



# **Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan Review Sub-cell 5f**

Hurst Spit to Durlston Head

Bournemouth Borough Council

2011

Report V3

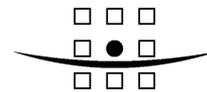
9T2052



**Poole & Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan Review**



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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A statutory designation by the Countryside Commission. The purpose of the AONB designation is to identify areas of national importance and to promote the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. This includes protecting its flora, fauna, geological and landscape features.
Adaptation	Implies that there may be some actual change in the way a feature, such as a habitat or a community, functions. In supporting adaptation, management has to recognise certain principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That adaptation may take time and may evolve slowly so that change to the overall community does not happen immediately.</li> <li>• That management should not encourage a progressively more vulnerable situation to develop, where there is a sudden change from one condition to another.</li> <li>• That specific aspects of a feature, such as individual properties or elements of habitat may change or be lost, but without substantial loss to the value of the community or the overall ecological function of the feature.</li> </ul>
Anthropogenic	Impacts that originate from humans.
AA	Appropriate Assessment. Also referred to as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The AA is an independent check of the potential impacts of policies being put forward by the SMP with specific reference to designated European nature conservation sites (such as SACs, SPAs, etc.)
ATL	Advance the Line. Policy decision to build new defences seaward of the existing defence line where significant land reclamation is considered.
Beach nourishment	Artificial process of replenishing a beach with material from another source.
Benefits (related to issue)	The service that a feature provides. In other words, why people value or use a feature. For example, a nature reserve, as well as helping to preserve biodiversity and meet national legislation, may also provide a recreation outlet much like a sports centre provides a recreation function.
Berm crest	Ridge of sand or gravel deposited by wave action on the shore just above the normal high water mark.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan. An element of UK environmental legislation, aimed at enhancing and protecting biodiversity within key habitat areas.
Brackish water	Freshwater mixed with seawater.
Breaker zone	Area in the sea where the waves break.
CSG	Client Steering Group. The CSG is comprised of representatives from the key operational bodies and statutory consultees involved with coastal and estuarine management within the SMP area. They provide an overseeing steer and guidance role to technical consultants and generally oversee the consultation and approvals activities required within the SMP2 programme.
Coastal squeeze	The reduction in habitat area that can arise if the natural landward migration of a habitat under sea level rise is prevented by the fixing of the high water mark, e.g. a sea wall.
Defra	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs

Term	Definition
Defra Procedural Guidance	The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Procedural Guidance produced by Defra to provide a nationally consistent structure for the production of future generation Shoreline Management Plans.
Downdrift	Direction of longshore movement of beach materials.
Ebb-tide	The falling tide, part of the tidal cycle between high water and the next low water.
Ecosystem	Organisation of the biological community and the physical environment in a specific geographical area.
Enhance (improve)	The value of a feature increases.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment. Detailed studies that predict the effects of a development project on the environment. They also provide plans for mitigation of any significant adverse impacts.
EMF	Elected Members Forum. The EMF is comprised of elected council members from within the SMP area. They are consulted with at key stages of the SMP programme. Endorsement of the preferred plan is sought from the EMF prior to public consultation.
Epoch	The three periods of time in which the Shoreline Management Plan is reviewed in. The first epoch is 0-20 years, the second epoch is 20-50 years and the third epoch is 50-100 years.
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area. A non-statutory designation for an area where special land management payments are available through agreement with Defra to provide farming practices which are beneficial to the environment.
Feature	Something tangible that provides a service to society in one form or another or, more simply, benefits certain aspects of society by its very existence. Usually this will be of a specific geographical location and specific to the SMP.
Fetch	The distance that the wind has passed across the water in one direction (the greater the fetch, the larger the wind-driven waves will be).
Flood-tide	Rising tide, part of the tidal cycle between low water and the next high water.
Flood Zone	A geographical area officially designated subject to potential flood damage. The Environment Agency uses Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3.
Foreshore	Zone between the high water and low water marks.
Geomorphology/ Morphology	The branch of physical geography/geology which deals with the form of the Earth, the general configuration of its surface, the distribution of the land, water, etc.
GIS	Geographic Information System. Software which allows the spatial display and interrogation of geographical information such as ordnance survey mapping and aerial photography.
Groyne	Shore protection structure built perpendicular to the shore; designed to trap sediment.
HTL	Hold the Line. Policy decision to maintain or upgrade the level of protection provided by defences or natural coastline.
Heritage Coast	A non-statutory designation by the Countryside Commission for coasts of scenic quality, their largely undeveloped nature and their special wildlife and historic interest. Local authorities assist with the management of Heritage Coasts often with Heritage Coast officers.
Integrated	An approach that tries to take all issues and interests into account. In

Term	Definition
	taking this approach, managing one issue adds value to the way another is dealt with.
LNR	Local Nature Reserves. A statutory designation for sites established by local authorities in consultation with Natural England. These sites are generally of local significance and also provide important opportunities for public enjoyment, recreation and interpretation.
Maintain	That the value of a feature is not allowed to deteriorate.
MA	Management Area. A collection of Policy Units that are interdependent and should therefore be managed collectively.
MDSF	Modelling and Decision Support Framework. Mapping linked computer tool used in the evaluation of assets at risk from flooding or erosion.
Mean sea level	Average height of the sea surface.
MHW	Mean High Water. The average of all high waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
MLW	Mean Low Water. The average of all low waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
MR	Managed Realignment. Policy decision to manage the coastal processes to realign the 'natural' coastline configuration, either seaward or landward, in order to create a future sustainable shoreline position
Natura 2000	European network of protected sites which represent areas of the highest value for natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community.
NAI	No Active Intervention. Policy decision to not to invest in providing or maintaining defences or natural coastline.
NNR	National Nature Reserves. A statutory designation by Natural England. These represent some of the most important natural and semi-natural ecosystems in Great Britain and are managed to protect the conservation value of the habitats that occur on these sites.
Objective	A desired state to be achieved in the future. An objective is set, through consultation with key parties, to encourage the resolution of the issue or range of issues.
Offshore zone	Extends from the low water mark to a water depth of about 15 m (49 ft) and is permanently covered with water.
Policy	In this context, "policy" refers to the generic shoreline management options (No Active Intervention, Hold the Existing Line of Defence, Managed Realignment, Retreat or Advance the Existing Line of Defence, and Hold the Retired Line).
PDZ	Policy Development Zone. A length of coastline defined for the purpose of assessing all issues and interactions to examine and develop management scenarios. These zones are only used in the procedure of developing policy. Policy Units and Management Areas are then used for the Final definition of the policies and the management of the coast.
Policy Scenario	A combination of policies selected against the various feature/benefit objectives for the whole SMP frontage.
Policy Units	Sections of coastline for which a certain coastal defence management policy has been defined. These are then grouped into Management Areas for management purposes.
PV	Present Value. The value of a stream of benefits or costs when discounted back to the present day. For this SMP the discount factors

Term	Definition
	used are the latest provided by Defra for assessment of schemes, i.e. 3.5% for years 0-30, 3.0% for years 31-75, and 2.5% thereafter.
Ramsar	Designated under the, "Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat" 1971. The objective of this designation is to prevent the progressive encroachment into, and the loss of wetlands.
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites. A non-statutory designation identified by locally developed criteria and are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as SSSI's.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation. This designation aims to protect habitats or species of European importance and can include Marine Areas. SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43EEC) and will form part of the Natura 2000 site network. All SACs sites are also protected as SSSI, except those in the marine environment below the Mean Low Water (MLW).
SM	Scheduled Ancient Monuments. A statutory designation under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This Act, building on legislation dating back to 1882, provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment. In SMP terms an SEA is an independent audit of the SMP process and the policies it puts forward. SEA assesses policies for potential impacts against a series of environmental themes.
Setback	Prescribed distance landward of a coastal feature (e.g. the line of existing defences).
SLA	Special Landscape Area. A non-statutory designation for an area usually identified by local authorities as having a strategic landscape importance.
SMA	Sensitive Marine Area. A non-statutory designation for nationally important locations around the coast that require a cautious and detailed approach to management. They are identified by Natural England for their important benthic populations, spawning or nursery areas for fish, fragile intertidal communities, or breeding, feeding, and roosting areas for birds and sea mammals.
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan. A non-statutory plan, which provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and presents a policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance. A non-statutory designation defined by the Wildlife Trusts and Local Authorities as sites of local nature conservation interest. These form an integral part in the development of planning policies relating to nature conservations issues.
SPA	Special Protection Area. A statutory designation for internationally important sites, being set up to establish a network of protected areas of birds.
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A statutory designation notified by Natural England representing some of the best examples of Britain's natural features including flora, fauna, and geology.

Term	Definition
Storm surge	A rise in the sea surface on an open coast, resulting from a storm.
Sustain	Refers to some function of a feature. A feature may change, but the function is not allowed to fail.
Swell	Waves that have travelled out of the area in which they were generated.
Tidal prism	The volume of water within an estuary between the level of high and low tide, typically taken for mean spring tides.
Tide	Periodic rising and falling of large bodies of water resulting from the gravitational attraction of the moon and sun acting on the rotating earth.
Topography	Configuration of a surface including its relief and the position of its natural and man-made features.
Transgression	The landward movement of the shoreline in response to a rise in relative sea level.
Updrift	Direction opposite to the predominant movement of longshore transport.
VMCA	Voluntary Marine Conservation Areas. A statutory designation to protect the marine conservation importance of a site and to provide a focus for liaison, co-operation and education for a sustainable marine environment.
Water table	The upper surface of groundwater; below this level, the soil is saturated with water.
WFD	Water Framework Directive. European legislation which seeks to improve the quality of both freshwater and coastal water bodies.
Wave direction	Direction from which a wave approaches.
Wave refraction	Process by which the direction of approach of a wave changes as it moves into shallow water.
WPM	With Present Management. The WPM scenario essentially describes the current regime of management which exists for a given frontage. WPM scenario assumes that defences will be maintained in their present position and other management practices, e.g. beach re-nourishment, will continue as at present.

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Royal Haskoning acknowledges the work undertaken through Futurecoast and SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study (2004), contents from which have been used in preparing Appendix C.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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## CONTENTS

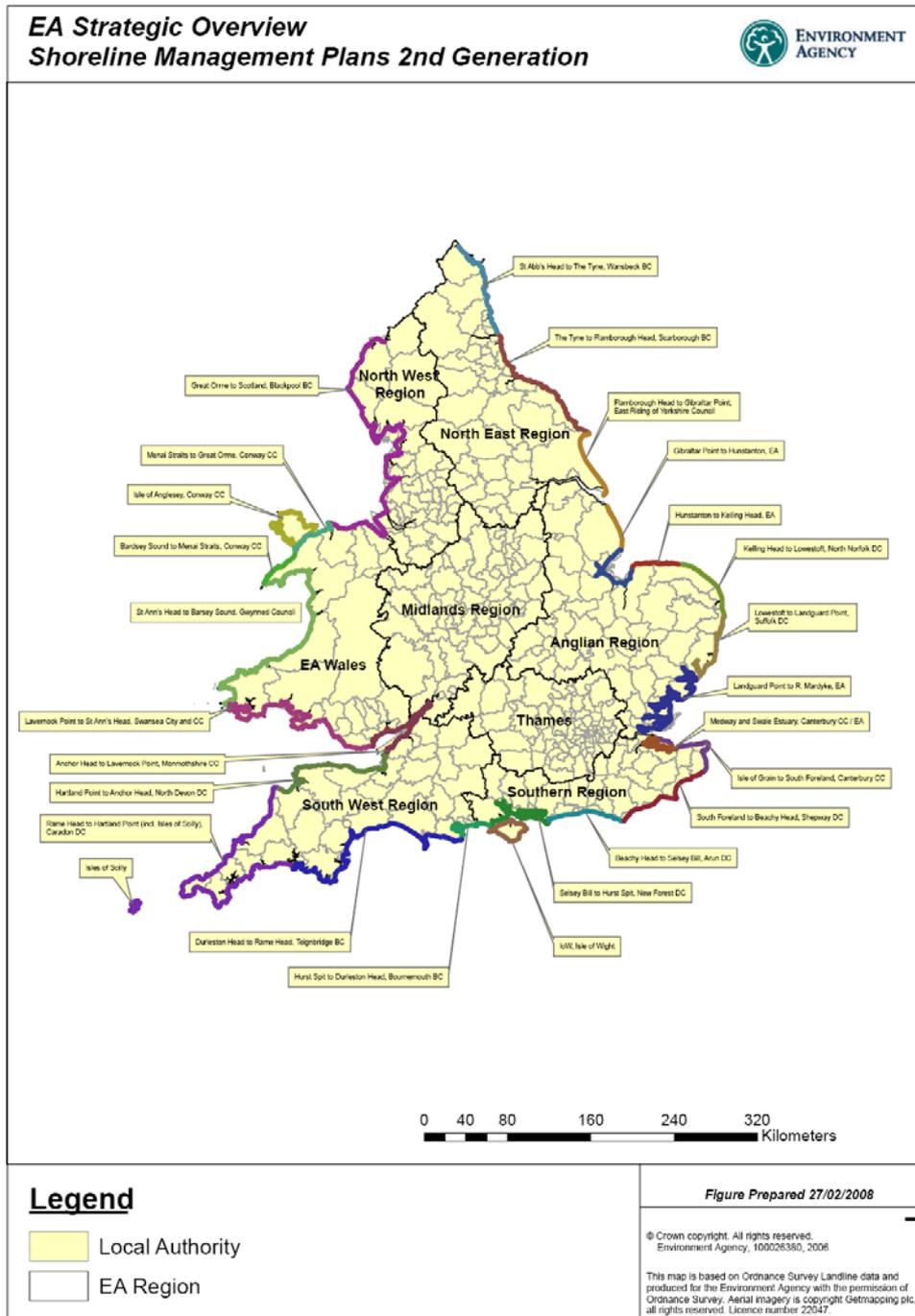
	Page
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The Shoreline Management Plan	1
1.1.1 SMP Principles	2
1.1.2 SMP Process Objectives	3
1.1.3 Key Principles	4
1.1.4 Policies	4
1.2 Structure of the SMP	6
1.2.1 SMP Report Structure	6
1.2.2 The Supporting Appendices	7
1.2.3 GIS and Databases	8
1.3 The Plan Development Process	8
1.3.1 The Need for Revision	8
1.3.2 Review and Development Procedure	9
1.3.3 Reasons for not including a summary	10



# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Shoreline Management Plan

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. In doing so, a SMP is a high-level document that forms an important part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strategy for flood and coastal defence (Defra, 2001). Locations of the SMP's across the country are shown in Figure 1.1.

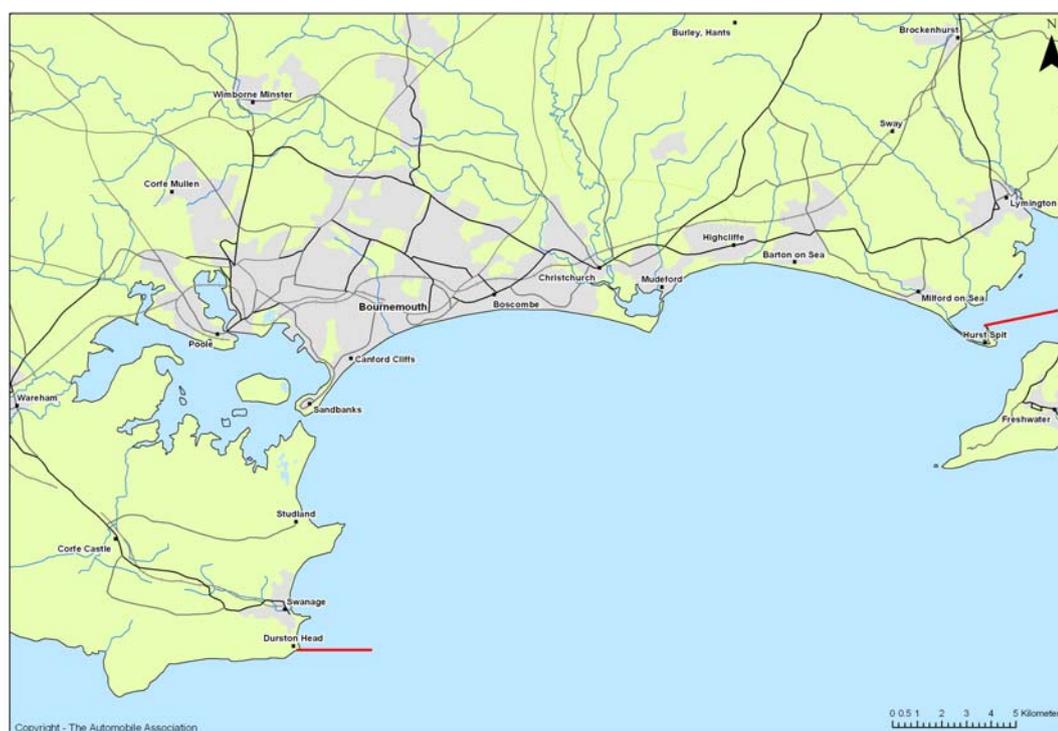


**Figure 1.1: Environment Agency Strategic Overview SMP's 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation**  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/who/cgsm2.pdf>

The plan provides both a broad scale assessment of these risks but also quite specific advice to operating authorities in their management of defences. Through this and through the identification of issues covering a wide spectrum of coastal interests, the SMP supports the Government's aims, as set out in Defra's strategy "Making Space for Water" (Defra 2005):

- To reduce the threat of flooding and coastal erosion to people and their property; and
- To deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit, consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles.

This SMP2 document, developed on behalf of Bournemouth Borough Council and supporting Client Steering Group (CSG), sets out the results of the first revision to the original SMP for the area of coast extending from Hurst Spit to Durlston Head (Figure 1.1). This SMP2 collates information from the original SMP for sub-cell 5f and subsequent strategies and studies.



**Figure 1.2: SMP Coastline from Hurst Spit to Durlston Head**

### 1.1.1 SMP Principles

The SMP is a non-statutory policy document for coastal defence management planning. It takes account of other existing planning initiatives and legislative requirements, and is intended to inform wider strategic planning. It does not set policy for anything other than coastal defence management. However, from this perspective, it aims to provide the context to, and consequence of, management decisions in other sectors of coastal management. Following the adoption of the SMP, the operating authorities develop strategy studies which identify the nature and type of works required for implementation which then lead to the scheme delivery (the design, construction and maintenance of the defences).

The SMP promotes management policies for a coastline into the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century that achieve long-term objectives without committing to unsustainable defence. It is, however, recognised that due to present day objectives and acceptance, wholesale changes to existing management practices may not be appropriate in the very short-term. Consequently, the SMP provides a timeline for objectives, policy and management changes; i.e. a 'route map' for decision makers to move from the present situation towards the future.

The first SMP for Poole and Christchurch Bays was completed in 1999 and worked from west to east along the coast. Since that time, more detailed strategy studies have been undertaken over large sections of the coastline and these, together with academic research and monitoring by the responsible authorities, have improved our understanding of how the coast behaves. In addition many lessons have been learnt with respect to how the SMP should be conducted and indeed how we should be viewing the management of the shoreline. Defra (2001, 2003) undertook a review of the results from SMP1, considering their strengths and weaknesses. This has led to revised guidance. Some of this guidance is targeted at achieving greater consistency in the assessments and presentation of the plans, but there are more fundamental issues that have been identified, which this and other SMP2s must address.

One significant issue is the inappropriateness of certain policies which, when tested in more detail with a view to being implemented, may be found to be unacceptable or impossible to justify; either in terms of economics or from a perspective of what communities need from the coast. It is, therefore, important that the SMP must be realistic given known legislation and constraints. There will be no value in a long-term plan which has policies driven by short-term politics or works that prove to be detrimental when considered several decades into the future.

Equally, the plan must also remain flexible enough to adapt to changes in legislation, politics and social attitudes. The plan, therefore, considers objectives, policy setting and management requirements for 3 main epochs; from the present day, medium term and long term, corresponding broadly to time periods of 0 to 20 years, 20 to 50 years and 50 to 100 years respectively. There is a need to have a long-term sustainable vision, which may change with time, but the SMP must demonstrate that defence decisions made today are not detrimental to achievement of that vision.

This plan covers an area of significant environmental value, but also has a strong history of human settlement and present use. These uses and interests are not inherently opposed. In reality it is the natural attraction combined with the historical coastal use, which gives this area its distinct and considerable value to man in the present day. While individual core objectives or aims may, therefore, be set, and indeed are set, with respect to each specific aspect of the area, the aim of the SMP2 must be to develop policy where, as far as possible, these specific objectives are not set in conflict. The underlying principle for the development of the plan has been to consider the specific circumstances of the differing sections of the coast and through this understanding, attempt to deliver the greatest benefit to the totality of coastal communities in an area.

### 1.1.2 SMP Process Objectives

The objectives of the SMP process (as distinct from the objectives for management of the coast) are as follows:

- To provide an understanding of the coast, its behaviour and its values;
- To define, in general terms, the risks to people and to the developed, natural and historic environment within the SMP area over the next century;
- To identify the likely consequence of different management approaches and from this;
- To identify the preferred policies for managing those risks or creating opportunity for sustainable management;
- To examine the consequences of implementing the preferred policies in terms of the objectives for management;
- To set out procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the SMP policies;
- To inform others so that future land use and development of the shoreline can take due account of the risks and preferred SMP policies; and
- To comply with international and national nature conservation legislation and biodiversity obligations.

### 1.1.3 Key Principles

The following list of principles reflects the aspirations of all stakeholders. It will be used together with stakeholder objectives identified for each area of the coast and will aid policy development and identification of specific objectives. These objectives have been developed by consulting the CSG, Elected Members Forum (EMF) and key stakeholders, and are presented as aggregated objectives for each area. It is important to note that these come from the values that stakeholders place on the issues and features in each area. Some of these objectives therefore conflict with others. Because of this, the SMP will not be able to achieve all of these objectives. It should be noted that these principles have been set out in no particular order.

- To avoid the loss of life through flooding;
- To manage the risk to people's homes from flooding and erosion;
- To protect the local economy;
- To contribute to a sustainable and integrated approach to land use planning;
- To support adaptation by the local coastal communities;
- To avoid damage to and enhance the natural heritage and historic environment where practicable;
- To support the historic environment and cultural heritage where possible;
- To maintain and improve landscape designations and features;
- To reduce reliance on defence.

### 1.1.4 Policies

The generic shoreline management policies considered are those defined by Defra; they are represented by the statements:

- **No Active Intervention (NAI):** a decision not to invest in providing or maintaining defences or natural coastline.
- **Hold the Line (HTL):** maintain or upgrade the level of protection provided by defences or natural coastline.
- **Managed Realignment (MR):** manage the coastal processes to realign the 'natural' coastline configuration, either seaward or landward, in order to create a future sustainable shoreline position.

- **Advance the Line (ATL):** build new defences seaward of the existing defence line where significant land reclamation is considered.

Further information to clarify these policies is provided below:

### **No Active Intervention**

The policy of NAI has developed from two distinct sets of circumstances. In the first, the SMP has identified the need for the coast to be allowed to develop naturally. Typically, it may be that erosion of a frontage is providing sediment to other sections of the coast and therefore, it may be important that the coast is allowed to continue to erode if sustainable intervention is to be achieved elsewhere. Where this or some similar condition applies, this is discussed in the SMP. The other situation where the policy of NAI is defined may arise, is where it is unlikely that operating authorities would provide funding for defence. It may be that works have a benefit/cost ratio which is not high enough, or there may not be priority funding. Where appropriate, the SMP introduces caveats to make this distinction. The SMP has identified that privately funded works may still be permissible, however, there may be conditions associated with this such that private works do not result in negative impacts on other interests.

### **Hold the Line**

The intent of this policy is to maintain defence protection to important assets or interests at the coast. This does not necessarily mean that the existing defences would be maintained in exactly the same form as they are at present. There may be a need to adjust the local alignment in the future or to replace, or add, structures. In this way, constructing cross shore or shore linked structures, such as groynes or breakwaters, may be the approach adopted in the future under this policy, in specific cases. The proposed policy therefore sets the intent to maintain defence of the important features in an appropriate manner. In areas where HTL has been recommended, it is possible that funding may not be forthcoming from the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) budget, the main source of Government funding. The SMP has highlighted this and also identified what additional opportunities and benefits may be gained from a HTL policy. Caveats are made in these circumstances highlighting the need for collaborative funding to achieve the proposed management plan. It may be difficult to deliver the HTL policy if neither Government nor alternative funding can be secured.

### **Managed Realignment**

This policy may arise from a series of different circumstances and objectives. The ethos of this policy is that management of the shoreline would be improved by either allowing for and/or creating the conditions for the coast to realign. A very obvious example of this is in moving a linear flood defence back from the active coastal zone, providing a more secure position for such a defence while the shoreline re-adjusts. Other examples are where intervention at the coast may be less onerous if the coast is allowed to retreat before intervention is undertaken. This may, for example, create the opportunity to retain a beach in front of a set back hard defence. A further example of MR is in considering how adjacent policy units function together. For example there could be a situation where in one unit there is a HTL policy and by implementing this, the coast in the adjacent unit is allowed to function more naturally. In summary, MR is used where there is a need for continued intervention either locally or more remotely, so as to achieve a specific outcome.

### **Advance the line:**

An ATL policy may be adopted where advancement of the shoreline would assist in creating a more robust defensive position and provide additional opportunity for

increased intertidal width and/or land reclaim. Advancement of the line may not necessarily require the construction of structures seaward of the existing shoreline. Examples include the construction of tidal barriers or outer harbour walls where this provides a more sustainable solution based on the objectives and core values of a given community or settlement. Alternatively, advancing the line can be used in order to introduce variation into the plan shape of a coastal frontage and encourage the accumulation of sediment and promote sustainable management of the intertidal width.

This defines the level of detail required by the SMP. However, in developing these generic policies there is also a basic requirement to state the intent of the policy such that it is the intent, not the definitions given above, that drive future management.

## 1.2 Structure of the SMP

The preferred plan and policies presented in this SMP are the result of collating and interpreting information from all the available studies and assessments of how the coast behaves physically. There is, therefore, a need to draw these threads together to provide clarity for different readerships. To this end, the documentation to communicate and support the plan is provided in a number of parts. At the broadest level these are divided into two; the SMP itself, and a series of supporting appendices. In addition, information is collated in a database linked to a geographical information system (GIS), allowing information to be taken forward in implementing the plan for future users.

### 1.2.1 SMP Report Structure

This document provides the plan for the future and the policies required for this plan to be implemented. This is intended for general readership and is the main tool for communicating the intention of future management. Whilst the justification for decisions is presented, it does not provide all of the information behind the recommendations, this being contained in other documents. The plan is presented in seven parts:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Section 1 | Gives details on the principles, aims, structure and background to the development of the plan.   |
| Section 2 | Provides details of how the SMP meets the requirements of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).  |
| Section 3 | Presents the basis for development of the Plan, providing a broad overview of the Plan area, describing the concepts of sustainable policy and providing an understanding of the constraints and limitations on adopting certain policies.  |
| Section 4 | It has been frequently stated that there is as much value in the thought process of developing the SMP as there is in the actual policies themselves. This section, therefore, aims to lead the reader through this process. The section starts with a discussion of large segments of the coast (called Policy Development Zones; PDZs). Within these zones the coast is described and the way in which the coast might behave is explained if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A) no further defence work was undertaken (the NAI scenario);</li><li>• B) present management is continued into the future (the WPM scenario).</li></ul> |

These are defined as the two baseline scenarios in undertaking the review. Consideration of these scenarios develops an understanding of the pressures which may develop on the coast under different approaches to management. It allows an assessment to be made of whether, under each scenario, objectives are or are not achieved.

From this assessment, alternative approaches or scenarios are examined and from this the preferred Plan is developed. To achieve this Plan individual policies for sections of the coast are derived (Policy Units; PU). These units are finally grouped into areas of management (Management Areas; MA), pulling together policy units which have a basic interdependency.

For each MA, statements are prepared setting out a summary of the intent, the necessary actions over different time scales, and the impacts of the preferred policies. Starting from an initial four PDZ's, the coast is defined by fifty three PU's which are drawn together as fifteen MA's.

- Section 5 Brings together the overall plan, highlighting important issues in relation to the future management of the coast.
- Section 6 Provides a brief summary of policies. It is appreciated that many readers will focus upon the local conclusions of the SMP. However, it is important to recognise that the SMP is produced for the coast as a whole, considering issues beyond specific locations. Therefore, this summary should be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as reported and developed in Section 4 and supported by information in the Appendices.
- Section 7 Presents the Action Plan providing a programme for future activities which are required to progress the Plan between now and its next review in 5 to 10 years time. A summary of this action plan for each MA is presented in Section 4 within the MA statements.

### 1.2.2 The Supporting Appendices

The accompanying documents provide all of the information required to support the Plan. This is to ensure that there is clarity in the decision-making process and that the rationale behind the policies being promoted is both transparent and auditable. This information is largely of a technical nature and is provided in thirteen Appendices:

- A. SMP Development: This reports the history of development of the SMP, describing more fully the plan and policy decision-making process.
- B. Stakeholder Engagement: Details of the stakeholder involvement process are provided here, together with information arising from the consultation process.
- C. Baseline Process Understanding: Includes baseline process report, defence assessment, NAI and WPM assessments and summarises data used in assessments.
- D. Natural and Built Environment Baseline (Thematic Review): This report identifies the environmental features (human, natural, historical and landscape) in terms of their significance and how these need to be accommodated by the SMP.

- E. Issues and Objective Evaluation: Provides information on the issues and objectives identified as part of the Plan development.
- F. Strategic Environmental Assessment: Provides a systematic appraisal of the potential environmental consequences of high-level decision-making.
- G. Scenario Testing: Presents the policy assessment and appraisal of objective achievement for the No Active Intervention scenario and the Preferred Plan.
- H. Economic Appraisal: Presents the economic analysis undertaken in support of the Preferred Plan.
- I. Estuary Assessment: Examines both the requirement and geographical extent to which estuaries are included within the SMP2 process.
- J. Habitat Regulation Assessment – Appropriate Assessment: Sets out the support information for an AA of the SMP.
- K. The Metadatabase, GIS and Bibliographic Database is provided to the operating authorities on CD. This will be provided with the final SMP.
- L. Water Framework Directive (WFD): Presents the assessment as developed by the Environment Agency with respect to the SMP policies.
- M. Review of Coastal Processes and Associated Risks at Hengistbury Head.

### 1.2.3 GIS and Databases

The SMP2 provides a future management framework. It is accepted that our understanding of the coast can be improved, addressing the many areas of uncertainty that we are presently confronted with. There will also be changing circumstances not only as the coast evolves but as our use of the coast changes. During the development of the SMP, information on issues, on processes and our assumptions with respect to different aspects, such as the condition of defences or erosion rates, have been recorded.

This information is held within databases linked through to a GIS. This system is provided in association with the actual plan so that, as new information emerges, this may be used to update the management system. The intent is two-fold. First, that information is recorded and may be compared with our existing knowledge such that better informed coastal management decisions can be made. Second, when SMP3 is commissioned, information is readily available to this review process.

One important feature of this information is in the responses and issues which were raised during the consultation process. This data is recorded in the issues, features and objectives database used for developing and appraising policy. Management of this information will help those managing the coast in the future to identify issues at a local scale, ensuring that views can be readily identified during the actual implementation of the Plan. The degree of effort all consulted have put in to developing the Plan is fully appreciated. The storage of issues information should help ensure that people's concerns are recognised in the future.

## 1.3 The Plan Development Process

### 1.3.1 The Need for Revision

The original SMP1 for sub-cell 5f was completed in 1999. It has always been recognised that part of the SMP process is that plans should be reviewed on a regular basis. The review undertaken through SMP2 has been part of this process.

Very much initiated by the findings of the SMP1, a considerable effort has been put in place over the last three years to ensure that we have been in a better position to make

judgements with respect to the coast. There have also been changes in legislation and guidance. In this first revision, therefore, the development of the Plan has been able to draw upon and has had to take account of:

- Latest studies and modelling undertaken since the last SMP such as that provided by Futurecoast and the SCOPAC Sediment Transport Study (2004);
- Issues identified by most recent defence planning (i.e. the several coastal defence strategy plans which have now been produced to cover most of the SMP area between Hurst Spit and Durlston Head);
- Changes in legislation (e.g. the EU Directives, guidance with respect to the Water Framework Directive (WFD), PPS25);
- Changes in national flood and coastal defence planning requirements (e.g. the need to consider 100 year timescales in future planning, modifications to economic evaluation criteria etc.);
- Improved information from strategic flood risk assessments; and
- The emerging thinking on Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

The period between the development of SMP1 and SMP2 has, therefore, been one of quite rapid change. With the manner in which the SMP2 has now been organised and the further understanding that has been developed, shoreline management has to be seen as an ongoing process providing a platform for more local decision making. It is anticipated that subsequent reviews may be undertaken in 10 years time. This timescale would ultimately be driven by the scale of change on the coast itself.

### 1.3.2 Review and Development Procedure

The CSG for this sub-cell comprises representatives from the six operating authorities (voting members) and five associate partners (non-voting members). The operating authorities include; Bournemouth Borough Council (Lead Authority), New Forest District Council, Christchurch Borough Council, Borough of Poole, Purbeck District Council and the Environment Agency. The associate partners include Natural England, National Trust, Dorset County Council, Hampshire County Council and Poole Harbour Commissioners. In addition to the above organizations, English Heritage has also contributed through the CSG. Together with Royal Haskoning, the CSG have managed the necessary stages of the SMP2 process to produce this management plan.

The SMP development process has sought involvement from over 150 organisations or individuals, with principal periods of consultation being conducted during the Scoping Report (December 2007 and July 2008) and Spring 2009, with consultation on the draft Plan being undertaken over the period between November 2009 and February 2011.

The main activities in producing the SMP have been:

- Development and analysis of issues and objectives for various locations, assets and themes;
- Thematic reviews, reporting upon human, historic and natural environmental features and issues, evaluating these to determine relative values of the coast;
- Analysis of coastal processes and coastal evolution for baseline cases of not defending and continuing to defend as at present;
- Agreement of objectives with the CSG, EMF and through public consultation, and from this determining possible policy scenarios;
- Development of policy scenarios which consider different approaches to future shoreline management;

- Examination of the coastal evolution in response to these scenarios and assessment of the implications for the human, historic and natural environment; and
- Determination of the preferred plan and policies through review with the CSG, prior to compiling the SMP draft document.

This will be followed by:

- Consultation on the proposed plan and policies;
- Consideration of responses and finalising the SMP; and
- Dissemination of the findings and policy contained within the Plan
- The development of an action plan to take forward in the future strategy studies.

### 1.3.3 Reasons for not including a summary

The SMP2 does not contain an executive summary because the development of the Plan, described above, has been a long complex process, which proceeds throughout the document. The CSG agreed that a summary could not do justice to the detail considered in the process. Additionally, a summary may provoke controversy by not referring to all the factors and issues considered in developing the preferred policies.