

Coastal and Estuarine Environments:
sedimentology, geomorphology and geoarchaeology

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PYE, K. & ALLEN, J. R. L. (eds) 2000. *Coastal and Estuarine Environments: sedimentology, geomorphology and geoarchaeology*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, **175**.

DUCK, R. W. & WEWETZER, S. F. K. 2000. Relationship between current measurements and sonographs of subtidal bedforms in the macrotidal Tay Estuary, Scotland. *In*: PYE, K. & ALLEN, J. R. L. (eds) 2000. *Coastal and Estuarine Environments: sedimentology, geomorphology and geoarchaeology*. Geological Society, London, Special Publications, **175**, 31–41.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 175

Coastal and Estuarine Environments:
sedimentology, geomorphology and
geoarchaeology

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2000

Published by

The Geological Society

London

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The Society's Web Site can be found at <http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/>. The Society is a Registered Charity, number 210161.

Published by The Geological Society from:
The Geological Society Publishing House
Unit 7, Brassmill Enterprise Centre
Brassmill Lane
Bath BA1 3JN, UK

(Orders: Tel. +44 (0)1225 445046
Fax +44 (0)1225 442836)
Online bookshop: <http://bookshop.geolsoc.org.uk>

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 1-86239-070-3

Typeset by Aarontype Ltd, Bristol, UK

Printed by The Alden Press, Oxford

Distributors

USA

AAPG Bookstore
PO Box 979
Tulsa
OK 74101-0979
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Preface

This book arises from a two day international conference held at the Geological Society of London in November 1998. The meeting was organized with the purpose of bringing together sedimentologists, geomorphologists, archaeologists, environmental scientists and environmental managers to discuss recent research and topical issues relating to the interactions between natural processes, morphology and human activities in coastal and estuarine environments. More than 200 delegates, from 16 countries, attended the meeting over the course of the two days, stimulating lively discussion both about basic scientific issues and management implications. The meeting was sponsored by the British Sedimentological Research Group, the British Geomorphological Research Group, and English Heritage, and was also supported by the Environmental Sedimentology Committee of the International Association of Sedimentologists. The editors would like to thank these organizations, together with staff at the Geological Society and numerous daily helpers, especially postgraduate students and others from the University of Reading, for their generous assistance in making the meeting a great success.

The principal themes of this title are:

- (1) The nature of basic processes affecting coasts and estuaries and their relationship to morphological and sedimentological changes on timescales ranging from months to millenia, and at spatial scales ranging from tens of metres to tens of kilometres;
- (2) The effects of changes in the natural environmental forcing factors on coastal and estuarine morphology and sedimentary characteristics, and the implications for human activities and their record;
- (3) The impacts of human activities and their record on coastal and estuarine processes and morphology;
- (4) Issues relating to the future management and conservation of the natural and archaeological heritage, including outstanding problems and future research needs.

This publication contains 29 papers based on a selection of the 32 oral presentations and more than 30 poster presentations made at the conference, and draws on examples from all over the world. The ordering of chapters has been arranged broadly to follow the sequence of the four main themes, starting with the shorter term, smaller scale and moving to the longer term, larger scale and management issues. There is, naturally, considerable overlap between themes in many of the contributions.

We hope that this book will serve not only as a record of scientific knowledge and concerns at the end of the first millenium, but also as a stimulus for further research endeavour and a significant influence on thinking about the ways in which natural processes, historical changes and the record of human activities in coastal and estuarine environments need to be taken into account in their future management. The need for breadth of approach, and a willingness toward sympathetic communication between different specialists, has never been greater.

Ken Pye & John R. L. Allen