

ISLE OF WIGHT

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

We want to hear from you!

If you live or work near the coast, or have an interest in it, your comments are important to us to ensure that the SMP fully considers all concerns. If you have any feedback on the proposed policies, please complete a consultation response form available from the SMP roadshow in September or from www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp

A three month period of public consultation is open in summer 2010. The closing date for comments is 23 October 2010.

What happens next?

Consultation responses will be assessed, then the final version of the SMP2 will be prepared and adopted by the Isle of Wight Council and the Environment Agency.

Our coastline is changing... and it could affect you

We live in a spectacular part of the country that has been shaped by natural processes. The shoreline is constantly changing, sometimes gradually, sometimes dramatically, and these changes have created some of the coast's most beautiful and important features.

These changes also, however, represent a threat to many of our coastal communities and in the last 100 years attempts have been made to stop the effect of erosion or flooding in order to protect those communities.

The way erosion changes our coast depends largely on geology. Erosion of coasts with relatively hard rock, such as limestone and chalk, tends to be

The development of the proposed SMP policies has taken into consideration the following issues:

• **Economics**

The equivalent cost of providing a defence is likely to increase over the next century to between two and four times the present cost (excluding inflation or other factors) to between £6 million and £20 million per kilometre. In simple terms this means that either more money needs to be invested in coastal defence, or expenditure has to be prioritised.

• **Socio-economics**

The coast is important for recreation and leisure activities, particularly those that rely on good quality beaches and easy access to the sea. It supports a thriving tourist industry and a number of

The final version of the SMP will be published at the end of 2010.

Further Information

The draft SMP document and this summary leaflet can be downloaded at www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp

Paper copies of the draft SMP document are available to review at:

- Lord Louis Library (in reference library), Newport
- Coastal Visitors' Centre, Dudley Road, Ventnor by appointment. Telephone (01983) 857220.

Public Exhibitions

A roadshow of public exhibitions about the draft SMP will visit towns and villages around the Isle of Wight in September 2010.

- Cowes Monday 13 September 2010
- Ryde Tuesday 14 September 2010
- Wootton Wednesday 15 September 2010
- Yarmouth Thursday 16 September 2010
- Sandown Friday 17 September 2010

Full details will be advertised in the local press, posters and at www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp

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slower, and can form dramatic rock formations over time, including headlands at Culver Cliff and the Needles.

Where coastal geology is formed out of softer deposits, such as clay and sandstone, erosion processes can be faster and pose more of a risk for people and property.

Coastal erosion is not always gradual and can occur through events such as landslides, where many metres of land may be lost in a sudden, dramatic, single event.

Rates of erosion, and the risk of flooding, are expected to increase by the end of this century because of increasing storminess and rising sea levels. Protecting coastal communities will become an ever-increasing challenge.

Future Management of the Coast

One of the difficulties facing us, as a nation, is the economic, social and environmental cost of continuing to protect shorelines to the extent that we do at present.

commercial and industrial interests along the coast. The continuation of these industries is essential to the economy of the Isle of Wight as a whole.

• **Environment**

Coastal management can have significant impacts on wildlife habitats, coastal processes, landforms and heritage features. The conservation of ecological features in a changing environment is a key aspect of environmental sustainability.

Future management of the coast must allow natural habitats and features to respond and adjust to change such as accelerated sea level rise. It must also comply with the legislation relating to important conservation designations protecting many habitats within the SMP area.

Working in Partnership

The SMP is being prepared by a Client Steering Group (CSG) comprising representatives from:

- Coastal Management, Isle of Wight Council
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- National Trust
- Isle of Wight Estuaries Project
- Planning Services, Isle of Wight Council
- Parks & Countryside Service, Isle of Wight Council
- Archaeological Centre, Isle of Wight Council
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Isle of Wight Council is leading the preparation of the SMP with appointed consultant engineers Royal Haskoning. Funding is provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) through the Environment Agency.

This publication is available on request in large print, audio tape or Braille and in other languages. Contact IW Council (01983) 821000. Typetalk available.

Consultation Summary Summer 2010



www.coastalwight.gov.uk/smp

Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan

The first Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan (SMP1) was adopted in 1997.

Significant progress has been made in the understanding and mapping of coastal processes over the last ten years, and SMP1 is now under review. The draft of the new SMP2 is now available for your comments. The final SMP2 is then due to be published in December 2010.

What the plan does

A Shoreline Management Plan is a strategic document that sets out policies for the management of our coastline and our response to coastal flooding and erosion risks over the next 20, 50 and 100 years.

It provides a large-scale assessment of the risks to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment. It addresses the risk in a way that does not tie future generations to costly unsustainable management, and attempts to balance potential conflicting interests along the coastline.

While the SMP provides the framework for future decisions, the implementation of the policies relies on the availability of funding. Planning for the future is vital.

The area covered by our SMP

Isle of Wight SMP covers the 168km (104 miles) of open coast, harbours, estuaries and headlands around the Island.

The coastline covered by this plan is extremely varied, ranging from key coastal towns and ferry links to natural areas that are protected for their heritage, landscape, geological and biological value. This combination of assets creates a coastline of great appeal and a tourism economy of regional importance.



Cowes and East Cowes

SMP policy options:

There are four generic policies that can be considered by the SMP (set out in Defra SMP guidance, March 2006):

- **Hold the Line**
Defences are maintained and upgraded or replaced in their current position where funding permits.
- **Advance the Line**
New defences are built seaward of existing defences, involving a significant reclamation of land in the process.



Compton Bay car park

- **Managed Realignment**
This policy allows realignment (forwards or backwards) of the shoreline with management to control or limit the movement. Any increase in flood risk will also be managed. Although this policy typically applies to low-lying areas at risk of flooding it can equally apply to cliffed areas, whereby managed intervention slows cliff recession for a period of time.
- **No Active Intervention**
This is a policy decision not to invest in the provision or maintenance of any defences. Where there are no existing defences, the shoreline will continue to evolve naturally. This policy can also apply to areas that are currently defended but may not be defended in the future. These areas will evolve more naturally, which may include an increased risk of flooding or coastal erosion.

Proposed policies for the Isle of Wight coast

The policy summary map below displays the proposed policies for individual policy units over the three time periods:

- Present day (0-20 years)
- Medium-term (20-50 years)
- Long-term (50-100 years).

The policy choices can change over time to support the long term management intent.

Policies reflect preferred options. Implementation of them is dependent on funding being available (including public and private funding).

For the purpose of the SMP the coastline has been divided into seven Policy Development Zones (PDZs). PDZ boundaries are not recognised as hard lines, but solely as a practical means of examining the coast in detail. Within these PDZs individual policy units have been developed.

