



Shoreline Management Plan 2

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Topics covered

- What is an SMP
- Why are we updating it now?
- What does this mean for the Isle of Wight?
- Problems facing the Isle of Wight
- Public Consultation in summer 2010
- **Key issues around the IW coast**



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Preparing shoreline plans

- The Isle of Wight Council and the Environment Agency are updating the **Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2)** for the coastline and estuaries of the Isle of Wight, reviewing the original plan published in 1997. The process will involve **public participation** as the plan develops in 2009 and 2010.
- Due to the current legislative and funding arrangements, climate change and environmental considerations, it may not be possible to protect, or continue to defend, some land and property from flooding or erosion.

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What is an SMP?

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is:

- A broad-scale strategic assessment of the flood and erosion risks at the coast
- The SMP sets the highest level policy for flood and erosion risk management

It helps us understand:

- The consequences of allowing natural change to take place
- When current coastal defences may fail and what is at risk
- How shorelines will respond to climate change in the longer term
- How we can reduce risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environments.

It also:

- Allows us to plan for erosion of cliffs and flooding from storms
- It supports decision-making by the Local Authority and Environment Agency
- It informs local strategies and plans

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Setting policies

The Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan will set policy options for each section of the coastline, looking ahead for 100 years to inform effective and sustainable policies. The following policy options are available:

- **No active intervention (do nothing)** – no investment will be made in coastal defences of other operations other than for safety purposes.
- **Hold the existing line** – the coast protection authority or the landowner can keep the line of defence as it is by maintaining existing defences or changing the standard of protection.
- **Advance the line** – involves building new defences on the seaward side of existing defences.
- **Managed realignment** – allows natural physical processes to act on a stretch of shoreline by the removal of existing defences altogether or moving them to higher ground.

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National Context

This update is national government policy, and Shoreline Management Plans are being updated right around the entire 6000 kilometres of coast in England and Wales. National government policy on coastal risk management is set by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The organisations responsible for coastal risk management on the Isle of Wight (the Operating Authorities) are the **Isle of Wight Council** and the **Environment Agency**.

To demonstrate and achieve effective management of the coast, it is essential that neighbouring authorities with coastal responsibilities, in partnership with other agencies, cooperate to develop integrated sustainable policies, avoiding piecemeal attempts to protect one area at the expense of another.

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What is the benefit to the Island?

The Isle of Wight Council is required to update the SMP and set sustainable coastal policies to enable access to future funding to reduce coastal risks. It will help secure a sustainable future for our coastal communities and preserve the unique characteristics of the Isle of Wight coast.



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Why are we updating the SMP?

The first Shoreline Management Plan (SMP1) for the Isle of Wight 's coast was published in **1997**. It is available for public access at the Coastal Visitors' Centre in Ventnor and Volume 2 is available online: Volume 1 was 'Data Collection and Objective Setting'. Volume 2 was the 'Management Strategy', which presents information for each Management Unit around the Island's coast.

The current shoreline management policies (published in 1997) may no longer be practical or acceptable in the long term. For example:

- predictions of sea level rise due to climate change have increased since the first round of SMPs, and need to be incorporated into the second generation;
- current defences have a limited life and improvements may not be economically, socially, technically or environmentally practical;
- new information on coastal processes may result in changes being necessary to manage future risks.

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Guidance for updating the SMP

A significant change compared with the first SMP is that we are now required to examine the risks looking ahead for one hundred years, instead of fifty years. This is a long time to look ahead, so Defra and the Environment Agency require coastal issues to be examined over three time epochs – 0-20 years, 20-50 years and 50-100 years.

The SMP provides a 'route map' for the short, medium and long-term for local authorities and other decision makers to move from the present situation towards a more sustainable future – effectively meeting our future needs whilst reducing the reliance on defences where possible.

The SMP2 will include an **action plan** that prioritises what further work is needed to manage coastal risks, and where it will occur. This will form the basis for informing Coastal Defence Strategy Studies and developing flood and erosion risk management Schemes, coastal erosion monitoring and further work on how we can best adapt to change, including linking to the planning system.

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What is the difference?.....

.....between a Shoreline Management Plan, a Strategy Study and a Scheme?

There are a number of stages that Coast Protection Authorities (such as the Isle of Wight Council) are required to follow to decide how and where coastal risks can be reduced. These enable the authority to seek funding for coastal defence works, where appropriate.

- **Shoreline Management Plan (SMP):** A large-scale plan for the entire Isle of Wight coast. It sets the policies for managing coastal risks.
Output = Policies.
- **Coastal Defence Strategy Study:** Produced for each stretch of coast; three on the Isle of Wight. The Strategy identifies appropriate Schemes to put the policies into place, and suggests a co-ordinated programme of work for that stretch of coastline.
Output = Type of scheme (such as seawall), and programme of work required.
- **Scheme:** At a local level a Scheme will then develop and implement a coastal defence proposal for a particular location.
Output = Design of works.

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Other Strategies



Coastal Defence Strategy Studies are being prepared around the Isle of Wight Coast.

- North-East Coastal Defence Strategy Study, Isle of Wight Council, 2005
- East Yar Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy, Isle of Wight; Environment Agency (current)

Once the IW SMP has set policies around the coast, the remaining Strategy Studies will be completed:

- West Wight Coastal Defence Strategy Study, Isle of Wight Council
- Sandown Bay and Undercliff Coastal Defence Strategy Study, Isle of Wight Council

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Problems Facing the Island



Flooding in Newport,
March 2008 (Photograph
by D.Moore).

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Problems Facing the Island

Flooding in Yarmouth,
March 2008 (Photograph
by D.Moore).



Flooding in Cowes,
March 2008 (Photograph
by EA).

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Problems Facing the Island



Storm waves at
Yaverland in March 2008
(Photograph by T.Price)

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Problems Facing the Island

Erosion at
Horestone Point,
February 2009

Whitecliff Bay
rockfall, May 2007



Problems Facing the Island



Landsliding at Castlehaven (part of the Ventnor Undercliff landslide complex)

Cliff fall at Shanklin



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Steering Group

The Client Steering Group is responsible for the management, development and adoption of the new **SMP**, comprising of representatives from the **operating authorities**, neighbouring SMPs, statutory authorities and key interest organisations:

- Coastal Management, Isle of Wight Council
- Environment Agency (also providing a link to the North Solent SMP)
- Natural England
- Planning Services, Isle of Wight Council
- Countryside Section, Isle of Wight Council
- Estuaries Officer, Isle of Wight Council
- English Heritage
- National Trust
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The consultants appointed to help deliver the plan are Royal Haskoning

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Participation in the process...

A Stakeholder is defined as a person or organisation with an interest or concern in the SMP or the Isle of Wight coast. Stakeholders include:-

- **Elected Members;** Town and Parish Councils
- Statutory organisations (including Natural England, the Environment Agency, English Heritage and the Countryside Agency)
- Residents and businesses
- Major coastal landowners
- Sectoral interest groups

Being involved provides opportunities to:

- contribute your knowledge and experiences (including questionnaire circulated in late 2008)
- more fully understand the issues involved, arising from the best available science and research;
- raise awareness of the constraints and framework the operating authorities are working within;
- understand the process and reasons supporting the selection of the preferred policies;
- understand the implications of the sometimes difficult decisions that may need to be taken;
- to contribute to the decision making process.

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Progress to date

Stages 1-3 (of 6):

Stage 1: Scope the SMP

- identify and contact stakeholders
- data collation and additional investigations

Stage 2: Assessment to support policy development

- develop baseline scenarios
- strategic environmental assessment

Stage 3: Policy development

- preferred scenario identification
- draft SMP document preparation



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What Lies Ahead

Stages 4-6 (of 6)

Stage 4: Public consultation

- gain approval in principle
- public consultation

Stage 5: Finalise Plan

- develop action plan
- finalise SMP document
- adoption of the SMP

Stage 6: Plan dissemination

- publicise SMP
- implementation of the plan



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Public Consultation

- The Draft SMP will be issued for a 3-month period of public consultation in Summer 2010.
- It will include proposed policies, maps of coastal flood and erosion risks, description of all the features at risk along the coast, etc.
- In July, August and September 2010.
- The SMP will be freely available, and all the documents will be available to download in electronic form. Paper copies will also be provided to view at key IW Council buildings.
- 1 week 'roadshow' of meetings around the IW.
- All comments received will feed into the Final SMP, due for completion in December 2010.

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For further information & FAQ visit:

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