

Our Ref: CM19-CM/CLT
Your Ref:

From **Ms C Marriott**
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Dear Sir/Madam

ISLE OF WIGHT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN – ROUND TWO

Following the successful completion of the first Isle of Wight Shoreline Management Plan in 1997, it is now time to review the plan and I am writing to ask if you or your organisation will participate in the consultation for the preparation of the Revised Shoreline Management Plan for the Isle of Wight coast.

The responsibility for management of the coastal defences against erosion and flooding is shared between the Environment Agency and the local Coast Protection Authority, in this case the Isle of Wight Council and the frontage owner. The plan is the means by which these organisations determine the best way to look after the coast in a sustainable way for the next one hundred years. It is prepared using guidelines set down by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which is the government department having responsibility for setting national policy for defence of the coastline.

The plan identifies the main coastal processes – the tidal currents, wave action and movement of beach and seabed materials – that shape the coastline. Through consultation, the various land uses are identified. These include residential and commercial areas, sites of important natural or landscape importance and features, such as the beaches, which might be important for the local tourism economy. Each such area is assessed for its risk from erosion or flooding.

Again, through consultation, the main issues relating to erosion and flood risk, and which affect local communities, are set out. These are compared with what is known about the coastal processes, the economics of maintaining or providing new defences and the need to seek sustainable methods of managing the coast in the future. From this assessment a number of objectives for the coast are prepared. Another stage for consultation in preparing the plan is to gauge people's reaction to these objectives.

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The objectives are then tested against a number of policy options for each section of the coastline within the plan area. The policies to be considered are those defined by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. These policies are:

- Hold the existing defence line – by maintaining or changing the standard of protection;
- Advance the existing defence line – by building new defences on the seaward side of the original defences;
- Managed realignment – by allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, with management to control or limit movement;
- No active intervention – where there is no investment in coastal defences or operations.

From this analysis a preferred policy for each length of coast will be proposed and, once again, it will be important to gauge the response from the relevant organisations and the community.

It is likely that you or your organisation will have an interest in the future management of the coast and it is for that reason that I would like to invite you to be a consultee for the plan. I should be grateful if you would complete the enclosed questionnaire, which will provide background information and your early comments on issues that you would like to see being considered by the project team.

Yours faithfully



Claire Marriott
Senior Coastal Scientist

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