

# Conflicts on the Coast

Within coastal developments there can be conflicts of interests due to the various stakeholders involved. Some people agree with plans with others disagreeing. Below are two case studies to illustrate these:

## CASE STUDY: Jurassic Coast, Dorset

The Jurassic Coast covers 95 miles of truly stunning coastline from East Devon to Dorset, with rocks recording 185 million years of the Earth's history. However impacts of tourism have had a huge affect on this area with conflicts on interest. In 2001 the coastline was awarded a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to the importance of its geological history.

### Background:

- The rocks along the coastline vary greatly with Resistant Purbeck and Portland limestone forming steep cliffs and headlands
- Some areas have less resistant clays, for example Lulworth, hence the reason the cove has formed
- Fossil hunters regularly disturb the rocky marine shore, where crabs and limpets live. As a result a Limpet Protection Zone has been set up to educate tourists
- 1.5 million people visit the beach and dunes each year with around 35,000 on bank holidays alone. This decreases the air quality as there is a huge increase in the amount of polluting cars
- Leisure activities such as jet skiing and water skiing are noisy and pollute the water. They also cause an increased swash which can affect marine plants. The onboard motors also threaten and deter dolphins, altering the food chain in the sea.

Another example of where there has been a conflict of interests and pressure of tourism on the coasts is Boscombe Surf Reef, Dorset.

## CASE STUDY: Boscombe Surf Reef, Bournemouth, Dorset:

The Boscombe Surf reef is the first artificial reef to have ben built in the Northern Hemisphere with it being the first in Europe also. It cost £3.2 million and was built because the local area was in stagnation. In 2007 it was granted permission from the government, with it being made from environmentally friendly materials that attract marine life.

The reef is the situated 250m offshore and it around the size of a football pitch, made of 55 giant sand bags. The waves now break before they hit the coast, reducing wave energy and erosive power. The reef has also attracted large amounts of sea life e.g. sea bass and pipe fish.

The waves breaking out to sea mean that it is very good for surfing on, therefore it has attracted many more tourists. As a result 80 new jobs have been created in new hotels and shops on the seafront alone.

### Negatives:

After a huge storm in 2011 the reef was badly damaged with the company that built it (ASR Limited) in liquidation. This means that Dorset Council is owed £15,000, and that they have lost some of the tourism they had as a result of the artificial reef.

### Reef Timeline:

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| - July 2008 - Construction begins                           | - March 2011 - Reef closes after sandbags damaged                |
| - November 2009 - Reef opens                                | - April 2011 - Repairs begin                                     |
| - May 2010 - Wave quality deemed "sub-standard" in report   | - September 2012 - ASR Ltd goes into liquidation                 |
| - November 2010 - Safety report reveals structure "hazards" | - November 2013 - Council receives £306,531 insurance settlement |
|   | - April 2014 - Reef reopens                                      |

