Poole Harbour Habitat Creation Scheme

Ridge - Groundwater Preliminary Evaluation



Introduction and objectives

- This presentation is intended to set out our current understanding of drainage and groundwater beneath Ridge and the relationship these may have with our proposed scheme
- We have adapted and developed our investigations according to concerns raised by the community
- This presentation offers a sneak preview of the work carried out and represents an insight into our studies and site investigations to date
- We are continuing to gather data and our interpretation may be expected to evolve further

Surface Drainage

- Hydrological catchment
- Natural "off slope" drainage
- Surface water drainage impacts/ intercepts natural overland flow



Surface water drainage catchments

- Road and roof drainage
- Soakaways to western part at top end of SW catchment
- Soakaways capture surface water runoff and recharge underlying shallow aquifer



Geology- summary of underlying deposits

Superficial deposits		Bedrock - Poole Formation	
Unit	Occurrence	Unit	Occurrence
ТорѕоіІ	Thin, widespread	Parkstone Clay Member N	Not present
Made Ground	 Embankments etc some "disturbed ground" beneath Ridge "In situ" product of weathering and erosion beneath Ridge 		
[MGR] Head [HEAD]		Parkstone Sand Member	To West of Ridge
		Broadstone Clay Member [BRTC]	Widespread beneath Ridge and Arne Moor
		Peat [PEAT]	Beneath Arne Moors only
Tidal Flat Deposits: granular, non cohesive [TDFG]	Beneath Arne Moors	Oakdale Clay Member [OAKC]	
		Oakdale Sand Member	
Tidal Flat Deposits:	Beneath Arne Moors		

Hydrogeology

- Regional perspective
- Poole Formation minor aquifer
- Succession of interbedded sands and clays, variable thickness and depth
- Recharge across outcrop to south and within the upper catchment of the Furzebrook
- Discharge northward toward Poole Harbour
- Clay layers "confine" lower parts of the sand aquifer such that water in the lower parts is under pressure
- When clays are "punctured" by boreholes, water under pressure rises to surface



Superficial Deposits



Bedrock



Site topographic sections



Lines of geological cross sections



Initial conceptual understanding (schematic section)



(Silt, sand, gra∨el)

Project Title: Poole Harbour Habitat Creation Location: Arne Moors

Vertical Scale: NTS Horizontal Scale: NTS

ch2m



Project Title: Poole Harbour Habitat Creation Location: Near Wareham, Dorset Client: Environment Agency





Cross Section G-G' – South West to North East (Line 1) and North to South (Line 2) in Ridge Village



Ground Investigation -Monitoring well locations



Installed water level loggers









Well Hydrograph-Ridge

- Logger recorded ٠ groundwater levels response
- 3 months data ٠
- We are continuing ۰ to capture data
- Water levels within • 0.3m from surface

Typical

curve



Well Hydrograph Ridge vs Swanage rainfall (mm)

Smaller rainfall events (< c.5mm) little impact

Larger or cumulative events. Rapid response in groundwater levels



Groundwater response vs, tidal cycles Spring and neap tidal cycles exert no apparent pattern of response in the well hydrograph



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Ground Investigation - well hydrographs- detail (one week of data)

- Is there a diurnal influence at Ridge
- Wareham tidal range typically 1- 1.2m
- No evident tidal effect at Ridge WS17



Tidal variation Wareham



Ground Investigation - well hydrographs- detail (one week)

- Is there a tidal effect further on to Arne Moor?
- Possible minor tidal effect (1- 2 cm?) at BH16
- Relationship appears to be inverse (i.e. a tidal low results in an increase in water level)
- This is suggestive of a pressure response not direct connectivity
- BH16 close to tidal channel/ harbour
- Response zone at 2-4m depth in "upper aquifer"





Ground Investigation - well hydrographs- detail (one week – Arne Moor)

- Is there a tidal effect elsewhere on Arne Moor?
- Data over 1 week suggests little influence on any of the well hydrographs (vs a tidal range of 1- 1.2m)
- Response zones are:

BH 04	0.5-9.5m
BH 13	1.5 – 10m
BH 18	3.5 – 9m

Note: All these are in the "lower" aquifer. A separate upper aquifer does not occur in these locations





Initial conceptual understanding section (schematic)



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Schematic- detail

We are examining this understanding, gathering more detailed information on the groundwater regime



Summary (1)

- Our investigations at Ridge are ongoing, these are preliminary findings only
- The geology beneath Ridge broadly comprises a layered system of superficial "Head" deposits overlying Broadstone Clay of the Poole Formation, in turn overlying Broadston sand
- Younger units (Parkstone Sand Member) of the Poole Formation are exposed in the high ground West of Ridge village
- Beneath Arne Moors, layered geological systems also occur comprising near surface superficial deposits of Tidal Flat deposits (both clays and sands/ gravels), with some peat further into the Moor
- Poole Formation strata (Broadstone Clay over Broadstone/ Oakdale Sands) occur beneath the superficial deposits beneath Arne Moors

Summary (2)

- Groundwater beneath Ridge is locally recharged by rainfall, flow from the higher ground, soakaways and possibly leaking drainage
- Groundwater occurs in the superficial deposits of "Head" at shallow depth
- Its downward movement is constrained by layers of clay and it tends to move laterally, perhaps discharging at the foot of slopes (e.g. to the north where) it may be collected by surface drains
- Connectivity with the deeper aquifer beneath Ridge is limited by the underlying Broadstone Clay



- Groundwater monitoring at Ridge shows groundwater at shallow depth, with a rapid response to rainfall recharge
- Groundwater beneath Arne Moors, in part, comprises a two layer system (upper, lower) separated by clay and/or peat
- The lower (Broadstone sand) aquifer, confined by the overlying clay is "pressurised" from regional recharge
- When penetrated by boreholes the groundwater rises, sometimes to above the surface (artesian conditions)
- The groundwater response of both upper and lower aquifers beneath Arne Moors is markedly more muted than the response at Ridge
- There is no currently no significant evidence to suggest that groundwater beneath Ridge is hydraulically "connected" to groundwater beneath Arne Moors
- We are gathering further evidence (continued monitoring with loggers, water quality data etc.) to further clarify our understanding of the groundwater and drainage regime

Thank You

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