

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (SMP) APPROVAL FORM

1. General Information			
Region	Anglian		
SMP title	The Wash - Gibraltar Point to Old Hunstanton	SMP No.	04
Purpose/objective of product			
SMP final report setting out high level management policies for the estuary/coast.			
Key Contacts			
Coastal Group	East Anglia Coastal Group		
Lead Authority	Environment Agency		
Project Manager	Onos Iboje		
Communications Contacts	Alison Hirst - Communications Business Partner (Northern Area) Shona O'Donovan - Communications Business Partner (Central Area) Gemma Mitchell - Coastal Engagement Officer		

2. List of Documents to Support Recommendation for Approval			
Item	Document	File Reference	Comments
1	Approval Form	Item 1_The Wash_Approval Form.doc	This document
2	Location Plan	Item 2_The Wash_Location Plan.pdf	Plan showing stretch of coast covered by this SMP
3a	Memo confirming approval to Region	Item 3a_The Wash_Approval Memo_RD to RFCRM.doc	Memo from Regional Director to Regional Flood and Coastal Risk Manager confirming approval of the SMP
3b	Model Letter for Partner Authorities	Item 3b_The Wash_Model Letter to Partner Authorities	Model letter which can be used to confirm approval of the SMP to Partner Authorities
4	Completion Report	Item 4_The Wash_Lead Authority Completion Report .pdf	Completion report signed by the EA as Lead Authority
5	Natural England (NE) letter	Item 5_The Wash_Natural England Letter.pdf	Natural England letter dated 05 July 2010 re Appropriate Assessment
6	SMP CD	Item 6_The Wash_Final Plan_Aug10	CD containing full version of SMP. (Weblink to final SMP once approved: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/consultations/111545.aspx)
7	Action Plan	Item 7_The Wash_Action Plan_Final.pdf	The Action Plan forms part of the completed SMP
8	Quality Review	Item 8_The Wash_SMP Review.xls	Final version of Quality Review Group (QRG) review and audit trail

3. Consultation and Adoption

Stakeholder consultation and public engagement played an integral role in the development of the shoreline management policy options. The aim of the engagement strategy was to assist in the delivery of a publicly acceptable and practicably deliverable SMP for The Wash coast that considered, wherever possible, wider social and environmental issues in the context of flood and coastal erosion risk.

The SMP was overseen by a **Client Steering Group** (CSG) comprising a range of authorities and organisations:

- Environment Agency *as lead authority*
- East Lindsey District Council
- Boston Borough Council
- South Holland District Council
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Norfolk County Council
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- National Farmers Union. (Also representing Lincolnshire IDBs)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Wash Estuary Strategy Group
- Wash and North Norfolk Coast (EMS) Advisory Group
- Water Management Alliance (King's Lynn Internal drainage Board)
- Royal Haskoning (consultant)

An **Elected Member Forum** (EMF) was established to represent the public. The EMF comprised elected member representatives from client local authorities and members of the EA's Regional Flood Defence Committee. Members were involved from the beginning of the development process, with a view to minimising the risks of producing a document with policy options that were not subsequently approved by the operating authorities. The members were involved through a forum, building trust and understanding with the Client Steering Group. The EMF fully endorses the plan's findings and was instrumental in obtaining Local Authority approvals.

A range of other organisations were represented through the formation of a **Key Stakeholder Group** (KSG). This includes authorities and private bodies with a significant interest in the outcomes from the plan, including those with responsibilities or ownerships that affect the overall management of the shoreline.

The KSG acted as a focal point for discussion and consultation through development of the plan. The membership of the group provided representation of the primary interests within the study area, making sure all interests were considered during the review of issues. This group was involved through meetings and workshops, and provided direct feedback and information to the CSG and EMF. There were around 80 different organisations in the KSG including those with the following interests:

- conservation and wildlife (eg. RSPB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Lincolnshire Badger Group)
- cultural and historic interests (eg. English Heritage, Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire)
- commercial interests (eg. Port of Boston Ltd, Federation of Small Businesses)
- leisure and amenity (eg. British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Ramblers' Association)

The following programme summary identifies significant dates in the SMP development process:

Initial CSG meeting	June 2006
Initial EMF meeting	January 2007
KSG meeting in collaboration with Wash Wide conference	January 2007
Subsequent CSG and EMF meetings	thro' 2007 & 2008
Public Awareness meetings (5 locations in the area)	March 2008
KSG meeting	August 2009
Public Consultation (over 3 months)	Oct 2009 to Jan 2010
CSG and EMF formal agreement to SMP	26 March 2010
Public dissemination	planned for late 2010

Appendix B of the SMP sets out the stakeholder engagement process in detail. This Appendix forms part of the SMP documentation that will be held on the SMP website along with all the other reports, and is therefore available for public scrutiny.

Adoption Dates	Lincolnshire County Council	1 June 2010
	South Holland District Council	23 June 2010
	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	24 June 2010
	Boston Borough Council	26 July 2010
	Norfolk County Council	9 August 2010
	East Lindsey District Council	5 October 2010
	EA Anglian (Northern) RFDC	16 July 2010
	EA Anglian (Central) RFDC	22 July 2010
Environment Agency Quality Review start date		21 October 2009
Recommendation for approval		9 November 2010

4. Quality and Environmental Criteria

Statement of Compliance with Guidance

This SMP was issued as a draft for consultation in late 2009 and was initially reviewed at this stage by the EA's Quality Review Group (QRG). The review process was completed in October 2010, at which stage it was concluded that the plan is generally in line with the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Guidance Note. Policy appraisal techniques have been satisfactorily applied and the plan sets out sustainable policy options for the three prescribed epochs (short, medium, long term) based upon technical, environment, economic and social assessments. The plan also sets out the findings in the required format. Procedures have been followed for:

- developing an overall understanding of the coast;
- identifying and analysing problems;
- engaging stakeholders at appropriate stages;
- developing policy in line with current guidance; and
- making sure the SMP meets the principles of sustainable development.

The attached Completion Report (Item 4) addresses the questions set out in the SMP Guidance Note, and has been completed by the EA as lead authority.

Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A stand-alone Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report and Addendum are

provided at Appendix L. The SEA is compliant.

Water Framework Directive Assessment

A stand-alone Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment has been undertaken in line with published guidance, this is at Appendix K. The SMP is in line with WFD considerations.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

As part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken for this SMP, an Appropriate Assessment was carried out. Given the likely timing of the possible impacts upon the designated sites and the life-span of the SMP, Natural England support the conclusion that the SMP will have no adverse effect upon the integrity of the site. It was concluded that due to the genuine uncertainties surrounding coastal squeeze and managed realignment issues, further decisions over the detail of Habitats Regulations process are best left until SMP3. Natural England's letter of 05 July 2010 (Item 5) explains their conclusion more fully.

Action Plan

The Action Plan sets out the actions required to implement the plan, and this will also be used to inform the CLG and Defra of any requirements relating to Local Authority performance (eg. National Indicator 189 or any successor). A key facet of the Action Plan has been to ensure that each action is achievable and is transferred to the Medium Term Plan (MTP) as appropriate.

The current Action Plan is a live document which will be regularly monitored by the East Anglia Coastal Group (EACG) and updated as required. Any updates will be published in place of the current Action Plan and held on the EACG SMP website alongside the other SMP documents.

Erosion Mapping

Coastal erosion risk information that takes account of updated Climate Change data (UK Climate Projections UKCP09) will be available over the next year and will need to be integrated into all the SMPs. The National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM) project team will produce a comparison report for each SMP to highlight whether there are any changes to the preferred policy options as a result of the more recent climate data being used. It will be necessary for the coastal group to consider the need for this information to be incorporated in this SMP, and appropriate activities to be identified in the updated Action Plan.

Outstanding Issues

QRG has not identified any outstanding issues.

5. Approval

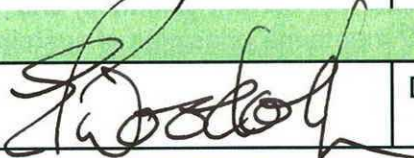
Has the Quality Review Group completed its review and identified any outstanding issues?	Yes/No
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Has the Lead Authority signed the Completion Report?	Yes/No
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Recommendation for Approval

Signed by Ken Allison, Head of Asset Management		Date	9 November 2010
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Approval

Signed by Regional Director		Date	18/11/2010
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