

Responding to sea level rise – Strategy, Policy and Shoreline Management Plans

Bude Area Community Jury on Climate Change
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Coastal risk in England



- 6,000 km of coastline in England
- 1.8 million homes at risk from sea flooding and erosion
- One of the fastest eroding coastlines in Europe
- Approx. 2,000 properties at risk from coastal erosion over the next 50 years.
- 85% of inter tidal coastal habitat lost since 1850

Key Legislation

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

- An Act to make **provision about water, including provision about the management of risks in connection with flooding and coastal erosion**

Coast Protection Act 1949*

- This Act aims to provide a co-ordinated, **centrally regulated** approach to coastal protection works supported by Government grant aid. *CPA 1949 amended by Flood & Water Management Act in 2010.



National policy context

Defra's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy Statement:

- Sets out the long-term ambition to create a nation more resilient to flood and coastal erosion risk

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) & National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

- Describe a framework based on sustainable development and integrated coastal zone management principles:
 - a long-term view & broad holistic approach
 - adaptive management
 - working with natural processes
 - use of a combination of instruments
 - participatory planning
 - reflecting local characteristics
 - Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs)

Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs)

- SMPs set the planned approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risk around the coast of England (and Wales) within coastal sediment cells
- The current 2nd Generation SMPs (SMP2) were published between 2006 and 2012
- In order to set a clear direction of travel for a more sustainable coast in the longer-term, SMP2 establishes recommended policy and management intent over three planning timeframes:
 - Short-term: 2005 to 2025
 - Medium-term: 2026 – 2055
 - Long-term: 2026 – 2105
- They are **mutually owned plans**: developed in partnership by the Environment Agency, local authorities and other coastal partners

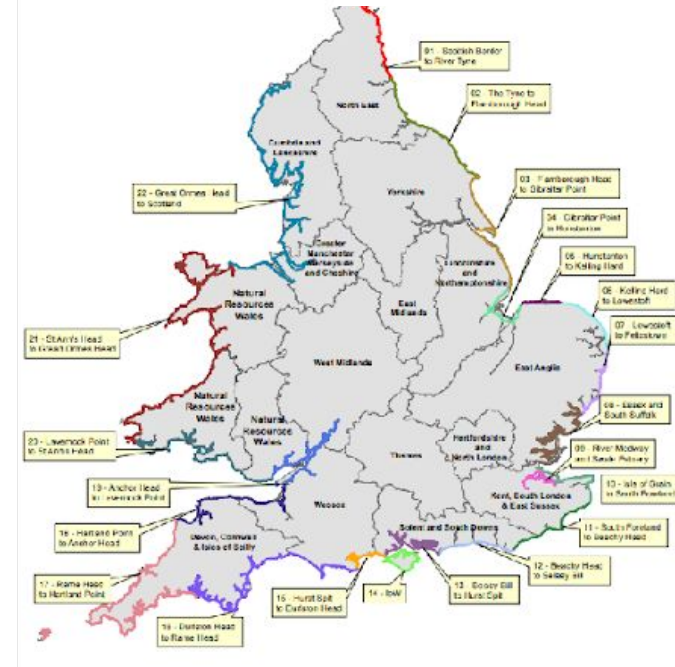


Image source: Environment Agency

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly SMP



Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Shoreline Management Plan Review
Sub-cells 6d, 6e, 7a, 7b
Rame Head to Hartland Point and the Isles of Scilly



Cornwall Council lead authority on behalf of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Coastal Advisory Group (CISCAG)

February 2011
Final Report
9T8801

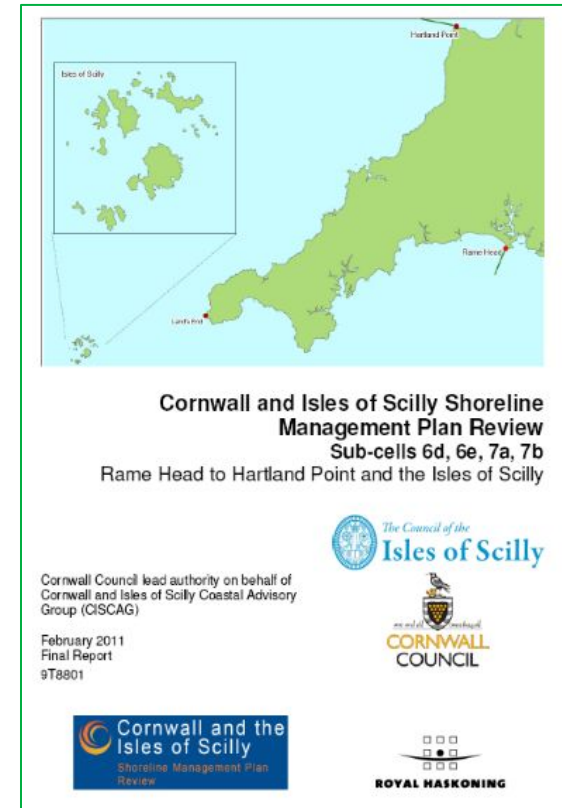


- Local coastal management policy to deliver intent of national policy and Strategy
 - Policy choices seek to help coastlines transition over time by establishing a 'direction of travel'
 - Aims to establish a more sustainable shoreline position by 2105

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly SMP

Key principles

- Manage risks to communities from flooding and erosion and support their adaptation
- Establish a long-term action plan which helps to minimise and reduce reliance on defences in the future
- Allow natural evolution of the shoreline wherever possible
- Support nature conservation values and minimise impacts on habitats
- Support public access and a continuous coastal pathway



N.B. SMP also recommends locations likely to be considered CCMA's under the national policy guidance, for implementation within Local Planning Framework

A primary focus for SMPs now is to describe management approaches based on ‘adaptation pathways’

- Identify opportunities that come with change
- Utilise local planning tools – e.g. Coastal Change Management Areas and Neighbourhood Plans
- Deliver multiple benefits
- Allow for future uncertainty and avoid locking into unsustainable approaches
- Inclusivity – community-driven, enacted by local decision makers/politicians

Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs)

- Coastal Change defined in national policy guidance as physical changes to the shoreline, through the process of erosion, coastal landslip, permanent inundation or coastal accretion
- Typical signals for pressurised coastal systems undergoing change:
 - » Erosion of hard or soft cliffs
 - » Loss of mobile sediments – lowering beaches and cliffing dunes
 - » Coastal squeeze - narrowing of intertidal area, loss of upper shore vegetation
 - » Increasing frequency of tidal inundation
 - » Frequent and reoccurring damage to defences
- CCMAs defined where rates of shoreline change are *significant* over the next 100 years, taking account of climate change
- Typically, CCMAs are formally designated and adopted through a Local Authority's **Local Plan**

Funding Coastal Transition – the challenge!

Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP)

Communities to trial innovative ways of adapting to coastal erosion

The Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP) will explore how we can adapt to the effects of climate change on the coast.

From 2022 to 2027, East Riding of Yorkshire and North Norfolk will receive funding to work with communities on the coast that cannot sustainably be defended from coastal erosion.



Press release

Coastal adaptation projects in South West England to receive £6m in funding

Three communities in the South West allocated £6 million to support adaptation to coastal erosion



From: [Environment Agency](#), [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#), and [Rebecca Pow MP](#)

Published 29 September 2023

What sort of actions does CTAP support and encourage?

- 'rolling back' property and facilities at immediate risk of coast erosion
- improving and replacing damaged community infrastructure, such as beach access or coastal transport links and replacing public or community owned buildings in areas at risk with removable, modular, or other innovative buildings
- repurposing land in coastal erosion zones for different uses such as temporary car parks and restoring and creating habitats
- working with the finance and property sectors to explore innovative finance or funding mechanisms to help move communities away from rapidly eroding areas, for instance schemes to incentivise the relocation of at-risk infrastructure for businesses and homeowners
- using the local planning system so it supports and facilitates managed transition of existing development, enables new adaptable development where it is appropriate and restricts unsustainable development in areas at risk from coastal erosion

Funding – what might change?

Defra's policy statement sets the following actions:

- **Action:** *We will explore the availability and role of financial products or services that can help people or businesses to achieve a managed transition of property and infrastructure away from areas at very high risk of coastal erosion.*
- **Action:** *We will review the current mechanisms – including legal powers – which coastal erosion risk management authorities can use to manage the coast.*

Thank you for listening

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