

ISLE OF WIGHT HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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The Isle of Wight Centre for the Coastal Environment organised an International Conference on 'Landslides and Climate Change - Challenges and Solutions'. The Conference was held in Ventnor from 21-24 May 2007. For more information, please see the Conference website - www.coastalwight.gov.uk/conference

The response from delegates attending the Isle of Wight Council's International Conference on 'Landslides and Climate Change - Challenges and solutions' has been very positive according to Chairman of the Organising Committee Dr Robin McInnes OBE. He said, "Fifty five technical papers were presented at the conference and in addition there was very useful discussion at the end of each of the conference sessions. We are currently drawing together conclusions and recommendations which will be considered by the Organising Committee and which will be published on our website by mid-July. We believe that the conference findings will help the Isle of Wight in addressing the physical problems that are likely to arise as a result of the impacts of climate change as well as supporting our case for national and European funding to respond to the impacts on the ground."

"In addition to the technical sessions we had a full day of field meetings where delegates were able to visit sites in Ventnor, the West Wight, Seaview and Sandown Bay where we were able to describe the management responses to cliff falls, erosion and landslip and to exchange ideas on good practice. The weather was superb and the delegates left on Friday and Saturday with a very favourable and memorable impression of the Island. The Organising Committee is particularly grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success of this event, particularly Ventnor Town Council who made the Winter Gardens available to us."

"During the event, the council made an important and lasting commitment to address the causes and impacts of climate change through its signing of the Nottingham Declaration, recognising in doing so, that climate change is likely to be one of the key drivers of change within the Isle of Wight community over the next century. The declaration will commit the council to a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from its own operations as well as encouraging all sectors of the local community and its partners to take the opportunity to act in a similar way."