropogenic factors, such as those associated with commercial development and shoreline management, which interact with natural processes (Champion *et al.* 1997; Murphy 2014, 124–51).

Following a long history of attempting to curb and control the effects of coastal change, in recent decades it has come to be recognised that the English coastline cannot be maintained in its present form. Instead, coastal managers and central government have adopted the position that it is more feasible and cost-effective to work with natural processes and adapt to their effects accordingly, rather than to seek to counter them (Murphy 2014, 124–51). Today, coastal management is now viewed more holistically, taking into account not just the need to protect life and property, but also environmental and

social factors, as part of the move towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).<sup>1</sup> Defra's programmes of shoreline management and flood-risk planning contribute to this development. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs), for example, provide large-scale assessments of the risks associated with coastal processes and present a policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner (Defra 2006a; 2006b; Murphy 2014, 130–1). Similarly, Marine Plans guide those who use and regulate marine and coastal areas to encourage sustainable development while considering the environment, economy and society.<sup>2</sup>

Like the terrestrial strategic planning process, the development of SMPs and Marine Plans is consultative and draws on information provided by differing sectoral interests, of which heritage is one, and attempts to balance their various needs. Effective participation by the heritage sector in these consultations – and, indeed, in those arising as new approaches to coastal management emerge – is therefore dependent upon identifying coastal and marine heritage assets, evaluating their significance and potential, and assessing which may be at risk from coastal or seabed change. In 1993, as a response to the development of the initial suite of Shoreline Management Plans, English Heritage and the RCHME commissioned the Universities of Reading and Southampton to prepare a report addressing the characterisation of the archaeological resource in the intertidal zone and the development of appropriate management strategies for that resource in the context of sea-level change (Fulford *et al.* 1997). The principal conclusions and recommendations of the report were adopted as a formal position statement by English Heritage and the RCHME (Fulford *et al.* 1997, 16–21).

The assessment, published in 1997 under the title *England's Coastal Heritage*, highlighted the poor quality of archaeological records relating to the coast and the policy statement recommended that: 'The record of coastal archaeology held nationally and locally should continue to be actively developed and enhanced in order to permit effective management of the resource and to facilitate understanding of England's development as a maritime nation' (Fulford *et al.* 1997, 18). It was suggested that these aims would be best achieved by the consolidation of existing information – enabling broad assessments to be made of the range of coastal heritage assets, their significance and vulnerability – and through the instigation of survey and recording projects to gather new data. As a direct result, it was proposed that a series of rapid coastal surveys should be undertaken in order to gain a national overview of the nature and scale of archaeological and historic sites and

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/index_en.htm), last accessed 14 August 2019.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/marine-planning>, last accessed 14 August 2019.

features in the coastal zone. This need for data collection, interpretation and synthesis of England's coastal heritage, which could then inform later iterations of the SMPs and other coastal management strategies, was one of the direct driving forces behind the instigation of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS) programme in the late 1990s (Murphy 2014, 17–23).

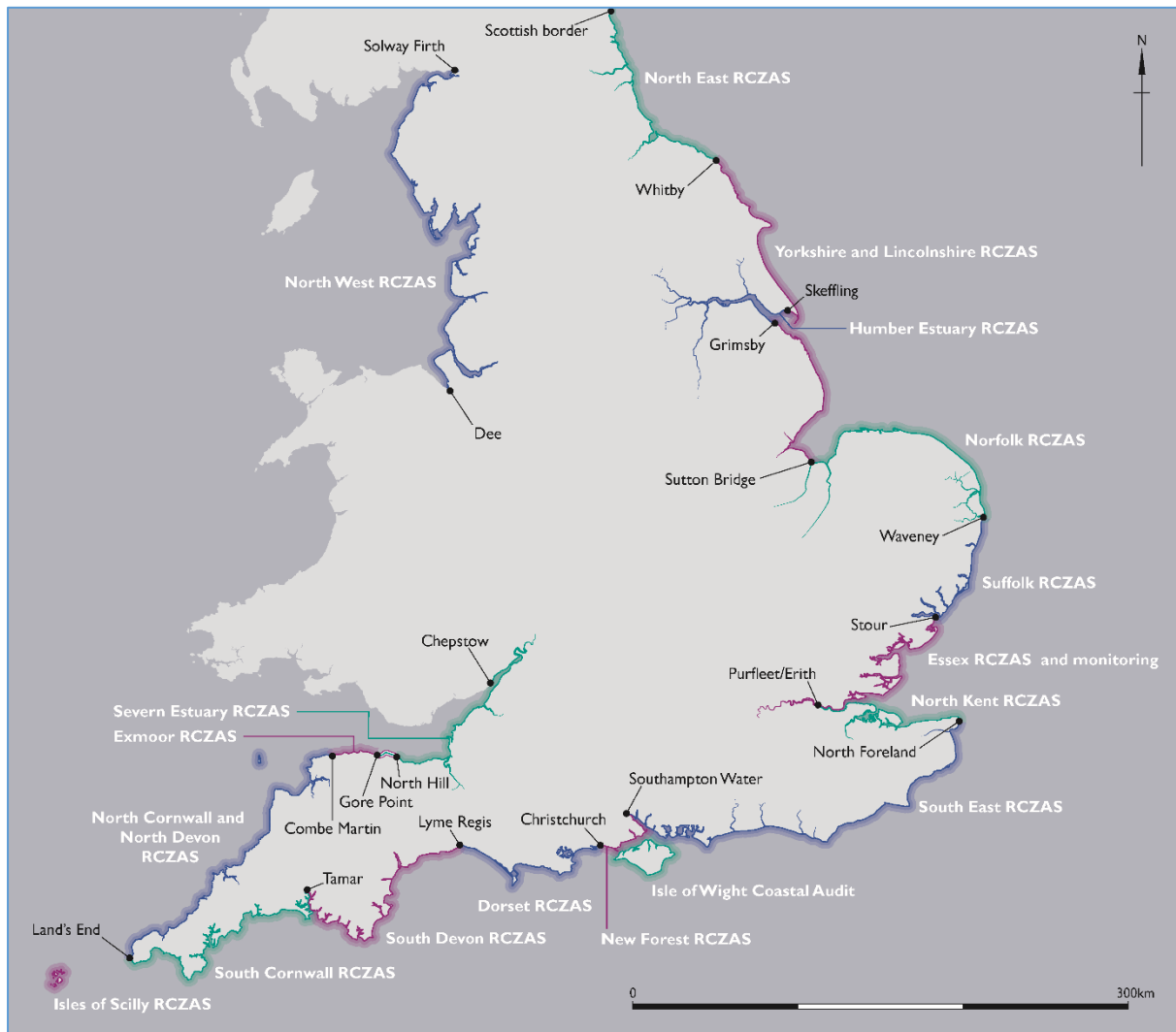


Figure 1. Map of the RCZAS areas covering the entire length of the English coast, as at November 2015. (© Historic England)

### 2.3 RCZAS Programme Overview

The RCZAS programme has now been running for 20 years, and at the time of writing is still ongoing in certain areas of the country, particularly in parts of the south-west and the Humber estuary. As is explored more fully in the next section, during the lifespan of the project almost the entire length of England's coast has been subject to a degree of archaeological assessment and recording as part of the scheme, with some areas having been studied more intensively than others. This represents a major achievement and the

RCZAS programme has had a significant impact upon the way in which the heritage of the country's coastal zone is understood and managed.

Rather than approach the English coast as a single entity, the RCZAS programme divided the coastline into smaller, more manageable areas, each of which was the subject of a different RCZAS project (Figure 1). The earliest RCZASs were county based (e.g. Suffolk) or even sub-county based (e.g. North Kent), although it was subsequently concluded that larger regional surveys (e.g. the North West) were more cost-effective and more closely aligned to the land units being used in other coastal strategy documents being developed at the same time, such as the SMPs (Murphy 2014, 17). As the programme progressed, however, and larger projects proved to be overly complex, there has been a return to smaller, county- (e.g. Dorset), sub-county- (e.g. south Devon) and even Local Authority-level (e.g. Exmoor National Park) projects.

Figure 1 shows the extents of the RCZAS survey areas which now cover the entire length of the English coast, with the one exception of the Inner Thames Estuary upstream of Erith/Purfleet. Moving clockwise around the coast from the north-east these areas are:

- North East RCZAS
- Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS
- Inner Humber Estuary RCZAS
- Norfolk RCZAS
- Suffolk RCZAS
- Essex RCZAS (and monitoring)
- North Kent RCZAS
- South East RCZAS
- Isle of Wight Coastal Audit
- New Forest RCZAS
- Dorset RCZAS
- South Devon RCZAS
- South Cornwall RCZAS
- Isles of Scilly RCZAS

- North Cornwall and North Devon RCZAS
- Exmoor RCZAS
- Severn Estuary RCZAS
- North West RCZAS

As is explored in more detail below, some of the larger study areas have been broken down into sub-areas for ease of study and to speed up the survey process by having elements studied in parallel. For example, the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire survey was approached as a series of four sub-units, each assessed by the same contractor, while the South West coast surveys have been divided into county-based sub-areas along the north and south coasts and shared between different contractors. In terms of study areas, individual RCZAS projects have mostly examined the area lying between Lowest Astronomical Tide and a line circa 1 km inland of the Mean High Water ('the coastal corridor'), although there have been variations of approach tailored to local circumstances and these are highlighted in the next section.

From the outset, it needs to be stressed that the RCZAS projects were not undertaken in the geographical order set out above. Rather, they were undertaken in an order which reflected a variety of different factors: the need for greater understanding of the heritage assets within particular stretches of coastline; in response to perceived natural and anthropogenic threats; planning need; or, in some cases, simply because funding and relevant staff were available at a particular point in time. This piecemeal approach was not ideologically problematic, as the long-term intention was to provide complete coverage of the coast. Figure 2 presents a simple Gantt chart depicting the order in which the individual RCZAS projects were undertaken, with a broad indication of the years during which each project was active. Each of these projects is discussed in more detail in the next section.

Following the recommendations made in *England's Coastal Heritage* (1997), RCZAS projects have normally comprised two main phases:

- Phase 1 comprises a desk-based assessment of the project area, drawing on data from aerial photographs, historic maps and charts, the local HERs and the then National Monument Record, now the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE). Data were captured following national data standards and the assessments were intended to enhance the records of the local HER(s) (and not the Archives Monuments Information England (AMIE) / NRHE database), provide



an overview of the coastal heritage resource and the threats posed to it, and summarise coastal change from the Palaeolithic onwards. The reliance on aerial photography, in particular, has meant that later Phase 1 surveys have often incorporated an aerial investigation and mapping phase (National Mapping Programme)..

- Phase 2, field assessment, comprises a rapid walk-over survey of a proportion of the study-area designed to verify records from Phase 1, locate and characterise site types not visible from the air or via other desk-based sources, and assess the significance and vulnerability of these features. Phase 2 surveys have a particular focus on the geomorphological and sedimentary contexts of features, and whether they are actively eroding.

In some cases archaeological sites on the coast considered and/or identified by RCZAS have been thought to be so significant, or so immediately at risk, that further fieldwork has been undertaken. Although never officially defined as part of the RCZAS programme, where it has occurred such fieldwork has variously been categorised as 'Phase 2a' or 'Phase 3'. Phase 2a, which was undertaken in Suffolk and the Severn Estuary (see below, Sections 3.3.1.3 and 3.7.2), comprised targeted exercises aimed at dating selected timber fish traps. Phase 3, undertaken in Yorkshire (see below, Section 3.8.3), comprised a much more widespread and in-depth appraisal of monument classes and areas, although it also included a targeted palaeoenvironmental sampling and dating programme. Figure 3 presents an expanded version of the Gantt chart from Figure 2, depicting which phases have been completed for each of the RCZAS projects and indicating when Phases 1 and 2, and, where applicable, Phases 2a or 3 of each RCZAS project were undertaken.

While the phased structure has remained constant throughout the programme, the specifics of the RCZAS methodology have undergone several revisions, with updates reflecting changes in recording and fieldwork practices, and changes in coastal management priorities, as well as in response to lessons learned under earlier specifications. The current iteration of the RCZAS brief is Version 10, developed in 2007 (English Heritage 2007). Some of the major methodological changes have been brought about by formal project reviews, such as that undertaken of Phase 2 recording practices in 2005 (Wessex Archaeology 2005d).

Some methodological changes have been driven by technological advancements which have greatly enhanced the abilities of those undertaking the work to assess and record coastal heritage sites and data. As a consequence, the later surveys are more

sophisticated than the earlier ones. At the inception of the RCZAS, airborne laser scanning data (lidar) and satellite imagery were not generally available, and the internet was still in its relative infancy, making sources of information which we now take for granted, such as Google Earth, hard to come by or simply non-existent. Neither had the use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (such as Global Positioning Systems) become widely developed and adopted, so that in many of the earlier surveys locational data had to be logged using prismatic compasses to take bearings on prominent local landmarks. Similarly, the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to manage and interrogate spatial data of this kind was a relatively new phenomenon twenty years ago, and consequently GIS was not widely used during the earlier RCZAS surveys. The use of GIS has since become ubiquitous within the heritage sector (and, of course, more widely) and the production of good quality GIS data has become a mainstay of all of the more recently commissioned RCZAS projects.

Other changes to the RCZAS methodology have been driven by parallel developments in other English Heritage/Historic England long-term, large-scale research projects, especially by the development of the National Mapping Programme (now known as Aerial Investigation and Mapping). The overall aim of the NMP is to map all archaeological sites in England that are visible on aerial photographs, in order to improve understanding of the historic environment and its change through time (Evans 2019; Barber 2011, 223–7). Since the late 1980s, this objective has been achieved on a project-by-project basis, and the overlap with the aims and objectives of the RCZAS was so strong that later projects always included an NMP component, or at the very least incorporated existing NMP data where NMP projects pre-dated the corresponding RCZAS project. In this fashion, the RCZAS programme has been instrumental in securing NMP mapping of the English coastline.

Among the most recent developments, some of the latest RCZAS projects have used near-shore bathymetry data to identify wrecks and help recreate submerged palaeo-landscapes. This resource was also not available to early RCZAS surveys, but its specification within recent projects is specifically due to the requirements of marine planning established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

With the exception of the Phase 2 methodological review referred to above (Wessex Archaeology 2005d) and a the general overview of the results of the RCZAS programme published by Murphy (2014, 17–23), there has to date been no systematic review of the impact of the RCZAS programme or its results. This report addresses this shortcoming, and in order to facilitate this the next section presents a series of summaries of the individual RCZAS projects.

Project	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Ongoing
Isle of Wight	■																						
Essex		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Suffolk		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■													
Norfolk		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■													
North Kent		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■														
Dorset I						■	■																
Isles of Scilly						■	■																
Severn Estuary								■	■	■	■	■	■	■									
Yorkshire and Lincolnshire									■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
North East										■	■	■	■										
North West										■	■	■		■	■								
New Forest												■	■	■									
South East												■	■	■	■	■							
South West: Dorset II																■	■						
South West: South Devon																■	■	■	■				
South West: Exmoor National Park																		■	■				
South West; South Cornwall																		■	■				
South West: North Cornwall & Devon																			■	■	■		
South West; South Cornwall																			■	■	■		
Inner Humber Estuary																					■	■	■

Figure 2. Gantt chart depicting the order in which individual RCZAS projects were undertaken, with a broad indication of the years during which each project was active.

Project	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Ongoing
Isle of Wight	Coastal Audit																						
Essex		Phase 2																					
Suffolk	Phase 1																						
					Phase 2				Phase 2a														
Norfolk	Phase 1																						
							Phase 2																
North Kent		Phase 1		Phase 2																			
Dorset I						Phase 1																	
Isles of Scilly						Phase 1																	
Severn Estuary								Phase 1															
												Phase 2 / 2a											
Yorkshire and Lincolnshire									Phase 1			Phase 2			Phase 3								
North East										Phase 1		Phase 2											
North West										Phase 1				Phase 2									
New Forest												Phase 1											
													Phase 2										
South East												Phase 1											
South West: Dorset II																Phase 1							
South West: South Devon																Phase 1							
South West: Exmoor National Park																			Phase 1				
South West: South Cornwall																			Phase 1				
South West: North Cornwall & Devon																				Phase 1			
South West: South Cornwall																				Phase 1			
Inner Humber Estuary																					Phase 1		

Figure 3. Gantt chart depicting which phases have been completed for each RCZAS project and indicating the years in which these were undertaken.

## 3 Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Projects

As is highlighted in the map in Figure 1 and the Gantt charts reproduced in Figures 2 and 3, the RCZAS programme has comprised a considerable number of different survey projects, of differing sizes, over a prolonged period of time. This section presents a series of summaries of the various elements of the RCZAS programme which have been undertaken to date, following the chronological order in which the projects were delivered, and gives an overview of the main results achieved by each survey. A tabular summary of the projects is given in Figure 4 at the end of this section, which also concludes with a series of recommendations put forward to enable the successful completion of the fieldwork phases of the RCZAS programme. Recommendations regarding data integration and archiving are made in subsequent sections.

### 3.1 Isle of Wight Coastal Audit

The Isle of Wight Coastal Audit was undertaken by the Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service between 1998 and 2000 (IoW CAHES 2000). With 97 km of open coastland of varying character and an additional 70 km of estuarine coast, the island offered a perfect opportunity to test the applicability and efficacy of the then emerging RCZAS methodologies. The coastal audit was primarily an SMR/HER enhancement tool, but the project also contributed to a European-funded collaborative project examining the effects of climate change. The survey built upon the earlier Wootton–Quarr survey, undertaken by the Isle of Wight Council and English Heritage in 1991, which assessed the archaeological potential of a section of the Solent coast via desk-based assessment and fieldwork. Although limited in scale, the earlier survey revealed more than 150 intertidal sites, comprising scatters of lithics, pottery and other artefacts, and timber structures including trackways, fish traps and post alignments.

The Coastal Audit study area encompassed the intertidal zone, the cliff faces/coast edge, and land within a strip seaward of the 2070 benefits line, as defined in the Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan. The project comprised two main phases: a desk-based appraisal of documentary, cartographic and air photographic evidence, and a rapid walk-over survey of the intertidal zone and shoreline of the island's coast and estuaries, during which features were recorded using GPS and photography. The Isle of Wight Coast Shoreline Management Plan divides the island's coastline into six Process Units, which are further subdivided into 51 Management Units. Therefore, in order to aid coastal shoreline management, the results of the survey were presented as a series of summary assessments of each of these Management Units.

Overall, 1,671 sites were examined during the Coastal Audit, 1,088 of which were new additions to the HER. A further 298 historic buildings also stood within the study area, of which 40 had not previously been recorded. Of the new sites identified, the overwhelming majority were post-medieval or modern, with only 285 new sites pre-dating the post-medieval period. Many of the new additions to the HER were identified through cartographic research. While it had been intended that the desk-top assessment would be undertaken prior to the fieldwork, in practice it was often found informative to re-examine maps, aerial photographs and documentary sources after a stretch of coast had been surveyed.

Although aerial photographs were consulted as part of the Coastal Audit, they were used for identification purposes and were not analysed and transcribed to the then-emerging NMP standard specification. Selected areas of the Isle of Wight have since been subject to NMP mapping as part of the Hampshire ALSF scheme, which included approximately 2 km of the coastline (Royall 2010), but the vast majority of the island's coastline has yet to be subject to aerial investigation and mapping.

**Recommendation 1:** The Isle of Wight coast should be subject to AIM mapping, to complement the Coastal Audit and help complete the coastal NMP/AIM coverage nationwide.

### 3.2 Essex RCZAS

Survey work conducted on the Essex coast formed a very early part of the RCZAS process and, as such, did not follow the phased work pattern developed and adopted by later surveys (see Figure 3), although many of the phases of fieldwork which were to come to characterise the RCZAS methodology were employed at various stages.

In the late 1980s, the Hullbridge Survey investigated much of the intertidal zone of the Essex coast (Wilkinson and Murphy 1995). This work not only revealed the enormous potential of the intertidal zone, but also highlighted the need to integrate this evidence with that from the adjacent 'dryland' areas. The Hullbridge Survey concluded with a sample excavation of the Neolithic settlement landscape at The Stumble in the mid- to late 1980s (Wilkinson and Murphy 1995; Wilkinson *et al.* 2012). Subsequent aerial photographic survey along the Essex coast extended the range of sites and structures recorded, and the Essex Mapping Project, undertaken as part of the pre-digital phase of the NMP between 1993 and 2003, provided complete coverage of the Essex coast (Ingle and Saunders 2011).

In the summer of 1999 proposals for further survey and monitoring of known sites along the Essex coast were submitted to the Greater Thames Estuary Regional Research Framework Steering Committee and English Heritage. The general purpose of the project was to take forward the work of the Hullbridge Survey, and to address research priorities outlined in the *Archaeological Research Framework for the Greater Thames Estuary* (Williams and Brown 1999) and *England's Coastal Heritage* (Fulford *et al.* 1997). This work comprised two main elements: fieldwork surveys of new areas and the regular monitoring of previously identified sites.

The field survey of selected areas of the Essex Coast was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit during the summer of 2000, funded by English Heritage and part of the Interreg IIc PLANARCH project.<sup>3</sup> The survey work was designed to investigate areas not included in the Hullbridge Survey, and included the Strood and Pyefleet Channels at Mersea, Benfleet and Hole Haven creeks at Canvey, and the creeks around the southern end of Foulness. In total, 250 sites and deposits were recorded, comprising a range of features including timber structures, red hills, earthworks and wrecks. Only nine sites had previously been recorded (Heppell and Brown 2001).

A second fieldwork strand was the monitoring of eight known sites which had been located by the Hullbridge Survey (Wilkinson and Murphy 1995). The monitoring project ran for three years from 2001, and annual interim reports were produced (Heppell and Brown 2002; Heppell 2003). The results of the monitoring of all of the sites were presented in a final assessment report (Heppell *et al.* 2004). In carrying out the monitoring survey it became clear that two of the key sites in the Blackwater Estuary would benefit from some additional work. This comprised additional visits to the Neolithic land-surface with extensive occupation at The Stumble and an initial visit to the Collins Creek Fish trap complex (Heppell *et al.* 2004). During the course of the monitoring project, a trial excavation of timber structures in the intertidal zone apparently associated with a small Tudor earthwork fort was also carried out at Cudmore Grove, Mersea (Heppell 2005).

As part of the wider European-funded PLANARCH project, which partially funded the work, a collaborative event was held in Essex in May 2005, at which attendees participated in test pitting on the Neolithic site at The Stumble. The fieldwork was intended to show participants the potential and difficulties of small-scale test pitting in intertidal areas, and as a result Wessex Archaeology produced a report on the proceedings and considered how similar methodologies might be applied to Kent (Wessex Archaeology 2005c).

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<sup>3</sup> <http://3b.nweurope.eu/page/projet.php?p=31&id=559>, last accessed 14 August 2019.

In addition to presenting the project findings, the assessment report also included an updated project design for additional site surveys and monitoring at key sites, as well as a publication proposal to bring the results of and methodological lessons learned during the project to a wider audience (Heppell *et al.* 2004). As intended, the conclusions of the Essex monitoring survey were published as an academic article in the *Journal of Wetland Archaeology* in 2008 (Heppell and Brown 2008). The journal article itself is currently behind a paywall, but a copy of the submitted draft text and figures is freely available on the Historic England website.

**Recommendation 2:** Heppell and Brown's 2008 published article should be made open-access, either via the *Journal of Wetland Archaeology* or the Historic England website, in order to bring its contents to a wider public audience free of charge.

### 3.3 Norfolk and Suffolk RCZAS

Following the publication of *England's Coastal Heritage* (Fulford *et al.* 1997), a survey of the archaeological potential of the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, inter-tidal zone and estuaries commenced in 1999. The Norfolk and Suffolk RCZAS was initially established as a pilot project, and was later extended to cover the entire length of the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts under two separate county-based projects.

The initial stage of work comprised a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of four pilot areas – two in Norfolk and two in Suffolk – and it included the detailed study of historic maps and aerial photographic transcription to NMP standards.

This pilot phase was quickly followed by a more comprehensive programme of documentary research into the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts undertaken by Ivan Ringwood, then at the University of East Anglia (Ringwood 2003). Unfortunately, it has not proved possible to locate a copy of Ringwood's report or its associated archive, but the report apparently contains transcriptions of several hundred primary and secondary historical sources held by the Norfolk Record Office, the Norfolk Heritage Centre and other bodies. The 100 or so map tracings were made at the Norfolk Record Office, the Holkham Estate archives and other locations.

**Recommendation 3:** Further efforts should be made to locate Ringwood's 2003 desk-based assessment report, and associated archive, and digitise them for inclusion in the online RCZAS archive.



After these initial shared stages, the proposed Norfolk and Suffolk RCZAS was split into Norfolk and Suffolk elements, each of which was managed and delivered separately, with varying degrees of success, and the two projects are discussed separately below.

### 3.3.1 Suffolk RCZAS

#### 3.3.1.1 Phase 1

The Phase 1 desk-based research undertaken for the Norfolk and Suffolk coasts by Ringwood (2003) was complemented by the Suffolk coast NMP project, completed between April 2001 and March 2004 by an English Heritage air photo interpretation team based in Swindon (Hegarty and Newsome 2005). The NMP covered an area of 315 km<sup>2</sup>, and consisted of a 1 km-wide strip along the full length of the Suffolk coast, in all cases taking in the inter-tidal zone and a wider area around the estuaries. The two pilot areas studied previously were incorporated into the survey, which recorded new sites spanning the Neolithic to the Second World War and added new detail to many known sites. Nearly 1,500 new records were created in the Suffolk HER and over 300 existing records were amended.

The Suffolk NMP also gave rise to a popular publication – *Suffolk's Defended Shore* (Hegarty and Newsome 2007) – which drew on the results of the aerial survey and contextualised its findings, with a particular emphasis on the coast's military defences from the medieval period onwards. The publication also brought these findings to a wider, more popular audience, and represents an example of best practice which should be explored more fully by other RCZAS projects.

#### 3.3.1.2 Phase 2

While the Phase 1 NMP survey was still ongoing, a Phase 2 inter-tidal zone survey was undertaken by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service between May 2002 and March 2003 (Everett *et al.* 2003). This survey involved walking the saltmarsh and estuarine shorelines of the six major Suffolk rivers, the north bank of the Stour on the Essex border, and the stretches of beaches between the county's major coastal towns, all of which lay within the NMP survey area. It was intended to verify the existence of features detected during the Phase 1 surveys, as well as to identify, locate and make a basic record of new sites. The inter-tidal survey was complemented by a series of land-based surveys undertaken of areas vulnerable to erosion and inundation which was completed between December 2002 and February 2003.

The results of the six riverine estuary surveys and terrestrial fieldwalking, with written descriptions and tabulated data, were presented in an Assessment Report, together with outline analyses of the artefacts which were collected. The results of the walkover survey for the rest of the coast were also briefly summarised (Everett *et al.* 2003). As a result of the Phase 2 fieldwork, 547 HER records were amended or created. Sites recorded and monitored included docks, jetties, red-hills, tile kilns, fish-traps, causeways, pottery scatters, post alignments, hulks/wrecks and military structures. Most of the sites were undated, but approximately 25% were able to be found on Ordnance Survey maps.

### 3.3.1.3 Phase 2a

The inter-tidal survey was followed between 2005 and 2007 by the targeted field survey of nine sites identified as being archaeologically significant (Everett 2007). These sites primarily comprised timber-post alignments and structures, which were surveyed and selected timbers analysed and radiocarbon-dated. In this fashion a series of Anglo-Saxon fish-traps was identified, along with further Anglo-Saxon structures including a possible trackway, and several additional post-medieval timber structures.

In all, the Suffolk RCZAS spanned 1999–2007 and culminated in the production of a summary report covering the key elements and outputs of the project (Good and Plouviez 2007). The report included a broad synthetic summary of the archaeology of the Suffolk coast, identifying the most significant of the coastal monuments, groups of monuments and landscapes, and was complemented by more detailed assessments of the coast on a sub-area-by-sub-area basis. The report incorporated the results of a programme of Historic Landscape Characterisation focussing on coastal marshland carried out by Tom Williamson at the University of East Anglia in 2006. It also included the results of a scoring exercise undertaken to assess the archaeological significance of monuments recorded within the Suffolk HER, which identified 281 HER monuments of high significance and 1,875 monuments of medium significance. The results of these assessments were incorporated into the Suffolk HER, and would provide a very good starting point for a designation review of heritage assets along the Suffolk coast, which include a high proportion of 20<sup>th</sup>-century military structures.

**Recommendation 4:** The assessments produced for the Suffolk RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Suffolk coast.

## 3.3.2 Norfolk RCZAS

### 3.3.2.1 Phase 1

In addition to the documentary research undertaken by Ringwood (2003), Phase 1 of the Norfolk RCZAS also comprised the Norfolk Coastal Zone NMP project, which was undertaken between 2001 and 2007 by a team of aerial photograph interpreters based with Norfolk County Council (Albone *et al.* 2007). This arrangement was primarily due to the substantial air photograph library held by the Council, which formed a key resource for the survey, alongside images held by Historic England and the University of Cambridge. The Norfolk NMP mapped 50 Ordnance Survey quarter sheets, which covered 855 km<sup>2</sup> of land in Norfolk between the boundaries with Lincolnshire and Suffolk, and incorporated the intertidal zone, dune systems, cliffs, saltmarsh and the coastal hinterland. Both of the original pilot areas were included in the survey area. The NMP team worked directly into the Norfolk HER database. In total, the project created 3,354 new monument records within the HER, and was sufficiently advanced to be able to inform most, but not all, of the Phase 2 survey work.

### 3.3.2.2 Phase 2

The Phase 2 fieldwork element of the Norfolk RCZAS comprised an intertidal field survey of the entire 160 km of the coast, from the borders of Lincolnshire and Suffolk, which was undertaken by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit between May and November 2004. Complementary surveys of nine land-based areas – seven on clifftops and two in saltmarshes – took place in December 2004. To date, the only published report on the Phase 2 Norfolk RCZAS survey is a detailed assessment report and updated project design produced by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit (then part of Norfolk County Council and now trading independently as NPS Archaeology) in 2005 (Robertson, Crawley, Barker and Whitmore 2005).

The report presents a detailed account of the methodology employed in the survey and provides extensive lists of the known sites recorded in the Norfolk HER at the start of the project, broken down into coastal 'Environmental Zones' defined by the project team. These lists are complemented by summary lists and supporting maps of new monuments identified during both the intertidal and terrestrial surveys, although these data are presented without any attempt at analysis or synthesis and are not cross-referenced with the Norfolk SMP units. Similarly, the report presents assessments of the various artefact types collected during the survey, but does not correlate these with the site lists and the material has not been analysed in any detail. Reference is also made to a substantial

project archive, which includes over 5,000 slides, black-and-white-prints and digital photographs, although none of these images is included in the report. The report concludes with a series of proposals for academic and popular publication of the results of the Norfolk RCZAS, together with proposals for follow-up fieldwork, sampling and monitoring, under an effective Phase 3 of the project. Correspondence with project staff conducted as part of this review has indicated that these proposals were considered by Historic England to be overly ambitious and the requested budget far too high for the work to be progressed.

Even without the more ambitious elements of these proposals, it is clear that there is a substantial amount of outstanding work required in order to complete the basic reporting of the Phase 2 fieldwork in Norfolk, which would need to include consolidation of the project archive and integration of the results into the Norfolk HER. In total, the Norfolk survey phase identified 1,112 monuments, of which 254 (22.8%) were deemed eligible for inclusion in the Norfolk HER. A further 175 (15.7%) of the monuments related to features already recorded by the HER, and these were enhanced where the survey produced new information. The remaining 683 (61.4%) of identified monuments were not considered to be of sufficient historic interest to warrant recording in the Norfolk HER, for example pieces of concrete lying loose on the beach, and this is indicative of a lack of communication with the HER regarding the identification of relevant material. These statistics, and in particular the conversion rate of recorded features to new HER entries, raise questions about the efficacy of the methodology employed and the return on investment which the Phase 2 survey represented, but without a detailed assessment of the results in their proper context it is currently difficult to draw such conclusions with certainty.

**Recommendation 5:** The requirements for completing the Norfolk Phase 2 fieldwork to a standard consistent with other RCZAS projects, including the consolidation of the project archive and integration of the results into the Norfolk HER, should be reassessed and commissioned.

### 3.4 North Kent RCZAS

The North Kent RCZAS was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology between November 1999 and 2006, and was considered to be a pilot study for the emerging RCZAS methodology. The project focussed on the area of the North Kent coast which lay between the Kent county boundary with London to the west and North Foreland to the east, with the Mean Low Water line and the 5m OD contour line forming the lower and

upper limits of the area respectively (Wessex Archaeology 2000). To the west, the study area abuts the survey area of the Thames Discovery Programme managed by MoLA,<sup>4</sup> and the study area effectively covered the Kent side of the Thames, mirroring the Essex study area on the northern bank. Like the Essex survey, the North Kent survey was funded by English Heritage and also by the European PLANARCH project, of which both Essex and Kent County Councils were partners.

### 3.4.1 Phase 1

The Phase 1 desk-based assessment of the North Kent RCZAS was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology between November 1999 and August 2000 (Wessex Archaeology 2000). Unlike many of the earlier surveys, the work was not undertaken by the local authority, or its in-house archaeological contractors, so they were not able to work directly into the HER. Consequently, Wessex Archaeology exported the existing records of the Kent HER and enhanced them in their own stand-alone version of the HBSMR software produced by ExeGesIS Spatial Data Ltd and used by the Kent HER, before returning the enhanced and expanded dataset to Kent County Council at the end of the project.

Kent had already been subject to a pilot air photographic interpretation project as part of the National Mapping Programme. Examination of air photographs and interpretation and mapping of components was confined to the survey area rather than covering whole OS map quarter sheets, and drew upon photographic holdings from the then NMR, Cambridge University, the Environment Agency and Kent County Council's own images.

Phase 1 recorded 1,864 new monuments within the study area, along with associated event and source records. This effectively doubled the number of recorded monuments from 1,756 to 3,520. The majority of new monuments were located on the basis of historic maps and air photographs, and therefore included a high proportion of post-medieval and modern standing remains. A 'considerable number' of existing monument records were also enhanced with additional details and cross-references to sources not previously recorded on the HER.

The Phase 1 report presented an interpretative overview of the historic environment for the study area. It also defined 20 coastal Stretches and assessed them in terms of their potential, significance and any threats to the historic environment. The results of the assessment were used to prioritise the Stretches for field evaluation, and to identify Stretches and monuments to undergo pilot surveys in Phase 2.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/about/>

### 3.4.2 Phase 2

Phase 2 began with a series of preliminary field investigations undertaken in November 2001 intended to assess the application of field methodologies, the recording system, and the migration of data from the field into the HBSMR software. Logistical considerations also formed a major element of this project, both in terms of site safety and access issues (Wessex Archaeology 2002). Three Stretches (Greenhithe, Grain, and Upchurch/Queenborough) and one monument (Buttercrook Wharf) were chosen for investigation because of their topographic and morphological diversity, which offered a range of site types and test environments. The investigation identified and recorded 61 new monuments and enabled the fine-tuning of the basic recording methodologies. It informed and was followed by a pilot study phase.

During the first part of the Pilot phase, undertaken in September and November 2002, two Stretches (Halstow and Queenborough/Upchurch) were investigated. The functionality of the revised recording methodologies was confirmed, 112 new monuments were identified and recorded and details of a further 208 monument records updated. In addition to fieldwork, the Pilot also placed a particular emphasis on the need to be able to migrate field data into the HER's HBSMR database so that it could be fed back into the Kent HER (Wessex Archaeology 2004a). A second phase of the Pilot study undertaken in December 2003 focussed on the development of a boat-based methodology to facilitate recording by two pairs of archaeologists working in tandem of those areas of the North Kent Coast not accessible on foot (Wessex Archaeology 2004e).

The Phase 2 survey proper comprised two seasons of fieldwork carried out in the summers of 2004 and 2005. The 2004 season comprised six weeks of surveying during June and July, during which six of the defined Stretches of coastline were surveyed on land and by boat, resulting in the identification of 221 new monument records and the updating of 230 existing monuments (Wessex Archaeology 2005a). These sites ranged from standing buildings and military structures, to agricultural activity and abandoned sea defences. They also included more ephemeral monuments such as peat deposits, isolated finds and ceramic distributions. As part of the wider European-funded PLANARCH project which partially funded the work, a brief episode of collaborative fieldwork was undertaken in June and July 2004 during which participants from partner organisations on both sides of the Channel joined in the active survey (Wessex Archaeology 2005b). As well as providing an opportunity to share field methodologies, the survey resulted in the recording of 10 new monuments and the enhancement of eight existing monument records in North Kent.

The 2005 survey work was limited to terrestrial survey and undertaken between May and June. It prioritised the westernmost Stretches of the Study Area and partially completed Stretches from earlier survey areas so that 13 of the 20 Stretches were able to be surveyed (Wessex Archaeology 2006). In total, 198 new monument records were recorded and 379 existing monuments were visited and information pertaining to them within Kent HER updated and enhanced. At the end of the second survey season, which was to be the last undertaken as part of the North Kent RCZAS, Four Stretches – Sheerness, Whitstable, Wantsum and Thanet – remained unsurveyed, as did several small parts of the other Stretches which were rendered inaccessible by topography or the lack of relevant permissions. To date, no further fieldwork has been conducted on the North Kent RCZAS, but the methodologies developed and lessons learned during the process informed subsequent surveys undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as well as that conducted by other field teams.

**Recommendation 6:** Phase 2 surveys should be completed for the four outstanding survey Stretches of the Kent RCZAS – Sheerness, Whitstable, Wantsum and Thanet – and, where possible, for the unsurveyed parts of the other Stretches.

### 3.5 Dorset RCZAS

Dorset is in the unique and somewhat unusual position of having been the subject of two RCZAS projects. The initial Dorset RCZAS covered the entire length of the Dorset coast, between Devon and Hampshire, including the Boroughs of Bournemouth and Christchurch. However, in order to bring the survey up to the standard of the neighbouring RCZASs, the Dorset coast has also been included within the ongoing South West RCZAS, which includes the north and south coasts of Devon and Cornwall, and the second survey is considered further as part of that discussion below (see Section 3.13.1).

The initial Dorset survey comprised a Phase 1 desk-based assessment carried out by Wessex Archaeology between September 2003 and June 2004. The project resulted in two publications, a project report (Wessex Archaeology 2004c) and a draft Dorset Coast Historic Environment Research Framework (Wessex Archaeology 2004d). Phase 1 addressed a Survey Area defined generally by a 1 km buffer inland of the coast and extended offshore to the 6-nautical-mile fishing limit. A wide range of sources was consulted in compiling the desk-based assessment. Historic cartographic sources (maps and charts) and air photographs were the most significant in the identification of new data, although the aerial images were not assessed or transcribed to NMP standards. Phase 1 added 3,633 new records to the Dorset HER, although the contractors were working in a

stand-alone copy of Dorset's HBSMR database and the proper reintegration of the data fell outside the scope of the project. The issue of data integration is explored more fully in Section 6.

The Phase 1 report also defined 26 coastal Stretches and assessed them in terms of the historic environment's potential and vulnerability, correlated with forecasts of coastal change. The results of the assessment were used to prioritise the Stretches for field evaluation, and to identify four Stretches to undergo pilot surveys for Phase 2, although this fieldwork was not carried out (Wessex Archaeology 2004c).

The accompanying draft Research Framework represented a collaboration between Dorset County Council, the Dorset Coast Forum and Wessex Archaeology, and followed standard guidance on the structuring of such frameworks (Wessex Archaeology 2004d). The Resource Assessment was effectively represented by the Phase 1 desk-based assessment, with the accompanying Research Agenda setting out a series of questions under the high-level headings of 'Inhabitation and Settlement', 'Coastal Communities' and 'Economy'. A Research Strategy set out the mechanisms and methodologies by which this work might be secured (Wessex Archaeology 2004d).

### 3.6 Isles of Scilly RCZAS

The RCZAS for the Isles of Scilly was carried out in 2003 and early 2004 by the Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service (Johns *et al.* 2004). The assessment built upon the results of the Isles of Scilly NMP survey, which added 108 sites to the HER of which approximately 25% were in the coastal and intertidal zones (Young 2004). The project was the first to attempt to incorporate submerged heritage into the Cornwall and Scilly HER by extending the existing terrestrial, shoreline and intertidal assessments of the islands out to the 12 nautical mile limit. As a consequence, the primary result of the project was the assimilation of wreck data into the HER. In total, 771 wreck sites and 45 terrestrial records were added, and the existing 340 HER entries for coastal, intertidal and subtidal sites were verified and enhanced. The report also included chronological and thematic overviews of the Isles, as well as identifying threats to the historic resource, assessing their impacts and recommending appropriate management strategies.

The Isles of Scilly RCZAS was solely a desk-based exercise and is the only survey which has attempted to extend the coverage of the terrestrial HER to the 12 nautical mile limit, although, as has been seen, the initial Dorset RCZAS extended to the 6 nautical mile limit. At the time, both approaches were exceptional, but the changing requirements of marine planning established under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 mean that it is



prudent for HERs and those developing the new National Maritime Historic Environment Record to consider how best to incorporate terrestrial, intertidal and marine data into their databases.

**Recommendation 7:** The approaches taken by the Dorset HER and the Cornwall and Scilly HER to recording and managing heritage assets between the Lowest Astronomical Tide and the 6- and 12-nautical-mile limits respectively should be used as good practical examples to inform the development of the National Maritime Historic Environment Record.

### 3.7 Severn Estuary RCZAS

The Severn Estuary RCZAS was undertaken by staff of Gloucestershire and Somerset County Councils on behalf of the local authorities of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, Bristol City, North Somerset, Somerset and Exmoor National Park. On the southern and eastern banks of the Severn the survey area extended from Gore Point at Porlock Bay, Somerset to the present tidal limit at Maisemore Weir. On the Severn's English west bank, land between Maisemore and Beachley Point was also included. The survey studied a coastal strip defined as the land between Lowest Astronomical Tide and 1 km on the landward side of Mean High Water. The total survey area was 575 km<sup>2</sup>.

#### 3.7.1 Phase 1

Phase 1 of the RCZAS was undertaken between 2005 and 2009 and comprised three main research strands: an assessment of Environment Agency lidar data (Truscoe 2007), an NMP mapping project (Crowther *et al.* 2008) and a desk-based assessment (Mullin *et al.* 2009).

The NMP survey of the Severn Estuary was undertaken by staff from Gloucestershire County Council between August 2006 and April 2008 (Crowther *et al.* 2008). The survey area covered 498 km<sup>2</sup> and was complemented by coastal areas already mapped by the Forest of Dean NMP (Small *et al.* 2006), the Quantocks Hills NMP (Riley 2006) and Mendip Hills NMP (Priest and Dickson 2009). In total, the survey identified and created 928 new records in the National Monument Record's Archives Monuments Information England (AMIE) database (as it was then known), and a further 373 existing records were revised. At least 334 of the new sites identified relate to the fishing industry in the intertidal zone, and a significant number of Second World War defensive sites was also identified. The results of the lidar assessment were included as an appendix of the main NMP report

(Truscoe 2007), and demonstrated the then little-explored but now well-understood usefulness of lidar as a complementary dataset to conventional aerial photographs.

The desk-based assessment drew on this previous research and existing records to present period-by-period summaries of the Estuary's development (Mullin *et al.* 2009). The report included an assessment of the archaeological potential of individual sites and features, an overview of the threats posed to them and an assessment of the likely implications of the SMP policies. Finally, a series of sites and areas which would benefit from further research or fieldwork were identified and these became the focus of the Phase 2 investigations. All of these areas were of high archaeological potential and lay in areas potentially affected by coastal change; they included, for example, a series of fish-traps in Bridgewater Bay, important peat deposits in St Audrie's Bay and archaeological deposits in the Avonmouth area which had the potential to be affected by development.

### 3.7.2 Phase 2

Phase 2 of the Severn Estuary RCZAS began with a pilot fieldwork project, undertaken by a small Gloucestershire County Council team between April and June 2009 (Catchpole and Chadwick 2010a). In addition to locating known sites and evaluating their current state of preservation, the fieldwork was able to identify and record several new archaeological features, as well as providing valuable insights into the efficacy of digital and written record gathering equipment and techniques, survey methodologies, and the use of equipment and vehicles. The pilot phase also included an aerial photographic progression study of the development of the complex early modern hulks and wrecks at Purton in Gloucestershire, which were deliberately beached onto the eastern foreshore of the Severn Estuary throughout much of the twentieth century (Dickson *et al.* 2010).

Following the pilot phase, the research strategy for the full Phase 2 survey was set out in March 2010 (Catchpole and Chadwick 2010b). This was followed by a targeted reconnaissance and field-survey programme, which was informed by Phase 1 and undertaken between April and October 2010 and March to April 2011 (Chadwick and Catchpole 2013). The results of the pilot fieldwork were also incorporated in the final report. In total, the pilot and main phases of fieldwork recorded 801 survey lines and points, the vast majority of which were fishing-related structures. In addition, the survey verified the locations of many of the structures identified in the Phase 1 NMP project, but also ascertained that some features had subsequently disappeared or might have been misidentified in the past. As part of a follow-on piece of fieldwork, referred to as Phase 2a,

a number of samples of wood and peat were taken for possible species identification and dating purposes, which greatly enhanced the detailed interpretation of features.

In addition to presenting the results of the field-survey, the final report assessed the state of preservation and archaeological potential of features in different areas within the Severn Estuary RCZAS study area. It also considered the likely impacts posed by factors such as erosion, and the archaeological implications of proposals contained within the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy. Finally, the project team identified a number of sites requiring monitoring or further survey, as well as setting out a series of future research priorities, although it was acknowledged that there was no funding available to carry out these works (Chadwick and Catchpole 2013). Areas highlighted included further monitoring of the Aust/Oldbury Flats and Woolaston (Gloucestershire), where stratified archaeological deposits and artefacts of probable late Iron Age and Romano-British date were actively eroding out of the banks at the edge of the salt marsh. Further fieldwork was suggested focussing on the complexes of stake-built fish traps and woven structures at Beachley, Waldings Pill, Woolaston/Grange Pill and Aust/Oldbury Flats (Gloucestershire), together with peat and submerged forest deposits exposed in the same areas.

**Recommendation 8:** The recommendations made for additional Phase 2a and Phase 3 fieldwork in the Severn Estuary RCZAS area should be revisited and their desirability assessed.

**Recommendation 9:** The assessments produced for the Severn Estuary RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the English side of the Severn Estuary.

### 3.8 Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS

The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology between 2006 and 2014. Initially, the survey was only intended to cover the Yorkshire coast and the Lincolnshire coast as far south as Donna Nook, taking in the mouth of the Humber Estuary as far as Sunk Island on its north bank and Grimsby on the south. However, once underway, the survey area was extended to encompass the entirety of the Lincolnshire coastline to its border with Norfolk in order to better complement the SMP being developed for the area.

The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS comprised all three Phases of work specified in the RCZAS brief. However, given the length of coast involved, the study area was broken

down into a series of more manageable shorter stretches, each studied and written-up separately. Ranging from north to south, the study areas are as follows:

- Whitby to Reighton
- Bampton to Donna Nook
- Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point
- Gibraltar Point to Sutton Bridge

It should be noted that the numbering of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS reports given by Murphy (2014) presents the reports in geographical order ranging from north to south, although they were not researched and written in this order. In the following discussions the results are similarly presented geographically from north to south.

The first and second phases of the project included resources for adding the information to the North Yorkshire, North York Moors National Park, Humber, North-east Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire HER databases. All aerial photographic data was added to the then NMR AMIE database to extend NMP coverage and copied to the HERs. Copies of all Phase 1 and 2 reports and data were also archived with the ADS and made available via the ADS website.

### 3.8.1 Phase 1

Given the discrete nature of the individual study areas, each of the Phase 1 reports was able to set out parish-by-parish summaries of the historic environment, before presenting a chronological synthesis of overarching themes for the study area. These reports were the first to present data in this fashion, including the use of gazetteers, which makes the reports themselves very accessible. As is discussed further below, it is unfortunate that later projects did not all follow this template. Each of the Phase 1 reports concluded by making a series of recommendations for future research and fieldwork pertaining to specific sites and areas within the study area, many of which were followed-up in Phase 2 and 'Phase 3'. Overall, all of the reports for Yorkshire and Lincolnshire followed the same format, meaning that the extraction and comparison of data is very straightforward across the study area.

#### 3.8.1.1 National Mapping Programme

The initial Yorkshire and Humber study area was accompanied by an NMP project undertaken by Alison Deegan and Archaeological Services WYAS between May 2006 and May 2007 (Deegan 2007). The NMP study area covered 332 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 240 km<sup>2</sup>

comprised coastal hinterland and 92 km<sup>2</sup> lay between the coastline and the Mean Low Water Mark. Recording was undertaken directly into the then NMR's AMIE database, with the records informing the wider RCZAS programme. In this fashion, 577 new monument records were created and an additional 466 existing records updated and amended.

When the RCZAS project area was extended to incorporate the rest of the Lincolnshire coast, it was not necessary to extend the area of the NMP survey accordingly. The paper-based Lincolnshire NMP had been completed between July 1992 and March 1997, although this did not examine the area of the Lincolnshire Fens, meaning that the available mapping ended to the north of Gibraltar Point (Kershaw 1997).

### 3.8.1.2 Whitby to Reighton

The Phase 1 study of the coast from Whitby and Reighton was undertaken between September 2007 and February 2008 (Buglass and Brigham 2008b). The study area comprised an approximately 50 km-long strip of coast, which included the mouth of the River Esk, and encompassed the intertidal zone and coastal hinterland for a distance of up to 1 km inland. In total, the report described and located 779 records, which are presented in parish gazetteers, with cross-references to HER and NMR AMIE records where appropriate. Overall, around 431 entries were previously unknown to the North Yorkshire County Council and North Yorkshire Moors National Park HERs, including the results of the NMP survey which were primarily entered into the NMR AMIE database and exported to the project GIS.

### 3.8.1.3 Bempton to Donna Nook

The Phase 1 study of the coast from Bempton in the East Riding of Yorkshire to Donna Nook in Lincolnshire was undertaken between April 2006 and May 2007 (Brigham, Buglass and George 2008). The study area included the banks of the Humber estuary as far upstream as Sunk Island and Grimsby. This phase of the project described and located 2,264 records, 1,864 in the East Riding area and 400 in Lincolnshire/North East Lincolnshire. Of these, over 600 entries were new to the local SMRs/HERs and were principally derived from NMR AMIE records, including the results of the NMP survey.

### 3.8.1.4 Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point

The Phase 1 study of the stretch of Lincolnshire coast between Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point was undertaken between July and October 2007 (Buglass and Brigham 2008a). As was discussed above, this project area was able to utilise pre-existing NMP transcriptions held by the Lincolnshire HER, rather than commissioning new work. This phase described

and located 470 records, of which 83 entries were new to both the Lincolnshire HER and the NMR. A further 155 entries derived from the NMR AMIE database were not in the HER database, primarily Second World War defensive structures and shipwrecks.

### 3.8.1.5 Gibraltar Point to Sutton Bridge

The Phase 1 study of the stretch of Lincolnshire Wash coast between Gibraltar Point and Sutton Bridge on the Norfolk border was undertaken between May and July 2007 (Buglass and Brigham 2007). Due to the area having largely been reclaimed during the later post-medieval to modern periods, the Lincolnshire Fens were not covered during the Lincolnshire NMP, so instead approximately 100 vertical aerial photographs, primarily dating from the Second World War, were examined as part of the Phase 1 in this study area. This project described and located 235 records, of which 96 were new to the Lincolnshire HER and the then NMR. A further 45 entries in the NMR database were not in the HER, again principally related to Second World War defensive structures.

## 3.8.2 Phase 2

Each of the four desk-based assessment reports for the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS was followed by a complementary Phase 2 study. Although a series of rapid field visits was undertaken on sites and areas identified during the desk-based phase of the work, Phase 2 of the project comprised a field survey to assess the condition of known archaeological monuments on the coast and identify sites not previously recorded. Photographic surveys of the coast were also undertaken as part of this work.

As with Phase 1, the reports followed a parish-by-parish structure, presenting updated historic environment summaries informed by the field survey and tabulating the risk/threat assessments made as part of the process. Extensive gazetteers of heritage assets were included, with updates and amendments clearly marked, and each report was extensively illustrated with maps and several hundred photographs.

### 3.8.2.1 Whitby to Reighton

The Phase 2 field survey was undertaken in November 2009 and June/July 2010 (Buglass and Brigham 2011). The survey resulted in 242 new monuments or findspots being added to HERs and four Phase 1 records removed as identifiable duplicates. A small number of records were transferred to a different parish. The report also provides details of the updated risk/threat assessments for the monuments within each parish, and makes a series of thematic and site-specific recommendations for further investigation and fieldwork, some which were picked up in 'Phase 3' of the RCZAS.

### 3.8.2.2 Bempton to Donna Nook

The field survey of this stretch of coast was undertaken in December 2009, with additional visits in February 2010 (Brigham and Jobling 2011). In total, 134 new monuments or find spots were added as a result of the Phase 2 survey, although some of these were derived from existing monuments. Due to the much smaller number of records under discussion, the report concentrated on the condition of individual monuments which were visited and the updated risk factor associated with each. Again, a comprehensive list of thematic and site-specific recommendations for further investigation and fieldwork was also included.

### 3.8.2.3 Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point

The Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point field survey was undertaken in October 2010, and resulted in the addition of 35 new sites and the revision of many existing records (Jobling and Brigham 2010a). A number of duplicate or erroneous records were identified and deleted or amended, with several transferred to different parishes. Results were summarised and contextualised, with thematic and site-specific recommendations for further investigation and fieldwork also included.

### 3.8.2.4 Gibraltar Point to Sutton Bridge

The field survey of the banks of the Wash and its immediate hinterland was undertaken in October 2009 (Jobling and Brigham 2010b). Only 13 new sites were identified, but the majority of the existing records were revised to provide updated information on the condition of monuments and the severity of any perceived threat to their survival. Recommendations for further investigation and fieldwork were also made.

## 3.8.3 Phase 3

The list of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS reports published by Murphy (2014) includes the eight reports referred to above pertaining to Phases 1 and 2 for each of the four study areas. Since the completion of Murphy's text, however, a series of additional reports has been produced as part of 'Phase 3' of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS. Some, but not all, of these reports are currently available through the Historic England website (issues of access are considered in more detail later in this report).

Seven of the reports present the results of a comprehensive programme of more targeted fieldwork and assessment of sites identified during Phases 1 and 2 as warranting further study. Specifically, these surveys are:

- drawn and photographic surveys of First World War 1 and selected Second World War monuments undertaken in May and June 2012 (Brigham, Buglass and Jobling 2013);
- site survey of and re-evaluation of documentary and cartographic sources pertaining to Flamborough's medieval harbour, undertaken in July 2012 (Brigham and Fraser 2013);
- an historical audit and field survey of Bridlington Harbour and waterfront area, undertaken between May and October 2012 (Brigham and Jobling 2013a);
- an historical audit and field survey of Scarborough harbour and waterfront area, undertaken in July and November 2012 and January 2013 (Buglass and Brigham 2013a);
- an historical audit and field survey of Whitby Harbour, undertaken in 2012 (Buglass and Brigham 2013b);
- field survey and historical assessment of two former industrial sites – Cayton Cliff Mill and quarry sites on Filey Brigg – undertaken in 2012 (Buglass and Brigham 2012);
- site investigation and assessment of four principal areas of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance – Barmston Mere, Skipsea Withow Mere and Kilnsea/Spurn Point in the East Riding of Yorkshire, and the 'Humber Forest', Cleethorpes, in North-East Lincolnshire – undertaken in 2012 and 2013 (Brigham and Jobling 2013);

The eighth Phase 3 volume, the final product of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, presents a summary overview of Phases 1 to 3 of the project which can be used in isolation, but is also intended to offer a point of entry to the more detailed project reports (Brigham 2014). Themes explored in the volume include: early exploitation, settlement and land use; industry; fishing; ports, harbours and shipbuilding; military installations; and tourism.

To date, the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS is the only project to have completed the full RCZAS programme, from Phase 1 assessments through to detailed Phase 3 fieldwork, and its outputs are notable for being consistently structured and laid out. All of the relevant data are clearly presented, with supporting data sets archived with the ADS and returned to the relevant HERs for data integration.



**Recommendation 10:** The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS should be heralded as a model of best practice for the RCZAS programme, from Phase 1 assessments through to detailed Phase 3 fieldwork, archiving and HER integration.

**Recommendation 11:** The assessments produced for the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coasts.

## 3.9 North East RCZAS

The North East RCZAS (NERCZA) was undertaken between 2007 and 2010 across a study area extending northwards from Whitby to Berwick-upon-Tweed. The study area comprised approximately 200 km of coastline and encompassed all of the land between the Lowest Astronomical Tide and 1 km inland from the Mean High Water Springs. The survey area also incorporated Coquet Island, the Farne Islands and Holy Island.

### 3.9.1 Phase 1

The first phase of the NERCZA was undertaken between March 2007 and December 2008 by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (Tolan-Smith 2008). The work comprised a desk-based assessment of the threat posed to heritage assets by rising sea levels and coastal erosion throughout the study area. The desk-based assessment was based on two main sources of data: existing HER data provided by local authorities within the study area and archaeological features transcribed from aerial photographs as part of the assessment process.

Aerial photographic coverage for 402 km<sup>2</sup> was examined and archaeological features transcribed to National Mapping Programme standards (Bacilieri *et al.* 2008). The project mapped archaeological sites varying in date and type from prehistoric enclosures to 20<sup>th</sup>-century military remains and resulted in the creation of monument records for 968 new sites, with a further 270 records being enhanced. Details of the mapped features were input to the then NMR's AMIE database and exported to the project GIS. Nearly 75% of the sites recorded dated from the Second World War and primarily comprised extant and former defensive structures, such as pillboxes, anti-tank obstacles and minefields.

In order to manage the archaeological data collected during the project, a bespoke GIS was developed, which brought together the HER data and aerial photograph transcription. The results of the desk-based assessment, incorporating the aerial survey, were presented in the report on a block-by-block basis, following the subdivisions of the study area created to manage the aerial photographic mapping process (Tolan-Smith 2008).

Due to the large size of the study area, the coverage areas of a number of different HERs fell within its boundaries, and where HER entries were referred to, individual reference numbers were cited. Detailed concordances of reference numbers, broken down by local authority areas, were included as appendices. The HERs included within the study area were: North Yorkshire County Council, the North York Moors National Park Authority, Tees Archaeology (for Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Hartlepool), Durham County Council, Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team (for South Tyneside and North Tyneside) and Northumberland County Council.

In addition to the HER data, all of the newly created records derived from the aerial survey were given NMR record numbers and were listed separately by local authority area in the appendices. Crucially, no attempt was made to allocate local HER numbers to these new records as part of the RCZAS process. The new data and GIS mapping were subsequently archived with the ADS and forwarded to the relevant HERs, and it was 'envisaged that the data obtained will be added to the databases of the various HERs within the project area', although this was not funded as part of the RCZAS project (Tolan-Smith 2008, 7). The extent to which this HER enhancement was achieved is a matter discussed further in the subsequent sections of this report which concern the legacy of the RCZAS datasets.

The Phase 1 report was produced in December 2008 (Tolan-Smith 2008), and is available from the HE publications page and the ADS. However, an Executive Summary of the project was issued in 2009, the frontmatter of which indicates that it superseded the 2008 version of the report (Johnson 2009a). Unlike the first iteration, the new Executive Summary did not provide synthetic overviews of the study area, details of the NMP survey or present information on every heritage asset; rather, it focussed on details of the sites considered by the project team to be most significant, with results being presented on the basis of the then-newly-published Shoreline Management Plan 2 policy units.

### 3.9.2 Phase 2

Phase 1 of the project identified numerous archaeological sites within the study area which faced an imminent threat from natural processes such as coastal erosion and rising sea levels. As Phase 2 of the NERCZA, Archaeological Research Services Ltd carried out field survey of fifteen of these threatened areas between September 2009 and February 2010, with the results being reported on and fed back into the study area's HERs (Burn 2010). As an adjunct to this project, a ground survey of the military archaeological remains surviving within the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty was also undertaken. In total, the field survey covered 142 km of coastline, identified and surveyed

609 features, and added 135 new records to the relevant HERs. This includes a further 100 Second World War sites identified within the Northumberland Coast AONB.

In addition to archaeological monuments, the NERCZA Phase 1 report highlighted four threatened sites that had been previously recorded as the location of inter-tidal peat deposits. Each of these sites, and one additional peat-deposit site, was mapped during the course of the field survey, and palaeoenvironmental sampling undertaken (Burn 2010).

During the course of Phase 2 several unexpected discoveries were made, including the identification of human burials eroding out of the cliff face at Low Hauxley (Northumberland) and an area of human and animal footprints impressed within a previously unknown inter-tidal peat, also at Low Hauxley. Separate, complementary reports were prepared on the Bronze Age burials and the results of previous archaeological interventions at Low Hauxley (Waddington 2010), and these were also incorporated into the survey. A further report on the footprints was produced in 2011, following their recording in December 2010 (Johnson and Waddington 2011).

**Recommendation 12:** The partnership working established as part of the North-East RCZAS, which enabled the extension of the survey area and brought academic input into the project, should be cited as opportunistic examples of collaboration which future projects might follow.

**Recommendation 13:** The assessments produced for the North-East RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the coast.

### 3.10 North West RCZAS

The North West RCZAS (NWRCZAS), which covered some 900 km of coast extending from the Anglo-Welsh border in the Dee Estuary to the Anglo-Scottish border in the Solway Firth, was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd between 2007 and 2012. The survey complemented, and ran in tandem with, much of their work on the North East RCZAS, and similarly encompassed all of the land between the Lowest Astronomical Tide and 1 km inland from the Mean High Water Springs.

#### 3.10.1 Phase 1

Phase 1 comprised a desk-based assessment and an NMP survey of the RCZAS area which had not been mapped previously. The Phase 1 desk-based assessment was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services between August 2007 and September 2009 (Johnson 2009b). The assessment drew on data held by the HERs maintained by or

for the Local Authorities with curatorial responsibilities for this section of the coast, specifically Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, Merseyside Archaeological Service, Lancashire County Council, Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park Authority.

The assessment was augmented by a programme of NMP air photographic transcription undertaken between November 2007 and May 2009 (Bacilieri *et al.* 2009). Mapping of features visible in air photos of the study area between the Dee Estuary to Maryport was undertaken by staff from Archaeological Research Services based at English Heritage's Aerial Survey unit in York, while the area between Maryport and the Anglo-Scottish border had been mapped previously as part of the Hadrian's Wall NMP (Boutwood 2005). The NMP project mapped and recorded 1,163 new archaeological sites, varying in date and type from prehistoric enclosures to 20<sup>th</sup>-century military remains, and enhanced a further 203 records. Nearly 75% of the sites recorded dated from the Second World War.

The final Phase 1 report presented a detailed overview of the archaeology of the whole north-west coastal zone, complemented by a series of more detailed sub-area assessments of the entire length of the coast. The summaries are supported by gazetteers of sites, broken down by local authority area, which are presented in the appendices. The report concluded with a series of recommendations for further work and a research agenda for the study area. The main desk-based assessment report is complemented by an Executive Summary, which assesses and evaluates the threats to heritage assets, major sites and groups of sites posed by sea level rise, sub-divided by SMP policy units (Johnson 2009c).

### 3.10.2 Phase 2

Between April 2011 and August 2012, Archaeological Research Services carried out a rapid survey of all extant archaeological features visible at 50 targeted sites and areas identified as being under threat by the Phase 1 assessment (Edie 2012a; 2012b). The Phase 2 project also surveyed and sampled inter-tidal peat deposits at an additional ten locations. During the course of the project, further at-risk sites and inter-tidal peat deposits were added to the survey as new areas were identified, or when information on threatened sites was provided by project partners and local people.

In total, the Phase 2 project identified and surveyed 248 features and added 164 new records to the HERs of Cheshire West and Chester, Merseyside, Lancashire, Cumbria and the Lake District National Park. Around one third of the recorded sites were post-medieval, providing evidence for the industrialisation of the north-west coast and its

use for the production and transport of raw materials and products. A further third related to the defence of the coastline during the First and Second World Wars. The remaining sites included prehistoric settlements, prehistoric human footprints, Iron Age hillforts, Roman roads and mile-fortlets, a Roman cemetery and medieval castles, churches and fish traps, the majority of which were already recorded, but the records for which were enhanced. Seven inter-tidal and coastal peat beds were mapped and sampled for palynological analysis and radiocarbon dating, resulting in the identification of peat exposures that are significantly earlier than previously dated sites (Edie 2012b).

Ultimately, the NWRCZAS project identified priority sites at risk from coastal erosion and suggested various management options for those sites at 'imminent risk'. All of the recorded sites were assessed with a view to defining the level of threat which they faced from coastal erosion, coastal erosion mitigation strategies and any other natural or anthropogenic threats to the site as observed during the Phase 2 survey (Edie 2012a). The resulting information forms a useful tool for land management and planners, as well as informing future SMPs so that they take into account the management of high-risk archaeological assets.

**Recommendation 14:** The assessments produced for the North-West RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the coast.

### 3.11 New Forest RCZAS

The New Forest RCZAS was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology between 2009 and 2011 and had a much tighter focus than many of the larger, regional RCZAS surveys. The study focussed on the stretch of the Hampshire coast within the area of the New Forest National Park Authority, bordering Dorset to the west and Southampton City to the east. The inland limit of the survey was 1.5 km from the high water line, including all land below +10m OD contour. The seaward boundary was the 6 nautical mile limit, but excluding the Isle of Wight.

#### 3.11.1 Phase 1

The Phase 1 desk-based assessment was undertaken by Wessex Archaeology between July 2009 and March 2010 (Wessex Archaeology 2010). For research and management purposes the coast was divided into five Stretches, with the main Phase 1 report presenting an overview of the development of the coast in general terms, with each

Stretch being reported on in more detail in the report's appendices. A gazetteer of all sites was also included in the appendices.

The desk-based research was greatly informed by NMP data created during the Hampshire Aggregate Resource Assessment NMP, undertaken by Cornwall County Council between March 2006 and March 2007 (Trevarthen 2010). This NMP project had characterised and analysed the historic environment of the New Forest and North West Solent Coastal Plain and identified 793 previously unrecognised archaeological features and enhanced a further 119 records.

The collated historic environment data were used to assess the threat to them posed by development pressures and coastal processes and their vulnerability, considered in conjunction with current and previous management strategies for the areas concerned. Finally, a series of key sites and locations across the five Stretches were identified as targets for the Phase 2 inter-tidal and near shore surveys.

### 3.11.2 Phase 2

The Phase 2 field assessment of the New Forest area was undertaken between 2010 and 2011 (Wessex Archaeology 2011b). The assessment sought to verify the data generated during Phase 1 and supplement the existing record with new discoveries. Field surveys were carried out on foot and by boat, with additional marine surveys carried out by dive teams. A low resolution side-scan sonar was used to survey the seabed in search of anomalies in the Western Solent in areas identified as having high archaeological potential. As part of the project remit, volunteers were able to participate in all aspects of the surveys, the first time that this was formally undertaken as part of the RCZAS Programme. Phase 2 also involved a geophysical and archaeological evaluation of Creek Cottage, a post-medieval salt boiling house, which allowed volunteers the opportunity to participate in an excavation. It had been hoped that a self-sustaining group of volunteers might be established beyond the end of the project, although this did not come to fruition.

In total, the Phase 2 assessment identified 436 new sites within the New Forest Coastal Stretches and characterised their archaeological significance and environmental vulnerability. The assessment also updated 74 existing records. A further five existing sites and five new sites were investigated within the marine zone. The report also indicated that the results of Phases 1 and 2 were intended to be amalgamated into a 'Phase 3' report, to be supplemented by a programme of outreach and dissemination, but at the time of writing no such report has been produced (Wessex Archaeology 2011b).

**Recommendation 15:** The inclusion of volunteers in the New Forest RCZAS fieldwork programme should be treated as a good example of public engagement for other RCZAS projects to follow.

**Recommendation 16:** The proposed 'Phase 3' report, setting out priorities for future work, should be revisited and its desirability assessed.

**Recommendation 17:** The assessments produced for the New Forest RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Hampshire coast.

### 3.12 South East RCZAS

The South-East of England was one of the last coastal areas to be addressed by the RCZAS programme, and the study area spans the entire south-east coast from Totton in the unitary authority of Southampton to North Foreland in Kent. In terms of county coverage, the survey area complemented the North Kent RCZAS undertaken by Wessex Archaeology some ten years previously. To date, the South East RCZAS has only comprised a Phase 1 desk-based assessment, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2013), which was informed by two NMP projects undertaken in parallel by Wessex Archaeology's own air photo interpretation team (Wessex Archaeology 2011a) and a partnership formed by Cornwall and Gloucestershire County Councils (Dickson *et al.* 2012).

#### 3.12.1 Phase 1

An NMP component has formed the basis for many of the recent RCZASs, providing detailed information about previously unrecorded sites, updating existing records, and identifying features that have been lost to coastal erosion or development. Given the overall size and complexity of the study area and the need for the NMP survey to be completed relatively early in the RCZAS process, the study area was divided up and different contractors appointed to undertake work in parallel.

The Wessex Archaeology team mapped parts of Hampshire and Kent between 2009 and 2011, with a pair of interpreters working on each area and inputting their results into standalone HBSMR databases produced for the respective county or city HERs: Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR), Portsmouth HER and Kent HER (Wessex Archaeology 2011a). Their project recorded new sites dating from the early prehistoric to the modern periods, with sites varying in form from prehistoric enclosures to Second World War military sites, shipwrecks to ridge and furrow. In total, 1,991

previously unrecorded sites were identified across the two study areas, and records for 1,195 existing sites were enhanced.

The Hampshire study area (Blocks B and C) fell within the areas administered by the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record (AHBR) and Portsmouth City SMR. It included Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Harbour and part of Chichester Harbour. Overall, 638 records were added – 333 in Hampshire and 305 in Portsmouth – and 482 records were enhanced: 466 in Hampshire and 16 in Portsmouth. The Kent Study area (Blocks L and M) lay entirely within the administrative area of the Kent HER. Over 700 new records were created and over 230 already existing records were enhanced.

In addition, the combined mapping of the Cornwall and Gloucestershire teams, undertaken in 2011, resulted in a total of 2,382 sites being mapped and recorded, of which 76% were previously unrecorded sites. The Cornwall County Council team mapped the western part of the study area (Blocks A, D, E and F), which bracketed the Hampshire area mapped by Wessex Archaeology, and included areas covered by Southampton HER, Hampshire AHBR, Chichester District HER and West Sussex HER (Dickson *et al.* 2012). The Gloucestershire County Council team mapped the central and eastern part of the study area (Blocks G, H, J and K), excluding areas surveyed during previous NMP projects, and included areas covered by West Sussex, East Sussex (including Brighton) and Kent HERs. In total, 749 new HER records were created for these areas: 37 in West Sussex, 371 in East Sussex and 341 in Kent. An additional 280 records were updated: 3 in West Sussex, 166 in East Sussex and 111 in Kent (Dickson *et al.* 2012). Of particular note is the large number of Second World War sites across both surveys; within the Cornwall survey team's area (Blocks A, D, E and F), 46% of new sites related to Second World War activity, while for the Gloucestershire team's survey area (Blocks G, H, J and K) 92.5% date from this period.

The results of the NMP surveys undertaken by all three contractors fed directly into the Phase 1 desk-based assessment of the entire South East RCZAS study area which was produced by Wessex Archaeology in 2013 (Wessex Archaeology 2013). In order to provide a proper context for the coastal strip, the complete study area extended from the six nautical mile limit offshore to the 5m OD contour inland, generating an overall area of 4,009 km<sup>2</sup>. For ease of management, the area was divided into 18 Coastal Stretches, to provide opportunity for local examination of the historic environment assets and threats particular to each area. Seventeen of these stretches comprised areas of land between the 5m contour and the Low Water Mark, while the final stretch comprised the entire marine environment from the Low Water Mark to the 6 nautical mile limit – more than half of the study area.



The South East RCZAS report provides a summary of the geological background of the south-east coast, and presents a general chronological overview of the historic environment of the terrestrial and marine study area and an appraisal of the archaeological potential and importance of the coastal historic environment. The report evaluates the threat and vulnerability to the historic environment from natural and anthropogenic causes, and identifies sites at high risk of damage or destruction. The final section of the report makes reference to its informing the Phase 2 fieldwork and puts forward a series of recommendations for future fieldwork within the study area. However, as at the time of writing (July 2019), the Phase 2 fieldwork has not been commissioned by Historic England.

**Recommendation 18:** The proposed Phase 2 fieldwork within the South East RCZAS study area should be revisited and its desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme.

### 3.13 South West RCZAS

The latest of the RCZAS schemes to be initiated is that relating to the South West of England, an area which was initially given a low priority due to the nature of its predominantly hard coastal landscape and consequent relatively low threat from coastal erosion. Finding that large-scale study areas, such as the South East, can lead to logistical difficulties and a slower timescale for completion, the decision was taken to divide the South West RCZAS area into the peninsula's north and south coasts, with each coast subsequently being sub-divided further along largely along county lines.

#### 3.13.1 South Coast: Dorset II

Having been subject to a Phase 1 RCZAS desk-based assessment in 2004 (Wessex Archaeology 2004), in recent years the South Dorset coast has been subject to a second Phase 1 survey as Component 1 of the ongoing South-West RCZAS. This was primarily because, as has been seen, there was no existing NMP survey data at the time of the initial survey and, although aerial photographs were studied during the original survey, full NMP did not form part of the programme. The new Dorset Phase 1 therefore comprises an NMP survey and desk-based assessment.

The NMP survey of the coastal zone was undertaken by the Cornwall Council Historic Environment team between March and November 2013 (Royall 2014). In order to enable direct data entry into the Dorset HER, the team were given remote access to the HER database. The NMP survey mapped and recorded 1,303 new sites and a further 431

existing records were updated. Of particular note is the fact that almost a third of all sites recorded were attributed to the post-medieval period or the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century, almost all of which were new to the HER.

Following the NMP survey, a second Phase 1 desk-based assessment of the Dorset coast was undertaken by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and Bournemouth University as part of the wider South-West RCZAS in 2014 (Johns *et al.* 2015). This project assessed the surviving remains along the open coast and its tidal estuaries, including the intertidal zone out to Lowest Astronomical Tide with a 1 km hinterland to the landward side of Mean High Water and extending up estuaries to 1 km beyond the tidal extent. The study area was sub-divided according to the Policy Development Zones (PDZs) and Policy Scenario Areas (PSAs) set out in the local Shoreline Management Plans, and these units used to assess the natural and anthropomorphic threats posed to the historic environment. Finally, research priorities and themes identified by the desk-based assessment were presented in the context of the regional themes and research aims set out in the South West Archaeological Research Framework.

In total, the desk-based assessment recorded more than 980 new sites and updated another 143 records for sites already recorded in the HER, over and above those identified by the NMP. Again, remote access arrangements meant that data could be entered directly into the HER database. The new sites included four possible Early Bronze Age barrows, a possible medieval rabbit warren, medieval or post-medieval strip lynchets, a mill and a coastal battery, in addition to 656 new post-medieval sites and 307 new modern sites.

**Recommendation 19:** The remote access arrangements enabling direct data entry into the Dorset HER should be cited as an example of best practice for other projects to follow.

**Recommendation 20:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the Dorset RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme.

### 3.13.2 South Coast: South Devon Coast

The Phase 1 element of the south Devon coast part of the South West RCZAS was undertaken by AC Archaeology between 2013 and 2016. The study area comprised a coastal and estuarine strip along the South Devon coast between the Dorset border in the east and the western parish of Wembury, which adjoins the Plymouth City unitary authority area. Plymouth City was not included in the survey. The study area includes the

intertidal zone to lowest astronomical tide, the coastal strand and the immediate coastal hinterland, which was generally taken to be all 1 km National Grid Squares contiguous with, or overlapping, the coast and estuary shorelines.

As Component 1 of Phase 1, an NMP survey of the south Devon coast was carried out between April 2013 and June 2014 by staff from AC Archaeology hosted by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (Hegarty *et al.* 2014). The project staff worked straight into the Devon HER database, making their results instantly available to inform archaeological planning and management advice. In total, 1,103 new records were added to the HER, with an additional 398 existing records enhanced. The majority of monument records amended or created by the survey relate to the military or defensive role of the coast.

The NMP survey was followed by Component 2, a desk-based assessment, which was completed by AC Archaeology between April 2015 and January 2016 (Pink 2016). A total of 2,471 new records of heritage assets was created during the assessment, with an additional 1,059 existing records enhanced.

The report provides summaries of the known archaeology within the intertidal zone and its immediate hinterland. The HER data is also used to assess the vulnerability of historic and archaeological sites along the South Devon coast based on models of future coastal change within the relevant part of the Durlston Head to Rame Head Shoreline Management Plan. The research themes and priorities identified by the desk-based assessment are discussed with reference to the South West Archaeological Research Framework. Finally, the assessment identified specific sites and areas which would benefit from further investigative fieldwork, with a view to informing a future programme of Phase 2 fieldwork.

**Recommendation 21:** The hosting of project staff by the local authority to enable direct data entry into the Devon HER should be cited as an example of best practice for other projects to follow.

**Recommendation 22:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the South Devon RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme.

### 3.13.3 North Coast: Exmoor National Park

A Phase 1 desk-based assessment of the north Devon coast within Exmoor National Park was undertaken by AC Archaeology and Exmoor National Park Authority between April

2016 and November 2017 (Pink 2018). The survey area covered the intertidal zone from the Mean Low Water Mark to 1km inland of the Mean High Water Mark, with an extension beyond the 1km buffer to include an area at risk of flooding to the south of Bossington. The survey area overlapped slightly with that of the Severn Estuary RCZAS to the east, but was re-surveyed for the sake of the completeness of the Exmoor survey.

The assessment was able to build upon the results of the Exmoor NMP survey undertaken between March 2007 and July 2009, albeit not under the auspices of the RCZAS programme (Hegarty and Toms 2009). In total, 350 new HER records were created as a result of the Exmoor RCZAS project. The report also appraised the significance of all of the heritage assets within the project area, and assessed these in the context of the preferred policy options within the draft Shoreline Management Plan. Finally, a series of research themes and future research priorities for the Exmoor coast were identified with a view to informing Phase 2 of the survey.

**Recommendation 23:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the Exmoor National Park RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme.

#### 3.13.4 South Coast: South Cornwall Coast

The Phase 1 component of the RCZAS for the south coast of Cornwall was undertaken by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and Coastal and Offshore Archaeological Research Services (COARS), University of Southampton, between 2017 and 2018 (Johns *et al.* 2019). The study area extended from Land's End in the west to the county boundary with Devon in the east, and also included Plymouth and the Tamar Estuaries in west Devon, making the survey area contiguous with the South Devon Coast assessment described above. The study area proper ranged from the Lowest Astronomical Tide to 1 km inland of Mean High Water and extending within estuaries to 1 km beyond their tidal extent. However, the survey area was also extended to 1km below MHW, with bathymetric data being used for the first time in the RCZAS in order to map the locations of potential wreck sites and understand better how the coast has evolved and changed due to rising sea-levels since the end of the Pleistocene. In this regard, the project echoed the approach taken to the recording of wrecks during the Isles of Scilly RCZAS in 2003–04, the results of which are recorded in the same HER.

No NMP survey was undertaken, as the entirety of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly was previously the subject of a large-scale NMP project conducted between January 1994 and

September 2006, the results of which were fully integrated into the Cornwall and Scilly HER (Young 2007).

The desk-based assessment was undertaken using a stand-alone GIS, which was subsequently used to generate the details necessary to inform the enhancement of the region's HERs. For ease of assessment and to ensure compatibility with other coastal policies, the project area was sub-divided according to the Policy Scenario Areas (PSAs) and the Policy Development Zones (PDZs) set out in the local Shoreline Management Plans. Overall, the project created 2,603 new HER records – 2,294 for Cornwall, 82 for Devon and 227 for Plymouth – and amended a further 134 existing records. Data integration was carried out as part of the project by members of the Devon and Plymouth HER teams, while the project team were able to enter data directly into the Cornwall and Scilly HER.

The desk-based assessment summarises the known archaeology within the units of the study area and assesses the vulnerability of historic and archaeological sites along the South Cornwall coast to natural and anthropogenic threats. A series of research themes and priorities is identified and discussed with reference to the South West Archaeological Research Framework, and specific sites and areas which would benefit from further investigative fieldwork identified, with a view to informing a future programme of Phase 2 fieldwork.

**Recommendation 24:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the South Cornwall RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme.

### 3.13.5 North Coast: North Cornwall and North Devon Coast

The Phase 1 component of the RCZAS for the North Cornwall and North Devon coast was undertaken by Coastal and Offshore Archaeological Research Services (COARS), University of Southampton, between 2017 and 2018, although only a draft report was available at the time of writing (Grant *et al.* 2019).

This survey area stretched from Land's End in the west of Cornwall to Combe Martin in Devon, on the western boundary of the Exmoor National Park, and also included the island of Lundy in the Bristol Channel. Inland coverage extended to 1 km from Mean High Water along the coast and 2km inland along the Taw–Torrige, Camel and Hayle estuaries. Offshore extension was up to 25 km utilising available bathymetric data from the Marine and Coastguard Agency Civil Hydrography Programme.

Again, no new NMP was necessary, as the survey was complemented by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly aerial mapping project (Young 2007), and the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty NMP Project carried out by AC Archaeology and Devon County Council between December 2011 and February 2013 (Knight and Hegarty 2013).

The assessment methodology mirrored that of the South Cornwall coast, in that a stand-alone GIS was used, which subsequently informed HER enhancement, and the project area was sub-divided according to the PSAs and the PDZs set out in the local Shoreline Management Plans. Overall, the project created 2,859 new HER records – 1,610 for Cornwall, 1,249 for Devon – and amended a further 4,898 existing records. Data integration was carried out as part of the project by members of the Devon HER team and the Cornwall Archaeological Unit entered data into the Cornwall and Scilly HER.

Following the established model of the more recent RCZAS reports, the desk-based assessment summarises the known archaeology within the units of the study area and assesses the vulnerability of historic and archaeological sites along the North Cornwall and North Devon coast to natural and anthropogenic threats. A series of research themes and priorities is identified and discussed with reference to the South West Archaeological Research Framework, and specific areas which would benefit from further investigative fieldwork identified, with a view to informing a future programme of Phase 2 fieldwork.

**Recommendation 25:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the North Cornwall and North Devon RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme.

### 3.14 Inner Humber Estuary

In early 2018, Historic England commissioned Cornwall Archaeological Unit to undertake a RCZAS Phase 1 desk-based assessment and NMP survey for the Inner Humber Estuary. The study area extends from Grimsby/Sunk Island in the east, making it contiguous with the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, to Trent Falls in the west, and incorporates all of the land between the Low Water Mark and a 1 km-wide corridor inland of Mean High Water. The NMP survey area, which comprises whole Ordnance Survey map grid squares, covers a slightly larger area and is complemented by the Vale of York NMP and Yorkshire Wolds aerial mapping survey, which overlap with the upper reaches of the Humber.

The Inner Humber Estuary project is due to run from 2018 until 2020, and its completion will mark the point at which the entire length of the English coast, with the exception of the Inner Thames Estuary, will have been subject to RCZAS Phase 1 survey and analysis.

RCZAS	Active Dates	Contractor	Project Area	Seaward Extent	Inland Extent	RCZAS Phases	NMP Coverage	HER(s) Covered	HER: New	HER: Enhanced	Data Integration	ADS
Isle of Wight Coastal Audit	1998–2000	Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service	Entire IoW coast and estuaries	Mean Low Water Mark	2070 benefits line (IoW SMP)	Phase 1 DBA Phase 2 Survey	Still required	Isle of Wight	1,128	Unknown	In house; in HER	No
Essex RCZAS (and monitoring)	1999–2004	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit	Targeted sites and areas of Essex coast	N/A	N/A	Phase 2 Survey & Monitoring	Pre-RCZAS	Essex	241	9	In house; in HER	No
Norfolk RCZAS	1999–2005	Norfolk Archaeological Unit	Entire Norfolk coastal corridor	Mean Low Water Mark	Intertidal zone, with nine inland survey areas.	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP Phase 2 Survey (incomplete)	Phase 1	Norfolk	>3,608	>175	NMP in house, in HER. Phase 2 not added.	No
Suffolk RCZAS	1999–2007	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service	Suffolk coastal parishes and low lying areas	Mean Low Water Mark	Whole coastal parishes and low-lying areas	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP Phase 2 Survey Phase 2a Dating	Phase 1	Suffolk	>1500	>300	In house, not entirely in HER	No
North Kent RCZAS	1999–2006	Wessex Archaeology	North Kent coast	Mean Low Water Mark	5m aOD contour	Phase 1 DBA Phase 2 Survey (incomplete)	Pre-RCZAS	Kent	2,466	>825	Data passed to HER	No
Dorset RCZAS	2003–2004	Wessex Archaeology	Entire Dorset coast	6 nautical miles	1 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA	Post-RCZAS	Dorset	3,663	Unknown	Data passed to HER.	No
Isles of Scilly RCZAS	2003–2004	Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service	Entire IoS coastline	12 nautical miles	10m inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA	Pre-RCZAS	Cornwall & Scilly	816	340	In house, in HER	No
Severn Estuary RCZAS	2005–2013	Gloucestershire County Council & Somerset County Council	English side of Severn Estuary from Somerset to Gloucestershire	Lowest Astronomical Tide	1 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP Phase 1 Lidar Assessment Phase 2 Fieldwork Phase 2a Dating	Pre-RCZAS; Phase 1	Gloucestershire; South Glos.; Bristol; North Somerset; Somerset.	>928	>373	NMP into AMIE. DBA & survey data passed to HERs. N Somerset not integrated.	No
Yorkshire & Lincolnshire RCZAS	2006–2014	Humber Field Archaeology	Entire Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coasts, including outer Humber Estuary	Mean Low Water Mark	1 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP Phase 2 Survey Phase 3 Fieldwork	Pre-RCZAS; Phase 1	North Yorkshire; Humber; North York Moors; Lincolnshire; North-East Lincs.	>1,834	>2,074	NMP into AMIE. Data passed to HERs	Yes
North East RCZAS	2007–2010	Archaeological Research Services Ltd	Whitby to Berwick-upon-Tweed, including Coquet Island, Farne Islands & Holy Island.	Lowest Astronomical Tide	1 km inland of Mean High Water Springs	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP Phase 2 Survey	Phase 1	North Yorkshire; North York Moors; Tees Archaeology; Durham; Tyne & Wear; Northumberland.	1,103	>270	NMP into AMIE; Data passed to HERs. Durham & Northd not integrated.	Yes
North West RCZAS	2007–2012	Archaeological Research Services Ltd	Dee Estuary to Solway Firth	Lowest Astronomical Tide	1 km inland of Mean High Water Springs	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP Phase 2 Survey	Pre-RCZAS; Phase 1	Cheshire West & Chester; Merseyside; Lancashire; Cumbria; Lake District NP.	>1,327	>287	NMP into AMIE; Data passed to HERs. Cheshire & Cumbria not integrated.	No
New Forest RCZAS	2009–2011	Wessex Archaeology	New Forest National Park coast	6 nautical miles	1.5 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA Phase 2 Survey	Pre-RCZAS	Hampshire	436	74	Data passed to HER	No
South East RCZAS	2009–2013	Wessex Archaeology	Hampshire and Sussex coasts and south Kent coast to North Foreland.	6 nautical miles	5m aOD contour	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP	Phase 1	Hampshire; Southampton; Portsmouth City; West Sussex; East Sussex; Kent.	>3,800	>1,766	NMP in standalone HERs. Not able to be reintegrated.	No
Dorset RCZAS II	2013–2015	Cornwall Archaeological Unit & University of Bournemouth	Entire Dorset coast	Lowest Astronomical Tide	1 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP	Phase 1	Dorset	2,283	574	NMP and DBA via remote access to HER.	Yes
South Devon RCZAS	2013–2016	AC Archaeology	South Devon coast, excluding Plymouth City.	Lowest Astronomical Tide	Coastal 1 km National Grid squares	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP	Phase 1	Devon	3,574	1,457	NMP and DBA staff hosted by HER.	No
Exmoor RCZAS	2016–2017	AC Archaeology & Exmoor National Park Authority	Exmoor National Park coast	Mean Low Water Mark	1 km inland of High Water Mark + extension	Phase 1 DBA	Pre-RCZAS	Exmoor National Park	350	Unknown	Input into Exmoor National Park HER	No
South Cornwall RCZAS	2017–2018	Cornwall Archaeological Unit & University of Southampton	South Cornwall coast and Plymouth City.	Lowest Astronomical Tide	1 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA	Pre-RCZAS	Cornwall; Plymouth City; Devon.	2,603	134	Input by HER staff (Plym. & Devon) and project team (Corn).	Yes
North Cornwall & North Devon RCZAS	2017–2019	University of Southampton	North Cornwall and north Devon coasts, excluding Exmoor, and Lundy Island.	25 km from Mean Low Water Mark	1 km inland of High Water Mark; 2 km in estuaries.	Phase 1 DBA	Pre-RCZAS	Cornwall; Devon.	2,859	4,898	Input by Devon HER staff and Cornwall Archaeological Unit..	No
Inner Humber Estuary RCZAS	2019–	Cornwall Archaeological Unit	Inner Humber Estuary	Mean Low Water Mark	1 km inland of High Water Mark	Phase 1 DBA Phase 1 NMP	Phase 1	Humber	-	-	-	-

Figure 4. Tabulated summary of key data pertaining to the individual projects which make up the RCZAS programme, as at August 2019.





### 3.15 Discussion

The project summaries presented here, together with the Gantt charts in Figures 2 and 3 and the table in Figure 4, provide an overview of the significant progress made by the RCZAS programme since its inception in the late 1990s. After 20 years, the national coverage of Phase 1 of the RCZAS programme is nearing completion, having been implemented on a piecemeal basis in response to a range of different factors. Once the ongoing survey work in the inner Humber Estuary concludes, with the exception of the upper reaches of the Thames, the entire English coastline will have been subject to detailed archaeological desk-based assessment, in most cases incorporating or augmented by a complementary NMP survey. This is a significant achievement, which has transformed our understanding of the coastal historic environment, and deserves to be celebrated.

**Recommendation 26:** The completion of Phase 1 coverage of the English coast should be used as an opportunity to celebrate the success of the RCZAS programme and raise its profile within the heritage sector and beyond.

The Phase 1 desk-based assessments are complemented by the fieldwork undertaken as part of RCZAS Phase 2, which enables identified sites to be ground-truthed and their condition and context assessed in a manner not possible via desk-based assessment alone. In addition, Phase 2 fieldwork often results in the identification of numerous sites and artefacts which fall outside the range detectable via desk-based assessment, greatly adding to our knowledge of coastal heritage assets. Both the verification of Phase 1 offered by Phase 2 fieldwork and the new data which Phase 2 generates in its own right should be seen as a crucial parts of the RCZAS process, and the completion of Phase 2 fieldwork along the length of the English coastline should remain a priority for the programme.

At the time of writing, Phase 2 fieldwork is virtually complete north of a line drawn from North Somerset to the Thames Estuary, and much less so across England south of that line. Those RCZAS areas for which Phase 2 fieldwork has not yet commenced are highlighted in the discussions above and in the Gantt chart in Figure 3. Where the Phase 1 assessments for these areas have already been completed, area-specific proposals for Phase 2 fieldwork have been made as part of that process and it has already been recommended that these proposals are reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. Following the example of the New Forest RCZAS fieldwork programme, it is recommended that these projects should be seen as an

opportunity to include volunteers in the survey work and engage with the wider public, as well as potentially forging links with other volunteer-led projects such as CITIZAN.

In addition to new fieldwork, several tasks remain outstanding for the completion of several existing Phase 2 surveys, for example the post-fieldwork analysis and synthesis of the Norfolk Phase 2 data remains incomplete, while several areas of the north Kent coast remain to be surveyed. These have also been highlighted above.

**Recommendation 27:** The importance of Phase 2 fieldwork should continue to be recognised and the remaining Phase 2 projects commissioned as a matter of priority in order to bring the RCZAS to a suitable conclusion, with the aim of the entire length of the coastline having been subjected to Phase 2 study.

As well as the project-specific recommendations highlighted throughout this chapter, this assessment of the RCZAS programme as a group of projects has also highlighted a number of cross-cutting issues concerning working practices, which also merit consideration here.

In line with English Heritage/Historic England practice, each of the stages of the RCZAS programme was put out to tender and consequently the process resulted in a number of different contracting organisations undertaking the survey work across the country. Some of these organisations were local to their study areas, while others had national interests and worked on a number of different surveys. Each project encountered difficulties, but on balance, it seems that the projects which were conducted by in-house local authority teams and/or archaeological contractors based within or with good knowledge of the study area were the most successful in terms of achieving the aims and objectives of the work.

Notably, as the programme has developed, certain contractors, such as the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, have begun to specialise in the delivery of RCZAS projects, which has the added benefit of compatibility and comparability of methods and approaches employed across different parts of the country. The use of experienced specialist contractors of this kind is particularly beneficial to the RCZAS programme, and is especially important to the aerial investigation and mapping components of projects, in which the need for experienced air photos interpreters is a key requirement.

**Recommendation 28:** The importance of local knowledge, professional networks and specialist expertise with the local HERs and the wider RCZAS programme should be stressed in the commissioning of any future RCZAS projects.

The kinds of local knowledge and working relationships described above were especially important with regard to ensuring close integration and data-exchange with the relevant HERs. Again, as the RCZAS programme has developed, a number of different approaches to this aspect of the work have been taken, with varying degrees of success. Many of the earlier projects saw contractors working on stand-alone versions of HER data, with little or no consideration given to data reintegration, while many of the more recent projects have explored different ways of achieving the required standards of data integration, including the provision of remote access directly into HER databases (a technological innovation in its relative infancy during the earlier stages of the RCZAS programme) and the hosting of project staff by the relevant HER teams. The issue of data integration, together with the archiving of project data, are considered further in the next section of this report.

**Recommendation 29:** It is important that future commissions give due consideration and resource to the issue of data integration into the relevant HERs and the archiving of project data in a publicly accessible manner.

## 4 Accessing RCZAS Information

As is apparent from the summary of the RCZAS projects presented in the previous section, during the past 20 years the RCZAS programme has produced a considerable number of outputs. Each phase of an RCZAS project comprises at least two main products: one or more written reports detailing the methodology and its results, and the raw project data. The latter might comprise photographs, mapping and monument records for the heritage assets identified during the process, and as the RCZAS programme has developed there has been a sharp increase in the quantity of digital archive data produced, primarily in the form of GIS mapping, databases and digital photography. This section examines the presentation and archiving of these outputs, and the ease with which they can be located, with a view to understanding how they are being discovered and accessed. It also makes recommendations as to how such resources might be made more accessible in the future.

The first stage of this assessment considers the ease with which interested individuals can locate information about the RCZAS programme, with a view to finding out more about the overall programme and the individual projects of which it is made up.

### 4.1 Search Engine Websites

It is considered that the most likely way anyone wishing to find out about the RCZAS programme will begin is via an internet search engine. While there are many different search engines available, the market is dominated by a few key websites. To take one example, in terms of UK market share for internet searches undertaken during November 2018, Google had the highest percentage with 89.1% of searches, followed by Bing (6.76%), Yahoo! (2.25%) and MSN (1.08%), although the latter links through to Bing. The remaining 0.81% comprises a variety of minor search engines.<sup>5</sup>

In order to gauge the ease with which relevant webpages might be located, sample searches for the term 'RCZAS' and phrase 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' were conducted on the top three search engines, and the results are discussed below. Each search engine uses different criteria and algorithms to retrieve and rank their results, and the page order fluctuates over time as a result of numerous different factors. As a consequence, each produces a different pattern of page results, but there are a few key sites which recur across all platforms. All test searches were conducted on 10 December 2018.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/280269/market-share-held-by-search-engines-in-the-united-kingdom/>, accessed 10 December 2018.



The image shows a Google search results page for the query "Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey". The search bar at the top contains the query and shows "About 6,310 results (0.38 seconds)". Below the search bar are navigation tabs for "All", "News", "Images", "Shopping", "Maps", "More", "Settings", and "Tools".

The search results are as follows:

- Scholarly articles for "Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey"**
  - Severn estuary **rapid coastal zone assessment survey** - Crowther - Cited by 4
  - ... Estuary **Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey** - Chadwick - Cited by 3
  - A climate of fear: Recent British policy and ... - Flatman - Cited by 15
- CITIZAN - Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments (RCZAs)**
  - <https://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas/>
  - North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Air Survey Mapping Report. English Heritage National Mapping Programme. Historic environment Enabling ...
- South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase 1: Desk ...**
  - <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/.../se-rczas-phase1-desk-based-assessment...>
  - 1 Feb 2013 - Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage (now Historic England) to undertake a Phase 1 Desk-based Rapid Coastal Zone ...
- Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase One Desk-based ...**
  - <https://historicengland.org.uk/.../rczas-phase-one-desk-based-assess-sw-england-south-...>
  - 21 Sep 2015 - This report forms the first-desk based assessment- phase of a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of the historic environment of Dorset's ...
- Project details for: Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**
  - [finds.org.uk/research/projects/project/id/480](https://finds.org.uk/research/projects/project/id/480)
  - Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Principal investigator: Kieran Westley Level: Desk based assessment. Coastal and Offshore Archaeological Research ...
- Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England | Our ...**
  - <https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/.../rapid-coastal-zone-assessment-survey-south-east-eng...>
  - Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by English Heritage to carry out a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England. The aims are ...
- North Devon and Cornwall Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey ...**
  - [blog.soton.ac.uk/.../north-devon-and-cornwall-rapid-coastal-zone-assessment-survey-r...](http://blog.soton.ac.uk/.../north-devon-and-cornwall-rapid-coastal-zone-assessment-survey-r...)
  - 21 May 2015 - COARS are delighted to announce that they have been selected by Historic England to undertake a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey ...
- Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire: Overview**
  - [archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksrcza\\_ah\\_2009/overview.cfm](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksrcza_ah_2009/overview.cfm)
  - Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2008: Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. North Yorkshire. Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point. English Heritage Project Number ...
- Services - 506487-2017 - TED Tenders Electronic Daily**
  - <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:506487...EN...>
  - 19 Dec 2017 - Historic England (HE) wishes to commission a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (RCZAS) Phase One Desk-based Assessment (DBA) ...
- Services - 103612-2018 - TED Tenders Electronic Daily**
  - <https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:103612...EN...>
  - 8 Mar 2018 - Historic England wishes to commission a rapid coastal zone assessment survey phase one desk based assessment for the Inner Humber ...

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Go" button with a search bar, a page number "1" (selected), and numbers "2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10" with a "Next" button. Below this is a location bar showing "United Kingdom" and "Banham, Norwich" with a note "Reported by this computer - Use precise location - Learn more". At the very bottom are links for "Help", "Send feedback", "Privacy", and "Terms".

Figure 6. Search results for 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' returned by Google.co.uk on 10 December 2018.

RCZAS

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<https://rcas.org>  
 RCAS Nutritional Services office to move out of CSAC. Our Student Nutritional Services office is moving! Currently, nutritional services is located at the City, School Administration Building.  
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**RCZAS Yorkshire and Lincolnshire: Bempton to Donna Nook ...**  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/rczas...>  
 This volume represents Phase 2 (field survey) of a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (RCZA) in order to provide an updated assessment of the condition of known archaeological monuments on the coast between Whitby, North Yorkshire and the Norfolk border and identify sites which have not ...

**CITIZAN - Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments (RCZAs)**  
<https://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas>  
 In the past two decades, approaches to coastal and intertidal archaeology have attempted to be more synthesised. Commissioned by Historic England (nee English Heritage) the production of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZA) is a national attempt to quantify the English coastal archaeological resource.

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS)**  
<archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas>  
 Introduction to the Programme. England's coastal zone contains a legacy of historic assets including a complex array of fragile and irreplaceable archaeological remains, historic buildings and structures, and entire landscapes.

**Discovering Coastal Heritage | Historic England**  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/discover-and...>  
 RCZAS programme The RCZAS programme is necessarily a point-in-time exercise, whereas as we have seen the coast is a dynamic landscape where change is continuous. It is hoped that regular monitoring of the coast (for example, following storms) will be addressed by the Coastal and Inter-Tidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITIZAN) project, set up by Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA).

**71330 SE RCZAS Main Report - Historic England**  
<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...> · PDF file  
 Summary Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a Phase 1 Desk-based Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of the South East coast of England.

**RCZAS and beyond: reserch and management of the Essex coast**  
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 estuary, the Blackwater estuary, substantial parts of the Thames, Roach, Colne and Stour estuaries and areas of the open coast at Jaywick, Clacton, Walton and


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 Following the retirement of the sub committee, RCAS will be working with local groups to replace the traditional MayFair with something smaller that reflects local needs. If you are interested in finding out more about how you could be involved please contact us ...


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Figure 7. Search results for 'RCZAS' returned by Bing.com on 10 December 2018.





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**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England ...**  
<https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/rapid-coastal-zone...> ▾  
 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by English Heritage to carry out a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England. The aims are to enhance the archaeological records of the National Monuments Record, local Historic Environment Records and Sites and Monuments Records, and to serve as a basis for improved management of the ...

**South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase 1 ...**  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/se-rczas...> ▾  
 The South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (SE RCZAS) is part of a wider programme of Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments and as such contributes to the developing national picture of the coastal historic environment. The assessment was undertaken with ...

**Archives: Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys: Introduction**  
[archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas) ▾  
 Introduction to the Programme. England's coastal zone contains a legacy of historic assets including a complex array of fragile and irreplaceable archaeological remains, historic buildings and structures, and entire landscapes.

**North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
<https://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com/wp-content/uploads/...> - PDF file  
 North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey – HEEP Project 3929 7 4 SCOPE OF THE SURVEY 4.1 Geographical Scope The aim of the aerial survey mapping element of the project was to produce accurate

**Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/severn...> - PDF file  
 - 7 - Summary This document represents the Phase 1 report into the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment survey for the Severn Estuary, undertaken by staff of Gloucestershire and Somerset County

**North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id=6876|North...> - PDF file  
 This air photo mapping project is one element of the North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (NE RCZAS). This is a desk-based survey that aims to

**Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
[https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7874/severn\\_rczas\\_phase2a...](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7874/severn_rczas_phase2a...) - PDF file  
 Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey PHASE 2a Pilot fieldwork report for English Heritage (HEEP Project No. 3885) Toby Catchpole and Adrian M. Chadwick

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Yorkshire and ...**  
[research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id=6797|Rapid Coastal...](https://research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id=6797|Rapid%20Coastal...) - PDF file  
 Research Report Series no. 99-2015. Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Yorkshire and Lincolnshire: Phase 3. Palaeoenvironmental Survey of Selected Sites




**Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7873/severn\\_estuary\\_rczas\\_nmp...](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7873/severn_estuary_rczas_nmp...) - PDF file  
 Severn Estuary . Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey . National Mapping Programme . Stephen Crowther & Amanda Dickson . Contributions by Krysia Truscoe

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Figure 8. Search results for 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' returned by Bing.com on 10 December 2018.



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[historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...](http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/)  
 Summary Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a Phase 1 Desk-based Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of the South East coast of England.

**CITIZAN - Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments (RCZAs)**  
[citzan.org.uk/resources/rczas](http://citzan.org.uk/resources/rczas) ▾  
 CITIZAN, the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network, brings together communities to monitor at-risk sites on the coast of England.

**South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment ... - Historic England**  
[historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...](http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/) ▾  
 The South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (SE RCZAS) is part of a wider programme of Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments and as such contributes to the ...

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 estuary, the Blackwater estuary, substantial parts of the Thames, Roach, Colne and Stour estuaries and areas of the open coast at Jaywick, Clacton, Walton and

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England ...**  
[www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/rapid-coastal-zone...](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/rapid-coastal-zone...) ▾  
 The RCZAS will feed into the second stage of Shoreline and Estuary Management Plans (SMPs), providing vital information for future development and coastal management decisions. The RCZAS of South East England comprises of two phases.

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
**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase One Desk-based ...**  
[content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/...](http://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/)  
 Dorset RCZAS Phase 1 DBA: final report v.1 Acknowledgements This study was commissioned by National Heritage Protection Commissions, English

**May Fair – RCAS**  
[rcas.org.uk/may-fair](http://rcas.org.uk/may-fair) ▾  
 Following the retirement of the sub committee, RCAS will be working with local groups to replace the traditional MayFair with something smaller that reflects local needs.

1 2 3 4 5 Next 487,000 results

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Figure 9. Search results for 'RCZAS' returned by Yahoo! on 10 December 2018.

"Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey"  Sign in   YAHOO!

**Web** Images Video More ▾ Anytime ▾

**CITIZAN - Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments (RCZAs)**  
[citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas](http://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas) ▾  
 Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey, Phase One Desk-based Assessment for South-West England (South Coast Dorset) (Report no 2014R043). CAU, Bournemouth Uni CAU, Bournemouth Uni Devon

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England ...**  
[www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/rapid-coastal-zone...](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/rapid-coastal-zone...) ▾  
 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by English Heritage to carry out a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of South East England. The aims are to enhance the ...

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys - Archaeology Data Service**  
[archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas) ▾  
 Coastal management is now viewed more holistically, taking into account not just the need to protect life and property but also environmental and social factors, as part of the move towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

**South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase 1: Desk ...**  
[historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...](http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...) ▾  
 The South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (SE RCZAS) is part of a wider programme of Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments and as such contributes to the developing national picture of the coastal historic environment. The assessment was undertaken with reference to Defra's Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2) data (from the North Solent SMP2, South Downs SMP2, Isle of Grain to South Foreland ...

**North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
[archaeologicalresearchservices.com/projects...](http://archaeologicalresearchservices.com/projects...)  
 North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey – HEEP Project 3929 4 1 SUMMARY  
 This aerial survey mapping project forms part of the North East Rapid Coastal Zone

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Yorkshire and ...**  
[research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id=6797...](http://research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id=6797...)  
 RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT YORKSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE Site Investigation and Assessment Selected Palaeoenvironmental and Archaeological Sites

**North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
[research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id...](http://research.historicengland.org.uk/redirect.aspx?id...)  
 This air photo mapping project is one element of the North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (NE RCZAS). This is a desk-based survey that aims to

**Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
[historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...](http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/...)  
 - 7 - Summary This document represents the Phase 1 report into the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment survey for the Severn Estuary, undertaken by staff of Gloucestershire ...

**"Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey, Yorkshire ...**  
[content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/...](http://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/...)  
 The value of rapid coastal zone assessment surveys of the intertidal zone and its immediate hinterland has been established in a number of areas of the United Kingdom, supported by fieldwork where this is safe and practicable.

**Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey**  
[www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7874/severn...](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7874/severn...)  
 Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey PHASE 2a Pilot fieldwork report for English Heritage (HEEP Project No. 3885) Toby Catchpole and Adrian M. Chadwick

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1 2 3 4 5 Next 375,000 results

Yahoo Help Suggestions Privacy (Updated) Terms (Updated) Advertise About ads Powered by Bing™

Figure 10. Search results for 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' returned by Yahoo! on 10 December 2018.

#### 4.1.1 Google.co.uk

Searching for the term 'RCZAS' returned what Google summarised as 'About 10,100' results, the first of which was the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments page of the CITiZAN website,<sup>6</sup> followed in second place by the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey archive page on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website (Figure 5).<sup>7</sup> The content of both of these pages is discussed further below. Most of the rest of the results returned on the first page related to individual reports hosted on the Historic England website, while the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> results related to 2015 announcements from the University of Southampton that they had been commissioned to undertake the North Devon and Cornwall RCZAS (see above). The 8<sup>th</sup> result was the 'RCZAS' entry from the acronymfinder.com website.

A search for the phrase 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' returned 'About 6,310 results', with the results on the first page being much more mixed (Figure 6). The first of these are a cluster of references to the phrase made in scholarly articles, but again the main webpage returned was the CITiZAN webpage. Several reports hosted on the Historic England website also appear on the first page of results, along with an RCZAS archive sub-page from the ADS website. Additional results include press releases from Wessex Archaeology and the University of Southampton following their commissioning to undertake various RCZAS work, and a page on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) website about the University of Southampton's North Devon and Cornwall RCZAS. The final two entries on the first page of search results related to tender opportunities to undertake RCZAS work put out by Historic England in recent years.

#### 4.1.2 Bing.com

The top two of the 413,000 search results returned by Bing.com for the term 'RCZAS' are unrelated to the programme under discussion, but the third result is the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS survey hosted on the Historic England website (Figure 7). The 4<sup>th</sup> result is again the CITiZAN website, followed in 5<sup>th</sup> place by the ADS archive page. The remainder of the first-page results comprise reports hosted on the HE website, with the last two results again being unrelated to the RCZAS programme.

A complementary search for the phrase 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' brought back 369,000 results, the first of which was again the CITiZAN webpage (Figure 8). This is followed by a press release from Wessex Archaeology and several RCZAS reports hosted on the Historic England website. The ADS RCZAS archive page was the 4<sup>th</sup> result returned.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas/>

Interestingly, this search also returned several results where individual organisations, such as Gloucestershire County Council and Archaeological Research Services, had hosted their own PDF versions of RCZAS reports for projects with which they had been involved.

### 4.1.3 Yahoo!

Searching for the term 'RCZAS' returned 487,000 results, of which the first page contained a mixture of results, several of which do not relate to the RCZAS programme (Figure 9). The RCZAS page of the ADS website was the 2<sup>nd</sup> result on the list, with the CITIZAN page in 4<sup>th</sup> place, and several reports hosted on the Historic England website also appear. Wessex Archaeology again feature prominently too.

A broader search for the phrase 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' returned the CITIZAN webpage first, with the ADS archive in 3<sup>rd</sup> and several reports from the Historic England webpages (Figure 10). As with the results from bing.com, individually hosted copies of PDF reports were also returned.

### 4.1.4 Key Websites Identified by Search Engines

Comparison of the results returned by the three main internet search engines indicates that there are currently several key web resources pertaining to the RCZAS which are quickly and easily identified via general queries using the main internet search engines. While it is encouraging that a high proportion of the pages returned are from the Historic England website, in every case the links returned pertain to copies of PDF reports hosted on the site rather than a specific landing page about the RCZAS programme itself. Therefore, anyone wishing to find out about the wider RCZAS programme from the Historic England website would first have to navigate to the site and then search for related content within its pages. The implications of this are explored more fully below.

The landing page for the RCZAS on the ADS website features consistently highly in all of the search results discussed above.<sup>8</sup> This page acts as a gateway to data and reports generated by the various different RCZAS surveys, and it is a good starting point for those wishing to find out more about the programme and its results. However, the ADS website currently only features a very partial RCZAS dataset and has not been updated for several years now; this is also explored more fully below.

By far the highest and most consistently returned webpage is the RCZAS page of the CITIZAN website, which is owned and operated by MoLA, not Historic England.<sup>9</sup> This page

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<sup>8</sup> <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas/>

simply comprises a slightly updated digital version of the list of RCZAS reports published by Murphy (2014), listed by geographical area and linked to the relevant report pages of the Historic England website. Although very simple, the page's context within the wider CITiZAN website and the popularity of the CITiZAN project doubtless contribute to its high standing in the search results, as, no doubt, does the relatively high number of times the phrases 'RCZAS' and 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' appear on the page.

The following sections consider each of these main web resources – the Historic England website (this section), the CITiZAN website (Section 5) and the ADS archive (Section 6) – and assess their RCZAS-related content and its general accessibility. Where possible, web analytics have been obtained to help gain a better understanding of these websites and how the data they contain are being used.

## 4.2 The Historic England Website

As the RCZAS programme was instigated and funded by English Heritage – subsequently Historic England – and the organisation commissioned all of the individual RCZAS surveys, a logical starting point for anyone wishing to find out more about the RCZAS programme and its results is the Historic England website.<sup>10</sup> In the previous section it was demonstrated that general web searches for the RCZAS programme return a number of results from the Historic England website, but that these relate to individual reports rather than a more substantive landing page for the project. This section takes a more detailed look at the RCZAS-related content of the Historic England website, as it was presented on 6 December 2018, with a view to identifying the information which it contains about the RCZAS programme and the ease with which that information can be located by the general user. The hosting of RCZAS reports is considered separately in Section 5, below.

On first entering the Historic England website, one is presented with a site menu containing a number of headings and sub-headings, although none of these mentions coastal matters generally, or the RCZAS programme more specifically. Given the broad range of subjects covered by Historic England's work and the breadth of coverage on the website, this is perhaps not so surprising. An alternative route into the content of the Historic England website is offered by the site search function, which is embedded in the header of every page. Searching for the term 'RCZAS' in the box returns 97 results, of which 87 are classified as *Publications*, four pertain to *Heritage List Entries* which reference the RCZAS programme, and six point to other pages on the Historic England website. Both the *Publications* and the *Heritage List Entries* are considered more fully below; the focus

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<sup>10</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/>

here is on the webpages pertaining to the RCZAS to be found on the website and the content which they provide about the programme (Figure 11).

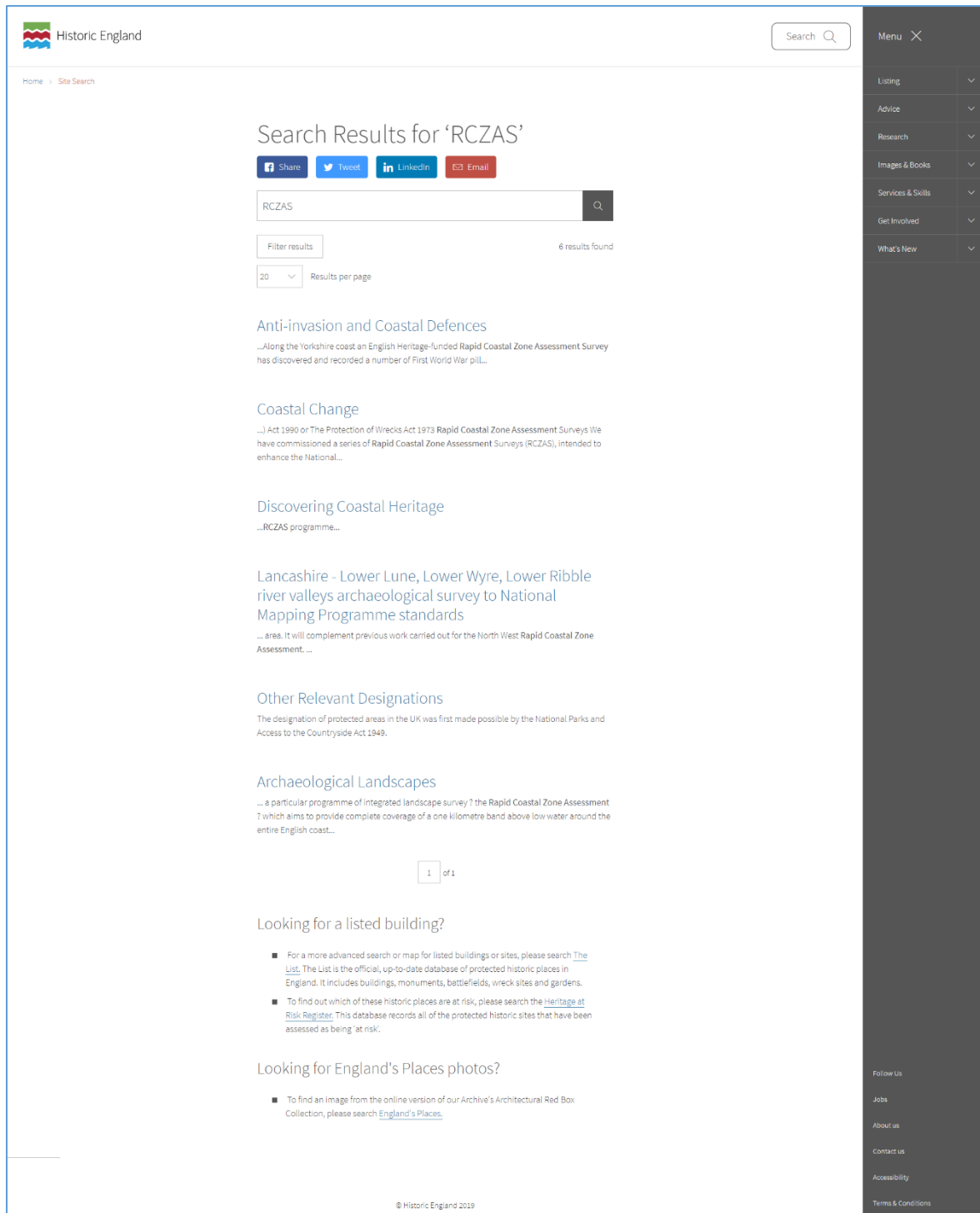


Figure 11. Search results for 'RCZAS' returned by the Historic England website search feature on 6 December 2018.

The six Historic England webpages which pertain to or mention the RCZAS returned by the site search are listed as follows by page title:

- Anti-invasion and Coastal Defences
- Coastal Change
- Discovering Coastal Heritage
- Lancashire – Lower Lune, Lower Wyre, Lower Ribble river valleys archaeological survey to National Mapping Programme standards
- Other Relevant Designations
- Archaeological Landscapes

As might be expected from a simple text search, some of these pages are more relevant than others. The *Lancashire NMP* page makes a simple reference to the survey in question complementing that carried out as part of the North West RCZAS,<sup>11</sup> while the *Anti-invasion and Coastal Defences* page is one of a sub-set of pages put together to mark the First World War centenary and refers to the fact that the RCZAS identified and recorded a number of First World War pillboxes along the Yorkshire coast.<sup>12</sup> Where specific RCZAS projects are mentioned, links are provided to the relevant reports.

On closer inspection, the *Other Relevant Designations* webpage makes no specific reference to the RCZAS at all, although it does discuss Heritage Coasts,<sup>13</sup> while the *Archaeological Landscapes* webpage provides an overview of the surveys and research undertaken by Historic England and includes a short summary paragraph about the RCZAS, which cross-links to the *Discovering Coastal Heritage* page.<sup>14</sup>

The *Coastal Change* webpage is the primary page on the Historic England website pertaining to the RCZAS programme, and sits within the Planning-related pages, under the sub-heading of Coastal and Marine Planning.<sup>15</sup> The fact that the URL of the page ends with '/rczas-reports/' is indicative of its origins as an earlier page specifically dedicated to the RCZAS reports themselves (see below), but subsequently broadened out to encompass other subjects. This page sets out the resources provided by Historic England to deal with the impacts of coastal change. This includes highlighting the relevant

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<sup>11</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/discover-and-understand/landscapes/lancashire-nmp/>, accessed 6 December 2018.

<sup>12</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/first-world-war-home-front/what-we-already-know/land/anti-invasion-coastal-defences/>, accessed 6 December 2018.

<sup>13</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/has/otherrelevantdesignations/>, accessed 6 December 2018.

<sup>14</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/discover-and-understand/landscapes/>, accessed 6 December 2018.

<sup>15</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/marine-planning/rczas-reports/>, accessed 6 December 2018.

planning legislation and guidance pertaining to coastal change, and signposting guidance for the consideration of coastal heritage in the compilation of Shoreline Management Plans (SMP). The RCZAS programme still features on this page, but is only provided with a one-sentence summary which includes an outdated reference to the projects enhancing the then National Monuments Record (NMR). Links to five RCZAS reports are provided at the foot of the page, but no mention is made of how the user might find the other RCZAS reports. There is no overview of the wider programme.

The *Discovering Coastal Heritage* webpage is nested within a cluster of pages dedicated to *Coastal, Marine and Maritime Heritage*,<sup>16</sup> where it sits alongside pages dedicated to ports and harbours, seaside resorts, marine archaeology, and submerged landscapes. The page itself sets out what Historic England and other agencies are doing to find out about and protect coastal heritage. It includes a summary of the threats posed by sea-level rise and coastal erosion. Specific case studies from Happisburgh (Norfolk), where ancient human footprints and cultural material potentially dating from c. 900,000 BC have been discovered, and Holme (Norfolk), where in 1999 the 'Seahenge' timber circle was exposed and subsequently excavated. The rest of the page focusses on the different ways in which HE seek to identify and protect heritage assets, including through the RCZAS programme. The page concludes by highlighting the fact that the RCZAS programme only provides a snapshot in time of a dynamic and constantly changing coast and emphasises the need for ongoing coastal monitoring under the auspices of volunteer-staffed projects such as CITIZAN. In its current form, this page does not provide links to any of the other RCZAS material on the website or link to any of the individual reports.

### 4.3 The Former English Heritage Website

It is interesting to compare the RCZAS content held on the current iteration of the Historic England website with that which used to be hosted on the former English Heritage website, which was radically overhauled when Historic England and English Heritage Trust became separate entities in April 2015. Although the main RCZAS page no longer exists (see above), an archived version of the previous page on the English Heritage website is hosted by the Internet Archive. The latest archived version dates from 8 August 2012, when the page included sections on the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) programme and a brief overview of the RCZAS programme (Figure 11).<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/current/discover-and-understand/coastal-and-marine/discovering-our-coastal-heritage/>, last accessed 6 December 2018.

<sup>17</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20120808012046/http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/marine-planning/shoreline-management-plans/rapid-coastal-zone-assessments/>, accessed 6 December 2018.



http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advance-by-topic/marine-planning/shoreline-management-plans/ra [32] FEB 08 2018

5 captures Mar 2011 - 8 Aug 2018

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## RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT SURVEYS (RCZAS)

Heritage assets on the coast are vulnerable to the effects of natural coastal change, which will accelerate during the 21st century, and to the impacts of coastal management schemes. Besides this, coasts are under pressure from the expansion of new or existing infrastructure and industry, especially at ports, and residential and recreational development.



New Harbour at Rye, 1787 © Peter Murphy

### FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT (FCERM)


For much of the 20th century coastal management was focused on defence. More recently, the emphasis has shifted towards risk management, long-term sustainability and adaptation, in the light of current climate change projections (Defra 2010, McInnes 2008). A useful review of issues of governance, legislation and practice associated with FCERM is given in the Coastal Handbook (Environment Agency 2010). Responsibilities for managing flood and coastal erosion risk on the coast are shared between local authorities and the Environment Agency who collaborate in the production of high-level documents known as Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). The objectives of an SMP are to define, in general terms, the risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment within the SMP area; to identify the preferred policies for managing these risks over the next 100 years and their consequences; to ensure that future land use and the development of the shoreline takes due account of the risks and the preferred SMP policies; to comply with international and national conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations; and to develop an action plan.

Generally the SMP is broken down into policy units, and the most appropriate management approach is identified for each policy unit. The policy options are:

- **Hold the existing line of defence** – by maintaining or changing the standard of protection.
- **Advance the existing defence line** – by constructing new defences seaward of the original defences.
- **Managed realignment** – by allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, with management to control or limit its movement, and
- **No active intervention** – where there is to be no national investment in coastal defence assets or operations.

English Heritage has participated in the review of over 20 SMPs around England but, of course, the historic environment is only one factor amongst many to be considered during option selection. Consequently protection of all heritage assets, especially in rural areas, is not assured and adaptation options must be considered instead – for example by increasing flood resilience of historic buildings, or by excavating and recording archaeological sites in advance of erosion. SMPs are followed by the development of coastal Strategies, and their conclusions may be implemented by specific Schemes, at which mitigation of impacts is undertaken.

Plainly a comprehensive and reliable record of the coastal historic environment is needed at all stages of FCERM.



Anglo-Saxon fishtrap at Holbrook Bay, Suffolk © Peter Murphy

### A TWO-STAGED APPROACH

By the late 1990s it was clear that the coastal historic environment was under-investigated and records in the National Monuments Record (NMR) did not provide an adequate evidence base for responding to these challenges. Consequently, English Heritage initiated the national RCZAS programme. The RCZAS have two main phases:

**Phase 1 (Desk-Based Assessment)** draws on data from aerial photographs, LiDAR, historic maps and charts, the local authority Historic Environment Records (HERs), the NMR, and other sources.

**Phase 2 (Field Assessment)** comprises a rapid walk-over survey, designed to verify records from Phase 1, locate and characterise sites types not visible from the air, and assess significance and vulnerability. In some cases additional work, especially scientific dating, has been necessary to characterise sites fully.

By late 2010 surveys had been completed, or were underway, in all parts of the country except the south-west peninsula, where it is hoped survey will begin shortly. The outputs consist of enhanced HER and NMR records, together with client reports for English Heritage. Results from the RCZAS have already been incorporated into books (e.g. Murphy 2009) and into the forthcoming EH Maritime and Marine Archaeological Research Framework. Aspects of the results are presented in talks, leaflets, and popular publications (e.g. Higarty and Newsome 2007). Volunteer involvement is increasingly encouraged, with a view to establishing local groups who can continue to monitor sites, after the main phases of survey, and report significant new finds. In due course it is intended that a synthesis of the new results will be published to replace Fulford et al. (1997).

The information gained will enable us to make a better-informed input to the FCERM process, and will help to ensure effective mitigation of the effects of coastal change through the 21st century. It will also provide a data-base for use in further research and in the development control process.

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Higarty, C. and Newsome, S., 'Suffolk's Defended Shore: Coastal Fortifications from the Air', London: English Heritage/Suffolk County Council, 2007.

McInnes, R., 'Coastal Risk Management: a Non-Technical Guide', Ventnor: Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coast (SCOPAC), 2008.

Murphy, P., 'The English Coast: A History and a Prospect', London: Continuum, 2009.

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Figure 12. The former English Heritage webpage dedicated to the RCZAS, now part of the Web Archive, accessed 6 December 2018.

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice-by-topic/marine-planning/shoreline-management-plans/rcza/ Go FEB AUG DEC 08 2011 2012 2013

3 captures 14 Feb 2012 - 18 Dec 2013

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Parks, Gardens & Designed Landscapes  
Places of Worship  
Setting & Views  
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## RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT SURVEY REPORTS

By the late 1990s it was clear that the coastal historic environment was under-investigated and records in the National Monuments Record (NMR) did not provide an adequate evidence base for responding to challenges posed by climate change and Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM). Consequently, English Heritage initiated the national RCZAS programme.

**RCZAS REPORTS**  
Browse through the reports available on the website.



Low Lighthouse, Burnham-on-Sea © Peter Murphy

The RCZAS have two main phases:

- Phase 1 (Desk-Based Assessment) draws on data from aerial photographs, LIDAR, historic maps and charts, the local authority Historic Environment Records (HERs), the NMR, and other sources. Data are captured in a GIS with supporting data-bases, to nationally agreed data standards.
- Phase 2 (Field Assessment) comprises a rapid walk-over survey, designed to verify records from Phase 1, locate and characterise site types not visible from the air, and assess significance and vulnerability. In some cases additional work, especially scientific dating, has been necessary to characterise sites fully.


The outputs consist of enhanced HER and NMR records, together with client reports for English Heritage. The information gained will enable us to make a better-informed input to the FCERM process, and will help to ensure effective mitigation of the effects of coastal change through the 21st century. It will also provide a data-base for use in further research and in the development control process.

In the English Heritage National Heritage Protection Plan (Activity 3A2) current projects include:

- Severn Estuary, Phase 2
- South East England Phase 1 (North Foreland to Poole Harbour).
- North West England, Phase 2.

Work in South West England has yet to start, though the North Devon AONB NMP project will provide a beginning in this financial year.

Surveys for all other regions are completed and are available on the website.



Yacht sheds at Tollesbury, 19th century © Peter Murphy

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Figure 13. The former English Heritage webpage dedicated to the RCZAS reports, now part of the Web Archive, accessed 6 December 2018.

A complementary page from the former English Heritage website concerning the RCZAS Reports was last archived on 16 December 2013, and included the same overview of the RCZAS programme, as well as a summary of which projects were then current (Figure 13).<sup>18</sup> A link was provided to the survey reports which could be found on the website, via the publications search page, although this feature no longer works on the archived version of the webpage.

#### 4.4 Discussion

The sample web searches undertaken using the main internet search engines in the UK indicate that there is a consistent core of webpages which gets returned by general searches of this kind. Foremost amongst these is the CITIZAN webpage, followed by the landing page for the RCZAS data held by the ADS. Tellingly, neither of these resources is directly managed or maintained by Historic England, and specific landing page for the RCZAS should be developed by Historic England to redress this imbalance.

Many of the pages returned in web searches are owned and managed by Historic England, most of them pertaining to reports, while others represent Historic England data hosted by the ADS. However, of the six pages on the Historic England website which make a mention of the RCZAS programme, none is specifically dedicated to the RCZAS scheme. It is to be presumed from the link on the ADS website that this wasn't always the case, and this is confirmed by the archived version of the English Heritage website hosted by the Internet Archive.

**Recommendation 30:** A specific landing page for the RCZAS should be developed on the Historic England website and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) techniques should be used to ensure that this page appears within the top few results returned.

It is suggested that the new RCZAS landing page should contain an overview of the RCZAS project, as well as a visual interface such as a clickable map (similar to that reproduced in Figure 1) in order to explain the coverage of the different survey areas to users and provide an intuitive way into the details of the individual RCZAS projects. The new RCZAS page should also include details of the projects which are ongoing, as well as links to online copies of reports, data archives and relevant HERs. The extensive collection of reports published on the Historic England website is one of the key products of the RCZAS programme, and this is examined in more detail in the next section.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20120808014838/http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/marine-planning/shoreline-management-plans/rczas-reports/>, accessed 6 December 2018.

## 5 Accessing RCZAS Reports

Having examined the relevant sources of information about the overall RCZAS programme, this section focusses more closely on the ease with which the RCZAS reports themselves can be located and accessed. Hard copies of these reports were produced, along with PDF versions, and these digital reports have come to be viewed as one of the main outputs of the RCZAS programme. This discussion is also informed by the research undertaken to compile the overarching and project-specific summaries presented in Sections 2 and 3 of this report, a task which ultimately proved to be more challenging than anticipated for the reasons explored below.

### 5.1 A Definitive List?

It is somewhat surprising to discover that there is currently no definitive list of RCZAS reports and related publications to which an interested researcher can turn, although an attempt at such a list is offered here in Appendix 2. In his 2014 overview of the RCZAS programme, Peter Murphy published what was then the most comprehensive list of RCZAS-derived reports and set out an accompanying system of abbreviations which could be used as a shorthand to refer to individual RCZAS reports (Murphy 2014, xi–xv; see Appendix 2). Murphy's list was arranged geographically, running in a clockwise direction around the coast, and had a chronological cut-off of 31 January 2014. This list and the abbreviations applied to the report have subsequently been re-used by other bodies, such as the CITIZAN project,<sup>19</sup> and the scheme has also been integrated into the bibliography of this report.

For many of the RCZAS projects, Murphy's list of reports is comprehensive, but in compiling the summaries of projects presented in the previous section it has become apparent that the list has two main problems. First, there are problems of duplication and inconsistency with the abbreviation scheme. Secondly, there are omissions from the list itself, both in the form of missing RCZAS reports, but also in the form of complementary survey reports, such as NMP reports and earlier coastal surveys, which should be read in conjunction with the RCZAS reports themselves.

From the outset it should be stated that the abbreviations used by Murphy present no problems for the majority of the survey areas. However, the prefix 'S' is used for both the Suffolk RCZAS reports and the Severn Estuary RCZAS reports, meaning that there are two sets of reports referred to as 'S1' to 'S4' inclusive. In order to clarify this situation, it is

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<sup>19</sup> <https://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas/>

proposed in the list given in Appendix 2 that the Suffolk reports retain the 'S' prefix and that, with 'SE' already used for the South-East RCZAS, the reports produced by the Severn Estuary RCZAS be given an 'SV' prefix.

Similarly, in the North West RCZAS, the abbreviation 'NW4' is duplicated, being applied once to the final executive summary for the project (Edie 2012a) and once to the final report (Edie 2012b). While these might be considered to be two parts of the same document, they are presented as two separate reports and where this approach was taken in the North East each report was numbered separately. This numbering has been updated in Appendix 2 to ensure consistency.

The list of Severn Estuary RCZAS reports highlights the second problem, in that there are three reports produced as part of the survey which aren't included in the 2014 list. These relate to the NMP survey (Crowther *et al.* 2008) and an assessment of the usability of lidar data for NMP mapping (Truscoe 2007), both of which were undertaken as part of the Phase 1 project. A copy of the latter report was later included as an appendix to the NMP report. Also missing from the Severn Estuary list is a report on the Phase 2a pilot study which was conducted prior to the full Phase 2 fieldwork (Catchpole and Chadwick 2010). Where missing reports have been located as part of this review, bibliographic details have been included in Appendix 2 and the reports numbered accordingly.

With regard to the Essex RCZAS reports, although it is made clear in the project reports that the focus of the Essex survey was to complement fieldwork undertaken in the 1980s as part of the Hullbridge Survey, the published Hullbridge Survey monographs are not included in the official list (Wilkinson and Murphy 1995; Wilkinson *et al.* 2012). While this is understandable as the survey wasn't formally part of the RCZAS programme, there is clearly a generational link between the two projects and these connections should perhaps be more formally acknowledged. Similar issues surround the possible inclusion of NMP reports pertaining to surveys which pre-date, but informed, the RCZAS, although in these cases it can be argued that it is the resultant AMIE / HER records which have informed the RCZAS and not the report *per se*.

More directly relevant, the Essex report referred to as 'E5' is the draft of an article written by the project team and submitted to the *Journal of Wetland Studies* (Heppell and Brown 2008). The article was eventually published in the journal, but it is only the submitted draft which is referenced and not the final published version. Unfortunately, the online version of the journal article currently sits behind a paywall, and arrangements should be made for this article to be brought into open access, especially given that the work was funded by public money (see Section 3.2, above).

Murphy clearly stated that the chronological cut-off for his printed list was the end of January 2014, and, of course, a significant number of RCZAS reports have been produced since and continue to be so. Such is the case with the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, which has produced a further eight reports pertaining to fieldwork undertaken as part of Phase 3 of the project, many of which are not yet in the public domain despite being completed in 2013 and 2014. Similarly, in addition to the two Dorset reports cited in the list, there is now an NMP report for Dorset (Royall 2014) and a second Phase 1 DBA (Johns *et al.* 2015), both the result of the South West (South Coast) RCZAS, which together with the South West (North Coast) RCZAS has produced other reports (e.g. Hegarty *et al.* 2014; Pink 2015; Pink 2018) which also need to be incorporated into the scheme. All known reports available up to the time of writing (August 2019) have been included in Appendix 2.

**Recommendation 31:** A definitive list of RCZAS publications should be created and centrally maintained as part of a core body of information presented about the RCZAS programme. The abbreviations employed by Murphy (2014) should be rationalised and adopted as part of this process.

Moving away from the issue of bibliographic references, in the absence of a formal starting point for the RCZAS this section now looks at the different approaches which can be taken to accessing copies of the RCZAS reports themselves online.

## 5.2 The Historic England Website

The limitations of the static content of the Historic England website have already been explored. However, while there is a need for more RCZAS-specific content, most (but not all) of the RCZAS reports are able to be located and downloaded from the Historic England website if one knows where to look. In fact, RCZAS reports can be accessed in two different ways via the Historic England website – ‘Publications’ and ‘Research Reports’ – with each method using a different search interface and each returning different results. Neither section is signposted as being obviously related to coastal matters or the RCZAS programme. This can be confusing and has resulted in reports being split between the two collections, making it difficult to retrieve all relevant reports with a single search.

The first of the two search methods is via the Historic England ‘Publications’ search interface.<sup>20</sup> This is accessed via the website’s site menu under the ‘Images & Books’ heading, which leads to a ‘Search All Publications’ sub-heading. While the general user might not consider the RCZAS reports to constitute ‘Publications’ or ‘Books’, this is the

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<sup>20</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/>

standard method for accessing reports via the Historic England website. Following the 'Search All Publications' link from the site menu, one reaches a search interface into which free-text search terms can be entered. Single search terms are not sufficient to return all of the relevant RCZAS reports, as many of the titles are formatted differently and it is not always clear which reports are returned and whether or not all relevant reports have come back. Sample searches undertaken on 11 February 2019 revealed that entering the search term 'RCZAS' returns 87 publications, while 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey' returns 507 results. Returned results can be filtered using the tag 'Series: RCZAS Reports' which has been applied to some, but not all, of the RCZAS reports. This filter reduces both sample searches to 43 results. There is no apparent sort order to the results.

When a 'Publications' search result is followed, the user is taken to a landing page for the report with a friendly URL and which contains a summary of the report (Figure 14). In many cases the report is illustrated with an image of the front cover. Each publication page contains links to one or more files which make up the report, as well as details about accessibility and contact details for the Historic England customer services department. Further down the page are selected links to 'Related Reports', although from the end-user's perspective it is impossible to tell whether these links are links which have been set by the web team or are being generated dynamically by the website.

**Recommendation 32:** The Publication search interface should be more clearly sign-posted within the Historic England website.

**Recommendation 33:** The 'Series: RCZAS Reports' tag should be applied to all relevant reports and given as an option on the initial search screen, not just the results page.

The second search method is via the 'Research Reports' interface.<sup>21</sup> This is hard to find and is accessed via the site menu's 'Research' heading, under which is the sub-heading 'Research Results'. On the resultant web-page, following the 'Research Reports' link takes the user to another sub-page, on which the option to 'Search our Research Reports' [sic] database' is offered. This search interface is more sophisticated than that for the Publications search, although the option to filter the results using an RCZAS subject tag is not carried across. Sample searches conducted on 11 February 2019 using the 'Title, summary or Keyword contains' field returned 29 results for the term 'RCZAS' and 17 results for 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey', with some results returned in both searches. These 46 results broadly correlate with the 43 results from the 'Publications' search.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://research.historicengland.org.uk/>


Historic England

Home > Images & Books > Search All Publications > NERCZA Final Report


Section Navigation


# North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NERCZA) - Final Report



Published 31 December 2008

 NERCZA Final Report text  
5.34 MB

 NERCZA Final Report figures  
11.09 MB

This project is a desk-based study. Its aim has been to undertake detailed desk based research, including the collation and synthesis of all existing archaeological data relating to the study area to assess the threat posed to heritage assets in the North East by rising sea level and consequential coastal erosion.

### Additional Information

Series: RCZAS Reports  
Publication Status: Completed

### Accessibility

If you require an alternative, accessible version of this document (for instance in audio, Braille or large print) please contact us:

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Telephone: 0370 333 0607  
Fax: 01793 414926  
Textphone: 0800 015 0516  
Email: customers@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Was this page helpful?

### Related Publications

- North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment - Executive Summary  
Published 27 March 2009
- NERCZA Executive Summary
- North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: Phase 2  
Published 31 May 2010
- Final Report

Figure 14. The 'Publications' landing page for the NERCZA Phase 1 report (Tolan-Smith 2008), accessed 11 February 2019.



[Back to Research Reports](#)

# Report number: 103/2008

[View printable version](#) | [New search](#)

<b>Title</b>	North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NERCZA) - Desk Based Assessment Final Report
<b>Summary</b>	This project is a desk-based study. Its aim has been to undertake detailed desk based research, including the collation and synthesis of all existing archaeological data relating to the study area to assess the threat posed to heritage assets in the North East by rising sea level and consequential coastal erosion.
<b>Series</b>	Other
<b>Pages</b>	298
<b>Authors</b>	Tolan-Smith, Chris
<b>Keywords</b>	Industrial Heritage , Medieval , Post Medieval , Prehistoric

**Hyperlinks**[North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment \(NERCZA\) - Desk Based Assessment Final Report](#) (PDF)North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NERCZA) - Desk Based Assessment Final Report  
File size: 5.34 MB[NERCZAS Illustrations](#) (PDF)NERCZAS Illustrations  
File size: 5.34 MB[View printable version](#) | [New search](#)

© Historic England 2015

Figure 15. The 'Research Reports' landing page for the NERCZA Phase 1 report (Tolan-Smith 2008), accessed 11 February 2019.

When a 'Research Report' search result is followed, the user is taken to a landing page for the report with a functional URL headed up with the official Historic England research report number (Figure 15). The page contains detailed bibliographic information about the report, and links to the files which make it up. Database keywords are also listed, but in the examples examined none of these keywords included mention of the RCZAS or the coast, and this should be remedied to make searching easier.

**Recommendation 34:** The Research Report search interface should be more clearly sign-posted within the Historic England website and be better integrated with the Publications search interface.

**Recommendation 35:** The 'Series: RCZAS Reports' filter functionality should be applied to the Research Reports results to allow filtering.

As this report was being finalised in late 2019, Historic England developed a new map interface enabling geographical querying of the Research Reports database.<sup>22</sup> Although this interface was still being trialled at the time of writing, it includes point and polygon data relating to the various RCZAS survey areas and reports, which are linked to the relevant report landing page. The system shows great promise, and has the potential to make accessing relevant RCZAS reports (and Research Reports of all kinds) considerably more straightforward, especially when integrated with the new web content recommended in Section 4.2, above.

**Recommendation 36:** It should be ensured that the RCZAS reports are made fully accessible via the new Research Report map interface and that this is fully integrated into and new RCZAS web content.

A good case study of the problems of accessibility of reports is the main North East RCZAS Phase 1 report, which was published in 2008 and contained details of the project's findings, as well as synthetic overviews of the study area (Tolan-Smith 2008). This one report is assessed in detail here, but similar problems are encountered with other RCZAS reports to a greater or lesser degree. There is no doubt that this is a wider issue with publications on the Historic England website and is not confined to the RCZAS reports.

As can be seen in Figures 14 and 15, this report is currently able to be accessed via the two different search methods on the Historic England website, resulting in two different pages from which the report can be downloaded. The first is via the Publications search (Figure 14)<sup>23</sup> and the second via the Research Reports interface (Figure 15).<sup>24</sup> Both pages present two links to PDF files: one to *Volume 1: Text* and one to the accompanying *Volume 2: Figures*. Following the Volume 1 links from the two pages downloads two PDFs of the report, each with a different filename, although comparison of the metadata for the two files suggests that these are copies of the same PDF file. The same result is experienced following the Volume 2 link. It is not able to be discerned at the user end whether there is

<sup>22</sup> <https://services.historicengland.org.uk/access-to-research-reports/>, accessed 16 December 2019.

<sup>23</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nercza-final-report>, accessed 11 February 2019.

<sup>24</sup> <https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16133>, accessed 11 February 2019.

an element of server-side dynamic file-naming occurring during the downloading process, or whether there actually are two files saved on the server with different names, but either way the end result is confusing. It is suggested that a much more user-friendly result might be achieved by having all of the links from the various pages directing towards a single, definitive version of the file.

The Phase 1 report from the North East incorporated information about the NMP survey which had been undertaken as part of the project, much of it derived from an earlier interim report compiled by the project team (Bacilieri 2008). This earlier report is a significant part of the North East RCZAS project output, yet it currently cannot be located via the Publications search function and is only served from a Research Report series download page.<sup>25</sup> This has not apparently always been the case, as the aerial survey report does have a friendly URL within the publications section of the HE website,<sup>26</sup> which has been published several times (e.g. Murphy 2014, xi), but when attempting to access this friendly URL one is simply redirected to the Research Report page instead. The bibliography of this report includes the URLs for all of the relevant reports downloaded from the Historic England website, from which it can be seen that a mixture of links to the Publications and Research Reports sections of the websites need to be used in order to obtain a full set of results.

**Recommendation 37:** There is a need for the RCZAS-related contents of the Publications and Research Reports areas of the Historic England website to be fully audited and reconciled, so that the same reports are able to be accessed via both search methods. As part of this work, previously used and publicised URLs need to be reinstated.

To consider briefly the PDFs themselves, the timeframe of the RCZAS projects is such that the production of digital reports and their conversion to PDFs was in its relative infancy during the earlier phases of the programme. This means that many of the online versions of the reports are scanned from hard copy originals and/or have been retrospectively created from the original digital files, with varying degrees of success. This is particularly relevant to the reproduction quality of maps and graphics, which have often suffered during this process. Newer reports, by contrast, have been 'born digital', which makes them both easier to produce and easier to use. As might be expected, many of the RCZAS reports are very long, often with numerous images and maps, and consequently have very large file sizes. In many cases it has been necessary to split report files into smaller pieces

<sup>25</sup> <https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15703>, accessed 11 February 2019.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/nercza-aerial-survey/>, accessed 11 February 2019.

in order to accommodate easy downloading. While this was a particular issue in the period of dial-up modems, this is perhaps less of an issue now, and a case might be made for recombining the constituent parts of reports if an overhaul of the RCZAS reports provision were to be undertaken.

**Recommendation 38:** Where they exist, high resolution PDFs of RCZAS reports should be provided online and these should be combined into as few files per report as possible.

In order to better understand the demand for and usage of the RCZAS reports hosted on the Historic England website, on 19 March 2018 this assessment project was provided with web analytics from the website relating to the 2016 and 2017 calendar years. These data are reproduced in full in Appendix 3. In order to focus the analysis on the results of the RCZAS programme, data was exported relating only to web sessions which included any of the RCZAS reports being downloaded from the website. The figures demonstrate that during 2016 RCZAS reports were downloaded 1,819 times (representing 0.9% of the total downloads from the Historic England website for the year) and 2017 saw 1,355 downloads (0.7% of the total). While these figures are low in percentage terms, they still represent a considerable interest in the RCZAS reports series in numerical terms.

Greater detail can be discerned by looking at the league tables of downloads, which list all of the reports downloaded and the number of downloads each received (see Appendix 3). These reveal that in 2016, the most popular RCZAS report was the final overview volume of the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, which was downloaded 148 times. Interestingly, the same report topped the statistics for 2017, with 80 downloads. Looking down these lists, it is possible to see that most RCZAS reports were downloaded at least once each year, and that certain projects and project areas attract more traffic than others. Without more detailed data to contextualise these figures it is hard to be sure what the specific drivers behind any particular area of interest might be, and there are undoubtedly myriad factors at work.

The final set of web analytics supplied pertain to the breakdown of acquisitions of the RCZAS reports, that is, the methods by which the relevant pages of the Historic England website are reached in the first place, before the download takes place (see Appendix 3). The figures for 2016 indicate that the majority of users (61.8%) found reports using search engines to bring them directly to the site, while 24.7% of users had been referred to the site from other websites. Further breakdowns indicate that in 2016 the two main sources of referrals were the CITIZAN website (42%) and the ADS website (25.1%). The 2017 figures show a similar picture, with 78.6% of users arriving via search engines and 1% being

referred. Again, in 2017 the two main referring websites were the CITiZAN website (50%) and the ADS website (33%).

While the data as provided allow some insights to be gained into the audience for and use of the RCZAS reports, a more comprehensive programme of data capture and analysis would allow for much greater insights. For example, with the right web analytics, it would be possible to identify users from within particular organisations, institutions or geographical areas, and use this information to assess the more detailed applications to which RCZAS reports are being put and tailor their presentation accordingly.

**Recommendation 39:** More detailed web analytics data for the RCZAS pages of the Historic England website should be captured and analysed in order to better understand the usage and reach of online RCZAS resources.

Such, then, is the provision for RCZAS report location and retrieval offered by Historic England. In fact, at the time of writing, the most comprehensive and accessible method of locating RCZAS reports is via the CITiZAN project website, the prominence of which in the referrals to the Historic England website is clear in the web analytics data.

### 5.3 The CITiZAN Website

The Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeology Network (CITiZAN), hosted by MOLA, is a community archaeology project founded in 2014. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and a number of other partner organisations, including Historic England, the project actively promotes intertidal site recording and long-term monitoring programmes led by volunteers. As part of its website, the CITiZAN project provides numerous resources pages offering recording guides and pro forma, and covering subjects ranging from prehistoric footprints to Shoreline Management Plans. Included among these resources is a webpage dedicated to the RCZAS programme, which comprises an online version of the ordered list of RCZAS reports published by Murphy in 2014, with additions, all of which are hyperlinked to the relevant pages on the Historic England website (Figure 16).<sup>27</sup> As was discussed above, the CITiZAN RCZAS webpage is the first to be returned when searching for the programme via the main internet search engines, and web analytics suggest that this is currently one of the major ways in which people access the RCZAS reports.

To aid with this assessment, the CITiZAN team were able to provide Google Analytics data for their RCZAS resources page spanning the period between 24 July 2015 (when the site launched) and 1 March 2018 (the date of the data export). These data indicated that the

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<sup>27</sup> <https://citizan.org.uk/resources/rczas/>

RCZAS webpage had experienced 1,403 page views from 1,179 unique visitors during that period, an average of 1.47 visitors per day.

**CITiZAN** Login/Register Join Mailing List

INTERACTIVE COASTAL MAP JOIN US EVENTS RESOURCES BLOG ABOUT US CONTACT US FAQ APP

### Resources

- How-to guides
- Proformas and guidance
- Recording prehistoric footprints
- Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments (RCZAs)
- Archaeological Research Frameworks
- Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs)
- Intertidal archaeology bibliography
- Useful links for research and planning
- CITiZAN Key Zones
- Themes

### How-to guides:

- How to Register as an online CITiZAN Surveyor PDF guide
- How to explore the interactive coastal map PDF guide
- How to add a CITiZAN feature to the interactive coastal map PDF guide
- How to edit a CITiZAN feature PDF guide
- How to submit a CITiZAN update survey PDF guide
- How to use the CITiZAN

### Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments (RCZAs)

In the past two decades, approaches to coastal and intertidal archaeology have attempted to be more synthesised. Commissioned by Historic England (*nee English Heritage*) the production of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZA) is a national attempt to quantify the English coastal archaeological resource.

These valuable research tools are all available online via Historic England, accessed using the links below:

**Erosion warning at East Mersea, Essex**

### North West

**NW1:** Johnson, B, 2009. North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NWRCA). ARS Ltd Report 2009/53. Gateshead: Archaeological Research Services Ltd

**NW2:** Johnson, B 2009. North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NWRCA). Executive Summary. ARS Ltd Report 2009/53. Gateshead: Archaeological Research Services Ltd

**NW3:** Bacilieri, C, Knight, D and Williams, S 2009. North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Air Suvey Mapping Report. English Heritage National Mapping Programme. Historic environment Enabling Programme: Project Number 4548. Gateshead: Archaeological Research Services Ltd

**NW4a:** Edie, G 2012a. The North West Rapid Coastal zone Assessment (NWRCA). Executive Summary Document. Bakewell: Archaeological Research Services

**NW4b:** Edie, G 2012b. The North West Rapid Coastal zone Assessment (NWRCA). Phase 2 Project Report Bakewell: Archaeological Research Services

Figure 16. The top of the CITiZAN webpage dedicated to the RCZAS programme, accessed 6 December 2018.

An indication of the way in which the page is being used is given by the fact that 605 of the page views (43%) are classified by Google as 'entrances', meaning that the RCZAS

page was the landing page for people visiting the CITIZAN website on those occasions. This is suggestive of people having used a search engine to look up details of the RCZAS programme or a specific report, and then following the resultant link to the CITIZAN website. Similarly, we can use the Google Analytics data to look at what people did on the CITIZAN site once they had found it, and, crucially, what they did next. The average session length for visitors to the page is recorded as 3 minutes 11 seconds, suggesting that users are reading the site and that some at least are staying on it for quite some time.

Google Analytics records that the Exit Rate for the page is 53.46%, meaning that of all the page views received, in over half of them this was the last page viewed on the CITIZAN website before users closed their session or moved away to another website. Given that the CITIZAN RCZAS webpage is a list of links, it is presumed that most of these users followed the links to the Historic England website where the RCZAS reports are hosted.

Even more illuminating is the Bounce Rate, which records the number of sessions where the RCZAS page was the only page of the CITIZAN website visited before the user moved away again. This is recorded at 74.71%, which is relatively high and suggestive that the majority of the users of the page arrived for the purpose of looking up a report and then followed the links to the Historic England website.

The Google Analytics data, combined with the fact that the CITIZAN RCZAS webpage tops the Google search results, suggests that those looking for RCZAS reports are finding the list of reports on the CITIZAN webpage in the first instance and then following the lists on that page to the individual reports on the Historic England website. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that this is the approach employed by many people attempting to access the RCZAS reports, and this is certainly the approach taken when compiling the current report.

Correspondence with the CITIZAN team also indicated that the team often receive email requests for details of the RCZAS reports 'missing' from their list, such as the newer reports completed for the South West RCZAS projects, and that they routinely direct enquirers back to Historic England. This is indicative of two things: first, that users of the CITIZAN webpage are perhaps unaware that the listed reports are linking back to the Historic England website or that the reports are maintained by them, and, second, that users clearly consider it to be easier to contact CITIZAN about this issue than Historic England.

## 5.4 Other Websites

In addition to the copies of the RCZAS reports which are included on the Historic England website, which should be considered to be the definitive versions, albeit with the provisos

highlighted above, it is also possible to find copies of the RCZAS reports on other websites. These include several local authority websites, where copies of locally relevant RCZAS reports have been uploaded and made publicly available. Examples include Gloucestershire County Council (Catchpole and Chadwick 2010a)<sup>28</sup> and Exmoor National Park (Pink 2018),<sup>29</sup> both of which are not yet available from the Historic England website.

Additional copies of some RCZAS reports are available via the 'Grey Literature' Library of Unpublished Fieldwork Reports maintained by the ADS, where they have been uploaded via the OASIS system by the archaeological contractors who have completed them. In more recent years, the rise in popularity of the Academia.edu website has seen several of the individual authors of RCZAS reports upload copies of reports or links to the Historic England online reports to their individual profiles. Finally, copies of the reports produced by several of the RCZAS projects can be downloaded from RCZAS pages of the ADS website, where they are archived alongside the other digital data and photographs produced by the surveys. The role of the ADS archives and the presentation and use of RCZAS are considered in more detail in the next section.

## 5.5 Discussion

Coupled with the overall lack of centralised information about the RCZAS programme identified in the previous section, there is a decided lack of a centralised and definitive list of RCZAS publications. An attempt at a list was published by Murphy (2014) and another attempt is offered here as Appendix 2. It is recommended that Historic England compile a definitive list of RCZAS reports, and that shorthand abbreviations employed by Murphy (2014) should be rationalised and adopted as part of this process. Although not official, these abbreviations have been widely adopted within the sector and by other agencies (e.g. CITIZAN) and it is suggested that they are formally adopted.

Given the popularity and simple functionality of the CITIZAN RCZAS webpage, it is suggested that the new Historic England list should form a prominent part of the new cluster of project information pages which should be hosted on the Historic England website. Search Engine Optimisation techniques should be employed to ensure that this canonical list is returned to those searching for RCZAS information.

With regard to the reports themselves, it is suggested that a process of rationalisation needs to be undertaken behind the scenes of the Historic England website, so that all of

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<sup>28</sup> [https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7874/severn\\_rczas\\_phase2a\\_pilot\\_report\\_2010-62755.pdf](https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/7874/severn_rczas_phase2a_pilot_report_2010-62755.pdf), accessed 6 December 2018.

<sup>29</sup> [http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/1154410/Exmoor-Nat-Pk\\_Rapid-Coastal-Zone-AssSurvey-FINAL-LOW-RES.pdf](http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/1154410/Exmoor-Nat-Pk_Rapid-Coastal-Zone-AssSurvey-FINAL-LOW-RES.pdf), accessed 6 December 2018.



the RCZAS reports are made available from the website and that only one copy exists of each of the reports. The friendly URLs which have been corrupted should be reintroduced, especially as several of these URLs have been published previously. For convenience, it is suggested that those reports which have been split into numerous parts should be amalgamated into larger, single PDF files. There is also a need for additional keywords and tags to be applied to all of the reports in the RCZAS bibliography, so that they can be suitably searched for and filtered within the wider Publications and Research Reports areas of the website.

In addition to hosting copies of the RCZAS reports on the Historic England website, due consideration should also be given to creating a definitive set of archived reports to be hosted on the ADS website as a complement to other RCZAS material archived there. It is to this subject which the next section turns.

## 6 Accessing RCZAS Data

This section considers how the supporting data produced by the RCZAS projects is archived and the ease with which it can be assessed. This subject falls into two main areas: project data archived with the ADS, and data integrated into the holdings of local HERs.

### 6.1 The Archaeology Data Service

The ADS is the only accredited digital repository for heritage data in the UK, and is widely used across the sector to archive the digital outputs of heritage projects. Since the early years of the RCZAS programme, it has been a requirement of the RCZAS brief that copies of reports and data be lodged with the ADS. As a consequence, the RCZAS programme already has an established landing page on the ADS website, and this is one of the first pages returned by search engines when searching for the RCZAS programme online (Figure 17).<sup>30</sup> The landing page itself gives a brief overview of the background to the project, a list of completed survey areas, and a clickable map graphic with survey areas highlighted. The latter is a useful addition and allows users to see which stretches of coast are included within each survey area, not all of which are obvious from the project names.

Although there is no 'last updated' timestamp included on the landing page, it is clear that this page has not been substantially updated for quite some time, although as is discussed below, some small edits have been made since the draft version of this report was prepared. The list of RCZAS surveys is dated 2009 and the primary contact for the page is listed as English Heritage. At the bottom of the page is a signpost for up-to-date information about the RCZAS linking to 'English Heritage RCZAS web pages'. In 2009, nine RCZAS surveys were able to be listed as complete, and the intention was clearly that each of the entries in the list would link to sub-pages containing the reports and supporting data from each of the survey areas. When the first draft of this report was completed, only the data from two survey areas was able to be accessed via the website in this fashion – those from the North East England<sup>31</sup> and Yorkshire and Lincolnshire surveys<sup>32</sup> – since then, links have been created to the archive for the most recent of the two Dorset RCZAS surveys,<sup>33</sup> which was initially uploaded in 2015, and the archive of the recently-completed South Cornwall Coast RCZAS, uploaded in 2019.<sup>34</sup> Projects which have had data archived with the ADS are indicated in the relevant column of the table in Figure 4.

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<sup>30</sup> <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rczas/index.cfm>, accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>31</sup> [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/nercza\\_ah\\_2009/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/nercza_ah_2009/), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>32</sup> [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksacza\\_ah\\_2009/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksacza_ah_2009/), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>33</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dorsetrczas\\_ah\\_2015/](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dorsetrczas_ah_2015/), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>34</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rcza\\_cornwall\\_ca\\_2019/](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rcza_cornwall_ca_2019/), accessed 16 August 2019.

## Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS)

Introduction  
Site List



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### Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 1587

### Introduction to the Programme

England's coastal zone contains a legacy of historic assets including a complex array of fragile and irreplaceable archaeological remains, historic buildings and structures, and entire landscapes. These remains are vulnerable to a wide range of threats, including anthropogenic pressures, such as those associated with commercial development and shoreline management, as well as natural processes of coastal change. It is now generally accepted that coastal physical processes are being forced by changes in annual rainfall distribution and wave direction, relative sea-level rise and an increase in storm incidence, all associated with wider climate change.

Over recent decades it has been recognised by coastal managers and Government that the entire English coastline cannot be maintained in its present form through the 21st century and that, where possible, natural processes should be allowed to operate. Coastal management is now viewed more holistically, taking into account not just the need to protect life and property but also environmental and social factors, as part of the move towards Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

Since the late 1990's English Heritage have initiated a programme of **Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys** to enhance the knowledge of the coastal historic environment in an effort to inform future Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). The information gained will feed into SMP consultation and development and will help to ensure effective mitigation of the effects of coastal change through the 21st century. It will also provide a data-base which may be used for further research and in the development control process

### Completed Surveys (2009):

- North East England
- Yorkshire and Lincolnshire
- Dorset
- Cornwall South Coast
- Norfolk
- Suffolk
- Essex
- North Kent
- Isles of Scilly
- Severn Estuary

The map to the right highlights completed surveys with reports and data now available via the ADS; click on any of the coloured areas to access the relevant survey. For more information regarding other projects and for up-to-date information on RCZAS work please visit the [Historic England RCZAS web pages](#).

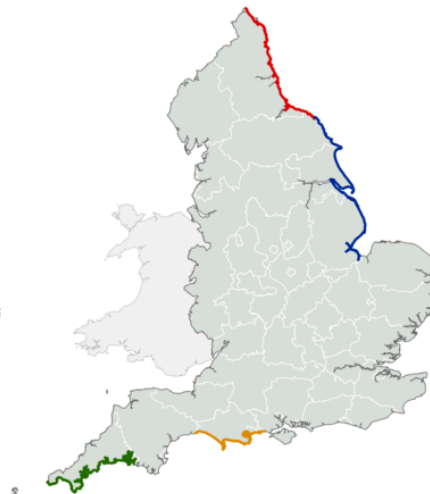


Figure 17. The RCZAS landing page on the ADS website, accessed 16 August 2019.

The North East RCZAS page was created in 2009 and last updated in 2011 (Figure 18).<sup>35</sup> The introductory page includes a brief overview of the survey area and a summary of the two phases of the project, and these subjects are described in more detail on the project overview page. Within the downloads section of the project record are sub-pages containing reports and data produced during Phases 1 and 2 of the project. The Phase 1 material includes the Air Survey Mapping Report as a single PDF (6 MB). By contrast, the

<sup>35</sup> [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/nercza\\_eh\\_2009/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/nercza_eh_2009/), accessed 21 March 2019.

NERCZA final report is presented as a series of 18 individual PDFs, supported by 21 separate figures, all of which need to be downloaded individually. None of these individual files is larger than 3 MB, and many are less than 1 MB. Given current data download speeds, it is suggested that the user experience of this webpage could be greatly improved by these elements being merged into a single PDF. This has already been done for the report which can be downloaded from the Historic England publication webpages.

The Phase 1 reports for the North East RCZAS are complemented by the project GIS, which comprises aerial survey data and associated records, which are presented on the website sub-divided by local authority. The Phase 2 digital archive comprises a PDF report, which is again split into eight files, ranging from 88 MB to 241 KB, and is complemented by a project leaflet. The Phase 2 GIS archive is similarly presented by local authority area, and also includes a substantial photographic archive of sites visited and recorded during the Phase 2 survey.

The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS page was placed online in 2009 and likewise comprises a project overview page, with accompanying downloads (Figure 19).<sup>36</sup> However, in this instance, the project downloads comprise PDFs of the four Phase 1 desk-based assessment reports, each split into a number of smaller sub-sections. No additional project archive material in the form of GIS or photographs is provided, and this archive page effectively offers a parallel source from which to download the project reports.

A third RCZAS data archive was deposited with the ADS in July 2015, although, as has been seen, this was only cross-linked with the main RCZAS data page in mid-2019. Resulting from the Phase 1 desk-based assessment undertaken of Dorset as part of the South West (South Coast) RCZAS, this archive comprises a landing page giving a brief overview of the Dorset scheme, and two download pages for the reports and the accompanying GIS (Figure 20).<sup>37</sup> The two reports are both cross-linked to OASIS uploads and, at the time of writing, are still showing as awaiting validation by Dorset County Council before being released. Both files are already available from the Historic England website. The GIS downloads comprise Shapefiles of the study area and point data of unrecorded sites.

Following the completion of the first draft of this report, the data archive for the South Cornwall Coast RCZAS (see Section 3.13.4, above) was uploaded in May 2019.<sup>38</sup> This comprises a project summary landing page, linked to a download page containing a PDF

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<sup>36</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksrcza\\_eh\\_2009/index.cfm](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksrcza_eh_2009/index.cfm), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>37</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dorsetrczas\\_he\\_2015/](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dorsetrczas_he_2015/), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>38</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rcza\\_cornwall\\_ca\\_2019/](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rcza_cornwall_ca_2019/), accessed 16 August 2019.

of the project report, spreadsheets of monument data split up by HER area and complementary GIS Shapefiles containing monument data and the study area outline.

The screenshot shows the ADS website page for the 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: North East' project. The page has a blue header with the ADS logo and navigation links: HOME, SEARCH, DEPOSIT, RESEARCH, ADVICE, ABOUT, HELP. The main title is 'Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: North East' with a subtitle 'Archaeological Research Services Ltd, 2009 (updated 2011)'. On the left sidebar, there are links for Introduction, Overview, Downloads, Metadata, Usage Statistics, and Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS). Below these links is a copyright notice for English Heritage and a license statement. The main content area has an 'Introduction' section with a photograph of a coastal castle. The text describes the project's goals and phases. The 'Primary contact' section provides details for Archaeological Research Services Ltd. At the bottom, there are 'Resource identifiers' including the ADS Collection number and DOI. A footer contains legal statements and the University of York logo.

**ads** ARCHAEOLOGY DATA SERVICE

HOME SEARCH DEPOSIT RESEARCH ADVICE ABOUT HELP

## Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: North East

Archaeological Research Services Ltd, 2009 (updated 2011)

**Introduction**  
**Overview**  
**Downloads**  
**Metadata**  
**Usage Statistics**

**Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS)**

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**ads**


**ENGLISH HERITAGE**

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**Resource identifiers**  
**ADS Collection:** 884  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000385>  
How to cite using this DOI

**Introduction**  
The North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment, or NERCZA, is one of a series of projects initiated by English Heritage around the coasts of England. The project was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. The NERCZA study area consists of approximately 200km of coastline between the Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) and 1km inland from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS), and includes Coquet Island and the Farne Islands which lie offshore and Holy Island, joined to the mainland at low tide by a causeway.



Phase 1 (March 2007 to December 2008) comprised a desk based rapid coastal zone assessment of the threat posed to heritage assets in the North East by rising sea level and consequential coastal erosion. The review of the heritage assets has been based on a consideration of two data sets. The first consists of the Historic Environment Records (HERs) maintained by or for the Local Authorities with curatorial responsibilities for this section of the coast. The second data set consists of the aerial photograph coverage of the study area from which all archaeological features visible have been mapped to the standards of English Heritage's National Mapping Programme.

Phase 2 (September 2009 to February 2010) carried out field survey of fifteen threatened areas. Each site was investigated and surveyed utilizing mapping grade Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment, with extensive digital and paper records maintained along with extensive site photography.

The Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS) are an English Heritage initiative to inform and develop our knowledge of the coastal historic environment. For more information on the RCZAS please see the [English Heritage RCZAS website](#). In addition to this several other RCZAS are also available via the ADS.

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**ads** ARCHAEOLOGY DATA SERVICE THE UNIVERSITY of York

Figure 18. The North East RCZAS project page on the ADS website, accessed 21 March 2019.

## Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: Yorkshire and Lincolnshire

Humber Field Archaeology, 2009

[Introduction](#)  
[Overview](#)  
[Downloads](#)  
[Metadata](#)  
[Usage Statistics](#)

### Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS)

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

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### Resource identifiers

ADS Collection: 868  
 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5284/1000071>  
 How to cite using this DOI



### Introduction

The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (RCZA) was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology on behalf of English Heritage. The project consisted of a desk based rapid coastal zone assessment of the threat posed to heritage assets along the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coast by rising sea level and consequential coastal erosion. The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZA is one of a series of projects initiated by English Heritage around the coasts of England.

The area of coverage principally includes the shoreline (to Lowest Astronomical Tide level) and 1km band of cliff and coastal hinterland, although virtually the entire Flamborough Head peninsula is included. In addition, aerial photographic survey and analysis to National Mapping Programme standards covers the same area, but includes entire 1km map squares, which in many areas extends the area of coverage inland. Areas below low-water mark, such as records of shipwrecks, wreck fastenings, dive sites and dredgings, are not generally included.

The RCZA aims to establish a more comprehensive and reliable database assessment of the range and scope of the archaeological resource than is currently available. Not only should this lead to a significant improvement in the archaeological coverage within the various Local Authority HERs, but it is also intended to inform long-term strategies for the management of the cultural heritage resource, especially in the light of the current Shoreline Management Plans. The results have been published in the form of a series of reports, arranged by coastal section, and supported by maps showing distributions of sites. A digital archive is also available, including a GIS-based record of the NMP data.

The Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS) are an English Heritage initiative to inform and develop our knowledge of the coastal historic environment. For more information on the RCZAS please see the English Heritage RCZAS website. In addition to this several other RCZAS are also available via the ADS.



Figure 19. The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS project page on the ADS website, accessed 21 March 2019.

## Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: Dorset

Cornwall Council, Bournemouth University, 2015

### Introduction

### Downloads

### Metadata

### Usage Statistics

### Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS)

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**ADS Collection:** 1969  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5284/1032954>  
How to cite using this DOI



### Introduction

The national programme of Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS), funded by English Heritage/Historic England, is designed to enhance and update coastal Historic Environment Records through a two-phased approach. Phase 1 (Desk-based Assessment) assesses the data available on the character of the historic environment within the project area, and potential threats to heritage assets, in order to design a strategy for Phase 2 (Field Survey) which prioritises areas where heritage assets may be most at risk. This project was the Phase 1 DBA component of the Dorset RCZAS carried out in 2014/15 by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and Bournemouth University.



The study area extended from the Dorset/Hampshire county border to the Dorset/Devon county border, and included an assessment of surviving remains along the open coast and its tidal estuaries, including the intertidal zone out to Lowest Astronomical Tide with a 1km 'interland' to the landward side of Mean High Water and extending up estuaries to 1km beyond the tidal extent. The current project has created more than 980 new sites for the HER and updated another 143 records for sites already recorded. Threats to the coastal historic environment are identified, research priorities and themes are presented in the context of the regional themes and research aims set out in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) and specific sites and areas which would benefit from further research or work are also identified.

Figure 20. The Dorset RCZAS project page on the ADS website, accessed 21 March 2019.

## Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: Cornwall South Coast

Peter Dudley, Charlie Johns, Michael Grant, 2019

[Introduction](#)  
[Downloads](#)  
[Metadata](#)  
[Usage Statistics](#)

### Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (RCZAS)

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**ADS Collection:** 3456  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5284/1053675>  
 How to cite using this DOI



### Introduction

The Cornwall South Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey is part of a national programme funded by Historic England. The project was undertaken by Cornwall Archaeological Unit, Cornwall Council, and COARS, Southampton University between 2017 and 2018. The project consisted of a desk-based assessment of the threat posed to heritage assets along the coast by rising sea levels and increasing coastal erosion.



The project area extended from Andurn Point in Devon to Land's End in Cornwall and included Plymouth and the Tamar Estuaries. It included an assessment of surviving remains along the open coast and its tidal estuaries, including the intertidal zone out to Lowest Astronomical Tide, with a 1km 'hinterland' to the landward side of Mean High Water and extending up estuaries to 1km beyond the tidal extent. The project area was sub-divided according to Policy Scenario Areas (PSAs) and the Policy Development Zones (PDZs) as set out in Shoreline Management Plans for Durlston Head to Rame Head and Rame Head to Hartland Point.

The Phase 1 Desk-based Assessment (DBA) assessed the data available on the character of the historic environment within the project area, and potential threats to heritage assets, in order to design a strategy for Phase 2 (Field Survey) which prioritises areas where heritage assets may be most at risk. The project updated and added new records to the Historic Environment Records for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon County Council and the City of Plymouth. Overall the project added, updated or amended 2,737 records; the new sites created totalled 2,294 for Cornwall, 82 for Devon and 227 for Plymouth.

Research priorities and themes identified by the desk-based assessment are presented in the context of the regional themes and research aims set out in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF). Specific sites and areas which would benefit from further research or work are also summarised in the final report.

Figure 21. The Cornwall South Coast RCZAS project page on the ADS website, accessed 16 August 2019.



The ADS website automatically provides publicly accessible usage data for each of its project archives, which can be used as a gauge of the wider public interest in the results of specific RCZAS surveys. Examination of the usage data for the North East RCZAS pages on 21 March 2019 demonstrates that since May 2011 it has received 1,252 visits comprising 3,857 page views and resulting in 1,470 file downloads.<sup>39</sup> This usage data can be compared with that for the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, which in the same time period has experienced 1,334 visits comprising 3,149 page views and has resulted in a somewhat surprising statistic of 22,619 file downloads.<sup>40</sup> It should be remembered that many of the reports in these two archives are presented in multiple parts, which makes these figures seem particularly high. The usage data for the Dorset archive demonstrates that between its being placed online in July 2015 and 21 March 2019, the archive had received 100 visits resulting in 267 page views and 6 file downloads, although these statistics reflect both its shorter online life and the fact that the downloads only comprise two GIS files.<sup>41</sup> Encouragingly, although the South Cornwall Coast RCZAS data has only been online since May 2019, it had already received 27 site visits resulting in 57 page views by 16 August 2019.<sup>42</sup>

Given the large quantities of digital data generated by the projects and the need to make them publicly accessible, there should be no doubt that the ADS is a very appropriate location for the archiving of digital copies of the RCZAS reports and supporting data. Since the early years of the RCZAS programme, it has been a requirement of the RCZAS brief that copies of reports and data be lodged with the ADS, but the extent to which the preparation and deposition of such digital archives was resourced in the original project designs is less clear.

It was originally intended that there should be an umbrella page for the RCZAS archives on the ADS website, under which individual project archives would sit, but this has clearly not been updated for quite some time and there are many completed projects for which data accession of this kind has not yet occurred (see Figure 4). Correspondence conducted with ADS staff as part of this evaluation process has highlighted a desire on the part of the ADS to see the RCZAS archive pages revitalised and brought up to date with the results and digital archives of the projects completed to date. This is an aspiration which is echoed by all those with an interest in the successful completion and furtherance of the RCZAS programme, and should be undertaken as a matter of priority.

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<sup>39</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/nercza\\_ah\\_2009/stats.cfm](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/nercza_ah_2009/stats.cfm), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>40</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksrcza\\_ah\\_2009/stats.cfm](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/yorksrcza_ah_2009/stats.cfm), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>41</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dorsetrczas\\_ah\\_2015/stats.cfm](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dorsetrczas_ah_2015/stats.cfm), accessed 21 March 2019.

<sup>42</sup> [https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rcza\\_cornwall\\_ca\\_2019/stats.cfm](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/rcza_cornwall_ca_2019/stats.cfm), accessed 16 August 2019.

**Recommendation 40:** The RCZAS landing page on the ADS website should be updated in tandem with the revisions to the Historic England website recommended above.

**Recommendation 41:** The digital archives for completed RCZAS projects which are not currently held by the ADS should be prepared and deposited as a matter of priority by the archaeological contractors responsible for them.

## 6.2 Historic Environment Records

The enhancement of the network of Historic Environment Records (HERs), usually maintained by local authorities at county or unitary authority level, was one of the stated aims of the RCZAS programme, and as such HERs represent the primary repository for monument data generated by the RCZAS programme. As was summarised in Section 3, all of the Phase 1 desk-based assessments have taken existing HER data as their benchmark starting point, and the Phase 1 process has enhanced existing monument records and created new ones at an impressive rate. By far the most effective part of the Phase 1 process has been the integration with the NMP, which has greatly expanded our knowledge of the heritage assets which lie within the coastal zone (and elsewhere) and provided particularly vivid insights into the coastal defences constructed during the Second World War.

From the point of view of creating new records and archiving data, the relationship between RCZAS projects and the HER(s) covering their project areas have proved to be a key part of the ultimate success or failure of the HER enhancement process. In general, RCZAS projects have taken two main approaches to the process of HER enhancement, with some working directly into live HERs, and others exporting data for enhancement with a view to re-integrating the data at a later date. Those projects undertaken in-house by local authorities have been able to add their results directly to their own HERs, ensuring compatibility of data and also enabling the results of the surveys to immediately start to inform consultation responses. In many of the more recent RCZAS projects, local authorities have not necessarily had the capacity or expertise to undertake RCZAS work themselves, but instead have worked collaboratively with archaeological contractors and hosted project staff in order to provide live access to the HER and guide the process of HER enhancement. Projects which have been undertaken by archaeological contractors with no local connections or local authority staff integration have required exports of HER data to be loaded into their own GIS systems or, in some cases, into stand-alone versions of the HBSMR software used by the majority of HERs or stand-alone versions of bespoke systems where these are used. As is apparent from several of the project reports and from

surveys conducted among the HER community, this process has not always been straightforward and difficulties have been presented by archaeological contractors having little or no prior knowledge or experience of HER software or recording practices, as well as more technical problems with compatibility of software and data management more widely.

The problem of data integration is more nuanced than simply the approach taken to working with the HER database. It has been calculated that the RCZAS survey areas covered 32 different HERs, with some surveys having a one-to-one relationship and others one-to-many relationships. In addition to the complexity of liaising with numerous HERs, each HER also has its own recording practices, collection policies and numbering systems, meaning that different approaches to data integration need to be taken within each local authority area, not just within each RCZAS area. Reviewing the progress of the RCZAS scheme, some projects (such as the North East RCZAS) have clearly taken this on board and divided their data accordingly, while other projects (such as the South East RCZAS) have adopted a more one-size-fits-all approach to the problem, which has ultimately proved to be more unhelpful.

**Recommendation 42:** The mechanism for HER enhancement needs to be considered at the outset of the project, with an emphasis placed on working into a live HER database or having hosting staff where possible.

**Recommendation 43:** There needs to be better communication between contractors and HER officers regarding recording practices and criteria for inclusion in the HER.

In order to better understand the data integration elements of the RCZAS process and gain an insight into the degree to which RCZAS data produced to date has been actively integrated into live HERs, a questionnaire was circulated among local authority staff responsible for maintaining coastal HERs to which 24 responses were received. The questions presented in the survey, and the possible multiple choice answers are included here as Appendix 4. Overall, 79.2% of these respondents had HER responsibilities and their survey responses were augmented by face-to-face discussions held at the cycle of regional HER forum meetings held during 2018, together with follow-up correspondence and telephone conversations.

With regard to being able to retrieve RCZAS data, respondents were asked how accessible they found details of individual monument records to be in the RCZAS reports. Overall, 39.1% stated that such details were accessible, while 26.1% indicated that this was not the case. When asked if, in the light of having used them, RCZAS report should be

considered to be fit for purpose, 73.7% of respondents thought that they were. When the 26.3% of respondents who replied in the negative were invited to elaborate upon their position, most respondents indicated that this varied considerably between reports and survey areas. One respondent responsible for managing the results of an RCZAS project, observed that the data within the reports needed to be better structured, for example in gazetteers, and that the GIS and databases generated during the projects needed to be made available digitally. As has been seen, this has certainly been achieved with some of the RCZAS projects, but there is clearly a substantial shortfall in the uptake and funding of the full digital archiving of RCZAS results with HERs and the ADS.

All local authorities were specifically asked whether new and enhanced RCZAS monument records had been integrated into their HERs. Half of all respondents indicated that the results were fully integrated, while 37.5% indicated that they were not. These findings have been integrated into the 'Data Integration' column of the table in Figure 4, but it should be noted that not all HERs responded to the questionnaire and some responded anonymously. There is still a need to audit all coastal HERs to ascertain the true state of RCZAS data integration. In addition to monument record data, local authorities were asked if they had integrated any other aspects of the results of the RCZAS, such as threat levels, into their HER databases. The vast majority of respondents, 82.6% said no, with only 8.7% saying yes. In the context of the discussion above, it is telling that many of the cases where new data have been integrated relate to local authority areas where the RCZAS was undertaken in house or by hosted archaeological contractors, and this seems to be the most effective working method for ensuring that data end up properly integrated into the HERs.

As a follow-up question, those who had indicated that the RCZAS had not been fully imported into the HER were asked where the full details of the RCZAS monument records resided and how they might be accessed. Responses to this question varied. Some datasets were described as still being held by the archaeological contractors, while several HERs described how they held the RCZAS results as standalone digital datasets which sat alongside the HER. In some cases this took the form of a GIS layer to show the results of the NMP and an Access database containing details of the files, but these HERs indicated that they did not supply the RCZAS data as part of HER searches. In others, the GIS created by the RCZAS was loaded into the HER and cross-referenced against hard copy and PDF versions of the RCZAS reports. This is clearly not an efficient means of accessing this information and means that it cannot easily be incorporated into HER search results.

A common element is the fact that the resource provision for HER accessioning seems to have varied considerably between projects, both in terms of time allocation and the format of data. The mechanics of the process have not always been agreed with the HERs at the project design stage. In many cases, the time and work required to make the final data integration have been assumed to be the responsibility of the receiving HER and not the RCZAS programme itself. One HER reported having requested directly the final data entry to be factored into the project design, only for that not to happen, and there is a widely-held perception that the RCZAS programme has not historically been interested in facilitating the final data integration phase in any meaningful way. Without recourse to the individually costed project designs for each of the RCZAS projects (which lies beyond the scope of the current project), it is not possible to verify the truth of these statements in every case. However, correspondence with several individuals involved with the RCZAS programme has indicated that during the early years of the programme, the formal emphasis of the scheme was indeed very much on data collection and the addition of data to the centralised NMR AMIE database, rather than data integration into the local HERs. The latter was very much seen as an issue for local authorities to solve within their own staffing resources. As a result, the integration phase of RCZAS data into HERs has not been as comprehensive as it could have been, and, as is discussed more fully in the next section, has resulted in a missed opportunity to use RCZAS data to its fullest extent. With hindsight, this is acknowledged as a mistaken judgement on the part of the project commissioners, and more recent RCZAS briefs have placed a strong emphasis on the need to ensure that data are properly managed and integrated into the relevant HERs as one of the RCZAS project's core tasks. There is, however, a legacy of poorly integrated data which needs to be addressed as a matter of priority.

**Recommendation 44:** The degree of RCZAS data integration into coastal HERs should be audited in order to inform the development of future data-integration strategies.

When asked if the HER held any other materials relating to the RCZAS projects over and above monument data, most local authorities indicated that copies of the relevant NMP mapping was also held, although several said that they held nothing. The local authorities which had been responsible for undertaking RCZAS projects within their own administrative area or wider region, for example Norfolk, Gloucestershire and the Isle of Wight, all held the primary records created during the RCZAS field surveys, which provide a valuable resource in their own right. It has not been possible to ascertain the location of the original archives for many of the RCZAS projects within the scope of this assessment,

but in most cases these are presumed to remain with the archaeological contractors who conducted the work awaiting formal physical and digital archiving.

Although RCZAS data had been passed to HERs in most cases, this was not without its difficulties. It was highlighted that several of the more recent projects have produced point rather than polygonised data monument data and that spreadsheets have not been as helpful as earlier projects. Others indicated that the reports themselves did not contain details of every monument record within the project area, and that gazetteers would be desirable, while others had been provided monument data as separate database files rather than as part of the report. One HER indicated that, despite using exported data in a parallel installation of HBSMR, they had only received the HER data from their RCZAS in the form of PDF reports exported from the contractor's version of the database. These could not, therefore, be used as the basis of proper HER integration or interrogation, and the end result rather undermined the point of attempting a formal data exchange.

In terms of the quality and relevance of the new data itself, one respondent with considerable experience of the RCZAS programme expressed the view that where new information was discovered, this definitely did help to improve the existing HER entries. However, they also noted that while the RCZAS process took data from the HERs, the follow-on work rarely seemed to evaluate the data with site visits and more in-depth research, with the result that many entries in the RCZAS reports were simply the original HER data repeated back or, worse, copied into a separate record. Several HERs echoed this view, indicating that they had not imported the records created by the RCZAS into their databases in their entirety, but had instead opted to assess the data in the context of their own frame of reference as to what warranted monument record status. In this fashion, new records and enhanced records have been brought into the HERs, but RCZAS records which add nothing to the existing content of the HERs have not been integrated. None of the HERs reported this work being funded as part of the RCZAS programme, and where work of this kind had been undertaken it had been done as part of the day-to-day workload of the HER teams in question.

The problem of duplicate records was also highlighted, resulting from HER records being exported and enhanced before being returned with updated descriptions and locational data, only to find that little consideration had been given to being able to marry up the new records with their earlier incarnations. The recognition and management of such issues are of fundamental importance to data-exchange projects of this kind, but the evidence collected through meetings with HER officers across the country suggests that these problems have consistently not been thought about or resourced as part of the

RCZAS process. This is perhaps because most of the personnel involved in the different aspects of the RCZAS programme do not have data management backgrounds and therefore have little appreciation of the importance of these issues.

One theme which has emerged very strongly from consultation with a large number of HERs is the fact that, despite the enhancement of HERs being a stated aim of the RCZAS programme, in many cases HERs themselves have had little or no input into the development and delivery of RCZAS projects beyond the role of data providers and receivers. Several HERs reported a lack of input being sought from local HERs during the project design phase of RCZAS projects affecting their areas, and offers of such input not being taken up when made. On occasion, this lack of engagement has clearly led to difficulties with the use and management of project data, and particularly its reintegration into the host HER. Indeed, in some instances this reintegration has simply proved to be technically impossible due to poor understanding of the requirements of the HER.

**Recommendation 45:** Local authority staff, particularly HER teams, should be involved in the development of the RCZAS programme in order to ensure that data are managed appropriately and are fit for purpose. Project designs should be compiled with the full involvement of the HER(s) concerned.

Another interesting observation to emerge from the survey was the fact that several HER officers and development management staff were aware that data from the RCZAS surveys had been added to their HERs previously, but had little or no first-hand knowledge or experience of the programme. The majority of the fieldwork for the RCZAS programme was completed in the early 2000s, with reports appearing sporadically throughout that period and in the years since. Given the passage of time and the immense turnover of staff which the heritage profession has seen during the intervening period of recession and austerity, lack of personal knowledge is perhaps not surprising. This loss of knowledge makes it all the more important that the RCZAS data is properly imported into the HERs and that reports are linked to the relevant records, so that the reference to the RCZAS data will not be overlooked by staff who are unaware of its existence and contents.

Whether staff are aware of its provenance or not, the fact that RCZAS data have been integrated into the HERs means that it forms a part of their working dataset, without necessarily being flagged as specifically belonging to the RCZAS programme, except through relevant event records. While it would arguably be desirable for HER officers to be aware of the origins of all of their data, the seamless integration of RCZAS data should be seen as the desired outcome of the RCZAS process. Fully integrated RCZAS data sitting

alongside other HER data derived from a wide range of sources allows an holistic overview of the historic environment to be provided and enables comprehensive development management advice to be provided. The RCZAS records within HERs also need to be used to signpost RCZAS resources held elsewhere, such as reports and digital archives, so that interested HER users can access more detailed information about the context of the discoveries reported in the HER monument records.

### 6.3 The CITiZAN Website

In addition to its webpage listing the RCZAS reports, the CITiZAN project also hosts an interactive map of coastal heritage assets, which features details of what it calls 'original CITiZAN features', derived from existing data, and 'newly recorded features', which have been added and edited by volunteers (Figure).<sup>43</sup> The introductory text for the site indicates that the underlying dataset is primarily derived from 'Historic England which contained the most recent data from the various RCZAs carried out around the country, selected HERs in the southwest whose RCZA data was not yet submitted, the National Trust and local archaeology groups including the Thames Discovery Programme.' An additional caveat on the website states that the presented data represent 'a snapshot in time of a selective set of site data and should not be used in lieu of HER records searches for planning purposes.' As has already been seen, in their current state none of these cited sources might be considered to be a definitive dataset of coastal heritage assets, certainly as far as the integration of RCZAS data is concerned, and the fact that most coastal HERs do not appear to have provided data means that the most significant source of local information has not routinely been included. Similarly, by providing a single snapshot, the online map makes no consideration of the accrual of data which occurs within the coastal zone.

Arguably, at its most basic level, the creation of this website represents a large exercise in duplicated effort, in that coastal data of this kind are already served by the Heritage Gateway website, which combines multiple nationally and locally held data sources into single sets of search results. By including data from many of the coastal HERs, the Heritage Gateway is able to offer current and contextualised heritage data, which the CITiZAN model cannot. There are also problems with the presentation of the mapping itself, which has been reduced to point data for the purposes of web-mapping, with results appearing as area-based clusters until a suitable zoom level is reached for individual records to become visible. Unfortunately, in many instances, the clusters of data are so dense it is not possible to zoom in enough for them to be resolved into individual records.

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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.citizen.org.uk/interactive-coastal-map/>, last accessed 22 August 2019.



## How-to guides:

[How to Register as an online CITiZAN Surveyor PDF guide](#)

[How to explore the interactive coastal map PDF guide](#)

[How to add a CITiZAN feature to the interactive coastal map PDF guide](#)

[How to edit a CITiZAN feature PDF guide](#)

[How to submit a CITiZAN update survey PDF guide](#)

## Interactive Coastal Map

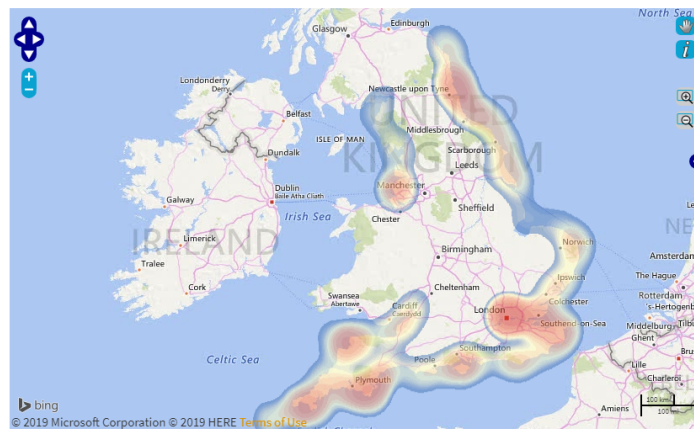
The massive CITiZAN baseline dataset of coastal and intertidal sites and features has come from a variety of sources: Historic England which contained the most recent data from the various RCZAs carried out around the country, selected HERs in the southwest whose RCZA data was not yet submitted, the National Trust and local archaeology groups including the Thames Discovery Programme. This is a snapshot in time of a selective set of site data and should not be used in lieu of HER records searches for planning purposes.

Be sure to visit the [resources section](#) for guidance on how to [explore the map](#), or if you would like to contribute further, see how to [add or edit](#) coastal and intertidal features and provide [update surveys](#) !

Zoom in on the map below by using the (+) or (-) buttons on the left, or by zoom-selecting using the tools on the right of the map. To zoom-select, draw a square around the area you'd like to see in more detail.

To select a point and see more information about a site or feature, click the (i) button on the left. If there are too many sites clustered in an area, you may have to zoom in further to select a single point.

You can view the CITiZAN dataset against different map layers by clicking the dark blue plus (+) on the right of the map.



### Map markers

- original CITiZAN feature
- newly-recorded feature

### Map controls

- pan around the map
- select a feature and see further information
- zoom in - drag a box to define an area
- zoom out - drag a box to control extent

## Add a new CITiZAN feature?

If you know of a feature that is not recorded or have found a potential new feature whilst exploring the map, you can add a new feature here:

[Add feature](#)

## Find an existing CITiZAN feature

If you know the CITiZAN ID of an existing feature, find it here:

CITiZAN ID\*

[Find Feature](#)



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Figure 22. The Interactive Coastal Map page of the CITiZAN website, accessed 22 August 2019.

The important role which the CITIZAN website currently plays in directing people towards the online resources hosted by Historic England has already been discussed (see Section 5.3), but the local authority experience of dealing with the CITIZAN project is more divided. During the consultations conducted as part of this assessment, many HERs reported having had contact with the CITIZAN project and sharing coastal HER data and expertise with them, including the results of the RCZAS programme, in order to facilitate outreach and engagement events. Among the local authorities spoken to, there is a prevailing opinion that, while the CITIZAN project undoubtedly does good work, has raised the profile of intertidal archaeology and enthused volunteers around the country, sufficient thought and consultation with local authorities did not go into the creation of the project in order to ensure that the project worked with HERs and established local practices and groups, rather than in parallel to them. More than one coastal HER officer reported first hearing about the CITIZAN project via a press release, and expressed surprise that a more integrated approach had not been taken to the development and implementation of the project, especially in areas where well-established volunteer-led coastal monitoring was already underway.

Each of the individual records on the CITIZAN map has the option for registered volunteers to log into the site and 'edit the original record', by which it is meant that 'errors' can be corrected. Such an approach is problematic for HERs for two reasons: first, corrections to records need to be made as part of a verifiably and traceable process, with the original information being retained, as per national guidelines; secondly, these corrections are being carried out on the CITIZAN version of the dataset and there currently appears to be no mechanism in place for any corrected information to be passed back up the chain to its original source or sources. Similarly, volunteers can add new records to the map and each existing record offers volunteers the option to prepare and undertake a 'Feature Update Survey', which can either be undertaken using a downloadable form or the CITIZAN smartphone app. Again, these aims are recognised as being laudable, but it is the CITIZAN map which is being updated and the mechanism for new and updated data to be usefully transferred back to the HERs has not yet been demonstrated convincingly.

Overall, the CITIZAN project had gained considerable support and momentum in recent years, but there is a feeling in the sector that the direction in which the project is heading might be at odds with the direction of travel for the RCZAS and coastal HERs more widely. It is to be hoped that the objectives of the different schemes might be brought back into alignment, although these are issues which lie outside the scope of the current project. Insofar as this assessment is concerned, however, it is interesting to note the similarities

between the comments from local authorities and HERs regarding the lack of proper consultation with and input during the instigation of the CITiZAN project and those made about the instigation of the RCZAS programme discussed in the previous section

**Recommendation 46:** In developing projects in which data-collection and integration in the HERs is a key outcome, it is essential that a joined-up, consultative approach in which HERs are included is followed in order to maximise the return on any available resources.

## 6.4 Discussion

In addition to the creation of the RCZAS web content and rationalisation of the reports hosted on the Historic England website recommended in the preceding sections, it is recommended here that a coordinated effort is made to collate the digital archives of the completed RCZAS projects and ensure that they are all hosted with the ADS. As discussed in the previous section, this archive should include a definitive set of copies of the RCZAS reports. In fact, there has been an RCZAS landing page on the ADS website for over a decade now, but this hasn't been updated for many years. This page was originally intended to host the digital archives of the completed RCZAS projects, and is already equipped with a clickable map interface. To date only the archives for the North East RCZAS, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, the second Dorset RCZAS and South Cornwall Coast RCZAS have been added to the site. The RCZAS page on the ADS website should be overhauled and reinvigorated as the home of the RCZAS data, including GIS and photographs, on the web.

In addition to ensuring that the digital products of the RCZAS programme are archived in an appropriate and publicly-accessible manner, the discussion presented here has highlighted that the most important factor in ensuring the longevity of the data produced by the RCZAS programme and enabling it to make a meaningful contribution to heritage management in the coastal zone is to ensure that the new and enhanced datasets created by RCZAS projects are all properly integrated back into their host HERs. At present, some HERs have integrated data, but far too many HERs have found that the data passed back to them has not been fit for purpose and has not been in a usable or compatible format to enable data re-integration. In many cases, there is an expectation that the work required to re-integrate data will be undertaken by the HER without being resourced by the RCZAS programme. Where RCZAS data are not fully integrated into the relevant HER(s), consideration should be given to how this might be resourced and undertaken in order to maximise the usage of the data. In some cases this will require technical solutions to data

migration problems and in others it will simply require additional staff time to undertake the necessary work.

Any future RCZAS projects should also ensure that HERs are consulted early in the project development process and that due consideration is given to working methods which would enable the live HER to be updated directly. This is now technologically much easier than it used to be, as an increasing number of HERs are opting for remote hosting or access to corporate systems via VPN tokens. Where this isn't possible, good data management practices need to be employed, and a strong emphasis placed upon the need to ensure that full data reintegration is properly planned and suitably resourced at the end of each project. This will then enable the most effective use to be made of RCZAS programme data, which is considered more fully in the next section.

## 7 Using RCZAS Reports and Data

Having examined the RCZAS programme and its constituent projects, and assessed the accessibility of RCZAS information, reports and data, this section looks at the ways in which the data and reports generated by the RCZAS programme are shared with different parts of the heritage sector, and the uses to which they are put.

### 7.1 Local Authorities

In order to understand the interaction which local authority historic environment staff engaged in the HER and development management have with the processes and products of the RCZAS projects, an online questionnaire was compiled and circulated to all relevant local authority teams (Appendix 4). From the 40 questionnaires sent, 24 responses were received (a 60% return rate) from a mixture of staff engaged in HER work, development management and other related tasks, either as separate roles or in combination. Overall, 79.2% of respondents had HER responsibilities, while 45.8% had development management roles, with several individuals reporting additional involvement with land management advice and conservation work.

When asked what they had used RCZAS reports for, 72.7% of respondents indicated that they had used them to create HER entries (as was explored in the previous section), while 45.5% of respondents had used them to inform development management decisions and/or planning responses. RCZAS reports and resources had been used in outreach and engagement and/or work with volunteers by 31.8% of respondents, with 27.3% having used them for site management and 4.5% (1 user) having used them for research purposes. One respondent had been responsible for commissioning the RCZAS survey of their local authority area. Five respondents indicated that they had never used RCZAS reports, which was particularly surprising given their locations and professional responsibilities. When prompted to elaborate on the reasons behind this, it was explained that they had not been used because there had never been a way to import RCZAS data into the HER easily and that this had not been factored into the original RCZAS project design (see above).

It is clear, then, that after HER enhancement the principal use for RCZAS derived data in a local authority context is to inform consultation responses to planning applications in the coastal zone and to feed into strategic planning. With regard to strategic planning, when asked whether RCZAS data had been used during the development of Coastal Management Schemes, 25% of local authorities responded yes, 20.8% responded no and 41.7% were unable to answer the question, primarily due to responsibility for contributing to the development of such management schemes falling outside their remit.

Specific examples of the use of RCZAS data for strategic planning purposes were cited by several respondents, including the development and refinement of SMPs, the preparation of Marine Licence applications, the recording of sea defence banks before and during managed realignment works, assessing the heritage impact of large river flood defence schemes and other coastal defence schemes, and use by bodies such as the RSPB and Wildlife Trusts during the establishment of new large-scale reserves along the coast. Respondents reported that AONBs had used data to inform heritage projects, conservation and outreach, as well as feeding into their own management plans. As part of the development of the England Coast Path, Natural England worked closely with coastal HERs to evaluate the heritage assets within the clifftop coastal zone and ensure that their management was suitably factored in to the scheme. From these responses, it is clear that the RCZAS data and reports do play an important role within the strategic planning process at local authority level, both as a standalone dataset and more often as an integrated part of the local HER.

Also on the subject of strategic management, local authorities were asked whether they thought that RCZAS data should be included in the National Maritime HER, a proposed programme of work under the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS) which will see the enhancement of the Historic England maritime record between the Mean High Water (MHW) mark and the 12 nautical mile territorial limit. Overall, 34.8% said yes, with many qualifying this to the effect that if the coverage area of the NMHER overlapped with the RCZAS study areas then this should be a matter of course. An additional 30.4% said no, primarily because they felt that the majority of the RCZAS data fell outside the likely coverage area of the NMHER and/or was already adequately dealt with by existing HERs. Finally, 21.7% said they didn't have an opinion or simply weren't aware of the proposals.

With regard to development management, and the role which RCZAS data plays in consultation responses to planning applications, it is unfortunate that none of the heritage services of the local authorities consulted was able to say with any certainty how many planning applications had been commented upon within the coastal strip. In almost every case, these statistics were not kept and/or could not easily be calculated or split out from wider consultation figures, with the smallest unit of record tending to be at district level. However, all staff who responded positively were of the opinion that a considerable number of planning applications were involved per annum, and that these figures were even higher where urban centres had also been incorporated into the RCZAS survey areas. Again, it is clear that the results of the RCZAS are directly informing day-to-day

consultation responses made by local authority staff, often without the staff concerned even being aware that the RCZAS is the ultimate source of their information.

Of particular note is the fact that several local authorities reported making extensive use of the NMP mapping generated by the RCZAS, which had been converted to GIS format and formed a standard element of the HER environment. This situation is reportedly the case for many HERs, who integrate NMP mapping as stand-alone mapping layers, cross-referenced to the corresponding HER records. As a consequence, RCZAS-derived NMP mapping is used in the development management process on a near-daily basis, and is considered by many local authority staff to be the most frequently informative dataset.

Beyond use in their own consultation responses, local authorities were asked for their opinions on how many commercial clients were using the original RCZAS data and reports. Some 36.5% of respondents stated that commercial clients used the data and the reports, while 13.6% each reported the use of reports only and data only. Similarly, 18.2% said they weren't used and another 18.2% that they didn't know. However, these negative responses need to be considered in light of the fact that the reports are available online, and that they therefore needn't be accessed via the HER.

With regard to both strategic planning and development management, several HERs reported that, because they had integrated RCZAS data into the main HER database, this was given out as a matter of course during relevant HER searches alongside all of the other HER data, with its provenance being referenced in bibliographic details and related event records. As was discussed in Section 6.2, such integration should be considered to be the most desirable outcome for RCZAS data, ensuring that the findings of the programme can achieve their greatest impact.

**Recommendation 47:** Where RCZAS data are not fully integrated into the relevant HER(s), consideration should be given to how this might be achieved in order to maximise the usage of the data.

Local authorities were also asked whether any non-commercial users had utilised the RCZAS data, with most respondents indicating that many non-commercial users were using RCZAS data without realising. This was happening in two main ways, the first being though the direct provision of HER data which incorporated RCZAS results and the second

via HER datasets made freely available online either via the Heritage Gateway website<sup>44</sup> or via stand-alone websites, such as the Norfolk and Suffolk Heritage Explorers.<sup>45</sup>

Asked if they actively worked with voluntary groups, 27.3% said that they did and 59.1% said that they didn't, with several indicating that they used to, and this is reflective of the anecdotal evidence received about the cutting back of outreach and engagement at local authority level. Of those who did work with volunteers, several local authorities indicated that they worked with national, regional and local groups on coastal matters. Examples included the Plymouth and District Archaeological Society, reporting of sites eroding on the south Devon coast, and the North Devon Archaeological Society doing the same to the north. In Norfolk, the results of the RCZAS were heavily influential in the establishment of the community-focussed Norfolk Coastal Heritage Project, which included extensive work with volunteers and led to the establishment of a community archaeology post within the local authority (Hoggett 2012).

The upshot of the local authority survey and follow-up discussions is the widely held conclusion that HERs represent the primary data source from which the heritage data used for development management and strategic planning should be drawn. By their very nature, HERs comprise data drawn from many different sources, and the HER acts as a summary and index to that information. Therefore, it is the complete dataset which is needed in order to make an informed decision and provide sound guidance, not any one part of it. With this in mind, attempts to quantify and qualify the use of RCZAS as a standalone dataset in this context are a little misleading, because, in the same way that an interested party wouldn't necessarily seek out a specific piece of grey literature, neither will they necessarily seek out a RCZAS report, unless it is of specific interest or their attention has been drawn to it via HER search results.

Instead, the products of the RCZAS should be seen as an important constituent of coastal HER data. The best way to ensure that the results of the RCZAS programme are achieving their widest application, is to ensure that they are fully integrated into the relevant databases and not kept separate in a standalone database or GIS which might be difficult to use and lacking in clarity. This means that the terrestrial and inter-tidal elements of RCZAS data should be entered into the HERs which cover the study areas, while the maritime component should be incorporated into the NMHER. In this respect, the NMP elements of the RCZAS projects are far ahead of the other desk- and field-based elements of the programme, because in most (but, crucially, not all) cases they are already fully

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<sup>44</sup> [https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced\\_search.aspx](https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx)

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/> and <https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/>



integrated into the relevant HERs as part of the standard NMP methodology, enabling the new records to immediately start to inform decision-making alongside other sources of heritage data. If RCZAS data is to have the greatest impact, it is imperative that resources are made available to aid those HERs which have not yet been able to integrate the results of the RCZAS into their live databases to do so.

**Recommendation 48:** It should be recognised that HERs and the NMHER are the primary repository for RCZAS data, not standalone reports and archives. The best way to ensure that the results of the RCZAS programme are achieving their widest application is to ensure that terrestrial and inter-tidal RCZAS data are fully integrated into the relevant HERs and that maritime data are incorporated into the NMHER.

## 7.2 Historic England

One version of the user survey was targeted at Historic England employees in teams relevant to the aims and objectives of the RCZAS survey. Specifically, the targeted roles were: Inspectors, Regional Science Advisors, Heritage At Risk, Listing Advisors, and other individual posts, including the Head of Environmental Research and Head of Marine Planning. In late March 2018, a link to the questionnaire was sent to 47 people within HE with a request to complete the questionnaire. Each request was accompanied by an explanatory text setting out the parameters of the project and putting the questions into context. In total, twelve completed questionnaires were received, representing a response rate of 25.5%. Responses were received from across the range of targeted roles, meaning that the professional coverage of the results is broad, even if the number of responses from each sector is relatively low.

The questions presented in the survey, and the possible multiple choice answers are included here as Appendix 5. The paragraphs below summarise the responses to the survey, presenting overall figures for each question and pulling out quotes from free-text responses where these are illuminating. It should be noted that it was possible to give multiple responses to some questions, while some respondents did not answer all of the questions, either through personal choice or because they did not feel they possessed the experience to provide an answer.

When asked what they had used RCZAS reports for, 54.5% of respondents stated that they had used the reports to inform or support development control and/or planning consultation responses, with one individual citing their use in planning responses made to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Of the other options offered in the survey,

one respondent had used the reports to aid site management, another had used them to inform the designation process, and a third had used them to enhance the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE). All of these responses are encouraging, and show the reports being used for some of their stated purposes, although their uptake in these capacities could be higher. A more concerning free-text comment was made by one respondent, who wrote of the RCZAS reports that 'no one in the Projects and Marine Team have used them at Historic England'. While only anecdotal, if true this represents something of a failing in the application of the results of the RCZAS programme by what should be a key user group.

**Recommendation 49:** There is a need to raise awareness of the results of the RCZAS programme within Historic England and encourage staff in the relevant teams to promote and make use of the RCZAS programme's outputs.

When asked the follow-up question whether the RCZAS reports were fit for the purposes to which the users had put them, 55.6% of those who responded said yes, with 44.4% saying no. When prompted to elaborate on their reasons, the responses from those answering 'no' were varied, but were often related to the specific task for which they were attempting to use them. With regard to the use of the RCZAS reports to inform the designation process – another of the stated aims of the programme – respondents to this question highlighted that the RCZAS reports very rarely contain the level of detail required to initiate or inform a designation case in their own right and that other sources or further ground-truthing are often required to provide the necessary level of confidence.

More general comments indicate that many HE users find the considerable variation in the formatting and content of individual RCZAS reports make it difficult to extract relevant information quickly and easily. Users also placed an emphasis on the need to be able to extract data from the reports, and commented that many of the reports as written focus on methodological considerations rather than the presentation of results. This in part seems to reflect the fact that HE staff don't have routine access to HER data and therefore don't recognise HERs as the primary source for RCZAS data rather than the reports themselves. This issue was explored further in the next question, which asked whether details of individual monument records were readily accessible within the RCZAS reports, to which no one responded 'yes'. In total, 22.5% of respondents gave an outright 'no', with further responses indicating that this was dependent upon the individual report, or that they hadn't used them for this purpose. As has been seen, the need for simple presentation and easy extraction of RCZAS data is an issue which has been highlighted

more widely, particularly by the HER teams who have attempted to systematically extract data from the reports and use them to enhance their own databases.

The next question asked whether RCZAS data should be included as part of Historic England's National Maritime Historic Environment Record (NMHER). Perhaps unsurprisingly, 80% of Historic England respondents supported the inclusion of RCZAS data, with the caveat that only those records pertaining to sites below the MHW line need be included. It should be noted that at the time the survey was carried out (March 2018), some senior members of teams directly affected by the proposals were apparently unaware of them, although this may since have changed.

When asked more specifically if they had used RCZAS data and reports for managing the coastal historic environment, 54.4% of respondents answered 'yes', although 18.2% qualified their responses to emphasise that they had used them in former employment with other agencies and not whilst working for Historic England. A single respondent indicated that they had used them in the sense that they had referred consultants and contractors to the reports themselves, while 27.3% reported that they hadn't used them at all. When prompted to provide examples of such use, many cited the use of the reports when working on or responding to the creation or implementation of SMPs, while others had referred to them in responding to planning applications and/or Marine Management Organisation licence applications affecting heritage assets within the coastal or intertidal zones.

In response to being asked whether they had used RCZAS data and reports to determine the significance of heritage assets within the coastal zone, 36.4% of respondents said that they had, while 45.5% stated that they had not. More nuanced replies included the observation that RCZAS data and reports were not sufficiently detailed in their own right to inform significance assessments, but that they could be used in conjunction with other sources and professional judgement and expertise to make such assessments. On this point it should be noted that the RCZAS programme was never intended to provide all of the required evidence for such work, rather it was intended to identify candidate sites for which assessments need to be made. It was also observed that the RCZAS data were useful for the identification of clusters of heritage assets and the identification of particular areas of survival, over and above the significance of individual features, and that this too contributed to the assessment of significance.

Another of the stated aims of the RCZAS programme was to identify designated heritage assets which might then be integrated into the ongoing Heritage At Risk programme, but when asked if this was known to be happening as a matter of routine, 100% of respondents

answered 'no'. The job titles of those who answered this question suggest that this is a valid and informed response. Follow-up comments made on this point indicate that the RCZAS is only one source of information which might be used to inform such decisions, but that the need for the HAR register to be kept current meant that frequent site visits were more useful in this regard than the one-time snapshot offered by the RCZAS programme. There is also the belief that many of the designated heritage assets which might fall into this category are more likely to lie in terrestrial rather than intertidal locations and, as such, are perhaps more likely to be considered and monitored under other land-based programmes. However, one advantage of the RCZAS to the HAR process is that its correlation of the projected erosion rates against known heritage assets means that it is possible to identify sites which might be at risk from coastal processes in the future and specify an approximate timeframe for this risk.

Following on from the issue of designated sites, when asked whether coastal heritage assets identified or assessed during the RCZAS programme were considered for designation, 25% replied 'yes', while 75% replied 'no'. Again, the job titles of those who responded lend weight to this observation. Both positive and negative respondents used their follow-up comments to indicate that in order to be considered for designation, they would have to be part of active development management casework, subject to an evident threat, for the heritage asset to fall within a strategic programme of designations, or that a third-party application to designate would need to be made. It was observed that these criteria were not being flagged through RCZAS, but that they might provide supporting evidence. Further correspondence indicates that during the earlier phases of the RCZAS, its possible application to the designation process was not a material consideration, but that this increasingly became so as the programme developed. Again, though, the RCZAS was never expected to produce enough evidence to secure designation, rather it was intended to be a trigger for individual sites or groups of sites to be assessed in more detail.

While it is difficult to be certain of the true extent to which the RCZAS has informed the designation process without working through the details of all of the designation records, a crude measure might be offered by examining references to the RCZAS publications in the designation records. A search of the National Heritage List for England database for the terms 'RCZAS' and phrase 'Rapid Coastal' conducted on 5 December 2018 returned only four records in which explicit references to the RCZAS reports were made. Specifically, these records are:

- List Entry No. 1141182: Coastguard's Look Out Tower, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly - Grade II.<sup>46</sup> This structure was first listed in February 1975, and the online entry does not record the date of its latest amendment, but reference is made to the IoS RCZAS of 2004.
- List Entry No. 1328847: Garrison Tower, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly - Grade II.<sup>47</sup> This feature was first listed in December 1992, before the IoS RCZAS was conducted, although the record was most recently amended in February 2011 to incorporate material from the IoS RCZAS.
- List Entry No. 1447487 - Intertidal Wreck at Tankerton Beach, Whistable, Kent - SM.<sup>48</sup> This feature was scheduled in July 2018, following dendrochronological dating to the 16th or early 17th centuries, and is the only known surviving medieval shipwreck in south-east England. Although identified in 1996, the feature was confirmed by the North Kent RCZAS in 1998, but it was only after a site visit in 2017 and follow-up fieldwork that the site was scheduled.
- List Entry No. 1396399 - Former Rocket House, Blyth, Northumberland - Grade II.<sup>49</sup> This entry was created in January 2011, and relates to the remains of a coastguard station. Although the North East RCZAS report of 2008 is referenced, so too is an English Heritage Report on Coastguard Stations published in 2010, which would seem to be the trigger for the designation, along with a large batch of other coastguard-related structures.

On the basis of this rather blunt instrument it would seem that the RCZAS programme has not had a significant direct impact on bringing sites forward for designation, supporting the anecdotal observations regarding the suitability of RCZAS data for designation purposes. Indeed, in two of the four entries highlighted, the RCZAS reports only augmented the details of existing designations, while in the other two examples, RCZAS survey acted as a trigger for further survey work, which is more in keeping with the stated intentions.

As a final question, Historic England respondents were given the opportunity to provide any other comments or feedback on the RCZAS programme. The consensus was that the results of the RCZAS programme represent a fantastic resource, and that the availability of the data and reports online was an asset. However, it was observed that there needs to

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<sup>46</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1141182>

<sup>47</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1328847>

<sup>48</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1447487>

<sup>49</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1396399>

be greater collation and centralised access to the results of the RCZAS programme in order for them to be used to support HE's activities. Some respondents were keen to see the data incorporated into resources such as the HE coastal risk mapping and proposed National Maritime HER as a matter of routine. Finally, several respondents expressed the hope that the RCZAS data might be used to drive a strategic programme of designation reviews in the coastal zone, focussing on particular geographical areas, particular periods or particular types of sites. The instigation of such reviews has also been recommended as a logical course of action following on from the successful completion of Phase 2 fieldwork in several RCZAS study areas (see Section 3), and the formal recognition of this as a next step would go some way to ensuring that the intention for the RCZAS to inform the designation process is met.

**Recommendation 50:** Within Historic England, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the part which RCZAS-derived data can play in the instigation of formal designation reviews and also feed into the Heritage At Risk programme.

### 7.3 Land Owners and Land Managers

One of the stated aims of the RCZAS programme is that the data and reports produced would be able to be used by coastal land owners and land managers to help inform their day-to-day operations. In order to gauge the perceptions of and engagement with the RCZAS, a tailored questionnaire was sent to a range of different coastal and intertidal land-owning and land-managing bodies (Appendix 6). These bodies included representatives of the Crown Estates, who own the seabed of territorial waters and approximately 50% of the English foreshore, as well as Carter Jonas, and Morley Riches and Ablewhite, who manage stretches of the English coastline on behalf of the Crown Estate. Other agencies which were contacted included the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation.

Overall, the questionnaire response rate from land owners and land managers was relatively poor, with only four responses returned. One land owner, the Crown Estate, responded, as did three land managers, two from Carter Jonas and one from Morley Riches and Ablewhite. Extensive attempts were made to identify and contact relevant personnel at the other main agencies – the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation – but despite numerous phone-calls and follow-up emails, no responses were forthcoming. Participation in this assessment was entirely voluntary, with no one able to be compelled to contribute, but this lack of engagement from key organisations was disappointing. From consultation

responses and follow-up conversations with relevant members of staff at Historic England and elsewhere, it is understood that the lack of engagement from these agencies is not limited to the results of the RCZAS programme. It is suggested that the RCZAS is promoted among these agencies at a strategic level by Historic England staff.

**Recommendation 51:** Historic England staff should ensure that the RCZAS programme and its results are promoted to the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation at a strategic level at every opportunity.

This lack of engagement is a cause for concern because the National Trust is a major coastal landowner, which maintains an HER of its own covering land under its control. The inclusion of RCZAS data and contextual signposts to the RCZAS reports and archives within the NT HER should be encouraged as a priority. Similarly, one mechanism for raising the profile of the RCZAS programme and triggering engagement with its results might be to integrate signposts to the results of the RCZAS programme in the MMO's online Marine Evidence Planning Base mapping service. While issues of maintaining data currency and ensuring data consistency would make the inclusion of a complete coastal heritage dataset untenable, the inclusion of a map depicting RCZAS survey areas and providing signposts to relevant HERs, resources and reports would serve to raise awareness of the RCZAS programme and coastal heritage assets more generally.

**Recommendation 52:** Efforts should be made to ensure that RCZAS survey areas, data, resources and reports are integrated, or at least flagged, in the National Trust HER and in the MMO's online Marine Evidence Planning Base mapping service.

Respondents were asked whether or not they used an asset management system or Historic Environment Record to manage their coastal assets, to which 75% of respondents, all of them land managers, indicated that they did not. The Crown Estate, the only land owner to respond, indicated that the Scheduled Monuments and designated wreck sites were integrated into their in-house GIS, but also indicated that data from the RCZAS was not incorporated into the same system.

When asked whether they produced management plans for land which included coastal heritage assets, 50% of respondents, both land managers, indicated that they did. When asked a follow-up question regarding the use to which RCZAS data was put in such plans, if any, these respondents indicated that they were not aware of the RCZAS scheme or its data. Several respondents expressed an interest in the wider scheme and indicated that they would attempt to find out more about it.

Follow-up conversations with coastal land-owners and managers indicate that the relative lack of engagement from this part of the sector is indicative of the way in which heritage data more widely is perceived by them, and is not representative of a specific issue with the RCZAS. Given the diverse demands which coastal and inter-tidal land management responsibilities entail, it is perhaps not surprising that landowners and land-managers do not specifically seek out heritage data of the kind contained within the RCZAS reports. Neither do they routinely integrate RCZAS or any other kind of heritage data, with the exception of some statutory designations, into their own in-house systems, as and where such systems exist.

Instead, as with many other categories of environmental data, land-managers and landowners operate a model whereby they procure relevant datasets and interpretative expertise where necessary on a case-by-case or area-by-area basis. The results of this assessment have indicated that, in the case of heritage data, their primary data source is the relevant HER, augmented by designation data downloaded from national datasets, as appropriate. It is, therefore, not so surprising that many of the individuals and organisations responsible for the strategic and day-to-day management of coastal and inter-tidal areas do not have first-hand familiarity with either the RCZAS programme or the results which it produced, as they rely instead on the integrated heritage datasets provided by HERs. Where the contents of a RCZAS report might be of relevance, it is possible that landowners and land-managers might seek out the report, but anecdotal evidence suggests that this would probably not be the case.

There is also a perception that the RCZAS publications are archaeological reports, and as such are not intended for a more general or non-specialist readership. In many cases, this impression is correct, and comments made during many of the questionnaires and feedback sessions undertaken as part of this assessment indicate that, at times, the RCZAS reports as written and published can be hard to use even by an archaeological audience. Ultimately, it seems that those involved in coastal management are unlikely to go back to the source reports, as they rely instead on the synthesised data incorporated into HERs.

Therefore, if the results of the RCZAS are to reach their stated targeted audiences, it is apparent that this needs to be achieved via the medium of full and proper integration of data into the relevant HERs, rather than to expect them to be consulted in stand-alone reports and archives. It is crucial to ensure that the results of all of the stages of the RCZAS programme are properly integrated into the relevant HERs, where the data can be used by everyone who needs it during the normal data acquisition process.



**Recommendation 53:** It should be recognised that few landowners and land-managers are interested in the RCZAS in its own right, as they rely instead on the integrated heritage datasets provided by HERs as required.

## 7.4 Academic Sector

The most disappointing aspect of the user questionnaire was the lack of engagement with the process from the academic sector. A significant number of individuals with academic track records of interest in the coastal zone were identified at different universities and contacted about completing a questionnaire (Appendix 7). Despite repeated attempts to elicit a response, only one completed questionnaire was received, and this had been completed by an academic who had played an active role in several of the RCZAS programmes.

In terms of the usability of the RCZAS reports, these were considered to be fit for purpose, but that this would be enhanced by direct digital access to project GIS data. As discussed above, these data should be being made publicly accessible as a matter of routine via the ADS website. The response received indicated that, in this particular instance, the results of the RCZAS had been used to inform research and fieldwork, as well as outreach and engagement work with volunteers. More specifically, the RCZAS had been used to secure further funding to undertake several fieldwork projects involving rescue excavation and recording of archaeological sites being eroded by the sea. These are exactly the kinds of project which it was envisaged that the results of the RCZAS could and should be used for, and greater efforts need to be made to engage with the academic sector on these issues.

Overall, the respondent considered the RCZAS to be an important initiative, but they identified the lack of further funding to produce peer-reviewed research papers pertaining to the results of the RCZAS as being a factor limiting the opportunity to getting the data and some of its implications into the academic, professional and public spheres. It was concluded that if there was more funding available to undertake rescue fieldwork on the eroding archaeology highlighted by the RCZAS programme, this would also add significantly to the ability to achieve some of the wider aims of the RCZAS programme.

Again, the wider lack of engagement from the academic sector in heritage management issues is not something limited to the RCZAS, and is a consistent problem across the heritage sector. For example, academic participation in the compilation of Regional Research Frameworks is equally poor and there is a strong disconnect between the commercial and academic spheres. While there have been several 'big data' projects in

recent years which have seen the academic sector engage with archaeological grey literature, there is still a need to build stronger links between organisations such as Historic England and academic institutions and individuals. This needs to be achieved if opportunities to build collaborative projects are to be taken and the full research potential of the results of the RCZAS programme realised.

**Recommendation 54:** Greater efforts need to be made to engage the academic sector in the RCZAS programme and related follow-up work, perhaps by highlighting research opportunities for post-graduate dissertations and doctoral research, as well as fieldwork and collaborative research projects.

## 7.5 The Public

Although the questionnaires produced as part of this review were targeted at different elements of the heritage profession, it is clear that there is also a much wider public interest in the subject. For example, the web analytics discussed here demonstrate that there is a substantial interest in the results of the RCZAS programme, although it has not been possible to quantify this more meaningfully within the remit of the current project.

This interest is doubtless in no small part driven by the publicity surrounding the intertidal zone created by volunteer-led projects, such as CITIZAN, and also by television programmes, such as the BBC's *Coast* (2005–) and *Digging for Britain* (2010–) and Channel 4's *Britain at Low Tide* (2016–). This public interest needs to be capitalised upon.

While the RCZAS project reports are available online, it is telling that very few popular books or publications have been produced as a result of the programme. One very notable example is the publication based on the aerial investigation and mapping element of the Suffolk RCZAS – *Suffolk's Defended Shore* (Hegarty and Newsome 2007) – which drew on the results of the aerial survey and contextualised its findings, with a particular emphasis on the coast's military defences from the medieval period onwards. More publications of this kind would bring the results of the RCZAS programme, or elements of it, to a much larger audience.

**Recommendation 55:** More popular publications focussing on the dissemination of the results of the RCZAS programme should be produced, with *Suffolk's Defended Shore* (Hegarty and Newsome 2007) heralded as an example of good practice.

## 7.6 Discussion

The analyses of the usage of RCZAS reports and data reported on here have reiterated the earlier conclusions of this report that the full integration of RCZAS data into the HERs is the key to ensuring that the results of the RCZAS continue to make a positive difference to heritage management across the sector.

As was discussed in the previous section, there is a strong desire on the part of the HER community to ensure that the RCZAS data is fully integrated into HER databases. This is because for all other purposes, it is the HER as an holistic dataset which is used to inform the heritage input into strategic planning and development management decisions, not individual project datasets. Therefore, if results of the RCZAS are not easily accessible via HERs then they run a serious risk of being overlooked and/or not factored into any decision-making process.

Certainly as far as those local authority staff with development management responsibilities are concerned, the survey responses indicate that the provenance of coastal heritage data is a secondary consideration to the data itself. Similarly, as far as coastal landowners and land-managers are concerned, the survey suggests the existence of the RCZAS programme and its products is of little direct relevance to their day-to-day work, as they take advice on heritage matters from the local authority and other advisory bodies, rather than concern themselves with heritage matters directly. While there would be the potential to raise the awareness of coastal landowners and managers to the existence of the RCZAS, this greater awareness is unlikely to make much real difference to their approach.

Of greater benefit would be a more concerted effort to engage the academic community in the RCZAS programme, both in terms of contributing to the ongoing programmes and also building upon the legacies of earlier projects to realise the full potential of the data and the sites identified during the RCZAS programme. Certainly some of the more recently commissioned RCZAS programmes have incorporated university academics into their project teams, and it is to be hoped that this might pave the way for the development of future collaborative projects. Regional, national and subject-specific research frameworks could play a role here.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the survey results was the lack of use of the RCZAS reports and data made by Historic England staff themselves. From the surveys it would seem that this is either through personal lack of awareness, in part due to the turnover of staff and loss of key personnel, or the RCZAS reports not being suitably formatted or

detailed enough for the tasks being undertaken. This latter factor is apparently considered to be the case by those involved in the designations process, which is at odds with the stated aims of the RCZAS being to highlight sites suitable for designation. It is recommended that this lack of staff awareness is addressed via CPD sessions or internal staff briefings, so that those working in relevant fields are made aware of the significant resources offered by the RCZAS and encouraged to use them. Raising the profile of the programme within the organisation more widely will also mean that when opportunities for future projects are being contemplated, their relevance to and possible integration with the RCZAS programme will be considered.

## 8 Conclusion

During the last twenty years, considerable time and resources have been expended on the RCZAS programme, the results of which have transformed our understanding of the nation's coastal heritage. Through a combination of desk-based research and field-survey in what can at times be a very hostile environment, the various RCZAS project teams have identified and recorded literally thousands of new heritage assets and enhanced our understanding of hundreds more, with features ranging in date from the Palaeolithic to the Cold War. The enormity of this task cannot be overstated, and it is a tribute to all those who have been involved in the programme that the investigations and fieldwork have been sustained over such a long period.

Although the results and outcomes of the RCZAS programme were reviewed in general terms by Murphy (2014), this assessment represents the first detailed review of the evolving direction and impact of the RCZAS programme to be undertaken. The main aim of this review is to assess how effective the RCZAS programme has been in terms of recording and improving the management of coastal historic assets, particularly in leveraging in protection or mitigation in advance of loss where assets of national significance are threatened by inevitable destruction as a result of coastal change. Nested beneath this are a series of more specific objectives:

- to chart the areas, scope and focus of all RCZAS projects, and how they have differed;
- to determine what added value the Phase 2 and occasional more detailed survey elements bring;
- to determine how accessible the data and project reports are;
- to determine what use is being made of RCZAS data;
- to determine who is using them (and who is not but should be);
- to make recommendations as to how the existing body of work (both monument records and project reports) could be better promoted; and
- to make recommendations as to how the impact of the RCZAS programme in delivering understanding and protection to England's coastal historic environment might be improved.

The project summaries presented in Section 3, together with the Gantt charts in Figures 2 and 3 and the table in Figure 4, provide an overview of the significant progress made by

the RCZAS programme since its inception in the late 1990s. Now, the national coverage of Phase 1 of the RCZAS programme is nearing completion, having been implemented on a piecemeal basis in response to a range of different factors. Once the ongoing Phase 1 survey work in the inner Humber Estuary concludes, with the exception of the upper reaches of the Thames, the entire English coastline will have been subject to detailed archaeological desk-based assessment, in most cases incorporating or augmented by a complementary NMP survey. This is a significant achievement, which has transformed our understanding of the coastal historic environment, and deserves to be celebrated.

At the time of writing, Phase 2 fieldwork is also virtually complete north of a line drawn from North Somerset to the Thames Estuary, and much less so across England south of that line. Those RCZAS areas for which Phase 2 fieldwork has not yet commenced are also highlighted in Section 3 and in the Gantt chart in Figure 3. Where the Phase 1 assessments for these areas have already been completed, area-specific proposals for Phase 2 fieldwork have been made as part of that process and it is recommended that these proposals are reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. In addition, several tasks remain outstanding for the completion of Phase 2, for example the post-fieldwork analysis and synthesis of the Norfolk Phase 2 data remains incomplete, while several areas of the north Kent coast remain to be surveyed.

Regarding the relationship between Phases 1 and 2, and the added value which Phase 2 brings to the RCZAS, it is important to remember that the Phase 1 desk-based assessments are complemented by the fieldwork undertaken as part of RCZAS Phase 2. This enables identified sites to be ground-truthed and their condition and context assessed in a manner not possible via desk-based assessment alone. In addition, Phase 2 fieldwork often results in the identification of numerous sites and artefacts which fall outside the range detectable via desk-based assessment, greatly adding to our knowledge of coastal heritage assets. Both the verification of Phase 1 offered by Phase 2 fieldwork and the new data which Phase 2 generates in its own right should be seen as a crucial parts of the RCZAS process, and the completion of Phase 2 fieldwork along the length of the English coastline should remain a priority for the programme. This fieldwork should be conducted to a consistent standard and be informed by examples of best practice from earlier projects. Where more targeted Phase 2a or Phase 3 fieldwork has been undertaken, this has also made significant contributions to our understanding of the coastal historic environment, and in some cases has resulted in the recording of nationally significant sites prior to their loss to coastal erosion.

In terms of the accessibility of information, reports and data pertaining to the RCZAS programme and its constituent projects, research undertaken as part of this assessment indicates that there is a consistent core of webpages pertaining to RCZASs returned by internet search engines. Foremost amongst these is the CITIZAN webpage, followed by the landing page for the RCZAS data held by the ADS. Tellingly, neither of these resources is directly managed or maintained by Historic England, and a specific landing page for the RCZAS should be developed by Historic England to redress this imbalance. It is suggested that the new RCZAS landing page should contain an overview of the RCZAS project, as well as a visual interface such as a clickable map (similar to that reproduced in Figure 1) in order to explain the coverage of the different survey areas to users and provide an intuitive way into the details of the individual RCZAS projects. The new RCZAS page should also include details of the projects which are ongoing, as well as links to online copies of reports, data archives and relevant HERs.

There is currently no definitive list of RCZAS reports and related publications to which an interested researcher can turn, although an attempt at such a list was published by Murphy (2014) and an updated version is offered here in Appendix 2. It is recommended that such a list is created and centrally curated by Historic England. Almost all of the reports produced by the various RCZASs (with a few notable exceptions) have been placed in the public domain via the Historic England website, although as was explored in Section 5, these are not always easily located using the current search interfaces. It is suggested that a process of rationalisation needs to be undertaken behind the scenes of the Historic England website, so that all of the RCZAS reports are made available from the website and that keywords and tags are applied consistently so that they can be easily searched for and filtered. The friendly URLs which have been corrupted should be reintroduced, especially as several of these URLs have been published previously. For convenience, it is suggested that those reports which have been split into numerous parts should be amalgamated into larger, single PDF files.

While the RCZAS reports are relatively accessible, the same cannot be said of the majority of the RCZAS project archives. The RCZAS has had a dedicated section of the ADS website for over a decade, but this has not been updated for many years and to date only the archives for the North East RCZAS, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS, the second Dorset RCZAS and South Cornwall Coast RCZAS have been added to the site. Consequently, it is recommended that a coordinated effort is made to collate the digital archives of the completed RCZAS projects and ensure that they are all hosted with the ADS. However, this assessment has highlighted that the most important factor in ensuring the

accessibility of the data produced by the RCZAS programme and enabling it to make a meaningful contribution to heritage management in the coastal zone is to ensure that the new and enhanced datasets created by RCZAS projects are all properly integrated back into their host HERs. At present, some HERs have integrated data, but far too many HERs, especially those involved with earlier RCZAS projects, have found that the data passed back to them has not been fit for purpose and has not been in a usable or compatible format to enable data re-integration. In many cases, there is an expectation that the work required to re-integrate data will be undertaken by the HER without being resourced by the RCZAS programme.

It is widely recognised within the heritage sector that HERs represent the primary data source from which the heritage data used for development management and strategic planning should be drawn. By their very nature, HERs comprise data drawn from many different sources, and the HER acts as a summary and index to that information. Therefore, it is the complete HER dataset which is needed in order to make an informed decision and provide sound guidance, not any one part of it, for example just the RCZAS data. With this in mind, attempts to quantify and qualify the use of RCZAS as a standalone dataset in this context are a little misleading, because, in the same way that an interested party wouldn't necessarily seek out a specific piece of grey literature, neither will they necessarily seek out a RCZAS report, unless it is of specific interest or their attention has been drawn to it via HER search results. Where RCZAS data are not yet fully integrated into the relevant HER(s), consideration should be given to how this might be resourced and undertaken in order to maximise the usage of the data. In some cases this will require technical solutions to data migration problems where the same platforms are used, and in others it will require additional staff time to undertake the necessary data integration manually. Only when full HER integration is achieved will we truly be able to say that the results of the RCZAS are informing heritage management decision-making nationwide.

It should also be noted that the emphasis of the RCZAS has always been on the enhancement of local HERs, with very little RCZAS data being routinely added to the centralised AMIE/NRHE databases maintained by English Heritage/Historic England. The exception to this is data generated during those complementary NMP surveys undertaken in house by English Heritage/Historic England, the results of which were entered directly into the database as per the NMP methodology and subsequently exported to the relevant HERs. Overall, this is a less pressing issue than the lack of the enhancement of individual HERs, as under the 'NRHE to HERs Data Supply & Reconciliation' work package of the Heritage Information Access Strategy there is a move away from data of this kind



being held centrally, with the intention being that records within the NRHE database be devolved and migrated to the relevant HERs. The recommendations for HER enhancement made here are therefore also in alignment with the underlying tenets of the HIAS.

Similarly, the consultations reported on here have demonstrated that there is also sector-wide support for the proposal that relevant RCZAS data should be included in the National Maritime HER (NMHER), a proposed programme of work under the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS) which will see the enhancement of the Historic England maritime record between the Mean High Water mark and the 12 nautical mile territorial limit. The coverage of the NMHER would therefore overlap with terrestrial HERs, which tend to limit their coverage to the Low Water Mark, although some HERs, such as Cornwall and Scilly, already have maritime coverage. In this way, too, it can be ensured that RCZAS-derived and other maritime heritage data are centrally managed and made available to internal and external consultees and decision-makers as necessary, in contrast to the terrestrial data which are managed at HER level.

In order to gain a clearer understanding of the use being made of RCZAS data and determine who is using them, this assessment has engaged with a wide range of RCZAS data-managers and data-users, many of whom have contributed to its findings via online questionnaires, telephone interviews and face-to-face meetings. Web analytics data provided by the key websites on which RCZAS data and reports are hosted have also been assessed, the results of which have proved illuminating. Within a local authority context, the principal use for RCZAS-derived data is HER enhancement, with this enhanced data being used inform consultation responses to planning applications and to feed into strategic planning decisions, including the development of SMPs and the preparation of Marine Licence applications. Having integrated RCZAS data into the HER, RCZAS data is also routinely given out alongside all of the other HER data as a matter of course during HER searches, with its provenance being referenced in bibliographic details and related event records. In this fashion, it is clear that the results of the RCZAS are directly informing day-to-day planning responses made by local authority staff, as well as archaeological consultants and contractors, often without the individuals concerned even being aware that the RCZAS is the ultimate source of their information.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the survey results was the lack of use of the RCZAS reports and data made by Historic England staff themselves. It would seem that this stems from a personal lack of awareness of the RCZAS programme, in part due to the turnover of staff and loss of key personnel, from the RCZAS reports not being relevant or detailed

enough for the tasks being undertaken by HE. This latter factor is apparently considered to be the case by those involved in the designations process, which is at odds with the stated aims of the RCZAS being to highlight sites suitable for designation. It is recommended that this lack of staff awareness is addressed via CPD sessions or internal staff briefings, so that those working in relevant fields are made aware of the significant resources offered by the RCZAS and encouraged to use them.

One of the stated aims of the RCZAS programme is that the data and reports produced would be able to be used by coastal landowners and land managers to help inform their day-to-day operations. The lack of engagement in the assessment process from the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation was disappointing, but it is understood that the lack of engagement from these agencies is not limited to the RCZAS programme. It is suggested that the RCZAS is promoted among these agencies at a strategic level by Historic England staff. The National Trust is a major coastal landowner, which maintains an HER of its own covering land under its control. The NT HER was invited to but did not participate in this assessment, but the inclusion of RCZAS data and contextual signposts to the reports and archives within the NT HER should be encouraged as a priority. Similarly, the lack of engagement from the MMO can be addressed by closer dialogue at a strategic level, but one mechanism for raising the profile of the RCZAS programme and triggering engagement with its results might be to integrate signposts to the results of the RCZAS programme in the MMO's online Marine Evidence Planning Base mapping service. While issues of maintaining data currency and ensuring data consistency would make the inclusion of a complete coastal heritage dataset untenable, the inclusion of a map depicting RCZAS survey areas and providing signposts to relevant HERs, resources and reports would serve to raise awareness of the RCZAS programme and coastal heritage assets more generally.

The landowners and land-managers who did engage with the process indicated that coastal landowners and land-managers do not specifically seek out heritage data of the kind contained within the RCZAS reports, instead, as with many other categories of environmental data, they procure relevant datasets and interpretative expertise where necessary on a case-by-case or area-by-area basis. The results of this assessment have indicated that, in the case of heritage data, their primary data source is the relevant HER, augmented by designation data downloaded from national datasets, as appropriate. Again, the systematic integration of RCZAS data into HERs should be considered to be the most desirable outcome for RCZAS data, ensuring that the findings of the programme can achieve their greatest impact among coastal landowners and land-managers.

The academic sector was similarly unwilling to engage with this assessment, which again is not something limited to the RCZAS and is a consistent problem across the heritage sector. There is a need to build stronger links between organisations such as Historic England and academic institutions and individuals. There should also be a more concerted effort to engage the academic community in the RCZAS programme, both in terms of contributing to the ongoing programmes and also building upon the legacies of earlier projects in order to realise the full potential of the data and the sites identified during the RCZAS programme. This might be achieved by highlighting research opportunities for post-graduate dissertations and doctoral research, as well as fieldwork and collaborative research projects.

With regard to improving the promotion of the RCZAS programme and its products, the consultations undertaken for this assessment have highlighted the fact that for such a long-running scheme the RCZAS currently has a relatively low profile within the heritage sector. Some consultation responses suggest that this even extends to staff at Historic England, the body which commissioned and funded the programme, and the staff of the HERs which hold the resultant project data in their systems. While this might be explained by the turnover of staff and consequent loss of collective knowledge within these organisations, there is clearly a need to undertake a campaign to promote the RCZAS among the heritage sector and more widely. Fortunately, the twin milestones of 20 years since the formal start of the programme and the imminent completion of the Phase 1 survey of the entirety of the English coastline represent a considerable achievement, and should be heralded as opportunities to promote and publicise the significance of the RCZAS programme. This might be achieved via articles placed within professional publications, such as *The Archaeologist* published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) or *British Archaeology* published by the Council for British Archaeology. Opportunities should also be sought to deliver presentations on the successes and progress of the RCZAS programme at events such as the CIfA conference or the national meetings of the HER Forum. Increased promotion might also be achieved via the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) which has English national committees for HERs, Planning and Legislation, and Maritime matters, each of which should be able to assist. In addition, ALGAO also has a network of regional committees, almost all of which have coastlines studied as part of the RCZAS programme, and again these could be used to raise the profile of the RCZAS within the heritage sector and beyond.

Of course, the audience for the RCZAS programme is not just heritage professionals. The web analytics used in the researching of this report have clearly demonstrated that there is a public interest in the results of the RCZAS programme as well. This interest is in no small part driven by the publicity surrounding the intertidal zone created by projects such as CITIZAN and popular television programmes, and this public interest needs to be capitalised upon. While the project reports are available online, it is telling that very few popular books or publications have been produced about the project, and more work in this area would bring the results of the programme to a larger audience. Historic England's social media should also be used to promote the programme and draw attention to the online resources which are available, especially if these are overhauled and updated in the manner recommended here.

In addition, this report has explored many different ways in which the results of the RCZAS programme might be used to deliver greater understanding and protection of England's coastal environment. At its most fundamental level, as has been discussed, this will be achieved by ensuring that the results of the programme are fully incorporated into the relevant HERs and the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) where they will automatically inform day-to-day planning consultations and strategic decision-making, as well as being routinely used by heritage consultants and archaeological contractors acting for coastal landowners and land-managers. The proposed development by Historic England of the National Maritime HER under the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HIAS), which will see the enhancement of the Historic England maritime record between the Mean High Water mark and the 12-nautical-mile territorial limit, also presents an opportunity to ensure that relevant RCZAS data are curated centrally and used to inform the development of maritime strategies.

Finally, the most effective way in which the impact of the RCZAS programme could be improved, and one which is entirely within the control of Historic England, is to use the data collected and analysed by the RCZAS to drive a strategic programme of designation reviews in the coastal zone, focussing on particular geographical areas, particular periods and/or particular types of sites. While it is recognised that RCZAS reports rarely contain the level of detail required to trigger or inform a designation case in their own right, the instigation of such reviews is recommended as the logical course of action following on from the successful completion of Phase 2 fieldwork within the various RCZAS study areas. The formal recognition of this approach as a next step would go some way to ensuring that the intention for the RCZAS to inform the designation process is met, and that England's coastal historic environment continues to be understood and protected.

The English coastline is a diverse and dynamic environment, one which has shaped the development of the nation for millennia, and the full range of human history is represented within the coastal zone. Since the late 1990s, the extensive research and fieldwork completed under the auspices of the RCZAS programme have brought a new depth and breadth to our understanding of the coastal historic environment and it is to be hoped that the programme will continue to do so for many more years to come. Much work still needs to be done in order to complete the nationwide coverage of RCZAS programme, but the imminent completion of Phase 1 after two decades and the completion of Phase 2 coverage for approximately half of the country are significant achievements. The recommendations made here are intended to maximise the impact of the data and reports generated by the RCZAS programme so far, and any material generated in the future, by ensuring that they are accessible and put to a wide range uses across the heritage sector.

## 9 Bibliography

n.b. The bracketed abbreviations given in **(bold)** are references to the numbering system for RCZAS reports published by Murphy (2014, xi–xv) and adopted by the CITIZAN project and others. This scheme is addressed more fully in Appendix 2.

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<https://research.historicensland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15714>

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Wessex Archaeology. 2004d. *Historic Environment of the Dorset Coast. Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase I Dorset Coast Historic Environment Research Framework*. Wessex Archaeology Report 51958.06 **(D2)** <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/dorset-coast-research-framework/>

Wessex Archaeology. 2004e. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Field Assessment 2003 Pilot Fieldwork*. Wessex Archaeology Report 55057 **(NK4)** <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pilot-2003/>

Wessex Archaeology. 2005a. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Field Assessment, Year One Report*. Wessex Archaeology Report 56750 **(NK5)** <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/north-kent-coast-phase-ii-year-1-2004/>

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Wessex Archaeology. 2011b. *New Forest Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Stage II: Field Assessment*. Wessex Archaeology Report **(NF2)**

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/new-forest-rczas-phase-2/>

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<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15676>



## Appendix 1: List of Recommendations

**Recommendation 1:** The Isle of Wight coast should be subject to AIM mapping, to complement the Coastal Audit and help complete the coastal NMP/AIM coverage nationwide. (Section 3.1)

**Recommendation 2:** Heppell and Brown's 2008 published article should be made open-access, either via the Journal of Wetland Archaeology or the Historic England website, in order to bring its contents to a wider public audience free of charge. (Section 3.2)

**Recommendation 3:** Further efforts should be made to locate Ringwood's 2003 desk-based assessment report, and associated archive, and digitise them for inclusion in the online RCZAS archive. (Section 3.3)

**Recommendation 4:** The assessments produced for the Suffolk RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Suffolk coast. (Section 3.3.1)

**Recommendation 5:** The requirements for completing the Norfolk Phase 2 fieldwork to a standard consistent with other RCZAS projects, including the consolidation of the project archive and integration of the results into the Norfolk HER, should be reassessed and commissioned. (Section 3.3.2)

**Recommendation 6:** Phase 2 surveys should be completed for the four outstanding survey Stretches of the Kent RCZAS – Sheerness, Whitstable, Wantsum and Thanet – and, where possible, for the unsurveyed parts of the other Stretches. (Section 3.4)

**Recommendation 7:** The approaches taken by the Dorset HER and the Cornwall and Scilly HER to recording and managing heritage assets between the Lowest Astronomical Tide and the 6- and 12-nautical-mile limits respectively should be used as good practical examples to inform the development of the National Maritime Historic Environment Record. (Section 3.5–3.6)

**Recommendation 8:** The recommendations made for additional Phase 2a and Phase 3 fieldwork in the Severn Estuary RCZAS area should be revisited and their desirability assessed. (Section 3.7)

**Recommendation 9:** The assessments produced for the Severn Estuary RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the English side of the Severn Estuary. (Section 3.7)

**Recommendation 10:** The Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS should be heralded as a model of best practice for the RCZAS programme, from Phase 1 assessments through to detailed Phase 3 fieldwork, archiving and HER integration. (Section 3.8)

**Recommendation 11:** The assessments produced for the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coasts. (Section 3.8)

**Recommendation 12:** The partnership working established as part of the North-East RCZAS, which enabled the extension of the survey area and brought academic input into the project, should be cited as opportunistic examples of collaboration which future projects might follow. (Section 3.9)

**Recommendation 13:** The assessments produced for the North-East RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the coast. (Section 3.9)

**Recommendation 14:** The assessments produced for the North-West RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the coast. (Section 3.10)

**Recommendation 15:** The inclusion of volunteers in the New Forest RCZAS fieldwork programme should be treated as a good example of public engagement for other RCZAS projects to follow. (Section 3.11)

**Recommendation 16:** The proposed 'Phase 3' report, setting out priorities for future work, should be revisited and its desirability assessed. (Section 3.11)

**Recommendation 17:** The assessments produced for the New Forest RCZAS should be used as the basis of a designation review for heritage assets on the Hampshire coast. (Section 3.11)

**Recommendation 18:** The proposed Phase 2 fieldwork within the South East RCZAS study area should be revisited and its desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Section 3.12)

**Recommendation 19:** The remote access arrangements enabling direct data entry into the Dorset HER should be cited as an example of best practice for other projects to follow. (Section 3.13.1)

**Recommendation 20:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the Dorset RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Section 3.13.1)

**Recommendation 21:** The hosting of project staff by the local authority to enable direct data entry into the Devon HER should be cited as an example of best practice for other projects to follow. (Section 3.13.2)

**Recommendation 22:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the South Devon RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Section 3.13.2)

**Recommendation 23:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the Exmoor National Park RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Section 3.13.3)

**Recommendation 24:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the South Cornwall RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Section 3.13.4)

**Recommendation 25:** The recommendations for Phase 2 fieldwork within the North Cornwall and North Devon RCZAS study area should be reviewed and their desirability assessed in order to progress with the programme. (Section 3.13.5)

**Recommendation 26:** The completion of Phase 1 coverage of the English coast should be used as an opportunity to celebrate the success of the RCZAS programme and raise its profile within the heritage sector and beyond. (Section 3.15)

**Recommendation 27:** The importance of Phase 2 fieldwork should continue to be recognised and the remaining Phase 2 projects commissioned as a matter of priority in order to bring the RCZAS to a suitable conclusion, with the aim of the entire length of the coastline having been subjected to Phase 2 study. (Section 3.15)

**Recommendation 28:** The importance of local knowledge, professional networks and specialist expertise with the local HERs and the wider RCZAS programme should be stressed in the commissioning of any future RCZAS projects. (Section 3.15)

**Recommendation 29:** It is important that future commissions give due consideration and resource to the issue of data integration into the relevant HERs and the archiving of project data in a publicly accessible manner. (Section 3.15)

**Recommendation 30:** A specific landing page for the RCZAS should be developed on the Historic England website and Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) techniques should be used to ensure that this page appears within the top few results returned. (Section 4.4)

**Recommendation 31:** A definitive list of RCZAS publications should be created and centrally maintained as part of a core body of information presented about the RCZAS

programme. The abbreviations employed by Murphy (2014) should be rationalised and adopted as part of this process. (Section 5.1)

**Recommendation 32:** The Publication search interface should be more clearly sign-posted within the Historic England website. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 33:** The 'Series: RCZAS Reports' tag should be applied to all relevant reports and given as an option on the initial search screen, not just the results page. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 34:** The Research Report search interface should be more clearly sign-posted within the Historic England website and be better integrated with the Publications search interface. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 35:** The 'Series: RCZAS Reports' filter functionality should be applied to the Research Reports results to allow filtering. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 36:** It should be ensured that the RCZAS reports are made fully accessible via the new Research Report map interface and that this is fully integrated into and new RCZAS web content. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 37:** There is a need for the RCZAS-related contents of the Publications and Research Reports areas of the Historic England website to be fully audited and reconciled, so that the same reports are able to be accessed via both search methods. As part of this work, previously used and publicised URLs need to be reinstated. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 38:** Where they exist, high resolution PDFs of RCZAS reports should be provided online and these should be combined into as few files per report as possible. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 39:** More detailed web analytics data for the RCZAS pages of the Historic England website should be captured and analysed in order to better understand the usage and reach of online RCZAS resources. (Section 5.2)

**Recommendation 40:** The RCZAS landing page on the ADS website should be updated in tandem with the revisions to the Historic England website recommended above. (Section 6.1)

**Recommendation 41:** The digital archives for completed RCZAS projects which are not currently held by the ADS should be prepared and deposited as a matter of priority by the archaeological contractors responsible for them. (Section 6.1)

**Recommendation 42:** The mechanism for HER enhancement needs to be considered at the outset of the project, with an emphasis placed on working into a live HER database or having hosting staff where possible. (Section 6.2)

**Recommendation 43:** There needs to be better communication between contractors and HER officers regarding recording practices and criteria for inclusion in the HER. (Section 6.2)

**Recommendation 44:** The degree of RCZAS data integration into coastal HERs should be audited in order to inform the development of future data-integration strategies. (Section 6.2)

**Recommendation 45:** Local authority staff, particularly HER teams, should be involved in the development of the RCZAS programme in order to ensure that data are managed appropriately and are fit for purpose. Project designs should be compiled with the full involvement of the HER(s) concerned. (Section 6.2)

**Recommendation 46:** In developing projects in which data-collection and integration in the HERs is a key outcome, it is essential that a joined-up, consultative approach in which HERs are included is followed in order to maximise the return on any available resources. (Section 6.3)

**Recommendation 47:** Where RCZAS data are not fully integrated into the relevant HER(s), consideration should be given to how this might be achieved in order to maximise the usage of the data. (Section 7.1)

**Recommendation 48:** It should be recognised that HERs and the NMHER are the primary repository for RCZAS data, not standalone reports and archives. The best way to ensure that the results of the RCZAS programme are achieving their widest application is to ensure that terrestrial and inter-tidal RCZAS data are fully integrated into the relevant HERs and that maritime data are incorporated into the NMHER. (Section 7.1)

**Recommendation 49:** There is a need to raise awareness of the results of the RCZAS programme within Historic England and encourage staff in the relevant teams to promote and make use of the RCZAS programme's outputs. (Section 7.2)

**Recommendation 50:** Within Historic England, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the part which RCZAS-derived data can play in the instigation of formal designation reviews and also feed into the Heritage At Risk programme. (Section 7.2)

**Recommendation 51:** Historic England staff should ensure that the RCZAS programme and its results are promoted to the National Trust, Natural England, the Environment

Agency and the Marine Management Organisation at a strategic level at every opportunity. (Section 7.3)

**Recommendation 52:** Efforts should be made to ensure that RCZAS survey areas, data, resources and reports are integrated, or at least flagged, in the National Trust HER and in the MMO's online Marine Evidence Planning Base mapping service. (Section 7.3)

**Recommendation 53:** It should be recognised that few landowners and land-managers are interested in the RCZAS in its own right, as they rely instead on the integrated heritage datasets provided by HERs as required. (Section 7.3)

**Recommendation 54:** Greater efforts need to be made to engage the academic sector in the RCZAS programme and related follow-up work, perhaps by highlighting research opportunities for post-graduate dissertations and doctoral research, as well as fieldwork and collaborative research projects. (Section 7.4)

**Recommendation 55:** More popular publications focussing on the dissemination of the results of the RCZAS programme should be produced, with Suffolk's Defended Shore (Hegarty and Newsome 2007) heralded as an example of good practice. (Section 7.5)



## Appendix 2: An Updated List of RCZAS Reports

This appendix presents a list of bibliographic references for the RCZAS completed by the time of writing (March 2019). The references are ordered by project area, progressing clockwise around the coast from the North East to the North West of England, and are numbered following the scheme published by Murphy (2014, xi–xv) and followed by CITIZAN and others. Amendments and additions to the list and abbreviations are marked here in **red text**.

### The North-East

**NE1:** Tolan-Smith, C. 2008. *North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NERCZA)*. Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report 2008/81

**NE2:** Johnson, B. 2009a. *North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NWRCA). Executive Summary*. Archaeological Research Services Report 2009/22

**NE3:** Waddington, C. 2010. *Low Hauxley, Northumberland: A Review of Archaeological Interventions and Site Condition*. Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report 2010/25

**NE4:** Bacilieri, C., Knight, D. and Radford, S. 2008. *North East Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: Air Survey Mapping Report*. Archaeological Research Services report

**NE5:** Burn, A. 2010. *North East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment: Phase 2*. Archaeological Research Services report 2010/42

**NE6:** Johnson, B. and Waddington, C. 2011. *Brief Statement on Rescue Recording of an Eroding Inter-tidal Peat Bed Containing Prehistoric Worked Timber and Human and Animal Footprints*. Archaeological Research Services Report

### Yorkshire and Lincolnshire

**YL1:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2008b. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Whitby to Reighton*. Humber Archaeology Report 238

**YL2:** Brigham, T., Buglass, J. and George, R. 2008. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Bempton to Donna Nook*. Humber Archaeology Report 235

**YL3:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2008a. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point*. Humber Archaeology Report 236

**YL4:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2007. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Gibraltar Point to Sutton Bridge*. Humber Archaeology Report 237

- YL5:** Deegan, A. 2007. *The Yorkshire Coast and Humber Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Project: Air Photo Mapping Project*. Alison Deegan.
- YL6:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2011. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Whitby to Reighton. Phase 2*. Humber Archaeology Report 327
- YL7:** Brigham, T. and Jobling, D. 2011. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Bempton to Donna Nook. Phase 2*. Humber Archaeology Report 324
- YL8:** Jobling, D. and Brigham, T. 2010a. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point. Phase 2*. Humber Archaeology Report 325
- YL9:** Jobling, D. and Brigham, T. 2010b. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Gibraltar Point to Sutton Bridge. Phase 2*. Humber Archaeology Report 326
- YL10:** Brigham, T., Buglass, J. and Jobling, D. 2013. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Field Survey, Selected First and Second World War Monuments, North Yorkshire, East Riding of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire. Phase 3*. Humber Archaeology Report 415
- YL11:** Brigham, T. and Fraser, J. 2013. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Site Survey and Historical Summary, Flamborough Medieval Harbour, Flamborough, East Riding of Yorkshire. Phase 3*. Humber Archaeology Report 416
- YL12:** Brigham, T. and Jobling, D. 2013a. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Historical Audit, Bridlington Harbour, East Riding of Yorkshire, Phase 3*. Humber Archaeology Report 417
- YL13:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2013a. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Historical Audit, Scarborough Harbour, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, Phase 3*. Humber Archaeology Report 418
- YL14:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2013b. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Historical Audit, Whitby Harbour, Whitby, North Yorkshire, Phase 3*. Humber Archaeology Report 419
- YL15:** Buglass, J. and Brigham, T. 2012. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Phase 3. Field Survey and Historical Assessment Cayton Cliff Mill and Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire*. Humber Archaeology Report 420
- YL16:** Brigham, T. and Jobling, D. 2013b. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Site Investigation and Assessment, Selected Palaeoenvironmental and*

*Archaeological Sites, East Riding of Yorkshire, North-East Lincolnshire. Phase 3. Humber Archaeology Report 421*

**YL17:** Brigham, T. 2014. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. Project Overview. Thematic Discussion of Selected Aspects. English Heritage Project 372, Phase 3. Humber Archaeology Report 422*

## Norfolk

**N1:** Robertson, D., Crawley, P., Barker, A. and Whitmore, S. 2005. *Norfolk Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Assessment Report and Updated Project Design. Norfolk Archaeological Unit Report 1045*

**N2:** Albone, J., Massey, S. and Tremlett, S. 2007. *The Archaeology of Norfolk's Coastal Zone. Results of the National Mapping Programme. Norfolk Landscape Archaeology/English Heritage*

## Suffolk

**S1:** Everett, L., Allan, D. and McLannahan, C. 2003. *Assessment Report. Rapid Field Survey of the Suffolk Coast and Intertidal Zone. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service*

**S2:** Everett, L. 2007. *Targeted Inter-tidal Survey. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report 2007/192*

**S3:** Good, C. and Plouviez, J. 2007. *The Archaeology of the Suffolk Coast. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service*

**S4:** Hegarty, C. and Newsome, S. 2005. *The Archaeology of the Suffolk Coast and Intertidal Zone. A report for the National Mapping Programme. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/English Heritage*

## Essex

**E1:** Heppell, E. and Brown, N. 2001. *Greater Thames Estuary Essex Zone: Archaeological Assessment Report and Updated Project Design. Essex County Council Heritage Conservation Report 682*

**E2:** Heppell, E. and Brown, N. 2002. *Greater Thames Estuary Essex Zone: Monitoring Survey Interim Report No. 1. Essex County Council Heritage Conservation Report 867*

**E3:** Heppell, E. 2003. *Greater Thames Estuary Essex Zone: Monitoring Survey Interim Report No. 2. Essex County Council Heritage Conservation Report 867*

**E4:** Heppell, E., Brown, N. and Murphy, P. 2004. *Greater Thames Estuary Essex Zone: Monitoring Survey Assessment and Updated Project Design*. Chelmsford: Essex County Council

**E5:** Heppell, E. 2005. *Cudmore Grove Country Park, Essex: Excavation and Survey Assessment and Updated Project Design*. Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch Report 1170:

**E6:** Heppell, E. and Brown, N. 2008. 'Rapid Coastal Zone Survey and Beyond: research and management of the Essex coast, UK', *Journal of Wetland Archaeology* 8, 26–52

**E7:** Wilkinson, T. and Murphy, P. 1995. *Archaeology of the Essex Coast, Volume I: The Hullbridge Survey*. East Anglian Archaeology Monograph 71.

**E8:** Wilkinson, T., Murphy, P., Brown, N. and Heppell, E. 2012. *The Archaeology of the Essex Coast Vol 2: Excavations at the prehistoric site of the Stumble*. East Anglian Archaeology Monograph 144

## North Kent

**NK1:** Wessex Archaeology. 2000. *Historic Environment of the North Kent Coast: Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey, Phase 1, Final Report*. Wessex Archaeology Report 46561

**NK2:** Wessex Archaeology. 2002. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Preliminary Field Investigation*. Wessex Archaeology Report 46564

**NK3:** Wessex Archaeology. 2004a. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Field Assessment Pilot*. Wessex Archaeology Report 46565

**NK4:** Wessex Archaeology. 2004e. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Field Assessment 2003 Pilot Fieldwork*. Wessex Archaeology Report 55057

**NK5:** Wessex Archaeology. 2005a. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Field Assessment, Year One Report*. Wessex Archaeology Report 56750

**NK6:** Wessex Archaeology. 2006. *North Kent Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase II: Field Assessment. Year Two Report*. Wessex Archaeology Report 56751

**NK7:** Wessex Archaeology. 2005b. *NKC [North Kent Coast] Joint Fieldwork Report. June–July 2004*. Wessex Archaeology Report 56320

**NK8:** Wessex Archaeology. 2005c. *NKC [North Kent Coast] Planarch Participation. Essex Joint Fieldwork Report. May 2005*. Wessex Archaeology Report 56321

## The South East

**SE1:** Wessex Archaeology. 2011a. *South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (SE RCZAS) Phase 1: National Mapping Programme Report – Blocks B, C, L and M*. Wessex Archaeology Report 71330

**SE2:** Dickson, A., Janik, J., Priest, R. and Royall, R. 2012. *South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey National Mapping Programme Components 1 & 2: Results of NMP Mapping*. Cornwall County Council Historic Environment Service and Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service

**SE3:** Wessex Archaeology. 2013. *South East Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Phase 1 Desk-Based Assessment*. Wessex Archaeology Report 71330

## Isle of Wight

**IoW:** Isle of Wight County Archaeology and Historic Environment Service (IoW CAHES). 2000. *Isle of Wight*

## New Forest

**NF1:** Wessex Archaeology. 2010. *New Forest Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment. Phase I Desk-based Assessment*. Wessex Archaeology Report 72200

**NF2:** Wessex Archaeology. 2011b. *New Forest Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Stage II: Field Assessment*. Wessex Archaeology Report

**NF3:** Trevarthen, E. 2010. *Hampshire Aggregate Resource Assessment: Aerial Photography Enhancement Results of NMP Mapping*. Historic Environment Projects, Environment, Planning and Economy, Cornwall Council

## Dorset I & II

**D1:** Wessex Archaeology. 2004c. *Historic Environment of the Dorset Coast. Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase I Project Report*. Salisbury; Wessex Archaeology Report 51958.05

**D2:** Wessex Archaeology. 2004d. *Historic Environment of the Dorset Coast. Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase I Dorset Coast Historic Environment Research Framework*. Wessex Archaeology Report 51958.06

**D3:** Royall, C. 2014. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey for South-West England South Coast Dorset. Component One: National Mapping Programme*. Historic Environment, Cornwall Council

**D4:** Johns, C., Kirkham, G., Cousins, T. and Parham, D. 2015. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase One Desk-based Assessment for South-West England (South Coast Dorset)*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit Report No: 2014R043 / Bournemouth University

### Isles of Scilly

**IoS:** Johns, C., Larn, R. and Tapper, B. 2004. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment for The Isles of Scilly*. Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council

### South West (South Coast)

**SWS1:** Hegarty, C., Knight, S. and Sims, R. 2014. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey National Mapping Programme (NMP) for South-West England - South Coast Devon. National Mapping Programme Report*. AC Archaeology Report ACD618/2/1

**SWS2:** Pink, F. 2016. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey for South West England – South Devon Coast: Results of Phase 1, Component 2 Desk-Based Assessment*. AC Archaeology Report ACD618/4/2.

**SWS3:** Johns, C., Dudley, P. and Grant, M. 2019. *7097 Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: Phase One Desk-based Assessment for South-West England (South Coast Cornwall)*. Cornwall Archaeological Unit Report.

### South West (North Coast)

**SWN1:** Pink, F. 2018. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase One Desk-based Assessment for South-West England: Exmoor National Park*. Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Report Series 26

**SWN2:** Grant, M., Westley, K. and Sturt, F. 2019. *Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey for South-West England: North Coast of Devon (excluding Exmoor) and North Coast of Cornwall. Phase One Desk-based Assessment*.

### Severn Estuary

**SV1:** Mullin, D., Brunning, R. and Chadwick, A. 2009. *Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey Phase 1 Report*. Gloucestershire and Somerset County Councils

**SV2:** Truscoe, K. 2007. *Rapid Coastal Assessment for the Severn Estuary: Assessment of Environment Agency Lidar data. Trial Areas: Somerset and Gloucestershire*. English Heritage and Somerset County Council.

**SV3:** Crowther, S., Dickson, A. and Truscoe, K. 2008. *Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: National Mapping Programme*. Gloucestershire County Council and English Heritage.

**SV4:** Catchpole, T. and Chadwick, A. 2010a. *Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Project Report on Phase 2a pilot fieldwork*. Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service.

**SV5 (was S2):** Catchpole, T. and Chadwick, A. 2010b. *Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Updated Project Design for Phase 2 Main Fieldwork for English Heritage*. Gloucestershire County Council/Somerset County Council.

**SV6 (was S3):** Dickson, A., Catchpole, T. and Barnett, L. 2010. *Severn Estuary rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: Purton Hulks Aerial Photographic Progression Study*. Gloucestershire County Council, Friends of Purton & English Heritage

**SV7 (was S4):** Chadwick, A. and Catchpole, T. 2013. *Severn Estuary Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey. Phase 2 Fieldwork Report*. Gloucestershire County Council

## The North West

**NW1:** Johnson, B. 2009b. *North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NWRCA)*. Archaeological Research Services Report 2009/53

**NW2:** Johnson, B. 2009c. *North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (NWRCA)*. *Executive Summary*. Archaeological Research Services Report 2009/53

**NW3:** Bacilieri, C., Knight, D. and Williams, S. 2009. *North West Coast Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: Air Survey Mapping Report*. Archaeological Research Services report (

**NW4a:** Edie, G. 2012a. *The North West Rapid Coastal zone Assessment (NWRCA)*. Archaeological Research Services Report 2012/70

**NW4b:** Edie, G. 2012b. *The North West Rapid Coastal zone Assessment (NWRCA)*. *Phase 2 Project Report*. Archaeological Research Services Report 2012/769





## Appendix 3: Historic England Web Analytics

The following web analytics data for 2016 and 2017 was provided by the Historic England web team on 19 March 2018. The data pertain to interactions with the Historic England website which resulted in publications being downloaded, as this was thought to provide the most realistic indication of the active use of RCZAS reports.

### All downloaded publications in 2016

Event Action	Total Events	Unique Events
gtmPublicationSeriesGuidance	134,323	120,365
gtmPublicationSeriesunset	25,615	22,838
gtmPublicationSeriesHeritageatRisk	14,841	12,911
gtmPublicationSeriesResearchReports	2,701	2,423
gtmPublicationSeriesResearchNewsHistoricEnglandResearch	2,573	2,300
gtmPublicationSeriesConservationBulletin	2,336	2,070
gtmPublicationSeriesInformedConservation	1,703	1,504
gtmPublicationSeriesArchaeology	1,407	1,213
gtmPublicationSeriesRCZASReports	1,355	1,170
gtmPublicationSeriesGeneralHistory	390	360
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,326</b>	<b>167,229</b>

### All downloaded publications in 2017

Event Action	Total Events	Unique Events
gtmPublicationSeriesGuidance	129,152	115,318
gtmPublicationSeriesunset	31,134	26,873
gtmPublicationSeriesHeritageatRisk	17,497	14,375
gtmPublicationSeriesConservationBulletin	4,565	3,926
gtmPublicationSeriesResearchReports	2,844	2,532
gtmPublicationSeriesResearchNewsHistoricEnglandResearch	2,221	1,991
gtmPublicationSeriesInformedConservation	2,098	1,852
gtmPublicationSeriesRCZASReports	1,819	1,451
gtmPublicationSeriesArchaeology	1,319	1,221
gtmPublicationSeriesGeneralHistory	590	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>193,255</b>	<b>170,055</b>

## Downloads of RCZAS documents 2016

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/>

Event Label	Total Events	Unique Events
rczas-yorks-lincs-phase3/rczas-yorks-lincs-3-vol8-overview.pdf/	148	57
rczas-dba-sw-england-south-devon-coast/sw-rczas-south-devon-dba-report.pdf/	115	98
norfolk-rczas/naurpt1045coastalsurvey.pdf/	107	90
nwrcza/NW_RCZAS_2009.pdf/	90	90
serczas-nmp-comp-1-2/sercza-nmp-blocks-ad-hj-k.pdf/	90	66
rczas-bempton-donna-nook/rczas-bempton-donna-nook-pt2-gaz-maps.pdf/	82	16
rczas-nmp-sw-england-south-devon-coast/6046-main-rczas-south-coast-devon-nmp-report.pdf/	66	41
se-rczas-phase1-desk-based-assessment/se-rczas-phase1-desk-based-assessment.pdf/	66	41
serczas-phase1-nmp/Wessex_Archaeology_SERCZAS_NMP_report_web.pdf/	66	66
new-forest-rczas-phase-2/new-forest-rcza-phase2.pdf/	57	49
severn-estuary-rczas-phase1/Severn_RCZAS_Phase_1_2009.pdf/	57	57
nw-rczas-air-survey-mapping-report/4548_NW_RCZAS_Report_web.pdf/	49	49
essex-jwa-synthetic-paper/essexjwapaper.pdf/	41	41
isles-of-scilly-rczas/islesofscilly20080116095450.pdf/	41	33
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook-pt3-plates.pdf/	41	33
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook.pdf/	41	33
rczas-bempton-donna-nook/rczas-bempton-donna-nook-pt1-rep.pdf/	41	41
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pilot-2003/nkcphaseiipilot-55057.02-april2004.pdf/	33	16
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-year-2-2005/nkcphaseiyear2-56751.01-march2006sml.pdf/	33	25
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook-pt2-maps.pdf/	33	25
suffolk-rczas-national-mapping-programme-report/nmpfinal02-02-05.pdf/	33	33
essex-rczas-assessment-and-upd-2001-no-figures/essexrczas2001.pdf/	25	25
hampshire-aggregate-resource-assessment-nmp/NF_NMP_Report_Final_2010.pdf/	25	25
isle-of-wight-coastal-audit/isleofwightcoastalaudit-vol1.pdf/	25	16
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pilot-2002/nkcpilot2002-46565.02-march2004sml.pdf/	25	16
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-year-1-2004/nkcphaseiyear1-56750.02-jan2005.pdf/	25	16
rczas-gibraltar-point-norfolk/rcza-gibraltar-point-norfolk-full-rep.pdf/	25	25
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2a/Severn_RCZAS_phase_2a_Pilot_2010.pdf/	25	25
suffolk-rczas-archaeological-service-report/archaeologyofthesuffolkcoast.pdf/	25	16
dorset-rczas-report/dorsetrczasreport-51958.05-june2004.pdf/	16	16
essex-monitoring-survey-final-assessment-and-upd-2004/essexmonitoringfinal2004.pdf/	16	16
essex-monitoring-survey-interim-report-1-2002/essexmonitoringinterim12002.pdf/	16	16
essex-monitoring-survey-interim-report-2-2003/essexmonitoringinterim22003.pdf/	16	16
nercza-aerial-survey/3929nerczasreportasssurvey.pdf/	16	16
nercza-phase2/NERCZA-phase2-front-cover-chap4.pdf/	16	16
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pfi-2001/nkcphaseiipfi-46564.01-march2002.pdf/	16	16
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap6.pdf/	16	16
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-exec-summary.pdf/	16	16
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook-pt2-gazetteers.pdf/	16	16
rczas-phase-one-desk-based-assess-sw-england-south-coast-dorset/6673-dorset-rczas-report.pdf/	16	16
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2/3885_Vol_3_Appendices_v3_FINAL.pdf/	16	8
nercza-final-report/nerczafinalreportsmall.pdf/	8	8
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_C_2010.pdf/	8	8
north-kent-coast-phase-i-1999-2000/nkcphasei-46561-nov2000.pdf/	8	8
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-bibliography.pdf/	8	8
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap2.pdf/	8	8
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap5pt1.pdf/	8	8
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap5pt2.pdf/	8	8
rczas-gibraltar-point-norfolk-phase2/rcza-phase2-gibraltar-point-norfolk.pdf/	8	8
rczas-whitby-to-reighton/rczas-vol4-whitby-reighton-report-gazetteers.pdf/	8	8
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2/3885_Vol_1_main_text_v3_FINAL.pdf/	8	8
suffolk-rczas-assessment-report/assessmentreport2003.pdf/	8	8
suffolk-rczas-targeted-inter-tidal-survey-report/2007192targetedinter-tidalsurveyreport.pdf/	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>1,444</b>

## Downloads of RCZAS documents 2017

<https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/>

Event Label	Total Events	Unique Events
rczas-yorks-lincs-phase3/rczas-yorks-lincs-3-vol8-overview.pdf/	80	60
nwrcza/NW_RCZAS_2009.pdf/	63	54
serczas-phase1-nmp/Wessex_Archaeology_SERCZAS_NMP_report_web.pdf/	53	46
rczas-nmp-sw-england-south-devon-coast/6046-main-rczas-south-coast-devon-nmp-report.pdf/	46	37
serczas-nmp-comp-1-2/sercza-nmp-blocks-ad-hj-k.pdf/	46	38
nercza-final-report/nerczafinalreportsmall.pdf/	44	39
rczas-dba-sw-england-south-devon-coast/sw-rczas-south-devon-dba-report.pdf/	43	41
suffolk-rczas-national-mapping-programme-report/nmpfinal02-02-05.pdf/	40	38
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap5pt1.pdf/	37	28
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2/3885_Vol_1_main_text_v3_FINAL.pdf/	36	27
new-forest-rczas-phase-2/new-forest-rcza-phase2.pdf/	30	24
norfolk-rczas/naurpt1045coastalsurvey.pdf/	29	24
rczas-sw-england-south-coast-dorset/6673_SWRCZA_Dorset_Report_Final_web.pdf/	29	24
se-rczas-phase1-desk-based-assessment/se-rczas-phase1-desk-based-assessment.pdf/	28	27
rczas-bempton-donna-nook/rczas-bempton-donna-nook-pt1-rep.pdf/	25	21
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-exec-summary.pdf/	23	18
hampshire-aggregate-resource-assessment-nmp/NF_NMP_Report_Final_2010.pdf/	21	16
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Main_Report_2010.pdf/	21	20
nercza-aerial-survey/3929nerczasreportasssurvey.pdf/	20	17
nercza-phase2/NERCZA-phase2-front-cover-chap4.pdf/	20	17
nw-rczas-air-survey-mapping-report/4548_NW_RCZAS_Report_web.pdf/	20	18
rczas-whitby-to-reighton/rczas-vol4-whitby-reighton-report-gazetteers.pdf/	20	19
suffolk-rczas-assessment-report/assessmentreport2003.pdf/	20	17
nercza-final-report/NE_RCZAS_2008_figures.pdf/	19	16
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap4.pdf/	19	17
suffolk-rczas-archaeological-service-report/archaeologyofthesuffolkcoast.pdf/	19	18
essex-jwa-synthetic-paper/essexjwapaper.pdf/	17	16
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap5pt2.pdf/	17	14
rczas-phase-one-desk-based-assess-sw-england-south-coast-dorset/6673-dorset-rczas-report.pdf/	17	16
severn-estuary-rczas-phase1/Severn_RCZAS_Phase_1_2009.pdf/	16	16
nercza-phase2/NERCZA-phase2-chap5.pdf/	15	13
isle-of-wight-coastal-audit/isleofwightcoastalaudit-vol1.pdf/	14	13
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook.pdf/	14	10
rczas-bempton-donna-nook/rczas-bempton-donna-nook-pt2-gaz-maps.pdf/	14	13
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2/3885_Vol_2_Plates_v3_FINAL.pdf/	14	11
nercza-phase2/NERCZA-phase2-chap678-figs.pdf/	13	10
north-kent-coast-phase-i-1999-2000/nkcphasei-46561-nov2000.pdf/	13	12
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-contents.pdf/	13	12
nercza-executive-summary/executivesummary20090324105837.pdf/	12	10
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap1.pdf/	12	10
essex-rczas-assessment-and-upd-2001-no-figures/essexrczas2001.pdf/	11	9
rczas-whitby-reighton-phase2/rcza-phase2-whitby-reighton-pt2-gazetteers.pdf/	11	8
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2/3885_Vol_3_Appendices_v3_FINAL.pdf/	11	10
suffolk-rczas-targeted-inter-tidal-survey-report/2007192targetedinter-tidalsurveyreport.pdf/	11	8
nercza-phase2/NERCZA-phase2-end-project-rep.pdf/	10	9
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-year-1-2004/nkcphaseiiyear1-56750.02-jan2005.pdf/	10	7
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook-pt2-gazetteers.pdf/	9	6
isle-of-wight-coastal-audit/isleofwightcoastalauditvol2.pdf/	8	7
isles-of-scilly-rczas/islesofscilly20080116095450.pdf/	8	8
north-kent-coast-planarch-2005/nkcplanarch-56321.02-sep2005.pdf/	8	8
nwrcza-exec-summary/NW_RCZAS_Executive_Summary_2009.pdf/	8	8
rczas-donna-nook-gibraltar-point/rczas-vol2-donna-nook-gibraltar-point.pdf/	8	8
rczas-gibraltar-point-norfolk/rcza-gibraltar-point-norfolk-full-rep.pdf/	8	7
rczas-whitby-reighton-phase2/rcza-phase2-whitby-reighton.pdf/	8	7
rescue-recording-eroding-inter-tidal-peat-bed/low-hauxley-peat-deposit-recording.pdf/	8	7
dorset-coast-research-framework/dorsetcoastresearchframework-51958.06-june2004.pdf/	7	7
essex-monitoring-survey-final-assessment-and-upd-2004/essexmonitoringfinal2004.pdf/	7	7
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_A_2010.pdf/	7	7
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_B_2010.pdf/	7	6
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pilot-2002/nkcpilot2002-46565.02-march2004sml.pdf/	7	6
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-year-2-2005/nkcphaseiiyear2-56751.01-march2006sml.pdf/	7	7
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap6.pdf/	7	6
rczas-whitby-to-reighton/rczas-vol4-whitby-reighton-maps.pdf/	7	7

Event Label	Total Events	Unique Events
dorset-rczas-report/dorsetrczasreport-51958.05-june2004.pdf/	6	6
low-hauxley-review-archaeological-work/review_archaeological_work_Low_Hauxley_v1.pdf/	6	5
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_D_2010.pdf/	6	6
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap3.pdf/	6	5
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap7.pdf/	6	5
rczas-gibraltar-point-norfolk-phase2/rcza-phase2-gibraltar-point-norfolk.pdf/	6	5
essex-monitoring-survey-interim-report-1-2002/essexmonitoringinterim12002.pdf/	5	5
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_C_2010.pdf/	5	5
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_F_2010.pdf/	5	5
north-kent-coast-planarch-2004/nkcjointfieldworkreport-56320.03-jan2005.pdf/	5	5
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook-pt2-maps.pdf/	5	4
rczas-whitby-reighton-phase2/rcza-phase2-whitby-reighton-pt2-maps.pdf/	5	4
severn-estuary-rczas-phase2a/Severn_RCZAS_phase_2a_Pilot_2010.pdf/	5	5
severn-estuary-rczas-purton-hulks/Purton_Hulks_Progression_Study_FINAL.pdf/	5	5
essex-monitoring-survey-interim-report-2-2003/essexmonitoringinterim22003.pdf/	4	4
new-forest-rcza-phase-1/NF_RCZAS_Appendix_E_2010.pdf/	4	3
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pfi-2001/nkcphaseiipfi-46564.01-march2002.pdf/	4	4
north-kent-coast-phase-ii-pilot-2003/nkcphaseiipilot-55057.02-april2004.pdf/	4	4
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-bibliography.pdf/	4	4
rczas-bempton-donna-nook-phase2/rcza-phase2-bempton-donna-nook-pt3-plates.pdf/	4	4
rescue-recording-eroding-inter-tidal-peat-bed-low-hauxley/Low_Hauxley_Footprints_Peat_Deposit.pdf/	4	4
nwrcza-phase2-project-report/nwrcza-phase2-chap2.pdf/	3	3
rczas-donna-nook-gibraltar-point-phase2/rcza-phase2-donna-nook-gibraltar-point-gaz-maps.pdf/	2	2
rczas-donna-nook-gibraltar-point-phase2/rcza-phase2-donna-nook-gibraltar-point-rep-plates.pdf/	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,170</b>

## Acquisition of users who downloaded RCZAS reports 2016

Default Channel Grouping	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/ Session	Avg. Session Duration
Organic Search	492	197	615	0.00%	6.52	404.48
Referral	197	74	303	0.00%	7.01	465.87
Direct	74	57	107	0.00%	6.74	548.86
Social	25	8	25	0.00%	1.00	27.20
(Other) = Adestra	8	8	8	0.00%	13.38	837.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>796</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>6.60</b>	<b>431.02</b>

## Breakdown of referrals 2016

Source	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/ Session	Avg. Session Duration
citizan.org.uk	82	33	123	0.00%	2.86	499.85
archaeologydataservice.ac.uk	49	16	57	0.00%	8.49	340.33
discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk	8	0	8	0.00%	12.25	888.13
gatehouse-gazetteer.info	8	0	57	0.00%	4.60	237.95
historicengland.org.uk	8	0	8	0.00%	7.13	618.75
jiscmail.ac.uk	8	0	8	0.00%	1.00	61.50
uk.search.yahoo.com	8	8	16	0.00%	3.06	223.31
waaforum.axcess10.anonns.net	8	8	8	0.00%	5.13	246.88
wikiwirral.co.uk	8	8	8	0.00%	15.38	381.13
york.ac.uk	8	0	8	0.00%	80.88	3196.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>7.05</b>	<b>468.96</b>

## Breakdown of Acquisition by source/medium 2016

Source/Medium	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration
google / organic	451	197	574	0.00%	6.24	414.78
citizan.org.uk / referral	82	33	123	0.00%	2.86	499.85
(direct) / (none)	74	57	107	0.00%	6.74	548.86
archaeologydataservice.ac.uk / referral	49	16	57	0.00%	8.49	340.33
bing / organic	33	0	33	0.00%	12.67	321.61
linkedin.com / referral	16	0	16	0.00%	1.00	26.63
adestra / newsletter	8	8	8	0.00%	13.38	837.00
discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk / referral	8	0	8	0.00%	12.25	888.13
facebook.com / referral	8	8	8	0.00%	1.00	31.75
gatehouse-gazetteer.info / referral	8	0	57	0.00%	4.60	237.95
historicengland.org.uk / referral	8	0	8	0.00%	7.13	618.75
jiscmail.ac.uk / referral	8	0	8	0.00%	1.00	61.50
uk.search.yahoo.com / referral	8	8	16	0.00%	3.06	223.31
waaforum.axcess10.anonns.net / referral	8	8	8	0.00%	5.13	246.88
wikiwirral.co.uk / referral	8	8	8	0.00%	15.38	381.13
yahoo / organic	8	0	8	0.00%	1.00	7.13
york.ac.uk / referral	8	0	8	0.00%	80.88	3196.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>6.62</b>	<b>432.24</b>

## Acquisition of users who downloaded RCZAS reports 2017

Default Channel Grouping	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration
Organic Search	526	208	799	0.00%	6.04	483.32
Direct	66	66	66	0.00%	3.65	645.24
Referral	66	11	66	0.00%	2.15	58.73
Social	11	0	11	0.00%	12.91	1308.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>5.68</b>	<b>474.55</b>

## Breakdown of referrals 2017

Source	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration
citizan.org.uk	33	0	33	0.00%	1.33	22.91
archaeologydataservice.ac.uk	22	0	22	0.00%	4.00	131.41
nwt.org.uk	11	11	11	0.00%	1.00	20.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>58.74</b>

## Breakdown of Acquisition by source/medium 2017

Source/Medium	Users	New Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration
google / organic	493	186	767	0.00%	6.13	496.89
(direct) / (none)	66	66	66	0.00%	3.65	645.24
citizan.org.uk / referral	33	0	33	0.00%	1.33	22.91
archaeologydataservice.ac.uk / referral	22	0	22	0.00%	4.00	131.41
yahoo / organic	22	11	22	0.00%	5.00	156.27
bing / organic	11	11	11	0.00%	2.00	147.36
linkedin.com / referral	11	0	11	0.00%	12.91	1308.09
nwt.org.uk / referral	11	11	11	0.00%	1.00	20.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>5.68</b>	<b>474.05</b>

## Appendix 4: RCZAS Survey (Local Authorities)

This survey form is designed to collect information from HER and development control officers about their experiences of using RCZAS resources. Please use the 'other' field after each question for any additional comments. We are collecting email addresses in order to track responses, but all questionnaire responses will be anonymised to ensure confidentiality.

**1. Email address \***

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**2. Which local authority do you work for?**

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**3. What is your professional role?**

*Check all that apply.*

- HER
- Development management
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What have you used RCZAS reports for?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Creating HER entries
- Development control/planning responses
- Outreach and/or work with volunteers
- Site management
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Are RCZAS reports as published fit for this purpose?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**6. If the RCZAS reports are not fit for purpose, what improvements are required?**

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**7. Are individual monument records readily accessible in the RCZAS reports?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Have all new and enhanced RCZAS monument records been fully integrated into your HER?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. If new and enhanced RCZAS monument records are not fully integrated into the HER, where do they currently reside, and how can they be accessed?**

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**10. Have other aspects of the RCZAS results (e.g. threat levels) been integrated into the HER? If so, please specify.**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Does your HER hold any other resources relating to the RCZAS programme (e.g. survey forms, NMP mapping)? If so, please state:**

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**12. Has RCZAS data been used during planning for mitigation for Coastal Management Schemes?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



**13. If RCZAS data has been used during planning for mitigation for Coastal Management Schemes please state frequency if known, or give some examples:**

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**14. When was the RCZAS completed for your area?**

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**15. Approximately how many planning applications has your authority reviewed within the coastal corridor covered by RCZAS since the RCZAS was completed?**

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**16. Have the RCZAS data and/or reports been consulted by commercial clients?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Data only
- Reports only
- Data and reports
- No
- Don't know
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**17. Have the RCZAS data and/or reports been consulted by other (non-commercial) users? If so, please state type of user(s) and what they have used these for.**

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**18. Do you currently work with any voluntary groups undertaking work on coastal sites? If yes, please include details (under 'other').**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you think RCZAS data should be included as part of Historic England's National Maritime Historic Environment Record (NMHER)?

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

20. If you have any other comments or feedback on the RCZAS programme, please add these below:

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21. If you would be prepared to discuss your experiences of the RCZAS programme in more detail with the project team, please provide your contact details below:

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## Appendix 5: RCZAS Survey (Historic England)

This survey form is designed to collect information from Historic England staff about their experiences of using RCZAS resources. Please use the 'other' field after each question for any additional comments. We are collecting email addresses in order to track responses, but all questionnaire responses will be anonymised to ensure confidentiality.

**1. Email address \***

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**2. What is your role at Historic England?**

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**3. What have you used RCZAS reports and/or data for?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Development control/planning responses
- Site management
- Designation
- Heritage at Risk
- Outreach and/or work with volunteers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Are RCZAS reports as published fit for this purpose?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**5. If the RCZAS reports are not fit for purpose, what improvements are required?**

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**6. Are individual monument records readily accessible in the RCZAS reports?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Do you think RCZAS data should be included as part of Historic England's National Maritime Historic Environment Record (NMHER)?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Have you used RCZAS data/reports in managing the coastal historic environment?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**9. If you have used RCZAS data/reports in managing the coastal historic environment, please give examples**

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**10. Have you used RCZAS data/reports to determine the significance of heritage assets in the coastal zone?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. If you have used RCZAS data/reports to determine the significance of heritage assets, please give examples:**

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**12. Are designated coastal heritage assets identified by the RCZAS programme as being at risk routinely integrated into the HAR Register?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

13. If you are aware of designated coastal heritage assets identified by the RCZAS that have been integrated into the HAR Register, please give examples:

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14. Are coastal heritage assets identified/assessed during the RCZAS programme considered for designation?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

15. If coastal heritage assets identified/assessed during the RCZAS programme have been considered for designation, please give examples:

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16. If you have any other comments or feedback on the RCZAS programme, please add these below:

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17. If you would be prepared to discuss your experiences of the RCZAS programme in more detail with the project team, please provide your contact details below:

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Send me a copy of my responses.



## Appendix 6: RCZAS Survey (Land Owners & Managers)

This survey form is designed to collect information from land owners and managers about their experiences of using RCZAS resources. Please use the 'other' field after each question for any additional comments. We are collecting email addresses in order to track responses, but all questionnaire responses will be anonymised to ensure confidentiality.

**1. Email address \***

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Are you a land owner or a land manager?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Land owner  
 Land manager  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Where is the land that you own/manage located?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Do you use an asset management system or Historic Environment Record to manage coastal heritage assets?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes  
 No  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. If you have an asset management system or Historic Environment Record, does this incorporate data from the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes  
 No  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Do you produce management plans for land which includes coastal heritage assets?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes  
 No

**7. What use is made of RCZAS data in any such management plans?**

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**8. If you have any other comments or feedback on Historic England's RCZAS programme, please add these below:**

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**9. If you would be prepared to discuss your experiences of the RCZAS programme in more detail with the project team, please provide your contact details below:**

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## Appendix 7: RCZAS Survey (Academia)

This survey form is designed to collect information from people working in academic institutions about their experiences of using RCZAS resources. Please use the 'other' field after each question for any additional comments. We are collecting email addresses in order to track responses, but all questionnaire responses will be anonymised to ensure confidentiality.

**1. Email address \***

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**2. What is your role within your institution?**

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**3. What have you used RCZAS reports/data for?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Research
- Fieldwork
- Teaching
- Outreach and/or work with volunteers
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Please give examples of your use of RCZAS reports/data:**

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**5. Are RCZAS reports as published fit for this purpose?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**6. If RCZAS reports are not fit for purpose, what improvements are required?**

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**7. How have you accessed RCZAS reports/data?**

*Check all that apply.*

- Historic England website
- Archaeology Data Service
- Historic Environment Records (HERs)
- Heritage Gateway
- CITIZAN (the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) website
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Are there any barriers to accessing the RCZAS reports/data?**

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**9. If you have any other comments or feedback on the RCZAS programme, please add these below:**

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**10. If you would be prepared to discuss your experiences of the RCZAS programme in more detail with the project team, please provide your contact details below:**

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Send me a copy of my responses.