

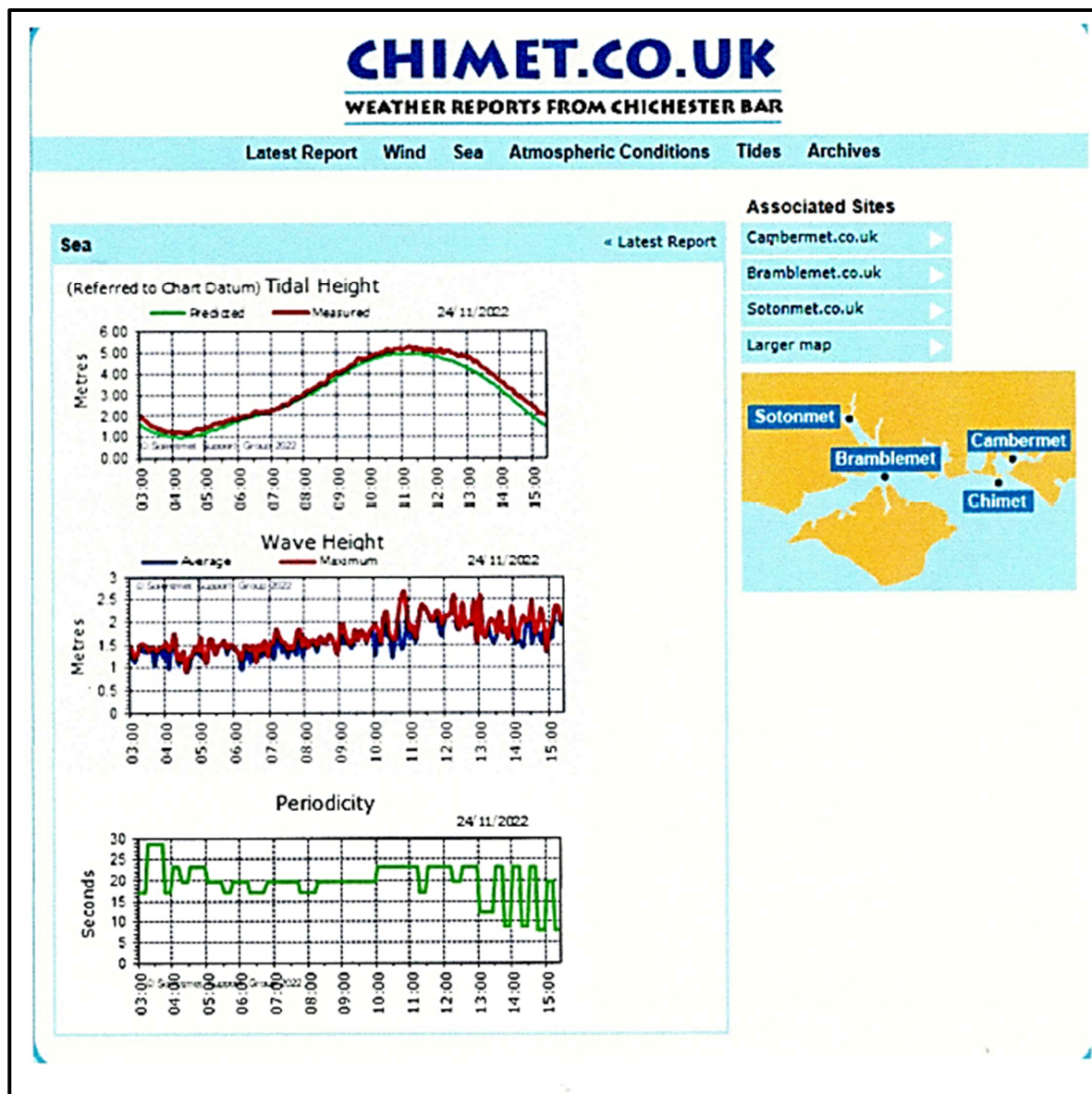
Hayling Herald – Save Our Island January 2023 submission

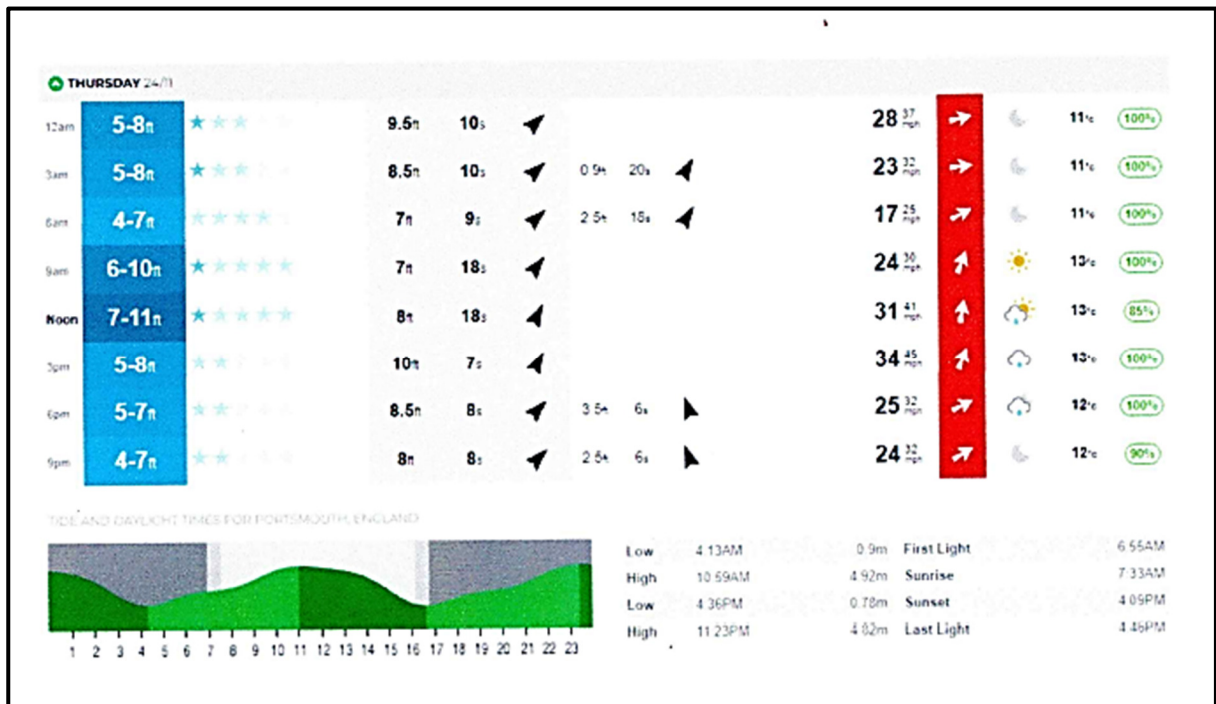
Please note that this document is the full submission to the Hayling herald and space constraints limited the ability to publish the full document.

We think that in view of the increasing threat from Climate Change it is relevant now to see exactly what happened to West Beach on 24 November 2022.

In the preceding weeks, Coastal Partners had just completed their annual reconstruction of the shingle barrier between Eastoke Corner and the Chichester Harbour entrance. This was fortunately undertaken earlier this year, but how many times this winter can Coastal Partners afford to do this?

At 11am on the 24th of November, the entire beach and the shingle barrier were massively overtopped, causing widespread flooding and major erosion. This was a swell-wave event caused by a major storm in the Atlantic some days earlier. The www.chimet.co.uk weather station out in the Solent recorded the event in detail.





The two points to note are that this was not a major 'named' storm, and in any event, the Met Office do not provide warnings of these swell-wave events. The tide height of 5m was strengthened by the 2.6m swell-waves, energised by the 22 second wave interval. This situation could have been far worse as a 'named' storm could have caused higher sea levels, perhaps over a metre higher, through surge and lower air pressure. See the flooding on 24 November below.



Hayling Golf Club flooding off the 18th green 24.11.22



Creek Road 24.11.22

As the tide dropped, the damage to the Eastoke shingle barrier was clear to see.



Granite Blocks in front of Creek Road overtopped



The Digger working at Eastoke to repair the barrier



Bulldozer at Eastoke rebuilding the barrier

Emergency action was required by Coastal Partners to rebuild the Eastoke barrier before the next high tide a midnight on the 24th.

Clearly, relying on these emergency actions in the long-term is not sustainable because the frequency and severity of these events are expected to increase with the UN IPCC forecast that Global Warming is estimated to rise by 2.8°C with a consequential tide rise of at least 1.5m in the next 100 years. Also, the cost of maintaining the hugely expensive 'Tonka Toys' on standby would be cost prohibitive.

The next day – 25 November 2022 – following the rebuild of the barrier, the third high tide in a row was still just overtopping the barrier.



Overtopping at Eastoke 25.11.22 following the rebuild

At West Beach, the sea flooded both of the nearby golf courses further than ever before, and the erosion has required more beach huts to be relocated.



Beach Hut relocation West Beach 25.11.22

Coastal Partners continue to state that the Hayling Island beach protection is designed to protect against a 1 in 200 year (0.5%) flood risk.

Our beach experiences overtopping almost every year, and sometimes more than once. This year it was less than a month since the rebuild!

Coastal Partners need to find a better way of explaining the flood risks which reflect reality. It is not acceptable to continue to claim compliance to a unachievable protection standard.

Coastal Partners are planning to extract shingle from Gunner Point this winter, so the access route for heavy plant and machinery will be restored, but it is known that this only provides a limited protection from one or two bi-modal storms before being eroded away again.

Save Our Island are preparing a dossier of concern for the Secretary of State for Housing covering both the lack of flood risk planning strategy for Hayling Island, and the unsustainable (in our view) flood protection funding process from Central Government.

The threat to vulnerable coastal communities like Hayling Island needs to be elevated up the Government priority list – and they must tell us what their plans are.

Dave Parham
Save Our Island