

Qawra Beach Improvements

Feasibility of using artificial sand

Qawra, Malta



Client: HR Wallingford

Services provided:

- Project initiation
- Site inspection and meetings with client
- Provision of technical advice, guidance and review of the concept design

The pre-scheme beach at Qawra

The authorities responsible for tourism in Malta were interested in improving one or more beaches using beach nourishment – that is, the placing of imported sand. The main problem was the lack of suitable graded sand at an economic rate. To overcome this problem earlier schemes had used sand/ shingle produced by crushing rock to the correct grading. The grading is important as it determines the stability of the beach against storm attack. Other factors were important in the selection of the source material including, of course, colour.

Whereas previous schemes had been in comparatively sheltered areas, the proposed site was much more exposed and hence the stability of the beach improvement measures became a more significant factor. ENBE was appointed as consultants to HR Wallingford (leading UK hydraulics laboratory) who was tasked with examining the feasibility of the scheme. In this respect ENBE's role included project initiation, meetings with the authorities and environmental consultants in Malta, technical advice and review of the study outputs.