

## Rotary Drilling - Cliff Erosion Research Project

We were asked to provide some good quality horizontal rock cores from cliff locations by Brighton & Hove City Council. The cores were to be used to provide information as part of a University research project looking at cliff erosion mechanisms. Cores were to be taken at locations where the cliffs are fully exposed to the sea and also where sea defences are present.

Exposed unprotected cliff sections were not available within Brighton & Hove itself and a suitable location was identified in neighbouring Peacehaven. Access to the base of the cliff was difficult, due in part to the presence of other sea defences. Craned access onto the foreshore was the only practical solution. Access to the location with sea defences protected section was relatively straightforward and required only pedestrian management measures.

At an early stage a pre-works inspection of the cliff face was undertaken to ensure suitability of the sampling location. Given the location of the borehole the Health and Safety of all the workforce had to be very carefully considered. The fieldwork was timed to coincide with favourable tides to provide a suitable working window, however the work also required calm weather both for the craning operations and for the sea state not to compromise the working area. Careful planning and close coordination with the crane company was also necessary to ensure everyone was clear as to the operations required. The crane being present during the entire coring operation to provide emergency egress for the equipment if required.

The careful planning resulted in the recovery of good quality core from both locations; which we delivered to Leeds University.



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