

VINCENT MAY (*)

INTEGRATING THE GEOMORPHOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT, CULTURAL HERITAGE, TOURISM AND COASTAL HAZARDS IN PRACTICE

ABSTRACT: MAY V.J., *Integrating the geomorphological environment, cultural heritage, tourism and coastal hazards in practice.* (IT ISSN 0391- 9838, 2008).

Millions of tourists visit places each year which combine spectacular and scientifically significant geomorphological locations with important cultural features. However, the dynamic nature of many of these locations means that they can be hazardous to visitors and buildings. This is especially true of coastal sites. Management has to balance the needs of conservation, safety and access with public education to ensure the sustained values of the sites.

This paper examines this process of integration on the south coast of England where the Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site (the «Jurassic Coast»), 155 km of mainly cliffed coast, lies within an area with a resident population of more than 400,000 and over 17 million visitor nights each year. The coast includes some of the largest, most active and best investigated landslides anywhere.

Property and visitors are at risk from a range of hazards which are managed by a variety of interventions from defence structures to public education.

KEY WORDS: Geomorphological processes, Coastal hazards, Landslides, Tourism, Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Education, England, World Heritage.

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