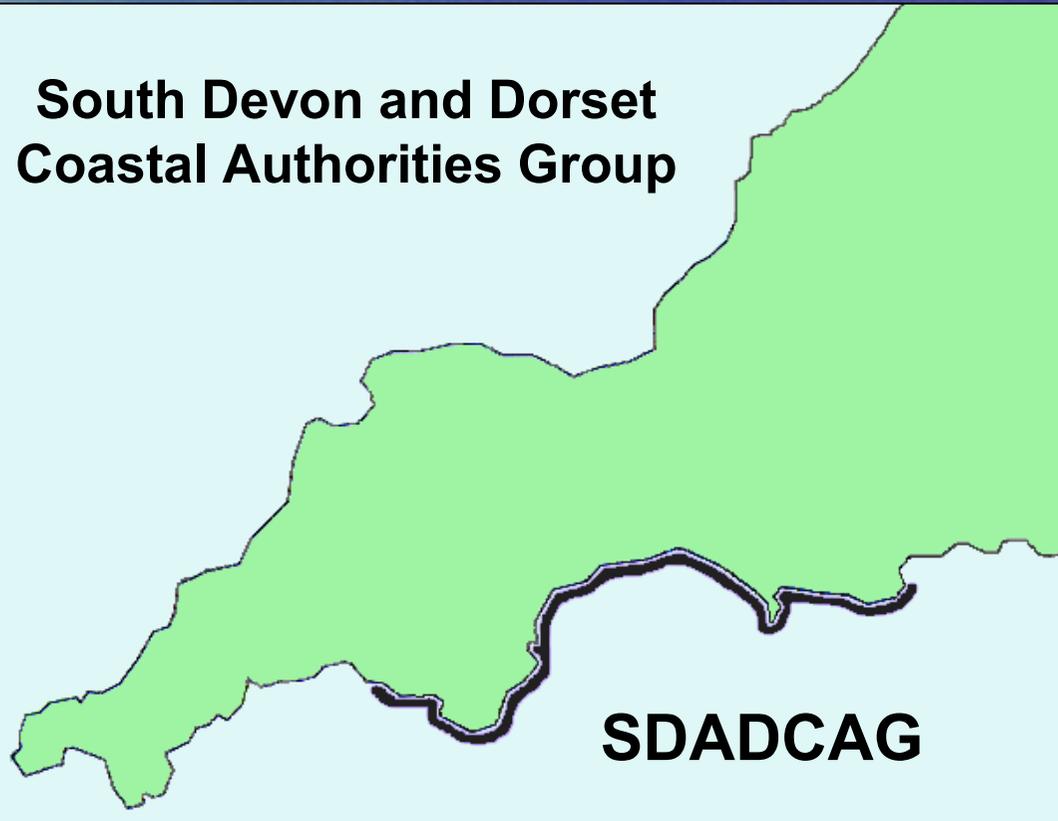


SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (SMP2)

**South Devon and Dorset
Coastal Authorities Group**



SDADCAG

www.sdadcag.org

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

BACKGROUND TO SMP DEVELOPMENT

- Guidance on preparing Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) published in 1995.
- First round of SMPs (now known as SMP1s), covering the coastline of England and Wales, were completed by the year 2000.

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WHAT IS AN SMP?

An SMP is a non-statutory document that offers guidance at a strategic level, designed to assist coastal defence decision making for a particular length of coastline.

It aims to identify sustainable coastal defence options, taking account of the influence and needs of the natural, human and built Environment.

In doing so, it forms part of the Government's strategy for managing flooding and coastal erosion.

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Government Strategy Aims

The strategy aims to manage risks by using a range of methods which reflect both national and local priorities, to:

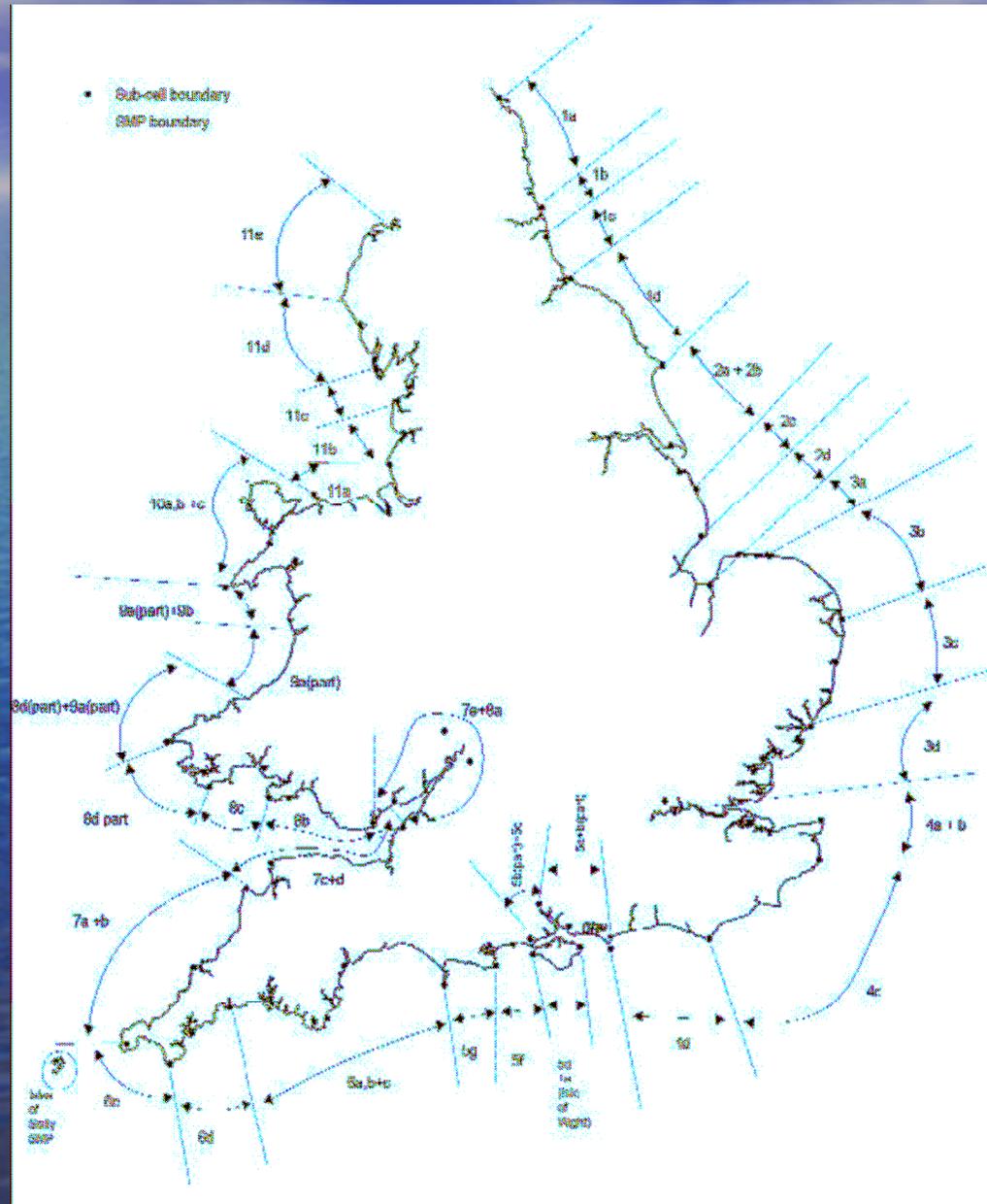
- Reduce the risk of flooding and erosion to people and their property; and
- Benefit the environment, society and the economy as far as possible, in line with the Government's sustainable development principles.

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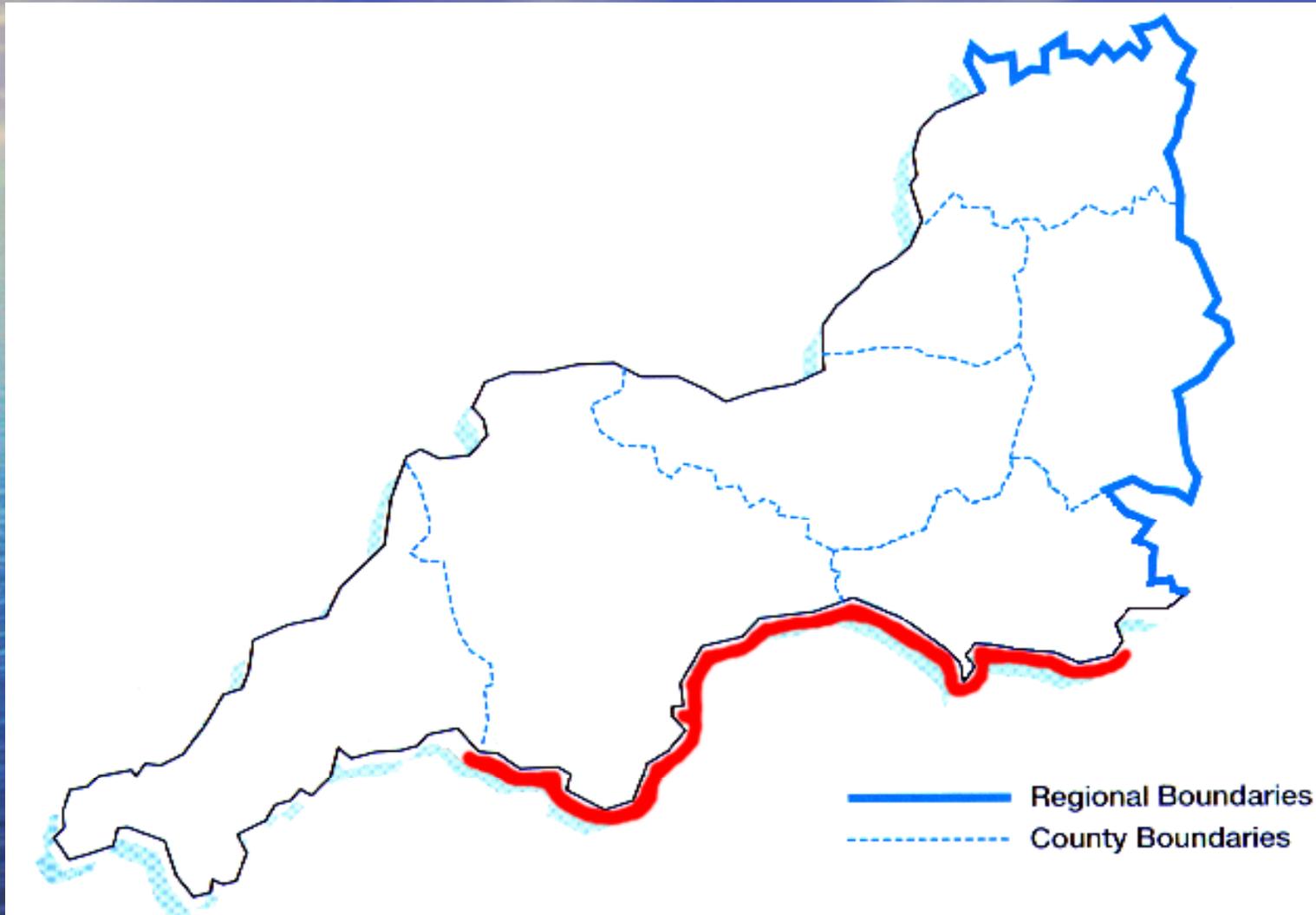
SMP BOUNDARIES

- SMP1s were based on sediment cells, boundaries of which defined lengths of coastline within which the movement of sand and shingle is largely self contained.
- Eleven major sediment cells were identified around the coastline of England and Wales, and these further sub-divided into sub-cells for management purposes.

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POLICY OPTIONS

For designated coastal management units, one of four policy options were recommended for SMP1, these being:

- Hold the line
- Advance the line
- Managed retreat
- Do nothing

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Dorset and South Devon SMP1s

- Durlston Head to Portland Bill (completed October 1998)
- Portland Bill to Rame Head (completed June 1998)

Designed to be living (working) documents, and as such to be reviewed and updated at appropriate intervals to include up-to-date information, reflect changes in policy guidance and changing circumstances.

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With the SMP1s being a new initiative, much has been learnt since the original guidance was published in 1995.

Although considered excellent documents, it was considered that they needed:

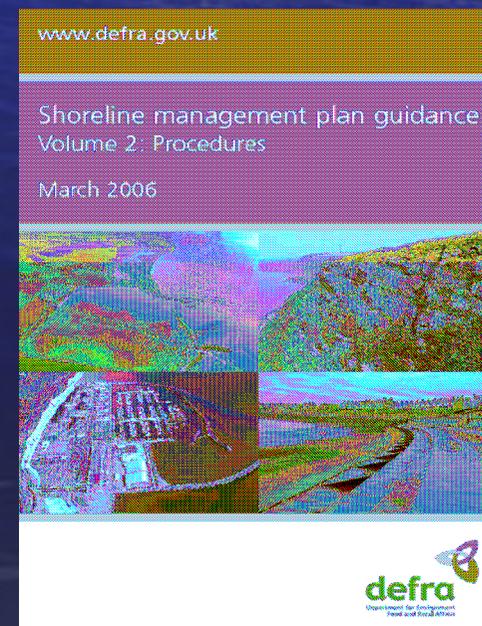
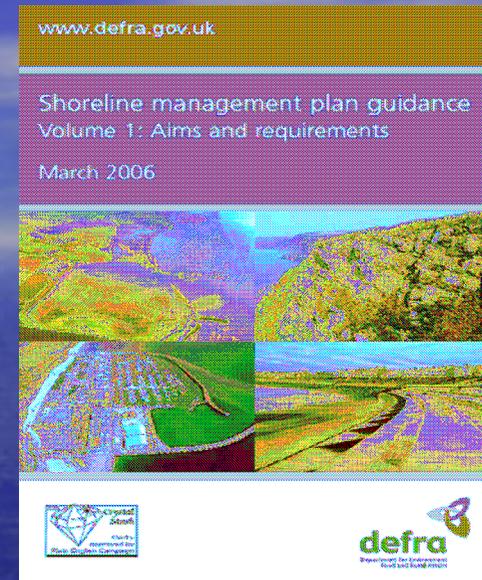
- More emphasis on improved links with the planning system;
- More consideration of effects on the environment; and
- Longer-term coastal policies.

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FIRST SMP REVIEW

To assist in the review process, DEFRA have prepared guidance for second generation SMPs (designated SMP2s). This guidance, published in March 2006, comes in two volumes:

- Volume 1: this defines an SMP and what it should include.
- Volume 2: this provides guidance on how to produce an SMP.



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A guiding principle for SMP2s is that they should seek to promote 'sustainable shoreline management policies' for a coastline into the 22nd century considering various timescales.

It is recommended that these timescales should corresponded broadly, but not rigidly, to time periods (epochs) 0 to 20 years (short term), 20 to 50 years (medium term) and 50 to 100 years (long term).

The recommended SMP2 policies to achieve management objectives are:

- Hold the existing defence line; [SMP1 Hold the Line]
- Advance the existing defence line; [SMP1 Advance the Line]
- Managed realignment; [SMP1 Managed Retreat] and
- No active intervention. [SMP1 Do Nothing]

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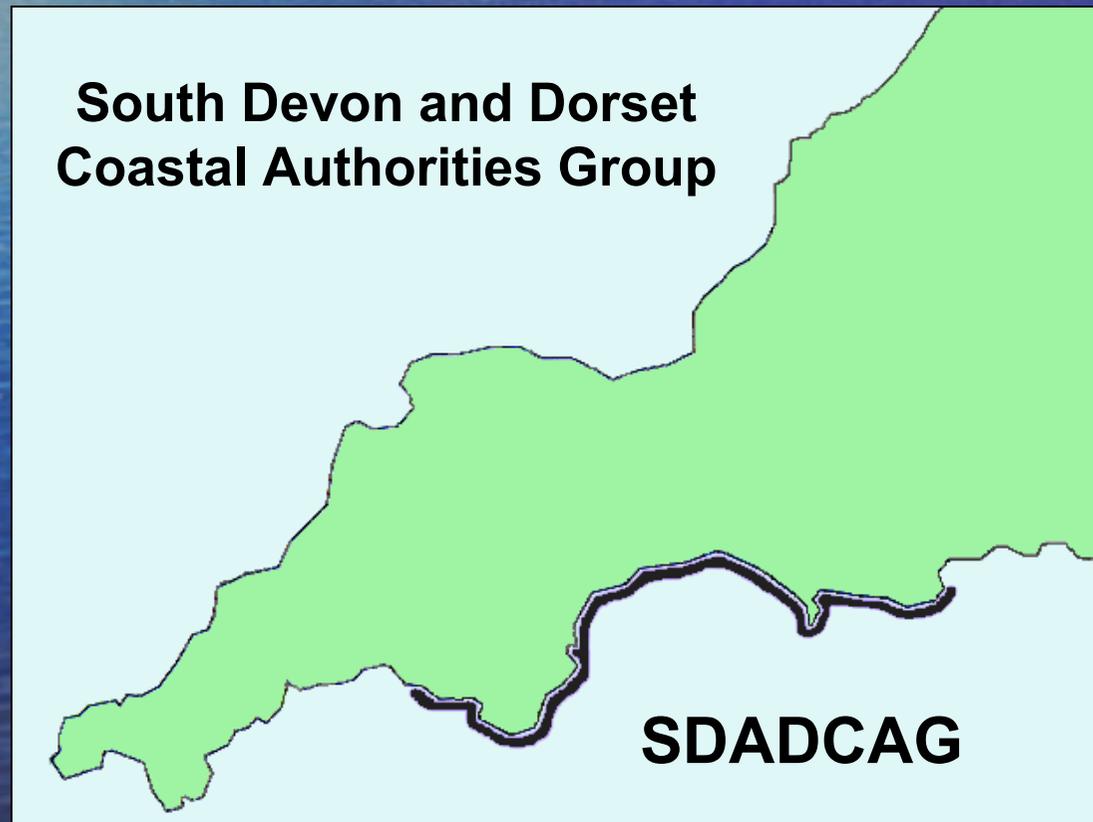
SOUTH DEVON AND DORSET SMP

A requirement also of the SMP reviews was to consider the appropriateness of existing SMP boundaries.

The new guidance recommended that, due to a potential linkage between Weymouth Bay and Lyme Bay across Chesil Beach, the coastal group partners should consider merging the two SMPs for South Devon and Dorset. This has been agreed.

This SMP2 will thus extend from Durlston Head (Purbeck DC) to Rame Head (Caradon DC), a distance of approximately 308 km.

As a consequence the name of the Lyme Bay and South Devon Coastline Group was changed to the South Devon and Dorset Coastal Authorities Group (SDADCAG).



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SOUTH DEVON AND DORSET SMP

The 'lead' authority for this SMP2 will be Teignbridge District Council who, under the auspices of a South Devon and Dorset Coastal Authorities Group (SDADCAG), will manage the review. This coastal group represents the following operating authorities:

- Purbeck District Council
- West Dorset District Council
- Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
- East Devon District Council
- Teignbridge District Council
- Torbay Council
- South Hams District Council
- Plymouth City Council
- Caradon District Council
- Environment Agency South West Region
- Network Rail (although not an operating authority, has coastal maintenance responsibilities in parts of South Devon)

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Grant aid approval for the SMP2 review obtained in May 2006

Review initiated in September 2006 with planned completion in August 2008.

Review process, as recommended by guidance, is to be done in six stages; these being:

Stage 1: Scope the SMP

Stage 2: Assessment to Support Policy Development

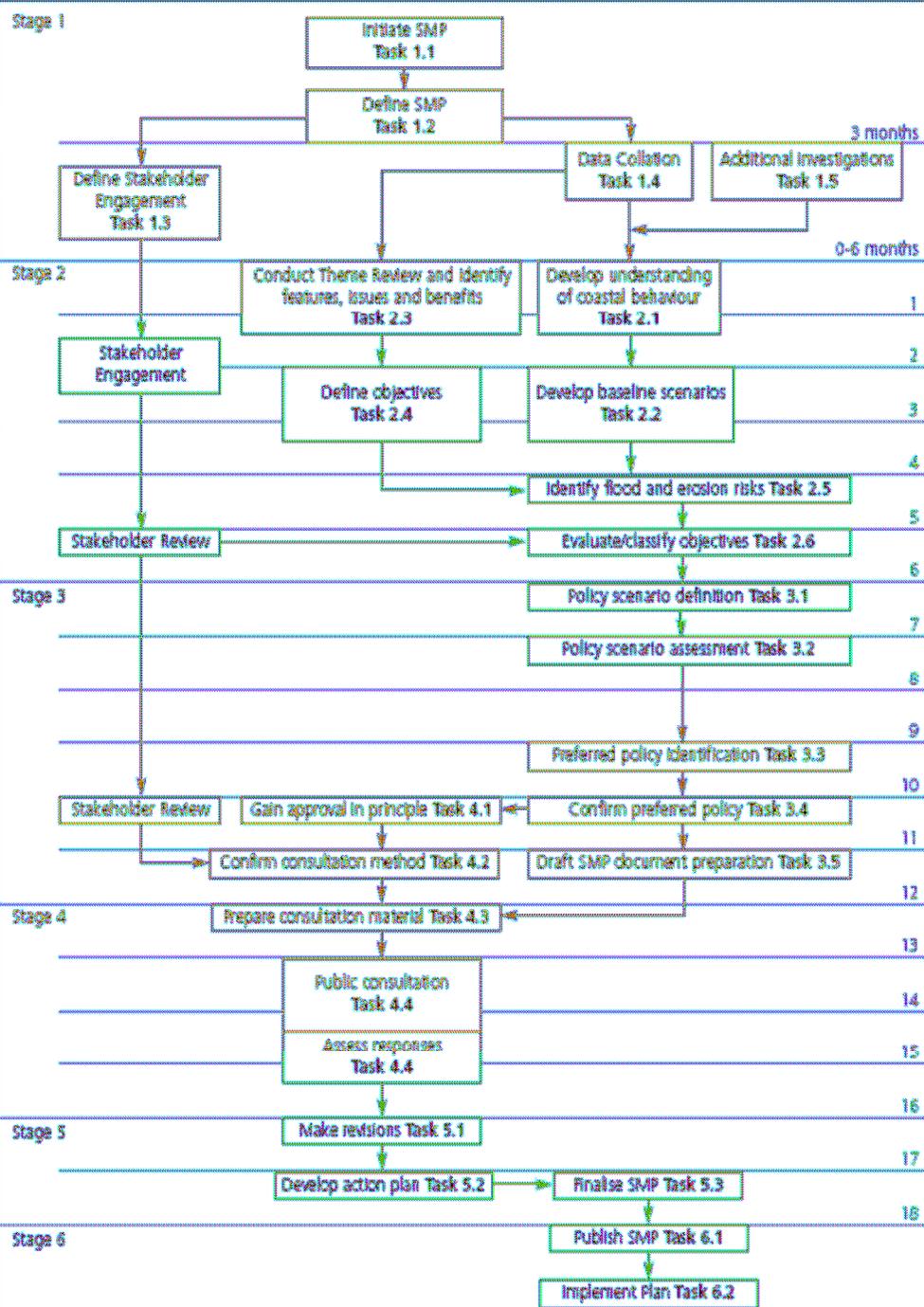
Stage 3: Policy Development

Stage 4: Public Examination

Stage 5: Finalise Plan

Stage 6: Plan Dissemination

Figure 1.1. SMP workflow plan (including task numbers)



SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Currently the SMP2 Review is in the initial 'scoping' Stage 1.

Recommended tasks for which are to:

- Formalise the arrangements for development of the SMP review;
- Define the requirements for the SMP review;
- Define stakeholder engagement;
- Obtain up-to-date accurate and complete datasets upon which to build the SMP;
- Undertake any further studies to provide information necessary for the review of the SMP.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

DEFINE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder involvement is an important part of the SMP process.

It is important at this early scoping stage to identify the stakeholders and to engage them from the start to get 'buy in' to the SMP process.

Therefore, as per the guidance, the following activities are being undertaken at the initial stage:

- Define the stakeholder engagement strategy;
- Identify the stakeholders, their status and contact details; and
- Contact stakeholders and inform them of the SMP process.

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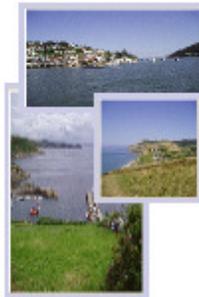
Information Leaflet for Stakeholders and the Public



The coastline

The South-west has a dynamic coastline: uninterrupted coastal processes have created some of its most beautiful and important features. However, erosion and flooding by the sea are also hazards to property on the coast, and lead to demands for natural processes to be modified or prevented by coastal defence works.

Balancing the desire to protect property whilst maintaining the integrity of the natural coast requires creative engineering solutions, and difficult decisions have to be made about where and how to protect.



Shoreline Management Plans (SMP's)

In the mid 1990's Coastal Groups and Local Authorities were encouraged by Central Government to adopt the concept of Shoreline Management Plans, in order to produce sustainable coastal defence policies. In order to achieve this, the shoreline of England and Wales was divided into 11 sediment cells, based on natural coastal process. Each cell was then divided into smaller sub cells, bounded by either headlands or estuaries to create manageable SMP areas.

The objectives of SMPs are to:
Improve our understanding of coastal processes
work in partnership with all interested organisations and the public
Prepare a setting for the long term planning of coastal defences.



Shoreline Management Plans – Review

Over the last 10 years we have made significant progress in understanding and mapping coastal processes through the first generation of SMPs.

Following a review of the strengths and weaknesses of these SMPs and full consultation with the industry, the Government updated their SMP guidance in 2001. They recommended that the 2nd generation SMP's should be appraised over a 100-year horizon, rather than 50 years as previously, offering a really sustainable "vision" for the coast.

In addition, the guidance is much more prescriptive ensuring that stakeholders are fully immersed in the whole production process and that the production of SMP 2 is consistent throughout the country.

So how do you participate?

The inside of this leaflet illustrates the area covered by this shoreline management plan and some of the issues involved.

In order to produce an agreed plan we need to ensure that the following are achieved:

- ⇒ Full stakeholder engagement on issues within the site
- ⇒ The plan is framed around the most current existing relevant data
- ⇒ All opinions and views are registered at an early stage
- ⇒ Stakeholders and the public have all the necessary information they require about the process, at all times

Website for Up to Date Information

www.sdadcag.org

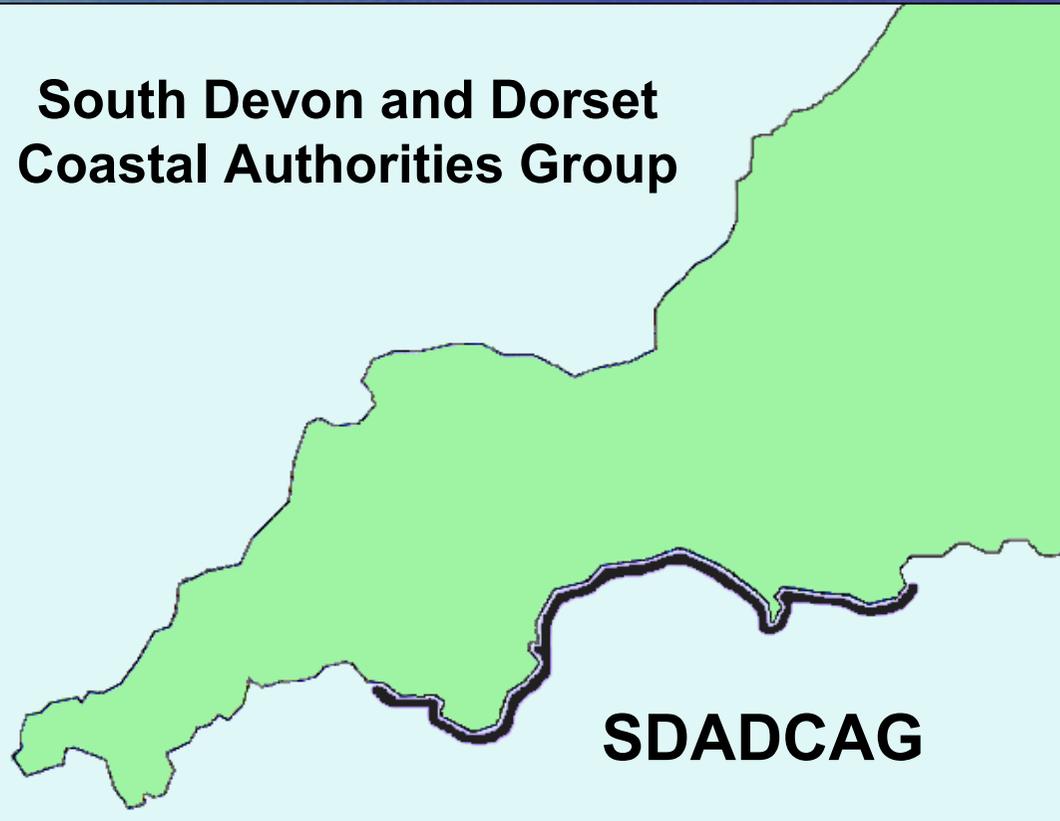
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Key tasks where stakeholders will be involved at various stages throughout the review are:

- Inform them of SMP2 Review and seek information/data (Stage 1)
- Review of defined issues (Stage 2)
- Objective setting (Stage 2)
- Policy scenario definition (Stage 3)
- Preferred policy decision (Stage 3)
- Draft SMP approval in principle (Stage 4)
- Draft SMP consultation (Stage 4)
- Agreement to changes to SMP (Stage 5)
- Feedback to consultees (Stage 5)
- Dissemination (Stage 6)

THE END

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Figure 3: An example framework for choosing policy in policy units

