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Comparison of Dynamic Cobble Berm Revetments with Differing Cobble Characteristics

Ollie Foss¹, Chris E. Blenkinsopp¹, Paul M Bayle^{1,2}, Kévin Martins³, Stefan Schimmels⁴, and Luis Pedro Almeida^{5,6}

 ¹Water Environment and Infrastructure Resilience Research Unit, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, University of Bath, Bath, BA2 7AY, United Kingdom

² Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Delft University of Technology, Delft, 2628 CD, The
 Netherlands

 ³ UMR 5805 EPOC, CNRS - University of Bordeaux, Allée Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, F-33615, Pessac, France

⁴Forschungszentrum Küste (FZK), Leibniz University Hannover & Technische Universitat Braunschweig, Merkurstraße 11, 30419, Hannover, Germany

⁵Universidade Federal do Rio Grande (FURG), Campus Carreiros, Instituto de Oceanografia, Avenida
 Italia, Km 8 96203-900, Rio Grande, RS, Brazil

¹⁵ ⁶+ATLANTIC LVT, Edifício LACS Estrada da Malveira da Serra 920, 2750-834, Cascais, Portugal

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18 Abstract

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Pressure on the coastline is escalating, this is leading to a rise in sea-levels and intensify-19 ing storminess. Consequently, many regions of the coast are at increased risk of erosion 20 and flooding. In response there is a growing use of nature-based coastal protection which 21 aim to be sustainable, effective and adaptable. An example of a nature-based solution is a 22 dynamic cobble berm revetment: a cobble berm constructed at the high tide wave runup 23 limit. These structures limit wave excursion protecting the hinterland from inundation, 24 stabilise the upper beach and adapt to changes in water level. Recent experiments and 25 field applications have shown the suitability of these structures for coastal protection, 26 however many of the processes and design considerations are poorly understood. This 27 study directly compares two prototype scale laboratory experiments which tested dynamic 28 cobble berm revetments constructed with approximately the same geometry but differing 29 cobble characteristics; well-sorted rounded cobbles (DynaRev1) and poorly-sorted angu-30 lar cobbles (DynaRev2). In both cases the structures were tested using identical wave 31 forcing including incrementally increasing water level and erosive wave conditions. The 32 results presented in this paper demonstrate that both designs responded to changing 33 water level and wave conditions by approaching a dynamically stable state, where indi-34 vidual cobbles are mobilised under wave action but the geometry remains approximately 35 constant. Further, both structures acted to reduce swash excursions compared to a a 36 pure sand beach. However, their morphological behaviour is response to wave action 37 varied considerably. Once overtopping of the designed crest occurred, the poorly-sorted 38 revetment developed a peaked crest which grew in elevation as the water level or wave 39 height increased, further limited overtopping. By comparison, the well-sorted revetment 40 was characterised by a larger volume of submerged cobbles and a lower elevation flat crest 41

which responded less well to changes in conditions. This occurred due to two processes: 42 (1) for the poorly-sorted case, cobble sorting processes moved small to medium cobble 43 material $(D_{50} < 70mm)$ to the crest and (2) the angular nature of the poorly-sorted 44 cobble material promoted increased interlocking. Both of these processes led to a cobble 45 matrix that is more resistant to wave action and gravitational effects. Both revetments 46 experienced some sinking due to sand erosion beneath the front slope. The rate of sink-47 ing for the well-sorted case was larger and continued throughout due to the large pore 48 spaces within the cobble matrix. For the poorly sorted revetment in DynaRev2, sand 49 erosion ceased after approximately 28 h due to the development of a filter layer of small 50 gravel at the sand-cobble interface, hence a larger volume of sand was preserved beneath 51 the structure. Both designs present a low-cost and effective solution for protecting sandy 52 coastlines but from an engineering viewpoint it appears better to avoid well-sorted cobble 53 material and greater cobble angularity has been seen to increase crest stability. 54

55 1 Introduction

Globally, anthropogenic pressure on the coastline is escalating, leading to an increased 56 threat from sea-level rise (SLR) as well as increasing severity and frequency of storms 57 (DeConto and Pollard (2016)). It is estimated if current coastal defences are not up-58 graded, global flood losses could exceed US\$1 trillion per year by 2050 (Hallegatte et al. 59 (2013)). Therefore new coastal management strategies and structures are required to 60 mitigate the increased coastal hazards. Often it is preferable to do this at a local level, 61 taking into account the ecological, environmental and economic concerns of the region. 62 Dynamic cobble berm revetments which mimic naturally occurring composite beaches 63 are a promising coastal intervention to reduce erosion of the beach face and inundation 64 of the hinterland. The structure can be comprised of low-cost material such as quarry 65 spall and requires no specialist equipment to install, making it well-suited to a localised 66 approach to coastal protection. Such a solution may be particularly appropriate in areas 67 where composite beaches naturally occur as the structure can be designed based on these 68 beaches, leading to a defence that is in-fitting with the local environment, potentially 69 using locally sourced materials. 70



Figure 1: Left) The poorly-sorted revetment. Right) The well-sorted revetment

Traditional coastal protection techniques can be divided into two broad groups (Cartwright et al. (2008)). The first is hard engineering solutions often referred to as grey structures (Morris et al. (2018)), these consist of fixed structures such as seawalls and artificial reefs. They are designed to provide a fixed barrier and are typically expensive to install ⁷⁵ (Howe and Cox (2018a,b)). Additionally, many existing hard engineering schemes were ⁷⁶ not designed for the current and predicted wave climates and therefore require upgrading ⁷⁷ or replacing. For example, it is common for sea walls to have a fixed crest height which ⁷⁸ was designed without consideration of sea level rise. Increasing the elevation of these ⁷⁹ structures risks failure due to the capacity of the foundations to bear additional load.

The second group are soft engineering solutions such as beach, dune or submerged 80 nourishment (Kana et al. (2018)). As the drivers of coastal erosion are site specific, the 81 lifespan of such schemes are unpredictable although these can often be re-implemented 82 as required (Cartwright et al. (2008); French (2001); Ludka et al. (2018)). Additionally, 83 many regions have strict environmental laws that make sourcing of appropriate sediment 84 difficult (Pranzini (2018)). Further, such schemes are often ecologically destructive (Sey-85 mour et al. (1996)), in the case of dune nourishment this problem is further exacerbated by 86 the complex nature of ecosystem diversity in dune systems (Cooper and Jackson (2021)). 87 An alternative is nature based solutions that focus on the restoration of natural habitats 88 such as salt marshes and mangroves (Morris et al. (2018)), but the long term effectiveness 89 of such schemes has not been established and they are not appropriate for high energy 90 coastlines. A more extreme option is managed retreat (Hino et al. (2017)), where the 91 coastline is left to develop naturally. However, this has socio-political difficulties due to 92 impact on local communities. 93

Most shoreline protection schemes utilise hard engineering, soft engineering, managed retreat or a combination of these dependent on environmental and community pressures. As the impact of climate change becomes progressively worse these schemes will increase in cost. There is an urgent need for new coastal protection methods and structures to deal with future environmental demands.

Composite Beaches are identified by Jennings and Schulmeister (Jennings and Shul-99 meister (2002)) as a beach type with bi-modal sediment composition, sand and gravel, 100 separated into two distinct zones. The foreshore of the beach is composed of sand and 101 the backshore ridge, normally located at the high tide shoreline, is composed of gravel. 102 The combination of dissipative sand foreshore and reflective cobble ridge is considered an 103 effective natural form of coastal protection (Allan and Gabel (2016)), providing stability 104 to the upper beach and protecting the hinterland from overtopping. The cobble ridge 105 reshapes in response to wave attack, maintaining the ridge's elevation relative to the 106 water level with minimal loss of gravel material. During this process, gravel sediments 107 move constantly under wave forcing but the ridge responds as a single coherent body, 108 this is referred to as dynamic stability in this paper. The cobble ridge is most commonly 109 exposed to swash processes during energetic wave conditions and spring high tides leading 110 to infrequent overtopping of the ridge (Everts et al. (2002); Allan and Komar (2004)). 111 At present, composite beaches are under represented in the academic literature and there 112 is a lack of numerical, laboratory and field studies investigating their behaviour. Recent 113 research from Matsumoto (Matsumoto and Young (2018); Matsumoto et al. (2020a,b)) 114 has investigated seasonal behaviour of composite beaches in Southern California and an 115 early review is provided by Mason et al. (Mason and Coates (2001)). 116

In engineering terms dynamic cobble berm revetments are artificially constructed 117 berms of gravel sediments, placed at or near the high tide berm of a sandy beach. A 118 review of these structures is provided by Bayle et al. (2020) and surmised here. They 119 are designed to mimic naturally occurring composite beaches, providing erosion control, 120 stability for the upper beach and protection to the hinterland. Due to this they are 121 considered a nature based solution for coastal protection. The DynaRev1 large-scale 122 laboratory experiment (Bayle et al. (2020)) compared the resilience and morphological 123 response of a dynamic cobble berm revetment constructed using well-sorted, rounded 124

cobbles to that of a sand beach under both wave forcing and increasing water level. Bayle 125 et al. (2020) found that installation of a dynamic cobble berm revetment led to reduced 126 erosion and inundation of the upper beach. Furthermore, the experiment demonstrated 127 the dynamic stability of such structures, which allowed them to adjust to changing wave 128 conditions and water-level rise while maintaining a coastal defence function with minimal 129 cross-shore loss of gravel, similar to composite beach ridges. This suggests that they have 130 the potential to be a climate adaptive coastal intervention. Field applications are rare 131 with only a few small scale or trial structures installed, primarily in North America. 132 The most recent and directly comparable dynamic cobble berm revetment design is that 133 installed at North Cove, Washington in 2018 (Weiner et al. (2019)). The coastline at 134 this location had been suffering rapid erosion since records were started in 1871 (Phipps 135 and Smith (1978)), with a shoreline retreat of approximately 4 km over the historical 136 record, leading to the moniker Washaway Beach. A 2 km stretch of the coastline was 137 protected using a dynamic cobble berm revetment constructed between February 2017 138 and January 2019 using poorly-sorted quarry spall. The monitoring report over the 139 first set of winter storms states that the uplands were protected from significant erosion 140 (Weiner et al. (2019)). Further, although sand was eroded from the lower beach face over 141 the winter, the sand volume at the site had rebounded by March due to deposition at 142 the toe. A recent field experiment conducted over a spring tidal cycle with high energy 143 waves $(H_s up to 6 m)$ observed that the revetment underwent large fluctuations in both 144 elevation and volume due to the combined behaviour of the gravel berm and underlying 145 sand. However, over an entire spring tidal cycle overall change in volume was small (Bayle 146 et al. (2021)) and the structure displayed a dynamic stability comparable to a composite 147 beach. 148

At present, dynamic cobble berm revetments designed using non-sorted gravels are 149 effective at protecting their respective coasts. This current study examines the differences 150 in morphological response of revetments designed using differing cobble populations. It is 151 then contextualised in consideration of coastal protection techniques. It follows that pub-152 lished by Bayle et al. Bayle et al. (2020) which reported on the 'DynaRev' experimental 153 investigation of a dynamic cobble berm revetment constructed using well-sorted, rounded 154 cobbles (hereafter called DynaRev1). This work presents a comparable large-scale ex-155 periment (DynaRev2), designed similar to the DynaRev1 experiment to investigate the 156 performance of a different dynamic cobble berm revetment under the same conditions. 157 It was constructed with approximately the same geometry as the original revetment, but 158 comprised of poorly-sorted, angular material equivalent to quarry run that would be ex-159 pected to be widely available throughout the developed and developing world. This work 160 compares the results from both experiments (see Figure 1 for comparative photo of the 161 two revetment structures). 162

The paper is structured as follows: This section provides a background and shortened 163 overview of the existing studies pertaining to dynamic cobble berm revetments. Section 2 164 details the methodology of the prototype-scale flume testing of the structure constructed 165 using poorly-sorted angular material. Section 3 presents a thorough comparison of the 166 morphodynamic response of the structures under testing and investigates their potential 167 as coastal defence. Section 4 discusses the results in the wider context of coastal protection 168 and highlights the limitations of the structures. Section 5 presents a conclusion for the 169 study. 170

171 2 Methodology

172 2.1 Experimental Facility

The DynaRev2 experiment was designed to repeat DynaRev1 (discussed in Section 2), but with a revetment constructed using poorly-sorted angular cobbles instead of wellsorted rounded material. DynaRev2 was completed in the same facility as DynaRev1, the Großer Wellenkanal large wave flume (GWK) located in Hanover during November and December 2019. The flume is 309 m long, 7 m deep and 5 m wide and utilises a combined piston-flap-type wave paddle with automatic reflection compensation (ARC).

The revetment was constructed on a 1:15 sandy beach. The sand used during the 179 experiment was the same as that for DynaRev1 and had the following grain size charac-180 teristics; $D_{50} = 0.33$ mm, $D_{10} = 0.20$ mm and $D_{90} = 0.65$ mm. The total volume of sand 181 used for the beach construction was 875 m³. The entire beach profile including the revet-182 ment was constructed 11 m further from the wave paddle than in DynaRev1 and is shown 183 in Figure 2b. This shift is not expected to influence the results as it simply increased 184 the length of the deepwater section of the flume. To aid comparison between the two 185 experiments, an adjusted 2-dimensional co-ordinate system was defined for DynaRev2, 186 with the cross-shore origin located in front of the wave paddle such that the wave pad-187 dle is located at x = -11 m and continues in the positive direction towards the beach. 188 The vertical elevation from the base of the flume defines the z-direction such that 0 m189 represents the floor of the flume as shown in Figure 2. 190

¹⁹¹ 2.2 Experimental Procedure

The experiment was split into a series of twelve 'tests', where a test represents a change 192 in conditions, such as water level increase (see Table 1 for full details). Each test was 193 split into a series of runs with varying length after which the waves were stopped and 194 the beach profile measured using a mechanical profiler described in Section 2.3.1. After 195 each run neither the beach or revetment were reset giving each test a unique antecedent 196 morphology. Note that the DynaRev2 runs do not align with those for the DynaRev1 197 experiment, however the experimental conditions and total experiment time for each test 198 are identical. Here we avoid using run names and instead reference the experimental time 199 from revetment installation. 200

To ensure the revetment was installed on a "realistic" beach profile, the planar beach 201 slope detailed in subsection 2.1 was allowed to evolve naturally under 20 hours of wave 202 forcing $(H_s = 0.8 \text{ m}, T_p = 6.0 \text{ s})$ with a constant water level $(z_{wl} = 4.5 \text{ m})$. Upon this 203 developed profile the poorly-sorted revetment was installed such that the crest elevation 204 corresponded to the predicted value of $R_{2\%}$ for a water level of $z_{wl} = 4.8$ m (Table 1; 205 for further details on the revetment geometry see subsection 2.3). After revetment in-206 stallation, a series of four long tests were completed using the standard wave conditions 207 with a 0.1 m incremental water level increase for each test from $z_{wl} = 4.6$ m to $z_{wl} = 4.9$ 208 m. The tests are named using the following notation 2DR(E,R) < WL increment> where 209 a WL increment of 0 refers to $z_{wl} = 4.5$ m and increases by 1 for each subsequent 0.1 210 m water level rise. For example, the Test 2DR3 refers to the fourth test with water 211 level $z_{wl} = 4.8$ m, this would have identical testing conditions to the Test DR3 from the 212 DynaRev1 experiment. 213

Following the water level rise testing a series of 'resilience tests' were completed, during which the wave energy was increased and the water level remained constant ($z_{wl} = 4.9$ m). This was then followed by a final test which used the standard irregular wave conditions to encourage recovery of the structure. The tests had varying duration's and are denoted

Test	Start (hr)	End (hr)	Duration (hr)	H_s (m)	T_p (s)	Water Level z_{wl} (m)	Ω_0	Energy (MJ)		
Beach Equilibrium Approach										
2DR0	-20:00	0:00	20	0.8	6	4.5	3.38	0.78		
Revetment Construction										
2DR1	0:00	7:00	7	0.8	6	4.6	3.38	0.78		
2DR2	7:00	14:00	7	0.8	6	4.7	3.38	0.78		
2DR3	14:00	21:00	7	0.8	6	4.8	3.38	0.78		
2DR4	21:00	38:00	17	0.8	6	4.9	3.38	0.78		
Resilience Tests										
2DRE1	38:00	40:00	2	0.9	6	4.9	3.69	0.99		
2DRE2	40:00	42:00	2	1	7	4.9	3.51	1.23		
2DRE3	42:00	43:00	1	1	8	4.9	3.08	1.23		
2DRR1	43:00	45:00	2	0.8	6	4.9	3.38	0.78		
Re-nourishment Tests										
2DRN1	45	47	2	0.8	6	4.9	3.38	0.78		
2DRN2	47	47.40	0.66	1	9	4.9	2.73	1.23		
2DRN3	47.40	49.40	2	0.8	6	4.9	3.38	0.78		

Table 1: The testing conditions for DynaRev2. H_s is the significant wave height, T_p is the peak wave period, Ω_0 is the dimensionless fall velocity as given by Dean (1973); Gourlay (1968) and wave energy is given per metre of wave crest.

using the naming convention 2DR(E,R)<test number> where E and R refer to erosive

²¹⁹ and recovery tests respectively.

The 'Re-nourishment Tests' examined the process of recharging the revetment, see Table 1. An additional 1.5 m³ of cobbles were placed on the front face of the revetment. This was forced using a mixture of both the standard irregular wave conditions and a shortened high energy wave test (Table 1). These are denoted using the naming convention DRN<test number>. Due to restricted experimental time this was a shortened process and is not considered directly comparable to the DynaRev experiment.

226 2.3 Revetment Installation and Characteristics

The poorly-sorted revetment used in DynaRev2 was designed with the same geometry as 227 the well-sorted revetment from DynaRev1. Prior to installation, the revetment location 228 was flattened to a 1:15 slope to allow sufficient cobble placement at the design slope of 229 1:6.3 (this was also done for the well-sorted case). Construction was carried out using 230 a front end loader to dump the cobbles at the approximate location and then manually 231 reshaped to match the profile of the well-sorted revetment. Due to difficulties in shaping 232 angular cobbles, the profile of the revetment differed slightly to that in DynaRev1, with 233 a less well-defined crest (Figure 2 b). The revetment was constructed using poorly-sorted 234 granite cobbles with density 2700 kg/m³, bulk density 1760 kg/m³ and a porosity of 0.35. 235 The intermediate axis characteristics were as follows; $D_{10} = 23 \text{ mm}, D_{90} = 123 \text{ mm},$ 236 $D_{50} = 44$ mm with a grading value of $D_{85}/D_{15} = 3.79$ (see Equation 1 in subsection 2.4 237 for details). The front slope had an incline of 1:6.3 and the toe was located at x = 256.9238 m and z = 4.67 m. Using the runup equation for gravel beaches developed by Poate 239 et al. (2016) the 2 % exceedance runup elevation was predicted to be 0.72 m, therefore 240 the crest was constructed at x = 260.8 m and z = 5.42 m corresponding to the predicted 241 $R_{2\%}$ for a water level $z_{wl} = 4.7$ m. Behind the crest, the poorly-sorted revetment was 242 approximately horizontal and intersected the sand beach at x = 264.1 m. The total 243 volume of placed cobbles was 9.375 m^3 and weighed 16.5 t. 244

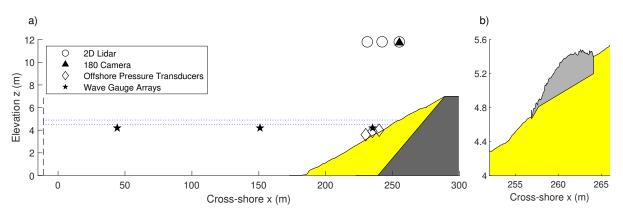


Figure 2: a) Schematic of initial experiment setup including instrument locations and profile of the placed beach. The vertical dashed line indicates the location of the wave paddle and the horizontal dotted lines give the lowest and highest water level during the experiment. b) Close-up schematic of the initial poorly-sorted revetment placement. The grey box is the placed revetment shape.

245 2.3.1 Instrumentation and Data Acquisition

The instrumentation used to monitor the response of the sand beach and poorly-sorted 246 revetment was the same as that for DynaRev1. Beach profiles were taken at the end of 247 each run using a mechanical profiler which provided measurements of the bed elevation at 248 approximately 2 cm vertical accuracy. Three Sick LMS511 Lidar scanners at x = 241 m, 249 x = 253 m and x = 266 m with elevation z = 11.8 m provided continuous measurement 250 of the water surface and exposed beach face morphology over an 80 m transect along the 251 flume centreline. These instruments were sampled at 25 Hz with an angular resolution of 252 0.1666° . A Vivotek MS8391-EV 180° camera was mounted in the flume roof at x = 253253 m with elevation z = 11.85 m. Once calibrated using ground control points this enabled 254 the generation of timestack imagery of the swash zone which was used for continuous 255 verification of the shoreline position estimated using data from the most landward Lidar 256 (see section 3.4.2). 257

To track the movement of individual cobbles within the revetment, a radio frequency 258 identification tracking system (RFID) was used as during DynaRev1. A total of 99 cobbles 259 were fitted with 23 mm Passive Integrated Transponder tags (PIT). These were placed in 260 groups of three cobbles along the bottom, middle and top layers of the revetment at 0.4261 m cross-shore intervals. At the revetment toe, an additional group of eight cobbles was 262 placed and are considered part of the top layer. The top layer of 48 cobbles was placed 263 along the surface of the revetment from x = 257.8 m to x = 263.0 m. The middle layer of 264 30 cobbles was placed from x = 259.8 m to x = 263.4 m. The bottom layer of 21 cobbles 265 was positioned along the sand-cobble interface between x = 258.2 m and x = 260.6 m. 266 The cross shore position of each cobble was recorded within 0.2 m accuracy at the end 267 of each test. Due to the size of the PIT tags, only cobbles with an intermediate diameter 268 size greater than 40 mm were able to be tagged and included in the analysis. 269

270 2.4 Data Processing

271 2.4.1 Revetment Volume and Sand Cobble Interface Elevation

The thickness of the revetment down to the underlying sand beach was recorded at 1 m cross-shore intervals along the centreline after each test. This was achieved by driving a thin serrated pole through the structure, the serrated edge would capture sand once through the revetment body and allowed measurements with approximately 2 cm accuracy. The impact on the revetment was minimal and no restorative action was necessary to repair the revetment surface. The sand cobble interface profile was estimated through linear interpolation of these elevations under the assumption that the revetment sand interface could not rise during the experiment. Combined with the profiler measurements of the bed elevation, this allowed estimation of both the revetment volume and shape. At the end of the experiment, a channel was excavated along the centreline of the revetment. This exposed the sand cobble interface and was measured by the mechanical profiler.

283 2.4.2 Swash Detection

High frequency measurements of the exposed beach profile and water surface were ob-284 tained using the Lidar array. Each Lidar detects the nearest surface: either the water 285 surface or exposed beach face without distinction between the two. To generate a time 286 series for the beach profile and swash separately, first, a 0.1 m horizontally gridded sub 287 sample was created and all measurements were processed with a moving-average 2 s win-288 dow with a mean variance threshold. Then the data were separated into a stationary 289 bed elevation and a swash surface elevation time series using the method presented by 290 Almeida et al. (2015). The continuous shoreline position was extracted by finding the 291 most landward position of the swash at all time steps. These were validated by plotting 292 the continuous shoreline time series over rectified stacks from the 180-camera (see sec-293 tion 3.3.1) for every run. The difference between the stack imagery and the continuous 294 shoreline position was less than 0.1 m for all tests. 295

296 2.4.3 Cross-Shore Grain Size Distribution

The cross-shore variation in surface grain size distribution over the dynamic cobble berm revetment was estimated using a digital point count technique which utilised downward looking images of the revetment surface captured using a digital single-lens reflex (SLR) camera. Photos were taken at 1 m cross-shore increments along a line offset 0.5 m from the flume centreline between x = 257.5 m and x = 264.5 m immediately after revetment installation and after each test (Table 1). The photographs adhere to the rules of appropriate grain size imagery as presented by Buscombe (2013).

The digital point count software (Buscombe (2010)) estimates the size distribution curve of the intermediate axis length which is considered representative of cobble size (Bunte et al. (2009)) and used to estimate D_{15}, D_{50} and D_{85} . Grading was calculated using the equation presented by van der Meer (1988),

$$Grading = D_{85}/D_{15},\tag{1}$$

and is considered a good estimate for the spread of the cobble population. An additional measure of spread is provided by the median absolute deviation which is more robust for skewed data. The cobble size distributions obtained from the digital point count software were validated against manual measurements of 100 cobbles randomly selected from within a 1 m² at two locations. This procedure was repeated twice and agreed closely with the image-based results.

314 **3** Results

This section explores the general and morphodynamic behaviour of the beach and dynamic cobble berm revetment constructed from poorly-sorted, angular material during DynaRev-2. These are compared with results presented for the dynamic cobble berm

revetment constructed using well sorted, rounded cobbles during the DynaRev1 exper-318 iment (Bayle et al. (2020)) and put in the context of coastal protection. It focuses 319 on both revetment's physical evolution and stability in response to wave attack. Ad-320 ditional analysis of the behaviour of cobbles within the poorly sorted revetment is also 321 presented, including the movement of individual cobbles using the radio frequency iden-322 tification tracking system (RFID) and the sorting of cobbles over the exposed surface of 323 the revetment, see section 4.1.4 for details. Further, results capturing the wave run-up 324 and shoreline retreat are presented. 325

326 **3.1** Comparison of Morphological Behaviour

327 3.1.1 Evolution of Revetment Shape During the Water Level Tests

The morphological evolution of the revetments and sandy beach immediately seaward of 328 the revetment for both DynaRev1 and DynaRev2 is presented in Figure 3a,b. Note that 329 0 h corresponds to the time of revetment installation, explaining the sudden accretion 330 between x = 259 and x = 262.5. Negative times correspond to test DR0/2DR0 (see 331 Table 1) before revetment installation, when only the sand beach was present. In both 332 experiments the beach behaved in a similar manner during the 20 h of wave action prior 333 to revetment installation (-20 h to 0 h). The geometry of the revetment at the end of each 334 test is shown in Figure 4 to aid interpretation of Figure 3. 335

The poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2 underwent significant morphological change 336 during the 38 h of standard wave conditions with a rising water level (Table 1). This 337 included both landward retreat of the toe of the main cobble body (hereafter toe) by 338 2 m and an increase in crest elevation of 0.38 m (Figure 3e; Figure 5b), approximately 339 corresponding to the 0.4 m applied rise in water level. Further, the exposed surface of 340 the revetment changed from a convex profile to a profile with a defined crest and concave 341 front face Figure 4. This evolution differed for the well-sorted revetment (DynaRev1) 342 which was characterised by a sinking of the front face and a more consistent shape that 343 retreated under wave attack (Figure 3e). This was driven by differing rates in the pri-344 mary modes of cobble transport; landward cobble transport which was induced by wave 345 action on individual cobbles and seaward cobble transport where cobbles rolled down the 346 revetment under gravitational forces. Note that Bayle et al. (2020) defined crest height 347 for the well-sorted revetment in DynaRev1 as the mean elevation of the flat revetment 348 crest area landward of the front slope and cross-shore crest position as the seaward limit 349 of this area. Due to the more defined crest in the poorly-sorted revetment case, these 350 definitions were updated as follows; For the first 14 hours before overtopping occurred 351 and the defined crest developed, the crest was taken at the designed crest's horizontal 352 position. For the rest of the experiment this was defined as the apex of the peaked crest 353 immediately behind the front slope of the revetment, Figure 3e shows the location of the 354 crest for the revetments in DynaRev1 and 2 respectively, both as designed and at the end 355 of water-level tests. 356

The crest was rarely overtopped during the first 14 hours of testing during DvnaRev2 357 (tests 2DR1 and 2DR2, 0 to 14 h), see Figure 6. The swash zone was limited to the 358 front face of the cobble body and morphological change was confined to this region. 359 Water infiltration into and through the structure eroded sand beneath the front face, 360 reducing the elevation of both the toe and centre of mass of the revetment (red dots in 361 Figure 4, blue diamonds in Figure 5). A single layer of sparse cobbles mixed with sand 362 was formed at the front of the revetment, termed the sparse cobble layer (marked in green 363 in Figure 4). This layer was formed from cobbles at the larger end of the size range, was 364 approximately 1 m in cross-shore extent by t = 14 h, did not extend seaward of the 365

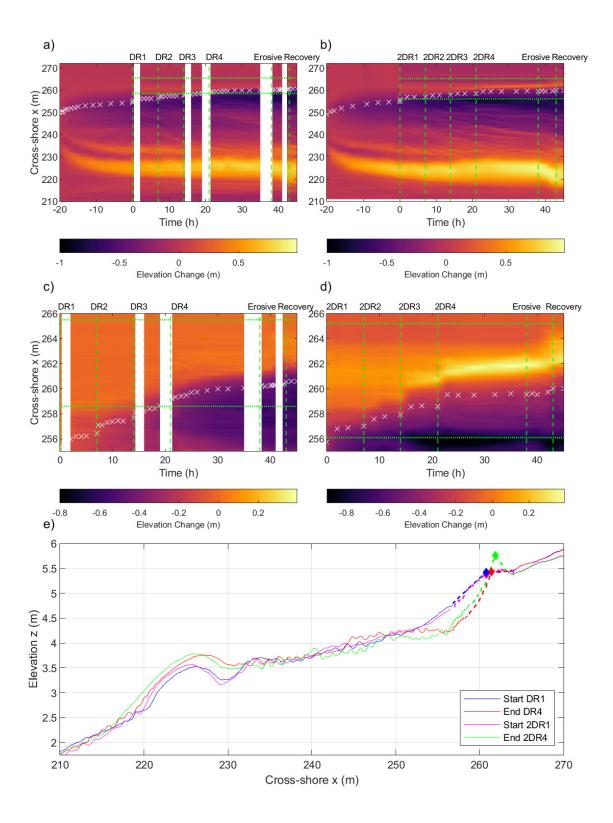


Figure 3: Bed elevation change relative to initial beach profile over the entire experiment for a) DynaRev1, well-sorted revetment, b) DynaRev2, poorly-sorted revetment. Revetment surface elevation change relative to installed profile for c) DynaRev1, d) DynaRev2. The dashed green vertical lines represent the time of a 0.1 m water level rise, and the dotted horizontal lines denote the maximum seaward and landward extent of the revetment during the experiment. The white crosses represent the shoreline position at the end of each run. e) Profile at the start and end of the 38 h of standard wave conditions for both the well-sorted revetment (DynaRev1) and poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2). The dashed line represents the cobble body, the dotted line represents the sparse cobble layer and the diamonds gives the crest location (see section 3.1.1).

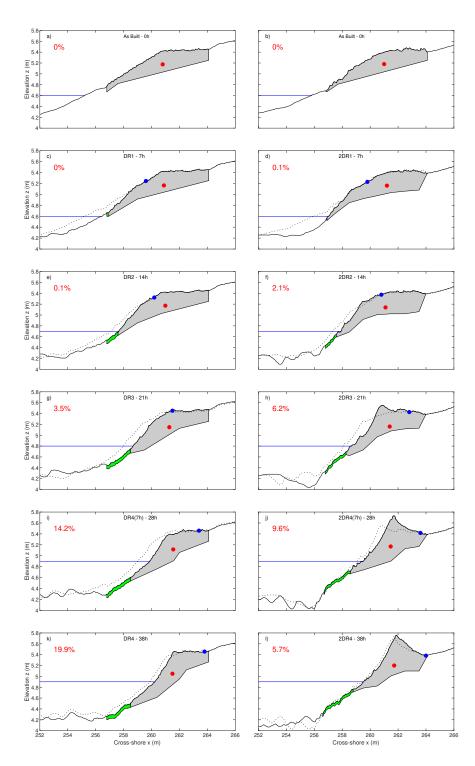


Figure 4: Revetment shape as-built and at the end of each indicated test for the well-sorted revetment (DynaRev1, left) and poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2, right). The grey area represents the cobble only portion of the revetment. The green area represents the sparse cobble layer. The blue dot indicates the cross-shore position that was exceeded by 2% of wave run-up events, the red dot indicates the centre of mass of the revetment and the dashed line is the revetment surface from the previous panel. The red value gives the percentage of the main cobble body below the still water level

original toe position and accounted for just 2% of the revetment's original volume. By t = 14 h an intermediate berm formed at x = 259.4 m just below the 2% run-up elevation (Figure 4f). The well-sorted revetment in DynaRev1 had a similar response and after 14 hours of tests and the geometry of the two revetments at this time was quite similar.

Tests DR3 and 2DR3 ($z_{wl} = 4.8$ m; t = 14 to 21 h) resulted in the divergence in the response of the two revetments (Figure 4g and h). The new water level led to an increased rate of overtopping for both revetments driving morphological change, see Figure 6 for further details. Landward transport of cobbles driven by overtopping events led to the development of a very peaked crest behind the initial crest location for the poorly-sorted

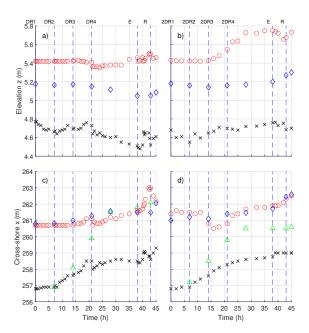


Figure 5: Vertical elevation of the toe (black crosses), centroid of the cross-sectional area (blue diamonds) and crest (red circles) for a) DynaRev1 and b) DynaRev2. Cross-shore location for the toe of the main cobble body (black crosses), the location of the intersection between the still water level and the sand-cobble interface beneath the revetment (green triangles), centroid of the cross-sectional area (blue diamonds) and crest (red circles) for c) DynaRev1 and d) DynaRev2.

revetment (Figure 4h) and a toe retreat of 1 m (Figure 5d). This resulted in an increase in 375 structure height and the front slope changed from a convex to a concave shape (Figure 4h). 376 Conversely, the well-sorted revetment (DynaRev1) showed similar crest and toe retreat 377 but the shape remained consistent with no crest growth (Figure 4g; Figure 5a and c). The 378 development of the peaked crest feature for the poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2 is 379 a result of the cobble population characteristics. Firstly, highly angular cobbles interlock 380 better, reducing the frequency of seaward cobble transport due to increased stability 381 under wave attack. Secondly, the wide size range of the poorly-sorted cobbles leads to 382 size sorting on the revetment surface, with larger cobbles accumulating near the toe and 383 primarily smaller cobbles being transported landward to form the peaked crest feature 384 (see section 4.3 for further analysis of surface cobble size distributions). This process 385 results in the elevation gain and landward movement of the crest feature for the poorly-386 sorted revetment in DynaRev2 as it develops under wave forcing. 387

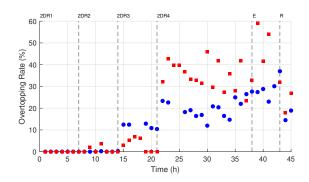


Figure 6: Hourly overtopping rate for the poorly-sorted revetment (blue) and the well-sorted revetment (red).

Tests DR4 and 2DR4 ($z_{wl} = 4.9$ m; t = 21 to 38 h) were the longest (17 hours) and experienced the highest overtopping rates (see Figure 6). During the first seven hours the poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2) experienced accelerated morphological

change, leading to a 18 cm vertical crest growth and a 90 cm landward retreat. Analysis 391 of the revetment profiles indicates that much of the material that moved onto the top 392 of the structure did so during the first hour of the test (21-22 h) and is detectable in 393 the profile measurement taken at 23 hours (Figure 3d). The toe of the main cobble 394 body continued to retreat (Figure 5d) and the sparse cobble layer occupied the free 395 space in front of the structure (Figure 4j), this was composed of larger cobbles which 396 are less mobile under wave action (see subsection 3.3). The well-sorted revetment in 397 DynaRev1 continued to retreat during hours 21 to 28 ($z_{wl} = 4.9$ m) and began to develop 398 a more prominent crest (Figure 4i), however this did not result in vertical growth of 399 the structure. The rate of morphological change decreased for both revetments over the 400 next ten hours (Figure 4k and l; Figure 5) suggesting they were approaching a dynamic 401 stability. In this state individual cobbles are transported both landward and seaward 402 but the overall shape remains consistent. It is clear that the poorly-sorted revetment 403 was more dynamically stable than the well-sorted revetment between hours 28 and 28 404 as shown by the consistent location of geometric features such as crest, toe and centre 405 of mass (Figure 5). Therefore, it can be concluded that the poorly-sorted revetment 406 is prone to a more rapid morphological stabilisation as forcing conditions change, with 407 initial wave overtopping promoting the formation of a more substantial and stable crest 408 that subsequently reduces overtopping of the structure, and therefore decreases cobble 409 transport up and over the crest. Both revetments had a final front face slope of 1:3.9, 410 but the centre of mass for the poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2 was 0.2 m landward. 411 However this is mainly caused by the formation of the substantial crest feature and is 412 not necessarily indicative of a greater rate of landward retreat. The main cobble body 413 of the poorly-sorted revetment was slightly shorter in cross-shore extent than that of the 414 well-sorted revetment, 5.3 m and 5.6 m respectively. 415

The cross-shore extent of the main cobble body of both revetments reduced under 416 the standard wave conditions (Figure 4) and are similar throughout the experiment. 417 Because the landward limit of the revetment did not move under stand wave testing, this 418 can be attributed to the retreat of the toe. However, whereas the toe of the well-sorted 419 revetment sank as it retreated due to loss of sand volume beneath the structure, the toe of 420 the poorly-sorted revetment retreated up the beach profile (Figure 5c and d). Therefore, 421 taking the elevation change between the toe and crest as the height of the revetment it 422 appears that both revetments grew rapidly in height under the highest water level ($z_w =$ 423 4.9), but for the poorly-sorted revetment this is due to upward growth of the structure 424 as opposed to the sinking of the sand-cobble interface for the poorly-sorted revetment, 425 leading to a larger elevation change over the body (Figure 4). As noted earlier the well-426 sorted revetments crest only shows minimal (0.04 m) of growth over the entire standard 427 wave conditions (Figure 5a). 428

429 3.1.2 Revetment Response to Erosive and Recovery Wave Tests

In both experiments the water level rise testing was followed by 5 h of erosive wave con-430 ditions with increased wave energy at the highest water level, $z_{wl} = 4.9$ m (see section 431 3.2 for details, Table 1) which resulted in increased overtopping in both DynaRev1 and 432 DynaRev2 (Figure 6). This led to a landward retreat of the centre of mass, flattening 433 of the crest and reducing the front face gradient to 1:3.6 for the poorly-sorted revetment 434 (see Figure 7 a and b). For the well-sorted revetment, the primary response was the 435 retreat of the crest leading to an even lower front face gradient of 1:3.15. For both struc-436 tures, cobbles were transported beyond the landward limit of the structure (overwash) 437 leading to an increase in the revetment cross-shore extent of 0.8 m (DynaRev1) and 0.9 438

m (DynaRev2). The length of the well-sorted revetment was more variable during the
erosive wave testing due to the more changeable cobble toe location (Figure 5c and d).
The increased stability of the toe in the poorly-sorted revetment is due to the fact that
the toe contained many large cobbles which were not mobilised by the increased wave
energy (subsection 3.3).

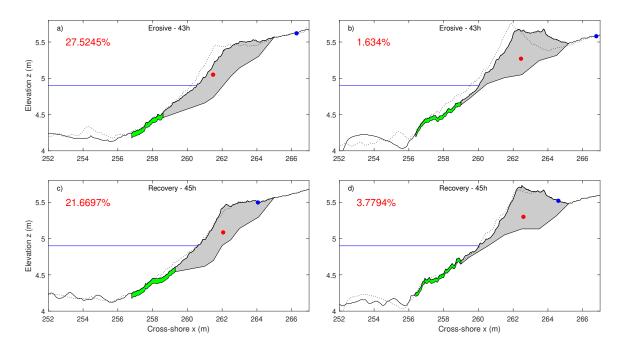


Figure 7: Revetment shape at the end of erosive (2DRE3, 38 to 43 h) and recovery (2DRR1, 43 to 45 h) wave conditions for the well-sorted revetment (left) and poorly-sorted revetment (right). The grey area represents the cobble only portion of the revetment. The green area represents the sparse cobble layer (see subsubsection 3.1.1). The blue dot gives the cross-shore position which was exceeded by 2% of wave run-up events, the Red dot indicates the centre of mass and the dashed line is the revetment surface from the previous panel for the respective design.

The final stage of the revetment testing consisted of 2 h of recovery wave conditions 444 with the same characteristics as the standard wave conditions (t = 43 to 45 h). During 445 this period, the poorly-sorted revetment began to reform the very peaked crest, but 446 landwards of its position at the end of the standard wave conditions (x = 261.9 m, t = 38447 h), see Figure 7d. This resulted in the centre of mass being elevated by 0.05 m and 448 moved landward by 0.2 m compared to the end of the erosive wave conditions (43 h). It is 440 suggested that the structure would return to approximately the previous shape (t = 38 h)450 had this test been longer. The well-sorted revetment also began to rebuild a crest similar 451 to that at the end of standard wave conditions (t = 38 h). Overall, both revetments could 452 be described as showing a general retreat under erosive wave conditions and both were 453 beginning to reshape under the recovery wave conditions, but with the revetment mass 454 slightly further landward, however the poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2 reformed 455 above the still water level. 456

457 3.1.3 Evolution of the Sandy Beach and Revetment Sinking

Both beaches were considered to be approaching an equilibrium state and presented similar morphologies (Figure 3). The notable difference being the slightly larger and further seaward outer bar in DynaRev2 prior to the installation of the poorly-sorted revetment. Over the main region of interest between x = 210 m and x = 270 m the root mean square difference between the beach profiles at t = 0 h was just 0.3 m. This agrees with the previous finding by Bayle et al. (2020) that laboratory experiments exploring morphological change are repeatable at this scale.

After installation of the poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2, the outer bar accu-465 mulated sand resulting in a vertical and predominantly seaward growth of the outer bar 466 (Figure 3). The source of this sand is from three primary processes; sand erosion beneath 467 the revetment, the development of a trough immediately seaward of the revetment struc-468 ture and smoothing out of the smaller inner bar. Morphological changes are strongest in 469 the two hours immediately following the third and fourth water level rise ($z_w l = 4.8$ and 470 4.9 m), the same period in which the revetment and trough underwent significant mor-471 phological change. The well-sorted revetment in DynaRev1 showed a similar accretion of 472 sand in the outer bar driven by the same processes. Less sand erodes immediately seaward 473 of the well-sorted revetment leading to a smaller trough, indicating that sand erosion from 474 beneath the structure contributes more for the well-sorted revetment in DynaRev1. The 475 sand erosion beneath the revetment leads to a sinking effect for both revetments. This 476 process can be tracked throughout the experiment by comparing the approximate loca-477 tion that the still water level intercepts the sand-cobble interface beneath the revetment 478 (green triangles in Figure 5). For both revetments this is a continuing process throughout 479 the first three water level tests $(z_{wl} = 4.6 \text{ to } 4.8 \text{ } 0 - 27 \text{ } h)$. If water level rise is discounted 480 the During the forth water level test (27 - 38h) this process halted for the poorly-sorted 481 revetment in DynaRev2 but continued at a reduced rate for the well-sorted revetment 482 in DynaRev1. This results in a significantly less of the poorly sorted revetments main 483 cobble body being below the still water level at the end of the water level tests (19.9 %484 in DynaRev1 vs 5.71 % in DynaRev2, Figure 2k and l). 485

486 3.1.4 Shoreline Evolution

The shoreline, considered as the intersection between the still water level and seaward 487 facing limit of the poorly-sorted revetment was initially located at x = 255.8 m (see 488 Figure 4 b). Over the course of the experiment the shoreline retreated at an average 489 rate of 0.01 m/hour, with a total retreat of 3.7 m although a large degree of this can be 490 attributed to the 0.3 m rise in water level over tests (0-38 h). If there were no changes 491 in the morphology the final shoreline would be expected to be at x = 258 m (a retreat 492 of 2.2 m). The final shoreline was located at x = 259.5 m giving a true retreat of 1.5 493 m when discounting water-level rises, which was under half the true retreat of 3.7 m for 494 the well-sorted revetment (see Figure 4 k,l). A major reason for lesser retreat in the 495 poorly-sorted case is the reduced loss of sand from beneath the revetment and hence 496 reduced sinking of the front face of the revetment. This can be seen clearly in the retreat 497 of the sand water interfaces (SWI) for the revetments (see Figure 5 c,d), the location 498 where the still water line intercepts the interpolated surface beneath the revetment. The 499 final SWI location for the poorly-sorted revetment was 260.5 m at the end of standard 500 wave conditions (38 h), which is 1.3 m further seaward than for the well-sorted revetment 501 (see Figure 5). The poorly-sorted revetment preserves up to 52% more sand above the 502 still water level under the structure. This reduced sand loss has the advantage of better 503 preserving the revetment height compared to the still water level improving the ability 504 to reduce overtopping. 505

506 3.2 Overtopping Rates

⁵⁰⁷ A comparison of the overtopping rates on an hour by hour basis using the Lidar array ⁵⁰⁸ during both experiments is provided in Figure 6. The values for both experiments are ⁵⁰⁹ similar between t = 0 h and t = 14 h ($z_{wl} = 4.6$ m and $z_{wl} = 4.7$ m). Overtopping of

the designed crest was infrequent during this time period (Figure 6) and the increased 510 horizontal runup excursion between t = 7 h and t = 14 h ($z_{wl} = 4.7$ m) for DynaRev2 511 is explained by the crest being constructed slightly landward of that for DynaRev1 (see 512 subsection 2.3 for details of the construction). As the water level increased further, the 513 crest of both revetments began to be regularly overtopped (0-8 % DynaRev1, 11-13% 514 DynaRev2) (Figure 6) and this led to substantial crest growth for the poorly-sorted 515 revetment (DynaRev2). Despite the large crest growth in DynaRev2, the revetment 516 experienced higher overtopping rates than for DynaRev1 at $z_w l = 4.8$ m. This may 517 be due to the fact that the crest of the revetment in DynaRev2 is 0.3 m seaward of 518 the DynaRev1 crest and it was demonstrated by Blenkinsopp et al Blenkinsopp et al. 519 (2022) that overtopping rates decay rapidly with cross-shore distance. Alternatively, the 520 water depth seaward of the revetment is consistently larger for DynaRev2, allowing more 521 wave energy to reach the shoreline and drive runup Blenkinsopp et al. (2022). After 522 increasing the water level to $z_w l = 4.9$ m, the overtopping rates increased again. This led 523 to rapid crest growth during the first hour at the new water level for DynaRev2 which 524 acted to limit overtopping to 23%, compared to 31% in DynaRev1 where crest growth 525 was minimal. It is noted that there is substantial variability in the overtopping rates 526 during both experiments and this is thought to be due to the fact that the geometry of 527 the structures is constantly evolving, meaning that the instantaneous crest elevation is 528 varying and provides variable rates of overtopping protection. 529

The overtopping rate in both experiments increased further during the erosive tests 530 (38-43 h; Table 1). For the poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2, the overtopping rate 531 increased by less than 10% compared to the final hour of wave testing under standard 532 wave conditions (28%, 37-38 h in Figure 6) and at no point was the structure's crest 533 overtopped by more than 38% of the waves in any given hour. Conversely, overtopping of 534 the well-sorted DynaRev1 revetment was very variable and reached as high as 59% (38-39) 535 h in Figure 6), this is 26% larger than the final value under standard wave conditions 536 (33%, 37-38 h in Figure 6). Overall, the ability of a revetment constructed from poorly-537 sorted, angular material to form an elevated crest is beneficial as it reduces overtopping 538 of the structure and provides increased resilience under energetic wave conditions. The 539 poorly-sorted revetment's ability to rapidly develop a significant crest feature suggests 540 that it is highly adaptable to a rising water level. 541

542 3.3 Cobble Transport and Surface Sorting

For both experiments cobbles tagged with passive RFID transmitters were placed along 543 the cross shore centreline of the revetment in three layers; On the surface (top), at half 544 the revetment depth (middle) and along the cobble-sand interface (bottom). Figure 9 545 details the movement of the cobbles for both the poorly-sorted (DynaRev2) and well-546 sorted revetment (DynaRev1) by placement layer, Table 2 provides further details on the 547 quantity of tagged cobbles transported and direction of travel. This was supported by 548 an analysis of the surface cobble size distribution (intermediate axis length) along the 549 central axis of the poorly-sorted revetment using a digital cobble count method (Figure 8, 550 see section 3.4.4 for methodological details). Photos of the toe and crest of the poorly-551 sorted revetment at the end of the standard wave conditions are provided in Figure 10, 552 these give a visual reference for the results presented. The well-sorted revetment had a 553 consistent grading and a small range of cobble sizes and so no size sorting was observed. 554 The distribution of cobbles on the surface of the poorly-sorted revetment was initially 555 very consistent at all cross-shore positions (Figure 8a). Subsequently, the surface cobbles 556 underwent a sorting process throughout the experiment as they were mobilised by wave 557

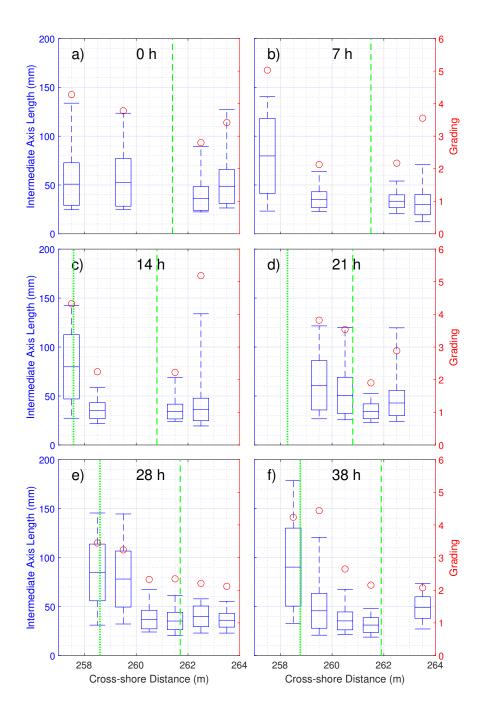


Figure 8: Surface grain size distribution across the poorly-sorted revetment at the end of each test (t = 0,7,14,21,28,38). The left hand y-axis corresponds to a box plot centred over the median intermediate axis length with inner bounds provided by the median absolute deviation and branches reaching D_{90} and D_{10} . The right hand y-axis and red circles indicate the grading value at each location (Grading = D_{85}/D_{15}). Dotted green line represents the toe location and dashed green line represent crest location.

forcing. This sorting process led to the median cobble size decreasing landward of the 558 toe, combined with a smaller grading value (Figure 8), indicative of better sorted cobbles 559 moving landwards. This sorting was limited to the seaward limit of the revetment during 560 test 2DR1 (0-7 h, $z_{wl} = 4.6$ m) when no overtopping occurred (see Figure 8b). Over-561 topping appears to accelerate this process by transporting smaller, more easily mobilised 562 cobbles onto and landward of the crest during uprush where they become stranded and 563 bury existing larger cobbles. This sorting is most evident during the final water level 564 test 2DR4 (21-38 h, $z_{wl} = 4.9$ m; see Figure 8 e,f) and is visible in the images shown in 565

Figure 10 for both the toe and crest of the revetment. Throughout the experiment both 566 the smallest range of cobble sizes and smallest median cobble sizes were detected at the 567 crest of the structure (see Figure 8). Note, the RFID-tagged cobbles had a minimum 568 size of 40 mm and therefore this trend is not evident in Figure 9 because the majority of 569 cobbles forming the crest are smaller than 40 mm. Conversely, the toe of the revetment 570 and the sparse cobble layer became less sorted with a higher median cobble size than was 571 initially present (see Figure 8). The median cobble size at the toe increased from 51 mm 572 at 0 h to 90 mm at 38 h. This is caused by a high proportion of smaller cobbles being 573 transported landward from the toe, leaving the larger, less easily mobilised cobbles to 574 form a stable toe for the revetment. Notably, no tagged cobble of weight greater than 2 575 kg was detected more than 40 cm landward of its initial position by the end of standard 576 wave testing (38 h, see Figure 9 b). Some cobbles larger than 2 kg were detected seaward 577 of their initial position. These are primarily from the surface and middle layer of the 578 revetment and have rolled down the front face of the revetment. A comparison of the

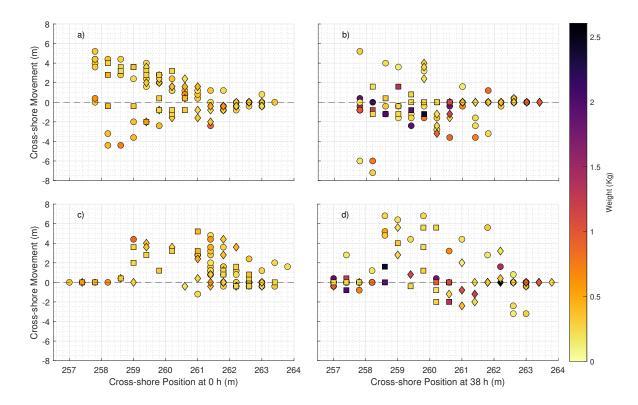


Figure 9: Absolute cross-shore distance travelled by tagged cobbles from their initial position, where positive is landward and negative is seaward for the a) well-sorted revetment (DynaRev1) and b) poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2) after 38 h of standard wave conditions. Absolute distance travelled by tagged cobbles from their detected position at 38h for the c) well-sorted revetment and d) poorly-sorted revetment during the erosion and recovery tests. The colour of each marker relates to the cobble weight as shown by the colour bar (left). The cobbles were distributed in three layers; revetment surface (circles), middle layer (diamonds) and sand-cobble interface (squares).

579

transport of tagged cobbles by layer for both the poorly and well-sorted revetments is 580 shown in Table 2. At the end of standard wave testing (t = 38 h) only 54% were moved 581 form their initial position for the poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2), predominantly in 582 the seaward direction (see Table 2 and Figure 9 b). The cobbles forming the well-sorted 583 revetment were more mobile, with 87% displaced from initial position, primarily in the 584 landward direction (see Table 2 and Figure 9 a). It is important to note however that 585 the largest tagged cobbles for the well-sorted revetment had an intermediate axis size 586 (D_{50}) less than 100 mm, meaning that the whole tagged cobble population was more 587

Table 2: Percentage of cobbles displaced from initial position by cross-shore direction at the end of standard wave conditions (38 h) and the end of recovery test (45 h) for the well-sorted revetment (WS, DynaRev1) and poorly-sorted revetment (PS, DynaRev). This is further broken down by placement layer of cobbles and several size categories

Cobbles Displaced [~] from		Total (%)		Landward (%)		Seaward (%)		Not Detected (%)		Average Landward Transport (m)	
Initial [~] Position		WS	PS	WS	PS	WS	PS	WS	PS	WS	PS
-38 h	All	87	54	52	15	35	39	7	6	0.88	-0.45
	Surface	85	68	57	14	28	54	4	12	1.05	-0.65
	Middle	79	30	34	13	44	17	17	0	0.31	0.08
	Bottom	100	57	64	19	34	38	0	0	1.52	-0.3
	All	80	60	60	27	20	33	16	21	2.08	0.69
45 h	Surface	85	65	66	33	19	32	10	20	2.38	0.80
	Middle~	70	43	43	16	27	27	30	30	1.54	0.18
	Bottom	85	71	75	28	10	43	10	9	2.87	0.93

susceptible to mobilisation by wave action. The movement of the tracked RFID cob-588 bles was markedly different between the two experiments. For the well-sorted revetment 589 (DynaRev1) the cobbles showed a cyclic pattern of being dragged down to the toe when 590 exposed, these were then transported up and over the crest by overtopping events where 591 they were swiftly reburied by cobbles. For the poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2), the 592 cobbles were either dragged down into the top of the revetment $(D_{50} > 100)$ or trans-593 ported over the crest upon being exposed $(D_{50} < 75)$. At the end of the poorly-sorted 594 revetment testing (t = 45 h), the quantity of tagged cobbles displaced from their initial 595 position increased and the primary direction of travel became landward with an average 596 displacement of 0.69 m (see Table 2 and Figure 9 d). The erosive testing (t = 38 to)597 43h) was characterised by increased wave energy resulting in a greater ability to trans-598 port heavier cobbles landward, combined with the exposure of tagged cobbles that were 599 initially deeper within the revetment. This led to an increase in the proportion of tagged 600 cobbles being displaced (Table 2). 601

Additionally, behaviour of the tagged cobbles varied between the two revetments 602 depending on the initial placement location (layer and cross-shore location). In both 603 cases, tagged cobbles placed on the surface and in front of the final crest location for 604 standard wave conditions (x = 261.5 m for DynaRev1 and x = 261.9 m for DynaRev2) 605 were most mobile. Cobble displacement in the middle layer was low for both revetments 606 due to the placement starting at x = 259.4 m. The bottom layer of cobbles were highly 607 mobile for DynaRev1. This suggests that overall, the poorly-sorted revetment is less 608 morphologically active at vertical depth than the well-sorted revetment, this is due to 609 the strong interlocking nature of poorly-sorted cobbles. 610



Figure 10: Photo of surface cobbles for the poorly-sorted revetment after standard wave conditions (38 h) at left) the toe of the revetment and right) the crest of the revetment. The total length of the scale bar is 198 mm.

611 3.4 Renourishment

Following the erosive and recovery wave conditions (38-45 h, Table 2) the thickness of 612 the poorly-sorted revetment on the seaward slope had thinned substantially and the 613 revetment consisted of a large crest feature with the majority of volume above the SWL, 614 with a thin layer of larger stones extending to the original toe location (x = 256.9 m)615 (see Figure 4). An opportunistic nourishment of the front slope was carried out where 616 an additional 2.25 m^3 of material was added by simply dumping it on the front face 617 (Figure 11a). Additional erosive test were then carried out, these are not comparable 618 to those carried out for the well-sorted revetment due to a shortened testing regime and 619 different placement method - for the well-sorted revetment the renourishment was added 620 as a constant thickness layer over the front face. The material added to the poorly-621 sorted revetment in DynaRev2 was quickly reshaped by waves and integrated into the 622 revetment. This had the primary effect of increasing the cobble depth of the front face but 623 some material was transported beyond the landward limit of the revetment, increasing its 624 length by 2 m. During these tests the toe retreated by a further 0.5 m but the crest was 625 stabilised at the pre-nourishment location (x = 262.45 m). The renourished revetment 626 preserved its centre of mass beneath the peak of the crest and 0.22 m higher than the 627 end of the resilience tests (38 h, 2DDR1) suggesting this is the most stable shape for 628 these cobble characteristics. The overall effect of the added material was to increase the 629 thickness of the front slope without affecting the overall behaviour of the revetment which 630 continued to reshape rapidly in response to changing conditions. 631

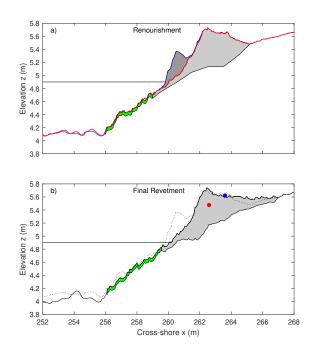


Figure 11: a) Renourished revetment where the light grey area outlined in red shows revetment cross-shore profile at the end of recovery wave conditions (2DRR1, 45 h, Table 1) and the dark grey area outlined in blue indicates the added material. b) The final shape of the revetment after 2 h 40 m of additional tests, the blue dot indicates the runup location under standard wave conditions. The dotted line indicates the revetment profile immediately following renourishment

632 4 Discussion

⁶³³ This section presents the current work wider context of both composite beaches and ⁶³⁴ dynamic revetments. It further comments on the application of these structures as coastal 635 protection.

The majority of revetment response in DynaRev2 happened within the first seven 636 hours of test 2DR4 (21 - 28 h), after this the retreat slowed (Figure 5) and the degree of 637 morphological change greatly reduced during the final 10 hours of standard wave condition 638 testing (28–38 h), Figure 3) was reduced. This suggests that the revetment moves towards 639 an equilibrium state within approximately 7 hours after each rise in water level. The 640 ability of the revetment to rapidly reshape towards a new equilibrium condition is also 641 seen in Figure 7 which shows that the revetment responds quickly to erosive conditions 642 but is already re-establishing the peaked revetment crest after only 2 h of low energy 643 recovery conditions. As the bulk of material remains part of the main cobble body and the 644 geometry remains approximately constant, the revetment can be considered dynamically 645 stable even though cobbles are moving with every wave. Further investigation involving 646 longer testing at each water level, as well as larger water level increases is suggested to 647 give additional insight into the time for a stable geometry to be reached and the level of 648 coastal protection provided. 649

The behaviour of the cobble body for the poorly-sorted revetment in DynaRev2 under 650 wave attack is that of a coherent structure, see Figure 4. The location of the toe, crest 651 and centre of gravity retreat in unison under standard wave conditions (Figure 5), which 652 can be viewed as a retreat of the whole body. Further, the cobble body of the revetment 653 is estimated to contain up to 97% of the original material at the end of the testing (t = 45)654 h). The rapid development of a peaked crest constructed from smaller angular cobbles 655 acted to limit overtopping to a greater degree than that shown in DynaRev1. Overtopping 656 was highest after the revetment crest was pushed over landward by a series of energetic 657 overtopping events, reducing the effective crest height (see 41-43 h in Figure 5 b). This 658 highlights the importance of the crest for protecting the upper beach and hinterland from 659 wave inundation. 660

The lack of variation in cobble size and the rounded nature of the cobbles for the 661 well-sorted revetment are the primary reasons for the different morphological responses 662 observed and are thought to be responsible for the large loss of sand and sinking of the 663 structure. Loss of sand beneath the revetment and associated sinking was much reduced 664 for the well-sorted revetment and this is thought to be due to the development of a layer 665 of small gravels at the sand-cobble interface which acts as a filter layer and prevents sand 666 from escaping. The material for existing dynamic cobble berm revetments is often poorly-667 sorted local material (Komar and Allan (2010); Weiner et al. (2019)) and sinking has not 668 been reported at these sites. Bayle et al. (2021), reported a similar "natural filter layer" of 669 small gravel at the sand-cobble interface of a poorly-sorted revetment at North Cove and 670 they reported short term sand accumulation and loss within the cobble matrix driven by 671 both wave and aeolian processes, but no evidence of sinking. It is suggested therefore that 672 a wide size grading of gravel material should be used when constructing dynamic cobble 673 berm revetments. The results presented here also suggest that angular cobbles increase 674 interlocking and hence the stability of the revetment crest, which provides overtopping 675 protection to the back of the revetment and hinterland. 676

Similarly the wide size distribution and lower mobility of the interlocking angular 677 cobbles in the poorly-sorted revetment (DynaRev2) meant that the average landward 678 movement of cobbles during the erosive wave conditions was substantially smaller than 679 for the well-sorted case (DynaRev1): 0.69 m and 2.08 m respectively. This meant that 680 the tagged cobble population was far less mobile during DynaRev2 despite the degree 681 of morphological change presented. In the analysis, a cobble was only categorised as 682 displaced if it was detected at the end of the given test, while cobbles that were not 683 detected at all were categorised as 'not detected'. The decrease in the total number of 684

displaced cobbles for the well-sorted revetment during the erosion and accretion testing 685 (87% to 80%) is therefore explained by the greater number of non-detected cobbles and 686 not an indication of a reduced quantity of transported tagged cobbles. As a result, it 687 is probable that the displacement of tagged cobbles during both experiments is under 688 represented. 689

Overall, given the differing morphological response of the two revetments, it is arguable 690 that the new design for DynaRev2 performed better. The development of the filter 691 layer prevented the structure from sinking. When combined with the crest growth it 692 maintained the majority of the main cobble body above the water level till the end 693 of the experiment (96.2 %, 2DDR1, 45 h). Additionally, the structure maintained a 694 significant difference in height between the crest peak and still water level. This reduced 695 overtopping providing better protection to the upper beach. This suggests that a key 696 consideration for dynamic cobble berm revetment design is the characteristics of the 697 cobbles used for construction. As a result it may be desirable to use angular, or at least 698 sub-angular material when constructing dynamic cobble berm revetments, though this 699 has implications for the recreational function of the beach and is not in keeping with the 700 natural character of composite beaches. 701

Maintenance of dynamic cobble berm revetments is vital to their long-term efficacy. 702 The renourishment of the structure suggests that there is no need to carefully place the 703 renourishment material. It is sufficient to simply dump the material on the revetment 704 front face where it will be rapidly reshaped by wave action. It is likely in fact that a 705 revetment could be initially constructed by simply dumping material around the high 706 tide line and allowing wave action to shape the berm, however this has not been tested. 707 The 2D nature of wave flume experiments has limitations which were present in the 708

current study. Primarily, longshore transport cannot be represented in laboratory envi-709 ronments. While cross-shore processes are expected to primarily influence the revetment 710 during storm conditions and be the major driver of morphological change, the long term 711 impact of longshore cobble transport could influence the lifespan of the structure. Future 712 field studies of dynamic cobble berm revetments and composite beaches should inves-713 tigate longshore processes including longshore cobble transport. The resulting findings 714 will better inform re-nourishment schemes for dynamic cobble berm revetments. One 715 approach currently being tested at North Cove, USA is a sacrificial feeder bluff of cobbles 716 updrift of the dynamic cobble berm revetment however the efficacy of this is not yet clear. 717 A further issue in terms of the design and analysis of dynamic cobble berm revetments 718 is the lack of numerical modelling tools. An investigation by McCall et al. McCall et al. 719 (2019) found that although the Xbeach-G gravel beach model accurately reproduced 720 morphology changes in some cases, it couldn't represent the sand erosion beneath the 721 revetment structure and associated lowering of the sand-cobble interface observed during 722 the DynaRev experiment. As noted above, it is likely that this effect was enhanced due to 723 the use of very well-sorted round cobbles and was much less evident during the DynaRev2

experiment and on composite beaches and dynamic revetments in the field. As a result 725 DynaRev1 may not be an ideal validation case and additional testing of DynaRev2 in 726 XBeach-G is recommended. 727

5 Conclusions 728

724

The purpose of a dynamic revetment is to provide protection to the hinterland as well as 729 reducing erosion of the upper beach face. It is clear that both the well and poorly-sorted 730 revetments are appropriate for this purpose based on the experimental results, with the 731 caveat that the observed sinking process needs to be better understood. Both revetments 732

reduced the horizontal runup excursion compared to a sand beach only case (see Bayle et al. (2020)) and the erosion of the beach face is significantly less than during the sandonly case measured during the DynaRev experiment. Further, both revetments remained dynamically stable and maintained the majority of their cobble mass during testing.

For both revetment designs wave overtopping of the crest location is required for 737 morphological change. As overtopping greatly increased after each water level increase 738 so did the rate of morphological change. However, this morphological change reduces as 739 both designs move towards a new dynamic stability, where cobbles are free to move under 740 wave action but the structure maintains a consistent shape. The revetment in DynaRev1 741 constructed using well-sorted, rounded cobble material developed a low flat crest with 742 sinking beneath the seaward face of the revetment throughout the entire experiment. 743 Conversely the poorly-sorted angular revetment in DynaRev2 gained elevation through 744 the development of a peaked crest due to both the strong interlocking nature of the cobbles 745 used and the sorting effect sending smaller cobbles up the front face of the revetment under 746 wave action. A sinking effect was only observable up to 28h and slowed substantially after 747 14h. It is hypothesised that this is due to the ability of poorly-sorted material to form 748 a filter layer at the intersection between the sand and the structure, this reduces water 749 percolating into the sand preventing its erosion. It is estimated that cobbles will become 750 rounded in 2 to 5 years when placed in the structure (Allan and Gabel (2016)) however 751 the fragmented gravels will maintain the filter layer. The revetment in DynaRev2 gave a 752 better reduction in the amount of overtopping but both designs limited wave excursion 753 to the landward limit of the structure for all but the largest runup events. 754

Long-term studies of dynamic cobble berm revetments in the field are now required to ascertain their long term viability, however some re-nourishment of the structures is likely to be needed in most locations either through periodic renourishment or installation of an updrift feeder bluff. If direct renourishment is required, this can be done by simply dumping stone on the front face and allowing wave action to reshape the material.

The uptake of these structures is dependent on more than just their coastal protection 760 performance. Many coastal protection schemes are concerned with the ecological impact, 761 environmental impact, aesthetics and cost of any proposed coastal works. The ecological 762 impact of these structures is yet to be determined. However, the two designs provide a 763 more aesthetic but costly solution in DynaRev1 and a cheaper but less aesthetic solu-764 tion in DynaRev2. Further, if constructed using locally sourced material the cost and 765 environmental impact would be low compared to more substantial coastal works such as 766 sea walls, due to the ease of construction (simple dumping of stone) and reduced need 767 to transport material. The final consideration is that many coastal protection bodies are 768 looking to create more 'natural' defences for preservation of the coastline (Pye and Blott 769 (2018)), dynamic cobble berm revetments fulfill this requirement. 770

771 Declaration of competing interests

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

774 CRediT authorship statement

Ollie Foss Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Data cu ration, Writing - original draft, Writing - review & editing, Visualization. Chris E
 Blenkinsopp Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Resources, Writing - re-

view & editing, Supervision, Project administration, Funding acquisition. Paul M.
Bayle Conceptualization, Methodology, Formal analysis, Investigation, Data curation,
Writing - review & editing. Kévin Martins Investigation, Writing - review & editing.
Stefan Schimmels Investigation, Writing - review & editing. Luis Pedro Almeida
Investigation, Writing - review & editing.

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