

EA-NWEST

ANGELA WALTON
NEW PUBLICATION

Wyre Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

The Environment Agency's contribution to Sustainable Development



ENVIRONMENT
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What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are action plans that have been drawn up to help protect the coastline from long-term damage.

They are based on 'sustainable' policy; a balance between society, the environment and the economy. It is a policy aimed at maintaining or improving today's quality of life, without placing a burden on future generations or the natural world.

'Coastal Defence' means protecting the coastline from erosion by sea and protecting low lying ground from flooding by the sea.

SMPs are based on the study of coastal processes - how nature drives the waves, tides and sediments, and how the shoreline responds to these natural influences.

SMPs are living plans for a living coast.

Why do we need SMPs?

Our coast is a living and moving shoreline, which is changing. Weather, wind and tide are continually altering its shape.

The coastline is important. It supports farming, fishing, recreation, tourism and commerce as well as being a haven for wildlife.

How will the Shoreline Management Plans be used?

- To improve our understanding of coastal processes;
- To form partnership with all interested organisations and the public;
- To prepare a setting for the long term planning of coastal defences and associated land use.

SMPs help coastal defence managers to plan ahead. SMPs inform the public on the background and future direction for the management of coastal defence in their local area. They also indicate areas on the coast that are inappropriate for various types of development. When the SMPs are complete they will be adopted by their various partners who will sign a pledge to put their recommendations into practice. The SMPs will then be included in new regional and local development guidance.

What information is collected?

Collecting information and checking its accuracy takes place throughout the consultation process.

It includes data on:

- Coastal Processes - how nature drives the waves, tides and sediment.
- Coastal Defences - where they are and how effective they are in protecting people, land and property.
- Land Use - the type of use such as residential, agricultural, industrial, or recreation and economic value.
- Natural Environment - the kinds of environment, landscape and habitat and their relative importance.

Wyre Estuary Shoreline

Management Plan

This leaflet summarises the content and findings of the Wyre Estuary Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). It explains how to comment on the SMP and who to contact for more information.



The coastline of the Wyre Estuary

The plan covers the shoreline from the boundary of the estuary mouth between Fleetwood and Knott End, to the normal tidal limit at Cartford Bridge. Since the early 19th century artificial coastal defences have been erected over the majority of the 48km of shoreline. Most of these are earth embankments under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency.

The largest area of ungrazed saltmarsh in North West England is situated within this SMP boundary and the whole area is of international and national importance for its bird populations.

Much of the area is protected to help safeguard the habitats where rare plants and animals thrive.

Coastline change In the Wyre Estuary

The Wyre Estuary is constantly changing due to a number of natural influences – principally wind, tides and currents. Human actions have many impacts on bank and channel arrangements, mostly due to artificial reinforcement of boundaries and dredging work.

Coastal Defences

It is not always possible to protect land using natural defences. In many areas along the coastline, artificial defences are necessary to protect low ground or land that is eroding.

SMPs identify flood risk areas and describe the condition of existing coastal defences and any work needed to maintain or upgrade them. They also highlight where work is recommended to provide defences where none presently exist.

The findings of the Wyre Estuary SMP

The SMP divides the shoreline into 12 'Management Units' and sets out the options for future coastal defence on a unit-by-unit basis. In most units the recommended short term option is 'Hold the Line', which means to maintain, improve or rebuild the existing defences. 'Managed Realignment' involves policy to gradually retreat the line of present defences in key areas to allow the creation of new intertidal habitats and flood water storage areas. The map in this leaflet shows the recommendations to be investigated and where feasible, implemented within the next fifty years. The SMP looks forward over the next 50 years and takes account of the possible effects of climate change and sea level rise. The SMP also describes the studies and monitoring needed to improve our knowledge and understanding of the shoreline. Its recommendations will be implemented with a first review of the plan to be targeted in five years time.



What does the SMP include?

The first stage of the SMP identifies the people and organisations with an interest in the estuary and their particular concerns. Information and data used as a basis for the SMPs is then collected and published in the Stage 1 Report. Comments are invited from everyone who has expressed an interest. The second stage builds on all the information and views gathered, and the objectives/targets for good coastal defence practice are set out. A range of options are measured against these objectives for every management unit or section, which then lead to recommendations for each unit.

The SMP also sets out any further study of the coast or the coastal processes needed to fill gaps in our understanding. It includes a programme for monitoring the behaviour of the coastline and sets out a timetable for future reviews of the SMP at approximately five year intervals.

Will SMPs protect me and my property?

Everyone whose land or property is flooded or threatened by the sea wants to be protected. However, coastal defences are costly to build and maintain and they sometimes have damaging effects on the natural environment.

SMPs identify the places that are affected or threatened by flooding or erosion and decide on the long term approach to dealing with these problems.

Will the SMPs help to prevent damage to wildlife?

Many past decisions affecting the coastline were made without consideration of their effects on the wider environment. The SMPs show wildlife site locations and explain the reason for their importance. Future coastal defence works will comply with the findings and recommendations of the SMPs.

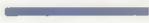
What about global warming and sea level rise?

The SMP takes account of the best present knowledge on the possible effects of global warming, climate change and sea level rise.

How do SMPs fit in with coastal flooding and erosion responsibilities

The Environment Agency and maritime local authorities work together on the flood protection of low lying ground and defending the coastline from erosion by the sea. The Agency has a duty to supervise flood defence matters.

Both the Agency and the maritime local authorities have powers to carry out sea defence works to protect low lying land against flooding by the sea. Maritime local authorities also have additional powers to carry out coast protection works to prevent erosion of the land by the sea.

SHORT TERM (Up to 10 Years)	
	Hold-the-Line
	Managed-realignment
MEDIUM/LONG TERM (10 to 50 Years)	
	Hold-the-Line
	Managed-realignment

Explanation of terms
Hold-the-line To maintain the shoreline in its present position/location.
Managed-realignment To allow the shoreline to relocate landward of its present position.



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The SMP is a living document that will be continuously reviewed and updated at five year intervals. To comment, please contact the Local Authority Department as listed.

LOCAL AUTHORITY CONTACTS

Blackpool Borough Council
PO Box 117, Westgate House,
Squires Gate Lane, Blackpool, FY4 2TS
Contact: Cath Ward
Tel: 01253 476120

Fylde Borough Council
Address: Derby Road, Wesham,
Preston, PR4 3AJ
Contact: Bernie Krawczyk
Tel: 01772 671488

Lancaster City Council
Address: Town Hall, Dalton Square,
Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 1PW
Contact: Mr R. Eckersley
Tel: 01524 582616

Wyre Borough Council
Address: Wyre Civic Centre, Breck Road,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs, FY6 7PU
Contact: Carl Green
Tel: 01253 891000

FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES ON FLOOD DEFENCE

Environment Agency
North West Region Flood Defence (Central Area)
Lutra House, Dodd Way, Walton Summit,
Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX.
Contact: Jonathan Croft
Tel: 01772 339882

Environment Agency
North West Region Flood Defence
PO Box 12, Richard Fairclough House,
Knutsford Road, Warrington, WA4 1HG
Contact: Paul Stainer
Tel: 01925 653999

CONTACTS:

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY NORTH WEST REGIONAL OFFICE
PO Box 12, Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road, Warrington WA4 1HG
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Environment Agency
Ghyll Mount
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Penrith 40 Business Park
Penrith
Cumbria CA11 9BP
Tel: 01768 866 666
Fax: 01768 865 606

CENTRAL AREA - LANCASHIRE
Environment Agency
Lutra House
PO Box 519
South Preston
Lancashire
PR5 8GD
Tel: 01772 339 882
Fax: 01772 627 730

**SOUTH AREA - CHESHIRE,
GREATER MANCHESTER AND MERSEYSIDE**
Environment Agency
Appleton House
430 Birchwood Boulevard
Warrington WA3 7WD
Tel: 01925 840 000
Fax: 01925 852 260



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