

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (SMP) APPROVAL FORM

1. General Information			
Region	Anglian		
SMP title	North Norfolk	SMP No.	05
Purpose/objective of product			
SMP final report setting out high level management policies for the coast.			
Key Contacts			
Coastal Group	East Anglia Coastal Group		
Lead Authority	Environment Agency		
Project Manager	Ian Bliss		
EA Communications Contacts	Sharon Bleese		

2. List of Documents to Support Recommendation for Approval			
Item	Document	File Reference	Comments
1	Approval Form	Item 1_North Norfolk_Approval Form.doc	This document
2	Location Plan	Item 2_North Norfolk_Location Plan.pdf	Plan showing stretch of coast covered by this SMP
3a	Memo confirming approval to Region	Item 3a_North Norfolk_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_North Norfolk_Model Letter to Partner Authorities.doc	Model letter which can be used to confirm approval of the SMP to Partner Authorities
4	Completion Report	Item 4_North Norfolk_Lead Authority Completion Report .doc	Completion report signed by the EA as Lead Authority
5	Natural England (NE) letter	Item 5_North Norfolk_Natural England Letter.doc	Natural England letter dated 18 November 2010 re Appropriate Assessment
6	SMP CD	Item 6_North Norfolk_Final Plan_Nov10	CD containing full version of SMP. (Weblink to final SMP once finalised: www.eacg.org.uk)
7	Action Plan	Item 7_North Norfolk_Action Plan_April10.doc	The Action Plan forms part of the completed SMP
8	Quality Review	Item 8_North Norfolk_SMP Review.xls	Final version of Quality Review Group (QRG) review and audit trail
9	Defra letter re HRA	Item 9_North Norfolk_Defra HRA.tif	Letter from Defra to EA dated 1 July 2011 confirming response to Appendix 20 application.

3. Consultation and Adoption

Stakeholder consultation and public engagement played an integral role in the development of the shoreline management policy options. The SMP was overseen by a **Client Steering Group (CSG)** which was formed as a sub-group of the East Anglia Coastal Group (EACG). It was made up of the main client local authorities for the SMP, plus representatives from the key disciplines of engineering, planning, conservation, historic environment and harbour interests:

• Environment Agency <i>as lead authority</i>	• Royal Haskoning (consultant)
• North Norfolk District Council	<i>Previous members:</i>
• Norfolk County Council	• Water Management Alliance
• Natural England	• RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
• Norfolk Coast Partnership	• National Trust
• English Heritage	• Norfolk Wildlife Trust
• Wells Harbour Commissioners	• The Wash & North Norfolk European Marine Site Management Scheme

An **Elected Members' Forum (EMF)** was also established. Involving elected members in developing the SMP reflected the 'cabinet' style approach to decision-making operating in many local authorities. The EMF comprised elected member representatives from client local authorities and members of the Environment Agency's RFDC. Members were involved from the beginning, thereby minimising the risks of producing a draft document with policies that might not be approved by the operating authorities.

In order to involve as many people and organisations with a significant interest in the outcomes from the SMP a **Key Stakeholder Group (KSG)** was set up. This included agencies, authorities, organisations and private bodies with responsibilities or ownerships that affected the overall management of the shoreline. The KSG acted as a focal point for discussion and consultation through development of the plan, representing the primary interests within the study area. This group was involved through meetings and workshops, and provided direct feedback and information to the CSG and EMF. Over 50 bodies were involved, including:

- conservation & wildlife bodies (eg. Norfolk Ornithologists' Assoc, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Scolt Head & District Common Right Holders Assoc, Cley Bird Club)
- residential and amenity interest groups (eg. Royal West Norfolk golf club, Royal Yachting Assoc)
- business and commercial (eg. Cruso & Wilkin land agents, Holkham Estate, Country Land & Business Association, Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee)
- town and parish councils, local district and county councillors
- those with cultural and historic interests (eg. Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, National Trust, Campaign to Protect Rural England (Norfolk) (CPRE))

The following programme summary identifies significant dates in the SMP development process, in addition to CSG and EMF meetings and engagement which continued through the whole SMP development process:

Initial Stakeholder contact, establish SMP website	January to May 2008
Stakeholder mtgs. (features, issues, objectives)	January to July 2008
First KSG meeting	13 June 2008
Public exhibitions	June 2008
Coastal Harbour Forum mtgs.	July, November 2008
Second KSG meeting	11 September 2008
KSG meeting (comment on draft policies)	22 June 2009

Public Consultation (over 4 months)	July 2009 to November 2009	
SEA addendum consultation	January to February 2010	
KSG drop-in	25 May 2010	
Finalise SMP with CSG and EMF	November 2009 to October 2010	
Public dissemination	November 2010	
<p>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 East Anglia Coastal Group website www.eacg.org.uk along with all the other reports, and is therefore available for public scrutiny.</p>		
Adoption Dates	North Norfolk District Council	29 June 2010
	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	29 July 2010
	Norfolk County Council	9 August 2010
	EA Anglian (Eastern) RFDC	9 July 2010
Environment Agency Quality Review (EA Quality Review Group comments and CSG document changes and responses) - start date	16 September 2009	
Recommendation for approval	26 July 2011	

4. Quality and Environmental Criteria

Statement of Compliance with Guidance

This SMP was issued as a draft for consultation in 2009. It was initially reviewed at this stage by the EA's Quality Review Group (QRG) and comments passed back to the CSG for consideration and response. This process was repeated until the CSG had provided satisfactory responses to all QRG comments, and was completed in September 2010. At this 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 Environment Agency as lead authority.

Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) provides a systematic appraisal of the possible environmental consequences of high-level decision-making (that is plans, policies and programmes). Government policy is that SMPs should be subject to the SEA process, to help ensure that consideration of the socio-economic and environmental issues relating to the coast has been central in developing and evaluating policy.

The main SEA report was published in 2009. Subsequent finalisation of the Appropriate Assessment (see below) prompted the production of an Addendum, as required by SEA guidance. Both the SEA (Appendix L) and SEA Addendum were undertaken to a

satisfactory standard. In addition, a Statement of Environmental Particulars (SoEP) has been prepared and forms part of the SEA Post Adoption Statement. The SoEP is not subject to QRG review and is not required prior to any approval. The SoEP is included on the CD (item 6) as part of the SEA documentation.

Water Framework Directive Assessment

The requirements of the Water Framework Directive are to protect, improve and provide for sustainable use of the water environment. Furthermore, the European Floods Directive (2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) requires that the environmental objectives of the WFD are taken into account in flood and coastal erosion plans.

A Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment has been undertaken in line with the published guidance (Guidance for Assessment of SMPs under WFD: 2009) and has been found to meet objectives. It is reported at Appendix K of the SMP.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

For SMPs a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to establish the scale and implications of impacts of the proposed plan, and to provide a determination on whether a course of action is acceptable in terms of its impacts on the integrity of international environmental sites.

Having established that the SMP would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of the international sites, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken. This is the process to support a decision by the 'competent authority', in this case the Environment Agency, as to whether the proposed plan or project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of any international site. The outcome was that it was not possible to conclude that the preferred SMP would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the internationally important sites in the area. Natural England has confirmed its support for the proposed policies and agreed that there was a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). Natural England's letter of 18 November 2010 (Item 5) refers.

Consequently an IROPI submission was made to Defra. Confirmation that Defra has no objections to the proposed plan approval has been received (Item 9 of approval bundle). In conclusion, the plan is compliant with the Habitats Directive and there are no outstanding issues to resolve prior to approval.

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 about 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. The National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM) project team will produce a comparison report for each SMP to explain any differences between the NCERM data and SMPs, which may have been caused, for example, by using different climate change data. NCERM will be updated regularly and can take account of any changes to SMP management policies.

It will be necessary for the CSG/Coastal Group to consider the need for this information to

be incorporated in this SMP, and for 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
--	--------

Has the Lead Authority signed the Completion Report?	Yes/No
--	--------

Recommendation for Approval

Signed by Ken Allison, Head of Asset Management		Date	26 July 2011
--	---	------	--------------

Approval

Signed by Paul Woodcock, Anglian Regional Director		Date	27 July 2011
---	---	------	--------------