Lyme Bay and South Devon Coastline Group

LYME BAY AND SOUTH DEVON
DRAFT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

JUNE 1998
PREFACE

This draft Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), sets sustainable coastal defence strategies for the future management of the shoreline between Portland Bill in Dorset and Rame Head in Cornwall. It is the culmination of three years’ work and its production has been, in no small part, the result of the active involvement and co-operation of all the operating authorities concerned. The authorities have worked in close partnership, through the Lyme Bay and South Devon Coastline Group, together with other bodies who have an interest in and responsibility for the environmental stewardship of this length of shoreline.

A SMP is primarily concerned with the engineering management of the shoreline, in which the main objective in the selection of a preferred strategic option is the protection of life and property. Due consideration has also been given to existing statutory plans and the objectives of other non-statutory plans. In particular, it is intended that the SMP will advise and inform the planning process and, through the status afforded to Local and County Structure Plans, achieve the implementation of its objectives. There are, however, many pressures on the coastline and the SMP should also integrate with the wider aspects and issues of coastal zone and estuary management planning. It should be noted that SMPs are live plans, to be updated constantly in the light of events and with formal reviews every five years.

The next stage in the development of the SMP will be the formal adoption of the plan by individual group members and this will involve consultation at a local level. It is appropriate, therefore, that the SMP is being developed at a time when a major focus for authorities is on Local Agenda 21. This is an international initiative, aimed at improving the quality of life of local communities while, at the same time, securing a sustainable future for them. This SMP contributes to the principal aims of Local Agenda 21, by establishing a plan from which sustainable development can be put into practice.

Keith Cole
Chairman
Lyme Bay and South Devon Coastline Group
LYME BAY AND SOUTH DEVON COASTLINE GROUP MEMBERSHIP
(Chairman: Mr Keith Cole, West Dorset District Council)

Dr Ian Harrison
Devon County Council
Lucombe House
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter EX2 4QW
(01392) 382000

Miss Victoria Copley
English Nature
Dorset Team
Slepe Farm
Arne
Wareham
Dorset BH20 5BN
(01929) 556688

Mr Philip Mitchell
Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth
Devon PL1 2EW
(01752) 668000

Mr Keith Adams
Torbay Council
Town Hall
Torquay
Devon TQ2 5TF
(01803) 201201

Mr Malcolm Turnbull
Dorset County Council
Environmental Services Directorate
County Hall
Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1XJ
(01305) 224132

Miss Carol Drummond
Environment Agency
South Western Region
Manley House
Kestrel Way
Exeter
Devon EX2 7LQ
(01392) 444000

Mr Peter Haig
Railtrack Great Western
The White House
St David’s
Exeter
Devon EX4 4NT
(01392) 476245

Mr Mike Amphlett
West Dorset District Council
37 Glyde Path Road
Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1XZ
(01305) 251010

Mr Jeff Bailey
East Devon District Council
Council Offices
The Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon EX10 8HL
(01395) 516551

Mr Bill Ricketts
Exeter City Council
Civic Centre
Exeter
Devon EX1 1NN
(01392) 277888

Mr William Lawrence
South Hams District Council
Follaton House
Plymouth Road
Totnes
Devon TQ9 5NE
(01803) 861234

Mr Peter Rigby
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
Municipal Offices
North Quay
Weymouth
Dorset DT4 8TA
(01305) 761222

Mr Roger Covey
English Nature
Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team
Trevint House
Strangways Villas
Truro
Cornwall TR1 2PA
(01872) 262550

Mr David Ayers
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food
Quantock House
Paul Street
Taunton
Somerset TA1 3NX
(01823) 330099

Mr John Cocker
Teignbridge District Council
Forde House
Brunel Road
Newton Abbot
Devon TQ12 4XX
(01626) 361101
CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE OF NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION TO SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS

3. SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

4. OVERALL SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

5. PREFERRED STRATEGIC OPTIONS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Coastal Process Unit 1: Portland Bill to West Weare  
  Coastal Process Unit 8: The Parson and Clerk to Hope’s Nose
- Coastal Process Unit 2: West Weare to West of West Bay  
  Coastal Process Unit 9: Hope’s Nose to Berry Head
- Coastal Process Unit 3: West of West Bay to The Cobb  
  Coastal Process Unit 10: Berry Head to Blackstone Point
- Coastal Process Unit 4: The Cobb to Beer Head  
  Coastal Process Unit 11: Blackstone Point to Start Point
- Coastal Process Unit 5: Beer Head to Otterton Ledge  
  Coastal Process Unit 12: Start Point to Bolt Tail
- Coastal Process Unit 6: Otterton Ledge to Straight Point  
  Coastal Process Unit 13: Bolt Tail to Wembury Point
- Coastal Process Unit 7: Straight Point to The Parson and Clerk  
  Coastal Process Unit 14: Wembury Point to Rame Head

6. OVERVIEW OF STUDY COASTLINE
7. PURPOSE OF NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Non-Technical Summary of the draft Lyme Bay and South Devon Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) has been prepared on behalf of the Lyme Bay and South Devon Coastline Group (a list of addresses and contact names is provided on the page ii, for ease of reference). The SMP covers the coastline between Portland Bill in Dorset and Rame Head in Cornwall.

The Non-Technical Summary has been prepared to assist with consultation on the draft SMP. It allows the findings of the draft SMP to be made available to all those with an interest in the study area. For more detailed information the reader is referred to the complete document, copies of which are held by the members of the Coastline Group (see page ii).

The Non-Technical Summary describes what a SMP entails (see Section 2), the work undertaken to produce this SMP (see Section 3), the overall objectives of the SMP (see Section 4), the specific objectives and strategic coastal defence options selected for the SMP (see Section 5). It also provides an overview of the entire SMP study coastline (see Section 6).
8. INTRODUCTION TO SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS

WHAT IS A SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A SMP is a non-statutory document that offers guidance, at a strategic level, designed to assist coastal defence decision making over a 50 year period for a particular length of coast. The SMP aims to identify sustainable coastal defence strategic options, taking account of the influences and needs of both the natural environment and the human and built environment. SMPs are being promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF), the government body that sanctions public sector expenditure on coastal defence.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A SMP?

Originally, coastal defences were constructed on an ad hoc basis, over discrete lengths of coastline. In recent years, MAFF have required economic, environmental and technical assessments to demonstrate the viability of any proposed scheme. However, it was not unusual for little formal consideration to be given to the possible effects of the new works on the adjoining frontages or those further along the coast. In addition, the division of coastal defence responsibility has not always encouraged co-operation over the defence of neighbouring frontages. In the absence of any strategic planning, there were concerns about the sustainability of coastal defences, their long-term effects on adjacent lengths of coastline, the lack of communication between those with coastal interests, and other similar issues. The SMP represents an attempt to deal with these issues.

HOW DOES THE SMP FIT IN WITH LEGISLATION AND PLANNING?

As a non-statutory document, the SMP does not have the legal status conferred on Local or Structure Plans, and may be among a number of non-statutory plans relating to the particular length of coastline it considers. With respect to Local and Structure Plans, the SMP should strive to ensure that, as far as possible, its recommendations are generally in accordance with relevant planning policies. With respect to non-statutory plans, the SMP should aim to encompass and develop the ideas set out in such plans, while reflecting awareness of the policies and any potential areas of conflict within them. It is unlikely that all these plans will be in preparation at the same time, so it is important that the regular SMP review process is used to inform and amend, as appropriate.

WHAT DOES A SMP COVER?

The SMP provides broad guidance on the strategic coastal defence options that are appropriate for the frontage under consideration and compatible with adjacent frontages and the processes operating. The SMP takes a holistic view, so detailed data and analyses are not required at this level. MAFF intends that, in many cases, the SMP process will be followed successively by the development of Strategy Plans and detailed individual scheme assessments.

WHAT ARE STRATEGIC COASTAL DEFENCE OPTIONS?

MAFF suggest that there are four strategic options to be considered within a SMP, they are:

- Do Nothing
- Advance the Existing Defence Line
- Hold the Existing Defence Line
- Retreat the Existing Defence Line

In the case of the Lyme Bay and South Devon SMP, a ‘hybrid’ option of Selectively Hold the Existing Defence Line was also considered. These options are described in more detail in Section 5.

HOW WILL STRATEGIC OPTIONS BE IMPLEMENTED?

Once the SMP is finalised, agreed and adopted by those with coastal defence responsibilities, any future coastal defence works proposed within the study area should be carried out in accordance with the recommendations made in the SMP. Where a defence scheme is required and is to be submitted with an application for grant aid, the detailed evaluations of that scheme should comply with the 1993 MAFF Flood and Coastal Defence Project Appraisal Guidance Notes. Where a coastal defence option involves a scheme that is not eligible for grant aid, nevertheless it would need to comply with the strategic needs and objectives of the SMP.

WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION?

A range of organisations will be responsible for the implementation of the coastal defence strategy. These will include the Environment Agency, local/maritime district councils and private landowners. However, all bodies with an interest in the coastline will be involved in the implementation of the agreed and adopted strategies set out in the SMP.
9. SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

The SMP considers the three sediment sub-cells 6a, 6b and 6c (as defined by HR Wallingford Ltd in their 1993 paper Coastal Management, Mapping of Littoral Cells) between Portland Bill in Dorset and Rame Head in Cornwall.

The SMP has been divided into the following volumes:

- **Introduction**
  This brief volume provides an introduction to SMPs and includes a guide describing how to use the SMP document.

- **Volume I – Core Report**
  This volume describes how the SMP coastline has been divided into 14 Coastal Process Units (lengths of coastline that are coherent in terms of their coastal processes), which in turn have been sub-divided into 39 Management Units (lengths of coastline that are, additionally, coherent in terms of their land use). It sets out the specific objectives of the SMP with regard to both the entire coastline and these management units. Coastal defence options are assessed in terms of these objectives and preferred strategic coastal defence options are thus derived.

- **Volume II – Supporting Document**
  This volume provides a holistic picture of the SMP coastline. It presents information about the key parameters of coastal processes, coastal defences, land use and the human and built environment, and the natural environment. In addition to the factual material, more detailed data and local interests are covered.

- **Volume III – Atlas**
  This volume comprises a series of 18 maps, mainly relating to the information discussed in Volume II.

The Lyme Bay and South Devon SMP is an extensive document, containing in excess of 600 A4 pages in Volumes I and II, and 96 A3 map sheets in Volume III. The SMP should be regarded as a manual for the study area, in which the user may choose to refer only to those sections that cover their interests along the coastline.

The overall purpose of the SMP is to select appropriate strategic coastal defence options for the study coastline. The selection of these options is based upon detailed considerations of the coastal processes at work, and the interests and the resources that may be affected by the potential coastal defence options.

As part of the appraisal process, work is undertaken to determine whether potential options are technically, environmentally and economically viable. The process first considers the four strategic options identified in Section 2. It then takes the following form for each management unit:

- **Screening of strategic options**
  To identify and to remove from further consideration those options that were not technically realistic, sustainable or compatible with the processes at work, or that did not meet the core objectives (see Section 4). This screening procedure led to the rejection of the Advance the Line option in all 39 management units. Similarly, in all management units but four the Retreat the Line option was also rejected. These options did not then merit further consideration during the appraisal.

- **Indicative Economic Assessment**
  MAFF requires that the costs and, where appropriate, the damage costs avoided with each viable strategic option, be compared with the damages that would occur under the ‘without project’ option. For the purposes of the SMP, the ‘without project’ option is taken to involve zero expenditure. The economic parameter used to test the viability of a particular option is the benefit/cost ratio, i.e. The ratio of economic benefits to economic costs. For an option to be viable economically, this ratio must be greater than unity.

- **Appraisal of Potentially Viable Options**
  This part of the appraisal process considers, in detail, the potentially viable options that have passed the screening procedure. It also considers whether the options meet the unit-specific objectives (see Sections 4 and 5).

- **Selection of Preferred Option**
  A preferred option is selected from those passing the first three stages of the procedure. If two options satisfy these criteria, the most cost-effective is selected.

- **Rapid Environmental Assessment of Schemes**
  This final part of the appraisal process covers a range of technically realistic schemes, i.e. Possible works that could be undertaken to implement the preferred option. It includes brief assessments of the environmental impacts, and comments on the technical aspects, of possible schemes. In units where Do Nothing is the preferred option, this stage has not been completed as there are no potential schemes to consider.
4. OVERALL SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

It is important that the strategic coastal defence options (see Sections 2, 3 and 5) consider the objectives of coastal zone users and other interests within the SMP study area.

Therefore, a number of objectives have been derived that are based upon: the primary aims of coastal defence; the observations from and the requirements of the various parties; the existing planning policies; objectives contained within other non-statutory management plans; and available data on the existing land use, the natural environment and the human and built environment.

The overall SMP objectives can be divided into three levels: Core Coastal Defence Management Objectives (see Table 4.1), General Strategic Management Objectives (see Table 4.2) and Management Unit-Specific Objectives (see Section 5).

The core objectives ensure that the selected options meet the general requirements for coastal defence. The strategic management objectives ensure that the selected options do not significantly affect other interests and uses along the study coastline. The management unit-specific objectives have been defined in recognition of the key issues associated with specific uses of the coast within particular management units.

It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the selected option.

---

**TABLE 4.1 Core Coastal Defence Management Objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To provide sustainable coastal defence options that avoid, as far as possible, tying future generations into inflexible and expensive options for defence*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To select coastal defence options that are compatible with the preferred options identified for adjacent lengths of coast*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To select coastal defence options that are compatible with the coastal processes at work within the sediment cell and adjacent sub-cells*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To provide sustainable coastal defence options that are viable on engineering, economic and environmental grounds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where economically, technically and environmentally justifiable, to provide and maintain sustainable schemes that:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- protect human life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- protect property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- allay undue anxiety caused by the risk of erosion and/or flooding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where possible, to take advantage of natural forms of defence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To ensure that coastal defence policy considers the consequences of sea level rise and increased storminess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In accordance with MAFF guidance, to ensure that environmental objectives seen as part of the SMP are attainable.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based upon MAFF recommendations for all SMPs.
### TABLE 4.2 General Strategic Management Objectives

#### Planning
- To provide defence from flooding and erosion in a manner consistent with the policies and objectives established within the planning framework.
- To take account of, and co-ordinate with, the objectives of the relevant guidance and management planning initiatives outwith the statutory requirements for both the built and natural environments such as Estuary Management Plans.

#### Agriculture
- Where economically and technically feasible, to provide sustainable coastal defence schemes to protect agricultural land from flooding and coastal erosion.

#### Fisheries
- To minimise and mitigate any adverse impacts that coastal defence may have on the long-term viability of the coastal fishing industry.
- To ensure that coastal defence structures and works continue to allow adequate access for fishing activities.

#### Recreation and Tourism
- Where appropriate, to retain and enhance areas and accesses presently used for recreation and amenity purposes.

#### Archaeology and Built Heritage
- Where possible, to identify areas at risk from erosion and undertake surveys to assess whether previously unknown sites are being damaged or destroyed.
- To ensure, wherever possible, that archaeological sites and features are conserved, and where this is not possible, to minimise and mitigate against any adverse impacts that coastal defence policy may have on them, up to and including recording and excavation.
- To ensure, wherever possible, that conservation areas, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens are defended from flooding and erosion in a manner consistent with the policies and objectives established within the planning framework.
- To recognise the national and local importance of archaeological sites and historic buildings.
- Where sites and monuments are at risk from erosion, and if they are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Grade 1 Listed Buildings, or there are large numbers of sites of various periods and types, and if there are sites that are particularly well preserved, there should be a presumption in favour of their preservation.
- To recognise that in areas where archaeological sites or historic buildings are not known to exist, it does not mean that they do not exist; the record of archaeological sites is compiled mainly from chance finds and aerial photographs, many sites are not visible and cannot be anticipated; in areas where few archaeological sites are shown there should be a presumption in that archaeological sites may exist in these areas until proven otherwise.

#### Offshore Activity
- To continue the full relationship between coastal defence and offshore licensed oil blocks, MAFF disposal sites and aggregate extraction.

#### Natural Environment
- Where possible, to maintain coastal processes.
- Where possible, to defend the Critical Natural Capital within each management unit and to seek to sustain or provide mitigating measures with regard to Constant Natural Assets, thus ensuring conservation of the overall habitat resource within the coastal zone.
- Where a management unit contains a Special Area of Conservation/Special Protection Area, or priority habitat, a favourable conservation status must be maintained in line with both the Habitats Directive and MAFF guidelines.
- To ensure, wherever possible, that wild species and wildlife habitats are conserved and enhanced in line with the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
- To take account of, and co-ordinate with, local conservation management plans.
- To recognise the international, national and local conservation importance of sites.

#### Geology and Geomorphology
- To ensure, wherever possible, that the geological and geomorphological interests of the SMP area are conserved.

#### Landscape
- To take account of the existing landscape character of the area and the Character and Natural Areas objectives.
- To take account of both Heritage Coast and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty objectives.

#### Water Quality
- To take account of the objectives of Local Environment Agency Plans (formerly Catchment Management Plans).
- To ensure that coastal defence policy does not affect adversely the quality of coastal waters.
- To ensure that coastal defence policy does not affect adversely the dispersion of effluent from waste management operations.

#### Industry
- Where appropriate, to provide sustainable protection from flooding and erosion for industry situated close to the coastline.

#### Ports and Harbours
- To ensure that coastal defence policy does not affect adversely the navigational access to and recreational use of port and harbour facilities.
- To influence port and harbour dredging regimes to minimise adverse effects on coastal defences and coastal processes.
The four main strategic options to be considered within the SMP may be defined as follows:

- **Do Nothing**
  This is the ‘without project’ option and would involve no coastal defence activity or intervention, apart from necessary monitoring/inspection and safety measures. In some cases this might mean that no new defences will be constructed, while in others it could mean that an existing defence is abandoned once it reaches the end of its useful life, or earlier.

- **Hold the Existing Defence Line**
  This option would involve, by coastal defence activity or intervention, holding the existing defence line at its present location. However, this need not be by the construction of ‘hard’ defences such as sea walls. Holding the Line may also include beach nourishment, dune management, changing the form of an existing defence or new defences, and in many cases would be applied only over short lengths of coast within a particular management unit. Necessary monitoring/inspection and safety measures would also be undertaken.

- **Retreat the Existing Defence Line**
  This option would involve, by coastal defence activity or intervention, moving the existing defence line landward of its present location. This could be achieved by demolition of the existing defence and the construction of a replacement along an alternative line, or other deliberate intervention. Necessary monitoring/inspection and safety measures would also be undertaken.

- **Advance the Existing Defence Line**
  This option would involve, by coastal defence activity or intervention, moving the existing defence line seaward of its present location. Any necessary monitoring/inspection and safety measures would also be undertaken.

In the case of the Lyme Bay and South Devon SMP, a ‘hybrid’ option of Selectively Hold the Existing Defence Line was also considered.

It is intended that the preferred strategic options would be reviewed at five-yearly intervals, to update the SMP.
5.1 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 1 (CPU1) Portland Bill to West Weare

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 1 (see Figure 5.1) is situated entirely on the west side of the Isle of Portland in Dorset and extends from Portland Bill to the eastern end of Chesil Beach at West Weare. It is the most easterly unit in the SMP area.

The Isle of Portland is a cliffed limestone outcrop that forms a significant promontory along the Dorset coast. These cliffs are fronted by rocky foreshores and raised beaches, which are littered with the debris from frequent minor cliff falls.

Land use in this unit varies and includes industrial, residential and rural. Sea use comprises fishing and mussel beds.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geology and flora, and forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.1) contains only one management unit, MU1, extending over its entire length.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic option for this management unit are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.
5.2 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 2 (CPU2) West Weare to West of West Bay

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 2 (see Figure 5.2) extends from West Weare on the Isle of Portland to West Bay and includes Chesil Beach and The Fleet lagoon. It encompasses the settlements of Chiswell, Abbotsbury, Burton Bradstock and West Bay.

The majority of this unit is fronted by Chesil Beach, a unique shingle ridge feature extending from Chiswell to West Bay, where the harbour piers effectively form its western boundary. Historical landward movement of the shingle bank has enclosed The Fleet between Portland Harbour and Abbotsbury forming the largest tidal lagoon in Britain.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural and recreational but also includes industrial, urban and residential areas. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology, habitats and fauna, and forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.2) contains three management units, MU2, MU3 and MU4. MU2 covers Chiswell, with the adjacent industrial area, and is predominantly urban; MU3 between Portland Harbour and West Bay is mainly rural; MU4 at West Bay is urban.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 2 (MU2) West Weare – Chesil
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the developed area at Chiswell
- To maintain road access to the Isle of Portland
- To maintain sheltered conditions within Portland Harbour
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 (MU3) Chesil – East of West Bay
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain road access to the Isle of Portland
- To maintain sheltered conditions within Portland Harbour
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain beach access
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To protect nationally important archaeological sites, listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 4 (MU4) East of West Bay – West of West Bay
Preferred Strategic Option: HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the harbour and the community of West Bay
- To not impinge on navigational access to West Bay Harbour
- To maintain the recreational and amenity values of West Bay
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path.
5.3 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 3 (CPU3) West of West Bay to The Cobb

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 3 (see Figure 5.3) forms part of Lyme Bay and extends from west of West Bay to The Cobb at Lyme Regis. It encompasses the settlements of Eype, Chideock, Seatown, Charmouth and Lyme Regis.

The coastline consists of undulating cliffs with shingle beaches. Some sections of the cliffs are subject to landslides, notably at Black Ven, Doghouse Hill and Golden Cap. Black Ven, between Charmouth and Lyme Regis, is the largest landslip and mudflow complex in Europe.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural with urban areas at Lyme Regis and other, smaller, settlements. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology, geology, fossils, flora and fauna, and forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.3) contains two management units, MU5 and MU6. MU5 between the west of West Bay and the east of Lyme Regis is predominantly rural; MU6 covers the Lyme Regis frontage and is mainly urban.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5 (MU5) West of West Bay – East of Lyme Regis
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Seatown and Charmouth seafront
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To protect the nationally important archaeological sites.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 (MU6) East of Lyme Regis – The Cobb
Preferred Strategic Option: HOLD THE LINE

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Lyme Regis from erosion
- To not impinge on navigational use of the harbour
- To maintain the recreational and amenity values of the area
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To protect nationally important archaeological sites, listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.
5.4 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 4 (CPU4) The Cobb to Beer Head

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 4 (see Figure 5.4) forms part of Lyme Bay and extends from The Cobb at Lyme Regis in Dorset to Beer Head in Devon. It encompasses the settlements of Seaton and Beer.

The coastline consists of shingle beaches backed by cliffs, and contains some of the largest and most important coastal landslip areas in Britain. These include Bindon, Pinhay Bay and Downlands Cliffs. The coastline between The Cobb and Seaton is also the richest Lower Jurassic fossil reptile site in Britain.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural with developed areas at Seaton and Beer. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geology, fossils, flora and fauna, and forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.4) contains two management units, MU7 and MU8. MU7 between The Cobb at Lyme Regis and the mouth of the River Axe is predominantly rural; MU8 between the River Axe and Beer Head is mainly urban.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 7 (MU7) The Cobb – East of Seaton
Preferred Strategic Option: **DO NOTHING**

Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 (MU8) East of Seaton – Beer Head
Preferred Strategic Option: **SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE**

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Seaton and Beer
- To avoid any detrimental effects on navigational access to Axmouth
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.
5.5 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 5 (CPU5) Beer Head to Otterton Ledge

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 5 (see Figure 5.5) forms part of Lyme Bay and extends from Beer Head to Otterton Ledge, at the mouth of the River Otter. It encompasses the settlements of Branscombe, Sidmouth and Otterton.

The coastline consists mostly of steep cliffs fronted by rocks and shingle beaches. The cliffs are relatively soft and are prone to landslides and rock falls especially near Sidmouth.

Land use is mainly agricultural with a number of residential areas, most notably at Sidmouth. Sea use comprises fishing and some recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology and fauna, and forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.5) contains three management units, MU9, MU10 and MU11. MU9 extends from Beer Head to the River Sid and is predominantly rural; MU10 covers Sidmouth town and is urban; and MU11 extends from the west of Sidmouth to Otterton Ledge, and is predominantly rural.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 9 (MU9) Beer Head – River Sid
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 10 (MU10) River Sid – West of Sidmouth
Preferred Strategic Option: HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the town of Sidmouth
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the amenity and recreation values of the area
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 11 (MU11) West of Sidmouth – Otterton Ledge
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To protect the caravan park
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To protect the nationally important archaeological sites.
5.6 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 6 (CPU6) Otterton Ledge to Straight Point

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 6 (see Figure 5.6) is located at the western end of Lyme Bay and extends from Otterton Ledge to Straight Point and includes the estuary of the River Otter. It encompasses the settlement of Budleigh Salterton.

The coastline forms an embayment, with a beach backed by cliffs, between the rock ledge at the eastern end of the unit and the headland at the western end. The cliffs become higher and more prone to erosion toward the west.

Land use in this unit varies and includes agricultural, residential, recreational and amenity. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology, geology, fossils, flora and fauna, and forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.6) contains three management units, MU12, MU13 and MU14. MU12 covers the River Otter frontage and is rural; MU13 extends along the developed seafront of Budleigh Salterton and is predominantly urban; MU14 between the west of Budleigh Salterton and Straight Point is mainly rural.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 12 (MU12) Otterton Ledge – East of Budleigh Salterton
Preferred Strategic Option:  DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the recreational and amenity values of the area
- To maintain bathing beach quality.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 13 (MU13) East of Budleigh Salterton – West of Budleigh Salterton
Preferred Strategic Option:  SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Budleigh Salterton
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the recreational and amenity values of the area
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 14 (MU14) West of Budleigh Salterton – Straight Point
Preferred Strategic Option:  DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the caravan park
- To protect the golf course
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the internationally designated site.
5.7 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 7 (CPU7) Straight Point to The Parson and Clerk

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 7 (see Figure 5.7) extends from Straight Point to The Parson and Clerk rocks, near Holcombe, and includes the Exe Estuary. It encompasses the settlements of Exmouth, Starcross, Cockwood, Dawlish Warren and Dawlish.

The coastline is dominated by the mouth of the Exe Estuary, which is flanked by beaches backed with cliffs and headlands at the unit boundaries. The coastal processes taking place in and around the estuary are extremely complex.

Land use in this unit is mainly residential with some agricultural and recreational. Sea use comprises fishing, recreation and a sludge boat (due to cease operation at the end of 1998).

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology, geology and fauna, and the eastern end of the unit forms part of a proposed World Heritage Site.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.7) contains three management units, MU15, MU16 and MU17. MU15 between Straight Point and Orcombe Rocks is predominantly rural; MU16 between Orcombe Rocks and Langstone Rock covers the Exe Estuary; MU17 between Langstone Rock and The Parson and Clerk rocks is mainly urban.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 15 (MU15) Straight Point – Orcombe Rocks

Preferred Strategic Option: **DO NOTHING**

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the caravan park
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the recreational and amenity values of the area
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 16 (MU16) Orcombe Rocks – Langstone Rock

Preferred Strategic Option: **SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE**

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect property in the town of Exmouth
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To protect the railway line
- To not further restrict navigational access to the estuary
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To ensure that the shellfish industry is not affected adversely
- To maintain the natural coast protection and flood defence values of the system
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To protect the golf course
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 17 (MU17) Langstone Rock – The Parson and Clerk

Preferred Strategic Option: **SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE**

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect people and property in the town of Dawlish
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally designated sites
- To protect the railway line
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To not adversely affect the recreational and amenity values of the area
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.
5.8 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 8 (CPU8) The Parson and Clerk to Hope’s Nose

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 8 (see Figure 5.8) extends from The Parson and Clerk rocks, near Holcombe, to Hope’s Nose and includes the Teign Estuary. It encompasses the settlements of part of Holcombe, Teignmouth, Shaldon, Maidencombe and part of Torquay.

The coastline consists mostly of cliffs, becoming higher and more indented toward the southern end of the unit. The cliffs are subject to varying degrees of erosion and are fronted by stretches of narrow sandy beaches.

Land use in this unit is mainly urban, including commercial and residential areas, with agricultural and recreational areas in the central part of the unit. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has national conservation designations at the northern end of the unit for its geology, fossils and flora.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.8) contains three management units, MU18, MU19 and MU20. MU18 between The Parson and Clerk rocks and the south bank of the River Teign is predominantly urban; MU19 between the south bank of the River Teign and Petit Tor Point is mainly rural; MU20 between Petit Tor Point and Hope’s Nose is urban.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 18 (MU18) The Parson and Clerk – Teign Estuary
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the developed areas of Teignmouth and Shaldon
- To maintain the mainline railway link in its present location
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To not impinge on navigational access in the Teign Estuary
- To protect the docks at Teignmouth
- To ensure that the Teign shellfish industry is not affected adversely
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 19 (MU19) Teign Estuary – Petit Tor Point
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Maidencombe
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To ensure that the Teign shellfish industry is not affected adversely.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 20 (MU20) Petit Tor Point – Hope’s Nose
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the built-up area of Torquay
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally designated sites
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.
5.9 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 9 (CPU9) Hope’s Nose to Berry Head

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 9 (see Figure 5.9) extends from Hope’s Nose to Berry Head and covers the coastline of Tor Bay. It encompasses the settlements of part of Torquay, Paignton, Goodrington and part of Brixham.

The coastline consists of a deeply recessed cliffed bay bounded by headlands. Within the bay, there are a number of promontories that create pockets of sandy beaches. The whole area is heavily populated, and is known as the English Riviera.

Land use in this unit is mainly urban with some recreational areas. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geology, fossils, inter-tidal habitats, flora and fauna.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.9) contains only one management unit, MU21, extending over its entire length.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic option for this management unit is set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.
5.10 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 10 (CPU10) Berry Head to Blackstone Point

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 10 (see Figure 5.10) extends from Berry Head to Blackstone Point and includes the Dart Estuary. It encompasses the settlements of part of Brixham, Kingswear and Dartmouth.

The coastline consists of indented cliffs forming numerous bays containing small sandy beaches. There are occasional rock falls from the cliffs.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural with residential developments around the settlements. Sea use comprises fishing and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geology, flora and fauna.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.10) contains three management units, MU22, MU23 and MU24. MU22 between Berry Head and Sharkham Point is predominantly urban; MU23 between Sharkham Point and the east bank of the River Dart is mainly rural; MU24 covers the Dart Estuary.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 22 (MU22) Berry Head – Sharkham Point
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the built-up area of Brixham
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 23 (MU23) Sharkham Point – Inner Froward Point
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 24 (MU24) Inner Froward Point – Blackstone Point
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the settlements of Kingswear and Dartmouth
- To not impinge on navigational use of the Dart Estuary
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally designated sites
- To protect nationally important archaeological sites, listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.
5.11 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 11 (CPU11) Blackstone Point to Start Point

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 11 (see Figure 5.11) extends from Blackstone Point to Start Point and includes Slapton Ley lagoon. It encompasses the settlements of Stoke Fleming, Blackpool, Strete, Slapton, Torcross, Beesands and Hallsands.

The coastline consists of a long shallow bay, with high cliffs at both ends and low-lying land and minor cliffs in the central area. The shingle ridge of Slapton Sands encloses Slapton Ley, the largest fresh water lagoon in south west England.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural with amenity and residential areas. Sea use comprises fishing, diving and recreation.

The coastline has national conservation designations in the southern part of the unit for its geomorphology, geology, flora and fauna.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.11) contains two management units, MU25 and MU26. MU25 between Blackstone Point and the west of Strete and MU26 between the west of Strete and Start Point are both predominantly rural.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.
5.12 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 12 (CPU12) Start Point to Bolt Tail

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 12 (see Figure 5.12) extends from Start Point to Bolt Tail and includes the Kingsbridge Estuary. It encompasses the settlements of East Prawle, East Portlemouth, Salcombe and Bolbery.

The coastline is dominated by steep high cliffs, with numerous small embayed beaches. There is some cliff erosion from undercutting and rock falls. The unit is bounded by headlands.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural with commercial areas around Salcombe and scattered residential areas. Sea use comprises commerce, fishing, diving and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geology, inter-tidal habitats, flora and fauna.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.12) contains three management units, MU27, MU28 and MU29. MU27 between Start Point and Rickham Common is rural; MU28 covers the Kingsbridge Estuary and Salcombe, and is mainly urban; MU29 between Splatcove and Bolt Tail is rural.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 27 (MU27) Start Point – Rickham Common
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING

Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 28 (MU28) Rickham Common – Splatcove
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE

Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect the town of Salcombe
- To not impinge on navigational access in the estuary
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To protect the nationally important archaeological site, listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 29 (MU29) Splatcove – Bolt Tail
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING

Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To protect listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.
5.13 COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 13 (CPU13) Bolt Tail to Wembury Point

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 13 (see Figure 5.13) extends from Bolt Tail to Wembury Point and includes the Avon, Erme and Yealm Estuaries. It encompasses the settlements of Inner and Outer Hope, Thurlestone, Bantham, Bigbury on Sea, Challaborough and Wembury.

The coastline consists of extensive lengths of steep indented cliffs with numerous small sandy embayed beaches, punctuated by estuaries. Localised cliff erosion occurs throughout the unit.

Land use in this unit is mainly agricultural with amenity, residential and Ministry of Defence (military base) areas. Sea use comprises fishing, diving and recreation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology, inter-tidal habitats, flora and fauna.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.13) contains five management units, MU30, MU31, MU32, MU33 and MU34. The unit is predominantly rural. MU30 lies between Bolt Tail and the River Avon; MU31 covers the Avon Estuary; MU32 lies between the Rivers Avon and Yealm; MU33 covers the Wembury frontage; MU34 lies between Wembury and Wembury Point.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 30 (MU30) Bolt Tail – West of Bantham
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Inner and Outer Hope and properties at Thurlestone Sands
- To protect the golf course
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally designated sites
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To protect the nationally important archaeological site, listed buildings at risk and conservation areas.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 31 (MU31) West of Bantham – West of Challaborough
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To protect Bigbury on Sea and Challaborough
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To retain existing areas of amenity and recreational value
- To not impinge on navigational access
- To protect the caravan park
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To protect the nationally important archaeological site.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 32 (MU32) West of Challaborough – East of Wembury
Preferred Strategic Option: SELECTIVELY HOLD THE LINE
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain bathing beach quality
- To not impinge on navigational access to the Rivers Erme and Yealm.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 33 (MU33) East of Wembury – West of Wembury
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path
- To maintain the recreational value of the area.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 34 (MU34) West of Wembury – Wembury Point
Preferred Strategic Option: DO NOTHING
Unit Specific Objectives
- To maintain the integrity of the nationally and internationally designated sites
- To maintain the continuity of the South West Coast Path.
5.14  COASTAL PROCESS UNIT 14 (CPU14) Wembury Point to Rame Head

DESCRIPTION OF UNIT

Coastal Process Unit 14 (see Figure 5.14) extends from Wembury Point in Devon to Rame Head in Cornwall and includes Plymouth Sound. This is the most westerly unit in the SMP area. It encompasses the settlements of Heybrook Bay, Bovisand, Plymouth, Plymstock, Kingsand and Cawsand.

The coastline covers the frontages around Plymouth Sound and the estuary mouths of the Rivers Plym and Tamar. It consists of cliffs of varying heights, which are subject to localised erosion, and beaches. The man-made Plymouth Breakwater protects the unit against severe erosion by moderating the inshore waves.

Land use in this unit varies and includes agricultural, commercial, residential, recreational and Ministry of Defence (Plymouth Breakwater) areas. The central area of the unit, around Plymouth and Plymstock is the most densely populated in the SMP coastline. Sea use comprises fishing, recreation and navigation.

The coastline has both national and international conservation designations for its geomorphology, geology, fossils, flora and fauna.

The coastal process unit (see Figure 5.14) contains five management units, MU35, MU36, MU37, MU38 and MU39. MU35 between Wembury Point and Mount Batten Point is predominantly rural; MU36 covering the Plymouth frontage is urban; MU37 between Cremyll and Kingsand is predominantly rural; MU38 MU37 between Kingsand and Cawsand is residential; MU39 between Cawsand and Rame Head is rural.

The specific objectives and preferred strategic options for these management units are set out on the remainder of this page. The overall SMP objectives are listed in Section 4. It should be noted that it is not always possible to meet all the objectives with the preferred option.

Details of the appraisal of viable options and the selection of the preferred option may be found in the full SMP document.
6. **OVERVIEW OF STUDY COASTLINE**

The evaluation and identification of a preferred option for each management unit within the SMP has considered the interaction of that management unit’s option with the following:

- with adjacent management units
- within its own coastal process unit
- with adjacent coastal process units
- within the three sediment sub-cells comprising the SMP.

All viable options were considered from both technical and economic standpoints, and the preferred options thus derived (see Section 5) were:

- Do Nothing (in 17 management units)
- Hold the Line (in three management units)
- Selectively Hold the Line (in 19 management units).

In all but one management unit (MU 37), this represented no change to the present policy. However, where a change in policy was selected as the preferred option it was recommended that the present policy should continue while the preferred option was subject to further studies to confirm that it would be the most appropriate course of action.

The SMP has concluded that the preferred options are broadly compatible with the existing coastal processes at work along the study coastline, and should not affect the coastal processes in the adjoining lengths of coast.