

Granton Baseline Survey



Client: Shanks Chemical Services
(Scotland) Ltd

Project duration: 4 months

Project description:

The area around Granton foreshore, and in particular the area in the vicinity of Shanks Chemical Services (Scotland) Ltd, has been subject to survey since 1983. At present the status of the foreshore remains at Class D (poor status) due to contaminated leachate that emanates from the base of the seawall and flows across the shore as small trickle streams.

Due to the recent designation of the "Potential Special Site of Contaminated Land" which underlies most of the Granton foreshore, and the decommissioning of Shanks Chemical Services (Scotland) Ltd, it has become necessary to assess whether there is potential for remedial recolonisation of the Granton shore. Consequently, the type of survey that the shore undergoes has been upgraded from a qualitative rapid skilled eye survey, to a more robust quantitative survey. Four sites

impacted by the trickle streams together with two nearby reference sites were surveyed.

Key elements:

Species diversity was generally low at all sites. Trickle streams were evident below the company site, and these streams contained sulphur-reducing bacteria that have led to a strong odour being associated with this part of the shore. Algal communities differed between impacted and non-impacted sites, with a higher proportion of opportunistic green species being present at the impacted sites. Species richness of fauna was higher at the Cramond Island non-impacted (control) site, but barnacles and mussels dominated all sites. The ecological status of all benthic communities was classified as poor.



View up a transect line on Granton Foreshore.
