

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (SMP) APPROVAL FORM

1. General Information			
Region	South West / Wales		
SMP title	Severn Estuary	SMP No.	19
Purpose/objective of product			
SMP final report setting out high level management policies for the estuary/coast.			
Key Contacts			
Coastal Group	Severn Estuary Coastal Group		
Lead Authority	Monmouthshire County Council		
Project Manager	Dave Harris		
EA Contact	Carol Hall		
EA Communications Contacts	Rachel Burden		

2. List of Documents to Support Recommendation for Approval			
Item	Document	File Reference	Comments
1	Approval Form	Item 1_SevernEstuary_Approval Form.doc	This document
2	Location Plan	Item 2_SevernEstuary_Location Plan.pdf	Plan showing stretch of coast covered by this SMP
3	Letter of Approval	Item 3_SevernEstuary_Letter of Approval.doc	This is offered for use as the basis for the letter to the lead authority. The final version will signify the approval and will be added to the LA's website.
4	Completion Report	Item 4_SevernEstuary_Lead Authority Completion Report .pdf	Completion report signed by the EA as Lead Authority
5a	Natural England (NE) letter	Item 5a_SevernEstuary_NE Letter.pdf	NE letter dated 28 September 2010 re outcome of Appropriate Assessment
5b	Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) letter	Item 5b_SevernEstuary_CCW Letter	CCW letter dated 20 September 2010 re outcome of Appropriate Assessment
6	SMP CD	Item 6_SevernEstuary_Final Plan	CD containing full version of SMP. (Weblink to final SMP once finalised: www.severnestuary.net/secg/index.html)
7	Action Plan	Item 7_SevernEstuary_Action Plan_Final.pdf	The Action Plan forms part of the completed SMP
8	Quality Review	Item 8_SevernEstuary_SMP Review.xls	Final version of Quality Review Group (QRG) review and audit trail

9a	Defra letter re HRA	Item 9a_SevernEstuary_Defra HRA.pdf	Letter from Defra to Monmouthshire CC confirming response to Appendix 20 application.
9b	Welsh Government Letter re HRA	Item 9b_SevernEstuary_WG HRA.pdf	Letter from Welsh Government to Monmouthshire County Council 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 aim of the engagement strategy was to assist in the delivery of a publicly acceptable and practicably deliverable SMP 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:

- Monmouthshire County Council
- North Somerset District Council
- Bristol City Council
- South Gloucestershire Council
- Stroud District Council
- Forest of Dean District Council
- Newport City Council
- Cardiff City Council
- Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Environment Agency
- Caldicot & Wentlooge Internal Drainage Board (IDB)
- Lower Severn IDB
- Defra
- Welsh Government (WG)
- Natural England
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

An **Elected Member Forum (EMF)** was established to represent the public. The EMF comprised elected member representatives from client local authorities, IDBs, and members of the EA's Regional Flood Defence Committee (and the relevant equivalent in Wales with responsibility for coastal flooding). 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.

At various stages in the SMP, advice was sought from key stakeholders in order to inform the preparation of the SMP. Key stakeholders were considered to be those organisations and individuals directly affected by coastal processes along the SMP frontage over the next 100 years.

Around 200 key stakeholders were identified including those with the following interests:

- conservation and wildlife (eg. RSPB, Forestry Commission)
- cultural and historic interests (eg. English Heritage, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust)
- commercial interests (eg. Powergen, Network Rail)
- leisure and amenity (eg. Welsh Yachting Association, Corus)

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

Initial EMF meeting	January 09
Key Stakeholders meetings	Jan, May & Autumn 09
Heritage and SEA/AA workshops	April 09
Policy Development Consultation	June 09
Public Consultation (over 3 months)	Oct 2009 – Jan10
Public dissemination	Early-mid 2011

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 Severn Estuary Coastal Group website along with all the other reports, and is therefore available for public scrutiny.

Adoption Dates	South Gloucestershire Council	25 March 2010
	Vale of Glamorgan Council	17 October 2010
	North Somerset Council	22 October 2010
	Cardiff Council	6 December 2010
	Newport City Council	9 December 2010
	Stroud District Council	9 December 2010
	Bristol City Council	16 December 2010
	Monmouthshire County Council	2 February 2011
Environment Agency Quality Review start date (EA Quality Review Group comments and CSG document changes and responses)		06 November 2009
Recommendation for approval		<i>Date February 2011</i>

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) 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 November 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 Monmouthshire County Council as lead authority.

Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

A stand-alone Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) report is provided at Appendix I, part A. The SEA is compliant.

In addition, a Statement of Environmental Particulars (SoEP) (a requirement under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 - Regulation 16) setting out how the findings of the SEA have been taken into account and how views expressed during the consultation period have been considered as the SMP2 has been finalised will be prepared and will form part of the SEA Post Adoption Statement. The SoEP is not subject to QRG review and is not required prior to any approval.

Water Framework Directive Assessment

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

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.

As part of the HRA undertaken for this SMP, an Appropriate Assessment was carried out. For the areas of this SMP in England and cross-border between England and Wales, the Competent Authority is the Environment Agency. For those elements which lie in Wales, the Welsh Government (WG) is the Competent Authority. It was determined that it was not possible to conclude that the policies within the SMP would not have an adverse effect on the internationally important sites in the area. Both Natural England and CCW confirmed their support for the proposed policies and agreed that there was a case for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). Natural England and CCW's letters of 28 September 2010 and 20 September 2010 (items 5a and 5b of approval bundle) explain their conclusions more fully.

Consequently an IROPI submission was made to Defra and WG. Confirmation that Defra and WG have no objections to proposed plan approval has been received (Items 9a and 9b of approval bundle), and the plan is compliant with the Habitats Directive.

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 Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) and updated as required. Any updates will be published in place of the current Action Plan and held on the SECG 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

Defra IROPI agreement letter – item 9a (when received)	Date	10 th May 2016
WG IROPI agreement letter – item 9b (when received)	Date	25 th November 2014

5. Approval

Has the Quality Review Group completed its review?	Yes/No
Has the Lead Authority signed the Completion Report?	Yes/No

Recommendation for Approval

Signed by Ken Allison, Head of Asset Management, Environment Agency	Refer to memo at back of document	Date	Date from KA memo 2 nd Feb 2017
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Approval

Signed by Richard Cresswell, South West Regional Director, Environment Agency	Refer to item 3 approval letter	Date	2 nd Feb 2017
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