

SITE MANAGEMENT



Project	:	Brightlingsea Harbour Dredging and Restoration
Client	:	Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners
Date	:	October to December 2017
Keywords	:	Site Management • Adaptive Management • Dredging • Beneficial Use • Working with Nature • Natural Flood Management • Coastal Defence • Ecosystem Functioning • Designated Area
Description	:	<p>During the first phase of the Year 2 work package, Royal Smals were commissioned to use their Cutter Suction Dredger (CSD) "Phoenix" to dredge approximately 12,000m³ from Brightlingsea Creek South Channel. This material was pumped up to 1.7km and used to fill the St Osyth borrow pits. These twenty three (23) pits, approximately 30x30x1.5m in size, were originally excavated in the 1960's in order to strengthen the local coastal flood defences following the 1953 floods. A series of connecting excavations, dams and drop-board sluice gates were installed by subcontractors, Miles Water Engineering, whilst a series of "Y-" unions and valves allowed the close control of the pumped dredge material, in order to achieve maximum fill and storage volumes.</p> <p>The dredging and restoration works were carried out over three successive neap tide periods, to limit the potential for erosion during high springs, with Exo providing site management services throughout. This included coordination of works between the harbor, dredging and restoration teams, liaising with both contractors and members of the public to ensure understanding and encourage support of the project and to confirm all works and mitigation measures put in place were adhered to.</p> <p>Inevitably, whilst undertaking a complex operation in a logistically challenging and high risk intertidal environment, problems can arise as a result of unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances. We employ an adaptive management strategy to our dredging and restoration projects, as recommended by the Central Dredging Association (CEDA), to combat and allow the project to remain robust to such uncertainty. Exo's site management and expertise allowed any minor issues to be solved efficiently enabling the project to be delivered on time, within budget and with zero harm to people and the environment.</p>

