



**WEATHER WATCH:** David Green at Stonehaven yesterday, with Bervie Braes in the background. Photograph: Kenny Elrick

# Scientists consider impact of climate change on coast

EUROPEAN PROJECT TO DEVELOP UNIFIED APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE AREAS

SCIENTISTS from across Europe gathered in Aberdeen yesterday to consider the potential impact of climate change on the north-east coastline.

More than 30 delegates took part in a field trip which started at Aberdeen harbour and ended at the Bervie Braes, Stonehaven, where landslips caused homes to be evacuated earlier this year.

The two-day visit, which began on Tuesday, brought to-

gether representatives from 15 countries which are collaborating under the Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource (Imcore) project.

The initiative, which is being funded by a £6million EU grant, aims to develop a unified approach to safeguarding the future of European coastlines and will include strategies for flood defence and erosion prevention.

David Green, of Aberdeen

University's Institute for Coastal Science and Management, which is leading the project in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council, said it was important to increase awareness of environmental issues.

"The idea is that we will be able to use the experiences here to advise people and raise awareness in other parts of the world where similar situations might exist.

"Rising sea levels, higher

waves, increased storms and rainfall are a reality which we may well be facing.

"It is therefore paramount we ensure the correct approaches are put in place to safeguard coastal areas in the north-east already identified as vulnerable.

"Acting now to protect these areas could save them from the potentially far-reaching consequences of climate change in the future."

Gordon McIntosh, director

of enterprise, planning and infrastructure at the city council, added: "It is essential we get local people interested and involved in this initiative because they have so much to lose or gain from the erosion or protection of the coastline.

"The important focus on climate challenges will help us attract European attention to the north-east coastline and the need to both conserve and enhance it."