

Coast Path nr Morte Point
Courtesy of North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

THE SOUTH WEST COASTLINE

The coastline of the South West undergoes constant change due to the effects of waves, tidal currents and climate change. Coastal processes such as erosion and flooding are hazards to people, property and infrastructure. Attempts to stop them at a particular location have, in many cases, occurred without acknowledging effects on other locations up and down the coast.

Balancing the desire to protect property and livelihoods and prevent the actual creation of new problems, whilst maintaining the integrity of the natural coast, requires creative management solutions. Difficult decisions have to be made about where and how to protect.

What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and help to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment. They form an important element of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management and are intended to inform long-term strategic planning.

The objectives of SMPs are to:

- set out risks and identify opportunities and preferred management policies
- set out procedures for monitoring how effective policies are and identify their consequences
- inform others of the risks and associated policies in order to discourage inappropriate development
- meet nature conservation legislation.

The SMP boundaries are based on natural coastal processes relating to the movement of sand and shingle along the coast. Different lengths of coastline will have different management policies, reflecting the natural and built environment.



Ilfracombe

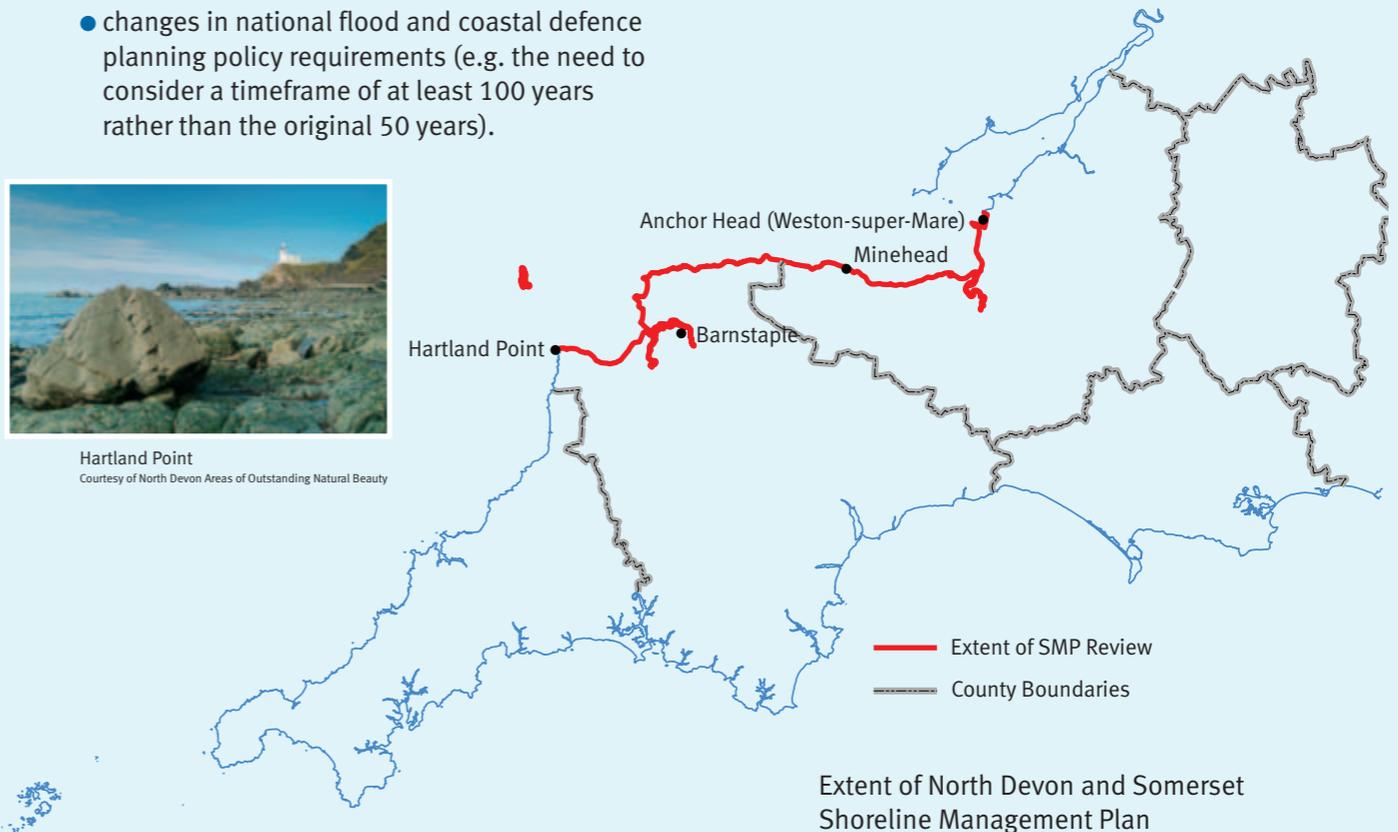
SMPs allow decisions to be taken with confidence, using the best available evidence and effective engagement with local communities to provide a sustainable vision for the coast.

They are now due for a review (SMP2), following updated guidance from Defra, to take account of:

- the latest coastal studies and monitoring information
- issues identified by defence planning (i.e. coastal defence strategy plans)
- changes in legislation (e.g. European Habitats Directive)
- changes in national flood and coastal defence planning policy requirements (e.g. the need to consider a timeframe of at least 100 years rather than the original 50 years).



Hartland Point
Courtesy of North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

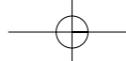


The North Devon and Somerset SMP2

The original SMP for the North Devon and Somerset coastline was completed in June 1998 and stretched from Hartland Point in Devon to Brean Down in Somerset. In accordance with the latest SMP guidance, the eastern boundary of this SMP2 will be extended eastwards from Brean Down to Anchor Head (Weston-super-Mare).

The review will be undertaken by the North Devon and Somerset Coastal Authorities Group (NDASCAG), with project management by the Environment Agency. It will be completed in 2010.

Extent of North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan



Blue Anchor
Courtesy of Rights of Way, Somerset County Council



North Devon and Somerset
Coastal Authorities Group

North Devon and Somerset Coastal Authorities Group

Coastal Groups are made up of Operating Authorities, such as District Councils, and other bodies with coastal defence responsibilities. They provide forums for discussion and co-operation and play an important role in the development of SMPs for their area.

The North Devon and Somerset Coastal Authorities Group (NDASCAG) consists of representatives from the following:

- Devon County Council
- Environment Agency
- Environment Agency Regional Flood Defence Committees
- English Heritage
- Exmoor National Park Authority
- National Trust
- Natural England
- North Devon District Council
- North Somerset District Council
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Sedgemoor District Council
- Somerset County Council
- Torridge District Council
- West Somerset District Council



Bideford Bay Coast Courtesy of North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

How can you help?

In order to produce a plan which meets the needs of the area, we have to ensure the following are achieved:

- full stakeholder and public engagement on issues within the SMP area
- all opinions and views are registered at an early stage
- the plan is based on both current and predicted data
- all parties have the necessary information they require about the SMP review.

For more information or to register as a stakeholder in the consultation process please visit the NDASCAG website at:

www.ndascag.org

Alternatively,
contact the Project Manager Angela Proctor.
Tel: 01392 352409
e-mail: angela.proctor@environment-agency.gov.uk

Front cover: Broadstrand Beach
Courtesy of North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan



Managing our coastline for the future



North Devon and Somerset
Coastal Authorities Group

www.ndascag.org

