

Cliff Regrading

You have been given cliff regrading as your method of coastal protection. Your job is to record how cliff regrading works and make a note of its advantages and disadvantages. You then need to prepare a short presentation that will inform the rest of the class how cliff regrading works and give information about its strengths and weaknesses. Be as creative as you can during your presentation.

How does cliff regrading work?

What are the strengths of cliff regrading?

What are the weaknesses of cliff regrading?

Draw a labelled diagram to show how cliff regrading works.



Cliff Regrading

This is a method of soft engineering because it involves working with the natural environment, is low cost and is sustainable.

Work is carried out to reduce the angle of the cliff, making sure it is not too steep and so vulnerable to collapse. Work is also carried out to drain the cliff because by taking the water out it reduces the risk of landslides and mass movement.

Cliff regrading and drainage is especially useful when the cliff is made of clay or other material because this material erodes easily and can slip when wet.

Drainage does not cost much money and can get great results because it reduces the amount of the water in the cliff, which could be saturated. Where cliffs have had a history of slipping or slumping, drainage has produced some very good results. However, not all results have been good. Sometimes drainage causes all the water to come out of a cliff and lead to the rocks drying out, which can cause the collapse of the cliff.

When the cliff is regraded, part of the cliff has to be taken away in order for the angle of the cliff to be reduced. This is in effect causing it to retreat so does result in the loss of some of the cliff.

