

Part D

PLANNING

In developing and implementing strategies for future coastal defence, an awareness is required of all the strategic planning documents that are in place and of relevance to coastal defence matters.

This section details present planning procedures and sets out existing policies and plans, integrating the relevant objectives and policies of both statutory and non-statutory plans that cover Poole and Christchurch Bays.

PLANNING SECTION

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Context of Coastal Planning in Dorset and Hampshire

It should be noted that at the time of writing the most up to date statements of planning policy have been referred to. These documents currently remain on deposit pending approval/adoption in the near future. Present statutory policies that are due to be superseded by those referred to in the text are listed in Appendix A.

Through development plans and development control, the planning system exercises an important influence over the way the coast is developed and conserved. Plans and policies are prepared against the background of government planning policies (which include regional planning guidance and policies relating to the coast) set out in Planning Policy Guidance Notes. Land use and planning policies along the coastline are important factors in developing a shoreline management plan as existing and future land uses will influence the value of land which may in turn influence the plan employed. Consequently, a classification of planning policy and land and sea use along the east Dorset and west Hampshire coastline is necessary.

The aim of this planning section is to coherently present the existing planning situation within Dorset and (where applicable) Hampshire and to set up a working framework for coastal planners to follow in terms of what they need to be aware of and which parties they should co-ordinate and communicate with.

There is a need to be aware of all of the relevant strategic planning documents and non-statutory plans that bear relevance to setting out future guidance for specific SMP themes. These are shown in Tables 1.1 and 1.5 respectively. Such themes include:

- coastal defence
- future coastal developments
- offshore activities
- nature conservation /coastal habitat management

An appraisal of existing planning policy on a European, national and regional basis is then followed by an evaluation of how these apply to the Dorset and Hampshire situation. The intention is to present those existing statutory policies of relevance in addition to assessing and covering specific planning issues that will need to be addressed in the future. A shortlist of requirements to achieve the ultimate coastal defence planning goals set within SMPs, in addition to wider coastal planning in the South West (and East where applicable), is presented.

1.2 Review of Relevant Information

As a guide, Table 1.1 presents a summary of the tiered planning framework that exists. International, European, National, Regional and local policies that are of relevance to the SMP (responsibilities and initiatives) are described in greater detail in the text.

TABLE 1.1 Plans and Policies of Relevance to the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP

Tier 1 International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rio Earth Summit Biodiversity Convention and Agenda 21 (commitment of Member States to integrated coastal management and Sustainable development of coastal areas and the marine environment under their jurisdiction) • OECD Initiatives (Council for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Requested member states to develop strategic planning and management of Coastal zones) • Ramsar Convention (International Wetland Conference held in Iran, 1972)
Tier 2 European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (designation of candidate and proposed Special Protection Areas) • Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (designation of candidate and proposed Special Areas of Conservation at The Solent Maritime, Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes, Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs) • EU funded initiative for Integrated Coastal Zone Management Demonstration Project in Dorset
Tier 3 National Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town and Country Planning Act 1990 • Environment Act, 1995 • UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994) • Department of Environment Policy Guidelines for the Coast- published 1995 (intended to draw together guidance that has already been provided) • Guide to Best Practice for Coastal Zone Management in England (published 1997, highlights examples of best practice and interactions of different Elements in coastal management) • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 20 on Coastal Planning • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 9 on Nature Conservation • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 14 on Unstable Land • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 15 Planning and the Historic Environment • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 16 Archaeology and Planning • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 17 Sport and Recreation • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 7 The Countryside, Environmental Quality and Economic and Social Development • Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) Note 2 Green Belt • Relevant Acts of Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coast Protection Act 1949 - Land Drainage Act 1991 - Water Resources Act 1991 • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 • Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 • Coastal Defence and the Environment – A Strategic Guide 1993 (MAFF) • Defence and the Environment – A Guide to Good Practice 1993 (MAFF) • Strategy for Flood and Coastal Defence in England and Wales 1993 (MAFF)

TABLE 1.1 Plans and Policies of Relevance to the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP Cont'd

Tier 4	Regional and County Government (statutory documents) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London and South East Regional Planning Guidance, 1993 • Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10), 1994 • Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9), 1994
Tier 5	County Wide Documents <p>Dorset Structure Plan (First Alteration), 1993 Hampshire County Structure Plan 1993 Hampshire County Structure Plan Review (Deposit Plan 1996) Dorset County Structure Plan, 1996 South East Dorset Structure Plan (First Alteration), 1990 Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Deposit Plan, 1996 Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Deposit Plan, 1994</p>
Tier 6	Local Government (statutory documents) <p>New Forest District Deposit Local Plan, 1995 New Forest Coastal Towns Local Plan, 1990 (adopted) New Forest District Local Plan Pre-Inquiry Proposed Changes 1996 Christchurch Borough Council Deposit Local Plan, 1997; Pre-Inquiry Changes 1997; Further Inquiry Changes 1998 Highcliffe and District Local Plan (adopted 1989) South Christchurch Local Plan (adopted 1993) Bournemouth Borough Local Plan, 1995 * Boscombe Local Plan, First Review, 1995 * Bournemouth Town Centre Local Plan 1988 * Poole Local Plan Poole Coastal Local Plan 1992 Poole Town Centre Local Plan Purbeck District Local Plan, 1997 (Deposit Version) North East Purbeck Local Plan 1994 Isle of Purbeck Local Plan 1991</p>
Tier 7	Local Non-Statutory Plans <p><u>Shoreline Management Plans (SMP's)</u></p> <p>SMP – Phase 1 & 2 West Solent and Southampton Water Durlston Head to Portland Bill Stage 1 Shoreline Management Study</p> <p><u>Local Environment Agency Plans</u></p> <p>Frome and Piddle CMP, 1995 Dorset Stour LEAP, 1997 Hampshire Avon CMP, 1994 Poole Harbour and Purbeck CMP, 1996 New Forest LEAP, consultation draft, 1998</p>

* Bournemouth Borough, Boscombe and Town Centre Local Plans are to be superseded by Bournemouth District Wide Local Plan (Consultation Draft, 1997)

TABLE 1.1 Plans and Policies of Relevance to the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP Cont'd

<u>Environmental Management</u> (including water recreation / use plans)	
<p>Hengistbury Head Management Plan, 1988 (presently being updated)</p> <p>Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan, 1995</p> <p>Poole Harbour Management Policies, 1998</p> <p>New Forest District Coastal Management Plan, 1997</p> <p>Keeping Purbeck Special - A Strategy for the Purbeck Heritage Area, 1995</p> <p>Stanpit Marsh Management Plan, 1988</p>	
<u>Landscape Management</u>	
<p>Poole Quay Quality Management Plan, 1995</p> <p>The South West Coast Path Strategy</p> <p>South West Regional Planning Conference - Regional Strategy</p> <p>National Trust Coastal Ownership Management Plans</p> <p>Ham Common Management Plan</p> <p>Sandbanks Management Plan, 1996</p> <p>Evening Hill Management Plan, 1996 - 2006</p> <p>Luscombe Valley Nature Reserve Management Plan</p> <p>Upton Country Park Management Plan</p> <p>Poole Quay Management Plan, 1996</p> <p>Branksome Dene Chine Management Plan</p> <p>Seafront Management Plan (Bournemouth BC)</p> <p>Mudford Sandbank Management Plan (to be announced)</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Purbeck</p> <p>Alum Chine Management Plan</p> <p>Durley Chine Management Plan</p> <p>Middle Chine Management Plan</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire (volume 1 in preparation)</p> <p>Poole Bay Coastal Management Plan (currently under development)</p>	
<u>Other Council Plans</u>	
<p>Towards 2000 - A Leisure Strategy for Poole, 1995</p> <p>Swanage Seafront Improvement Scheme Proposals, 1993</p> <p>Bournemouth Council Leisure Strategy</p>	
Tier 8	Local Byelaws
<p>A comprehensive list of Local Byelaws has not been compiled, though relevant ones in strategic areas are presented in local management plans</p>	

1.3 International Obligations

At the international level, the concept of wider integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) is being actively encouraged for all member states in an attempt to encourage sustainable development of natural coastal resources. This vision is being acknowledged and understood within most County and Local

Authorities, particularly with regard to abiding by the principles of Local Agenda 21 (resource sustainability) and applying such principles into the management of natural biodiversity. This is particularly the case in Dorset where an EU funded Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Demonstration Project is presently under way to achieve the integration of objectives and plans of relevance to the Dorset coastline.

National Government, during the early 1990s, initiated a number of reports and working groups that are of relevance to the production of SMPs. Government's international obligation following signing of the 'Biodiversity Convention on the Earth' Summit at Rio in 1992 has undoubtedly promoted wider thinking on coastal issues. During this Rio Summit, for example, it was agreed that Member States should draw up National Biodiversity Plans and Programmes to implement the strategies to ensure continued biodiversity. These plans provide a national framework, to be translated into action at a local level.

Under the EU Species and Habitats Directive (1992) and the UK Habitats Regulations (1994), there is a requirement for "relevant authorities" to pay special attention to European Sites (SPAs and SACs) and species. The relevant authorities are required to establish a management scheme by which SACs are managed in order to achieve the conservation objectives set. Section 4 discusses in more detail this important aspect of coastal planning.

Though not intended to represent a complete listing, other key international obligations stem from conventions such as the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. These again will be discussed more fully in Section 4.

1.4 National Governmental Policy

(a) Existing Legislation, Powers and Responsibilities

The role of regulating change and improving environmental conditions in the coastal zone is split between many authorities and bodies including central government, local authorities, harbour authorities, sea fisheries committees, the Environment Agency, internal drainage boards and various landowners. In terms of the SMP, the three Acts of Parliament that are of direct relevance are:

- Coast Protection Act, 1949 (ie: coastal erosion)
- Water Resources Act, 1991 (ie: sea defence)
- Land Drainage Act, 1991 (ie: sea defence)

These powers are permissive in that the authorities are not required to undertake works and are expected only to promote schemes that are cost effective and have a benefit to the community.

The Environment Agency (formerly the National Rivers Authority) has a statutory obligation to exercise a general supervision over all matters relating to flood defence in England. Under the 1991 Water Resources Act, the EA has the power to maintain existing defences and to improve and construct new defences against sea water and tidal water. In all cases, the powers are permissive as is the case for coast protection.

Under Section 14 of the Land Drainage Act (1991), Internal Drainage Boards have powers to implement measures in their areas, principally to reduce the flooding of agricultural land. Maritime district councils are provided with powers to protect land against flooding under the same section, though these are primarily linked with sea defences at coastal resorts where defences have an amenity function.

The 1949 Coast Protection Act empowers coast protection authorities to carry out such coast protection works as may be needed for the protection of any land in their area. Coast protection authorities may also make orders under Section 18 of the 1949 Act (subject to confirmation by the Minister) to prohibit removal of material from any portion of the seashore within their area or lying to seaward.

(b) Government Guidance

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions at a national level provides broad planning guidance through Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs), Circulars and Ministerial statements. Out of the whole suite of PPG Notes produced, the Planning Policy Guidance Note 20 on Coastal Planning is perhaps of most relevance to shoreline management planning.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 20 (PPG20)

This Guidance Note sets out the government's planning policy for the coastal areas of England and Wales, broadly dividing the coast into four types:

- the undeveloped coast
- other areas of undeveloped or partly developed coast
- the developed coast
- the despoiled coast

PPG20 also sets out the key policy issues for coastal planning as:

- *Conservation of the Natural Environment* - Conservation policies aim to protect and enhance the natural character and landscape of the undeveloped coastline.
- *Development* - Development policies should not normally provide for development which does not require a coastal location (excepting regeneration/reclamation of existing urban areas).
- *Risks* - Risks policies relate to risks from flooding, erosion by the sea, land slips and rock falls. The policy in these areas should be to avoid putting further development at risk.
- *Policies for Improving the Environment* - may involve proposals to improve and enhance the coast, to regenerate run down coastal ports and towns, and to restore stretches of despoiled coastline.

PPG20 also sets out policies for developments that require a coastal location, for example tourism, recreation, mineral extraction, energy generation, and waste water and sewage treatment and disposal. The importance of a full understanding of the natural processes and proper co-ordination with adjacent planning authorities and other relevant agencies and bodies is stressed.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 9 (Nature Conservation)

This PPG gives guidance on how the Government's policies for the conservation of our natural heritage are to be reflected in land use planning. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and to conserving the diversity of wildlife. A key point of this PPG refers to the importance of nature conservation outside of designated sites. Although the Dorset and Hampshire coast contains many designated sites, there may be situations where endangered species exist in adjacent undesignated areas.

Other Planning Policy Guidance Notes of Relevance

For issues that directly affect the coast, planning policy guidance exists for green belts in England (PPG2); the countryside, including National Parks, AONBs and agricultural land (PPG7); development on unstable land (PPG14); archaeology (PPG16) and sport and recreation (PPG17).

1.5 Regional and County Planning Policy

For clarification purposes, this sub-section refers to both regional guidance notes which geographically span the South West and South East of England and County Structure Plans which are formulated from development procedures set out in the regional guidance notes.

(a) Regional Planning Guidance for the South West and South East

Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10) and South East (RPG9) were published in 1994 to provide advice for the updating and review of development plans for the period up to the year 2011. These Guidance Notes have assisted in the preparation of the Dorset and Hampshire County Structure Plans outlining general principles for future planning. Consequently, the overall strategies of the two County Structure Plans, on which policies and proposals for Local Plans are based, provide appropriate amplification of this Regional Planning Guidance for both counties.

The key objective of both RPG9 and RPG 10 is to ensure that development is sustainable. Planning for change in ways that protect the environmental qualities of these Regions will help attract new investment and jobs, improve local quality of life and protect the environment for future generations.

RPG10 emphasises that the South West contains almost half of England's coastline and more than 60% of its Heritage Coast which is of major significance to the Region. Development plan policies should therefore afford the greatest protection to coastal areas which are internationally and nationally designated but should generally safeguard the whole of the Region's undeveloped coast. As such, coastal zones need to be defined. Within these zones, development that does not need a coastal location, would not be permitted. In addition, coastal areas where development would be acceptable should be identified in case there is an identifiable need for development along the coast. There are obvious implications here for future Local Authority planning in the coastal zone.

Finally, the RPG10 states that development plans should promote measures to enhance particular coastal areas where they have, in the past, been affected detrimentally by previous development. This has been addressed to some extent in both the Hampshire and Dorset County Structure Plans which both encourage regeneration of derelict or disused land on the urban coast.

(b) County Structure Plans

The corresponding County Structure Plans and their associated policies ensure that the consideration of development issues and the sustaining of coastal and marine resources, set out in the RPG 9 and RPG 10 documents, will be fully integrated. As these are required to take into account national and regional policy advice, the interpretation of such advice should reflect local circumstances where appropriate and in turn provide the context for individual local areas.

(i) The Hampshire County Structure Plan Review

This is of relevance for policies covering the length of coast from Hurst Spit to Chewton Bunny. The Hampshire County Structure Plan includes a section devoted to coastal issues, emphasising the need to preserve a balance between commercial and recreational activities and the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment. The plan also stresses the importance of encouraging the current regeneration of the urban coast to bring useful activity and improved environmental quality back into run-down areas, through investment in suitable redevelopment schemes. These specific coastal policies and others addressing land use issues of relevance to the SMP are listed in Table 1.2.

TABLE 1.2 Hampshire County Structure Plan Review Policies of Relevance to SMP

Policy	Title	Description
C1	Conservation of the countryside	Use of delineation of countryside areas and development control to conserve and enhance countryside
*C3	Criteria for granting planning permission	No general development to be allowed on sites suited to uses requiring water access. Development should not be visually intrusive, environmentally damaging & should incorporate pedestrian access where possible
*C4	Development on Undeveloped coasts	Excepting areas allocated for ports, development to be restricted if it detracts from landscape, wildlife or historic value
*C5	Provision of new moorings	Development may be granted on built-up coast if not environmentally damaging or visually intrusive. No provision for undeveloped coast
*C6	Land reclamation	Reclamation will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated there is no undesirable hydrological/environmental effect & is well related to the existing built-up area
E2	Flood risk	Avoid development in flood risk / erosion areas. Permitted development should incorporate sound flood defence measures
E6	Protection of local landscape	Character & extent of each landscape type should be identified & criteria defined to ensure appropriateness of developments to landscape character
E7	AONBs	Development to be restricted unless required to meet local economic or social needs or in the national interest
E10	Designated Conservation areas	Development which adversely affects these sites will only be permitted where the need for development outweighs the adverse impact

Footnote * Specific coastal policies

TABLE 1.2 Hampshire County Structure Plan Review Policies of Relevance to SMP Cont'd

Policy	Title	Description
E13	Archaeological Sites	Development to be restricted if it adversely affects nationally important archaeological sites and monuments and their settings
G4	Local Gaps	Restrict development if it visually/physically reduces amount of open/undeveloped land between settlements and major development areas
G5	Green Belt	Presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt
MW3	Minerals/waste	Restrict minerals/waste development affecting designated conservation areas unless need for development outweighs any likely adverse impact

Footnote * Specific coastal policies

(ii) The Dorset County Deposit Structure Plan, 1996

The Dorset County Deposit Structure Plan, CSP 21, 1996 similarly sets out the County Council's vision for the future of Dorset. The majority of the policies stated are aimed at conserving the natural environment in the county with only 3 policies relating specifically to the coastal zone. Those of key relevance to the SMP are listed in Table 1.3.

TABLE 1.3 Dorset County Structure Plan Policies of Relevance to SMP

Policy	Title	Description
TOU A	Tourist/recreation development	Development of new chalet, caravan or tent sites will be restricted within the Heritage Coast & subject to rigorous examination in AONBs
TOU B	Tourism attractions	Development for tourism & recreation should be encouraged where it contributes to regeneration and/or extension of the tourist season
CF C	Countryside Recreational facilities	permit development of countryside recreational facilities if compatible with character of rural environment, accessible to main centres & reduce pressure on sensitive areas
CF D	Facilities for water-based recreation	at coastal resorts make provision for development of new facilities for marine recreation subject to assessment of impact on marine environment
TRA V	Port facilities	port facilities at Poole should be improved subject to safeguarding the ecological value of the harbour and its use for recreation
ENV A	Development in SACs or SPAs	proposals for development in such areas should only be allowed if there is no alternative solution or there are reasons of overriding public interest
ENV B	Development in SSSIs or NNRs	Development proposals should only be allowed if evident that the national benefits of the development outweigh intrinsic nature conservation/scientific value of the site
ENV C	Development in SINC's or RIGs	Development proposals which may adversely affect such sites should only be allowed if evident that the local benefits arising from the development outweigh the intrinsic nature conservation/scientific value of the site

**TABLE 1.3 Dorset County Structure Plan Policies of Relevance to SMP
Cont'd**

Policy	Title	Description
ENV D	Development in Protected faunal areas	development should only be allowed if there is no alternative solution and if there are reasons of overriding public interest
ENV E	Re-establishment of Habitat loss	maintain/enhance biodiversity in Dorset through re-establishment of lowland heath & replacement of appropriate habitats damaged /lost through development
ENV F	Maintenance of Landscape quality	development proposals should be sympathetic in design & have respect for local landscape characteristics to maintain/enhance quality/diversity of the Dorset landscape
ENV J	Protection of the Undeveloped coast	Within Heritage Coast priority will be given to conserving natural beauty, biodiversity & geology whilst enabling public access, enjoyment & appreciation of the coast
ENV K	Coastal erosion/ Flooding	Development should not be allowed in areas where coastal erosion, flooding, sea level rise and increased storminess are likely to affect it during its lifetime
ENV L	Coast protection/sea Defence criteria	Development essential for sea defence/coast protection should take account of the environmental significance of its proposed location & its effect on natural processes
IMP B	Land stability	When preparing local plans & determining applications for development, the local planning authorities should take into account the stability of the site & its surroundings

KEY **TOU** Tourism **ENV** Environment **TRA** Transport
 CF Community Facilities **IMP** Implementation

(c) Other Regional Planning Documents

Minerals and Waste Local Plans have been produced for Dorset and Hampshire, both of which are currently on deposit.

(i) *The Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan*

This plan sets out a series of policies that have some relevance to shoreline management planning. Key policies of relevance are listed in Table 1.4.

(ii) *The Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan*

No policies stated in the plan are of direct relevance to the length of shoreline in the Hampshire subcell area.

TABLE 1.4 Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Policies of Relevance to SMP

Policy	Title	Description
23	Alternative Aggregate sources	Proposals for the provision of alternative sources of aggregates to reduce dependence on indigenous sources will be encouraged
24	New/extended marine Aggregates	Applications for wharves or for facilities for unloading & distributing sea-borne aggregates will be permitted subject to certain criteria
31	New-extended block stone operations	Applications within preferred areas at Acton and Swanage will normally be permitted subject to criteria
32	Purbeck Stone	Presumption against extraction outside preferred areas for Purbeck Stone
37	Ball Clay working	Presumption in favour of applications within preferred areas in Wareham Basin for winning and working of ball clay subject to criteria

1.6 Local Planning Policy

(a) Statutory Plans and Policies

The Local Plans prepared by individual Operating Authorities in Dorset and Hampshire are prepared in general conformity with the Adopted Policies and Proposals of the Structure Plans.

The policies and proposals of each respective Local Plan develop the overall objectives of the Dorset and Hampshire Structure Plans. The present status of statutory Local Plans are presented in tabular form within Table 1.1.

Whilst circumstances differ around the county, the general principles to conserve the coast and countryside and safeguard the environment apply throughout. Once a Local Plan is adopted, it will supersede all existing Local Plans within the district with the exception of the County Minerals and Waste Plan. It will also form part of the Development Plan for the area. The Development Plan for each local authority commonly will comprise the Dorset/Hampshire County Structure Plan, the Dorset/Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and the Adopted Local Plan. Separate supplementary planning guidance is then adopted and issued to provide detailed clarifications and explanations of particular aspects of development guidance. The SMP has a role in providing specific advice for each local authority on future coastal defence needs and coastal development. This will amplify existing statutory policies and proposals where necessary. Equally so, the SMP results can be used to update or change existing policy should this be deemed applicable in the future.

Individual policies that are deemed of relevance to the SMP are outlined in Sections 2, 3 and 4 and their significance in reflecting future trends are raised.

(b) Local Non-Statutory Plans and Policies

In addition to statutory documents, the planning policy framework is complemented by a series of non-statutory plans giving further guidance on the development, or management of a particular coastal location or resource.

A plethora of non-statutory plans have been prepared, in particular for Dorset. These are important in the creation of the SMP as there are a number of similar objectives, policies and strategies in place with common themes. There is a need for all non-statutory plans to be cross referenced with one another to ensure that the recommendations that are derived from these documents provide informative advice to prepare coherent supplementary planning advice.

A directory of non-statutory plans has already been compiled by the South West Regional Planning Conference's Environment Sub-Group. Those plans of relevance to the SMP are presented in Table 1.5 (Appendix B) with further detail of their content and individual relevance to planning issues outlined in Sections 2, 3 and 4.

1.7 The Role of SMPs within the Existing Planning Framework

An attempt has been made to create a workflow diagram for coastal decision makers to help provide clear roles of the different non statutory plans that currently exist. The need for this stems from the number of statutory and non statutory plans that occur for the Dorset coastline, in particular, and the uncertainty over the roles of each plan and how they should be informing each other.

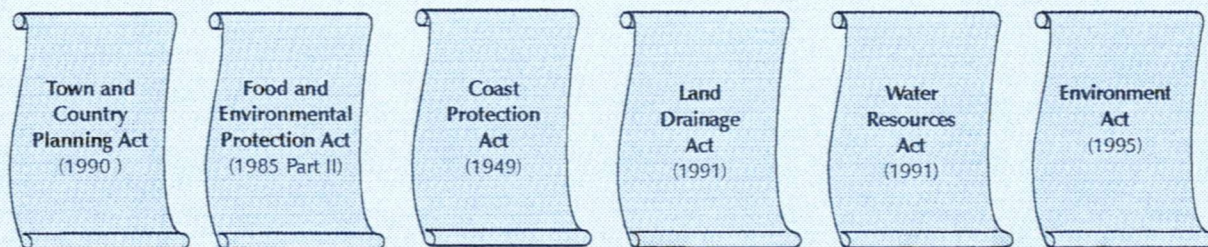
It is apparent that there is an increase in policy coverage between plans. The overlap in topic areas between these different plans suggests that it is not logical for there to be a proliferation of unrelated plans. Instead there need to be different plans for different purposes. It is vital that there are attempts to reduce unnecessary overlap and to encourage the maximisation of integration so that problems related to 'passing the buck' are avoided.

The "position" of the SMP within the existing planning framework is important. It is a plan for future coastal defence management that needs to acknowledge, but not provide strategies (policies) for a range of different coastal issues. Figures 1 to 3 have been prepared to clearly present how the statutory planning system presently works and what role the SMP, in particular, has within the statutory planning process. This is subject to debate between planners but has been produced at a suitable time for the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Demonstration Project that undoubtedly shall be reviewing the role of these disparate plans covering Dorset.

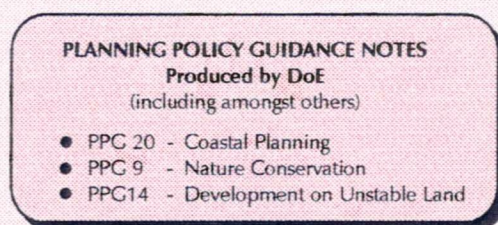
Figure 1 presents the overall planning framework in terms of statutory and non statutory plans. This is then reviewed more closely in terms of the key issues addressed in this section, notably for coastal defence and coastal development. Environmental management planning shall be reviewed more closely in the Natural Environment section of this SMP. Offshore extraction is also an awkward issue to present in these terms due to the lack of planning responsibility below Mean Low Water. The figures produced depict a conceptual view of what type of information needs to be attained from each report in order to achieve an effective 'bottom-up' approach to sustainable coastal management over the long term. Suggestions have also been made as to how non-statutory plans should be used and cross referenced to achieve required goals. Details of exact policies and plan contents are provided within the following sections of text.

Figure 1: **TIERED DIAGRAM OF NATIONAL TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DORSET AND HAMPSHIRE**

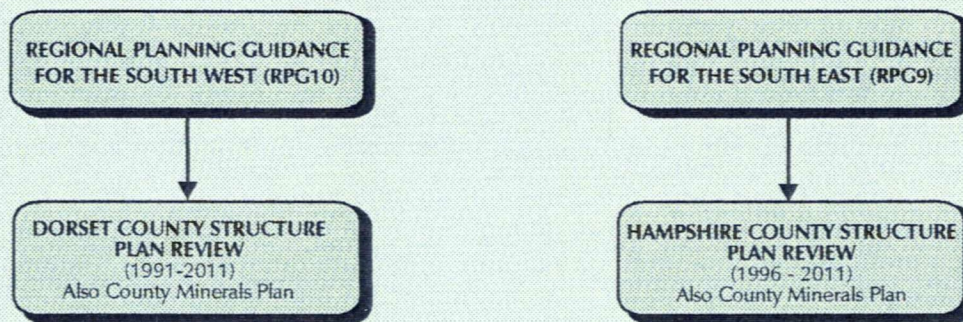
1. RELEVANT UK LEGISLATION



2. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE



3. REGIONAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING (Including County)



4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING

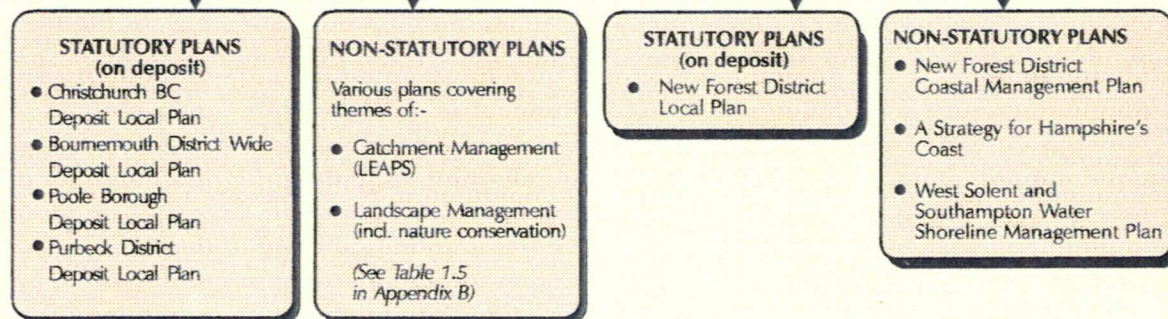


Figure 2: **PLANNING FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO COASTAL DEFENCE**

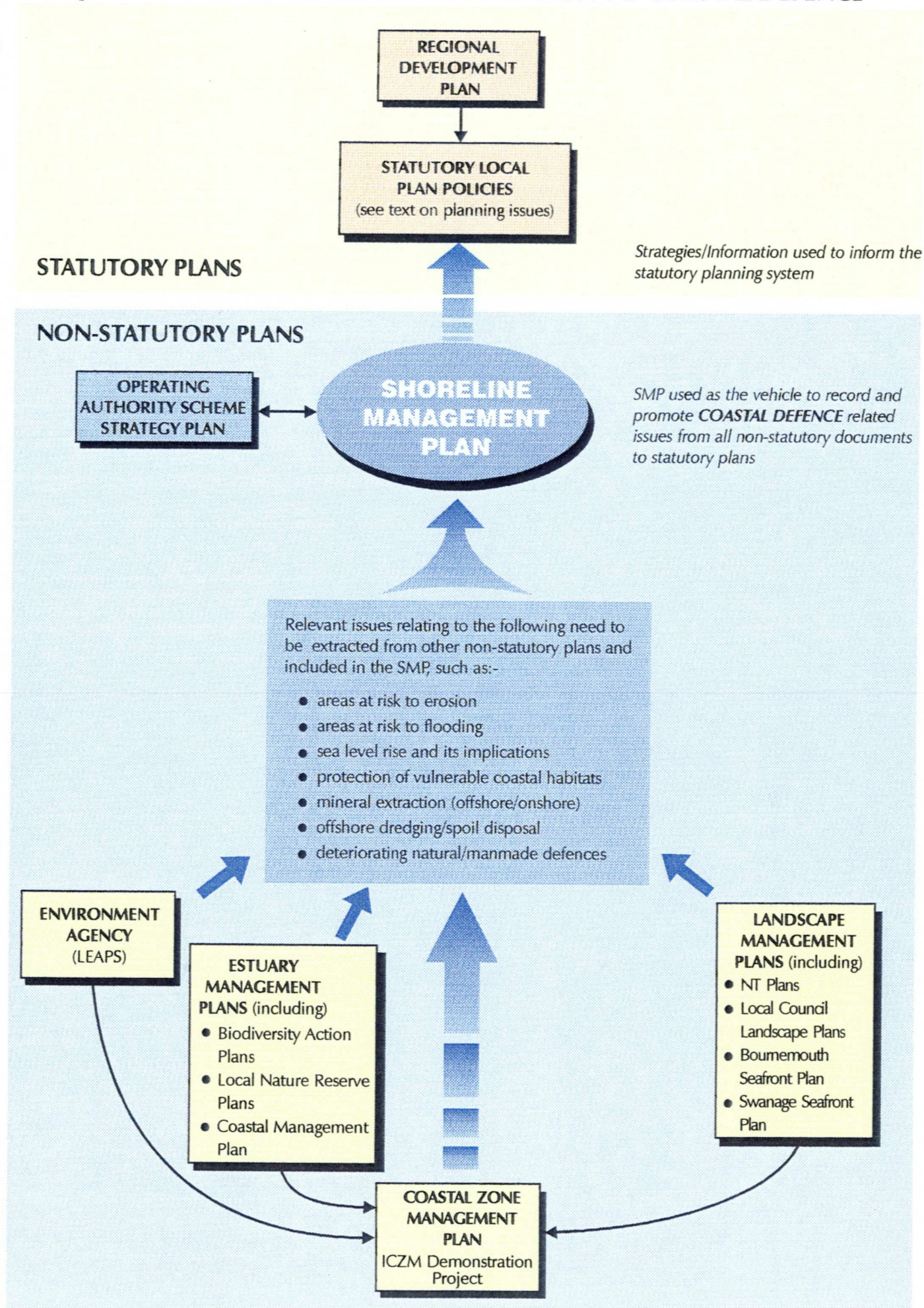
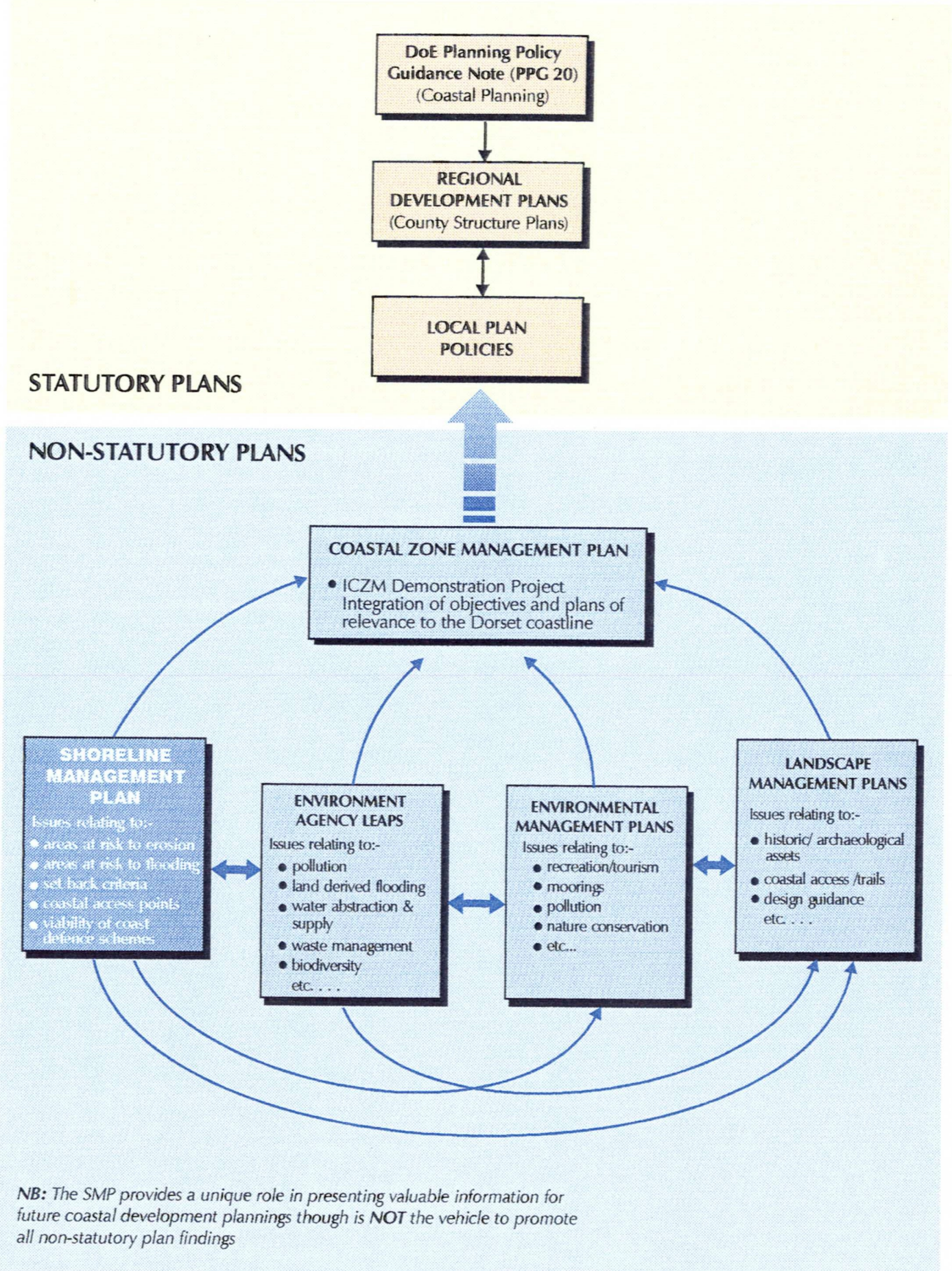


Figure 3: **PLANNING FRAMEWORK IN RELATION TO COASTAL DEVELOPMENT**



2 PLANNING POLICIES FOR COASTAL DEFENCE

2.1 Introduction

The following section has been structured to assess present coastal defence policy within Dorset and Hampshire. An appraisal of relevant statutory and non-statutory documentation is assessed for each management unit, stating the relevant Operating Authority(s) in each. In addition to this, an indication of pertinent planning issues and apparent future areas of concern are discussed. Policies of relevance to the entire study area are discussed separately below:

2.2 Present Statutory Policies

The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency Flood Defence Strategy (1993) states that its principal aims in relation to flood defence are to:

- Provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea
- Provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

These aims and principles apply for both the South West and Southern Region and are incorporated into present management that is of relevance to the SMP. A series of non-statutory Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) have been prepared for Dorset and Hampshire. These set out the actions that the Agency and others will carry out over the next five years. The LEAPs slot into a series of Catchment Management Plans, covering the same topic areas but also dealing with additional subject matter thus enabling the full range of management issues to be identified and considered within a geographical area. The LEAPs for the New Forest and Dorset Stour and the Catchment Management Plans for Poole Harbour and Purbeck, Hampshire Avon and Frome and Piddle all recognise the importance of SMPs, though are predominantly focused on flood alleviation schemes (ie: terrestrial run-off problems as opposed to marine flooding). They also appreciate that SMPs do not extend far into estuaries. It is acknowledged that similar studies may be required for these features.

The issue of fluvial storm flooding is believed to be a significant factor in being able to appropriately manage the whole coastal/hinterland interface along the Dorset and Hampshire coast, particularly areas from the Dorset Border to Hurst Spit which are below high tide level. Flood alleviation schemes (FAS) are in place for:

- Milford on Sea
- Green Gardens, Poole
- Swanage

Tidal defences are also in place on the:

- Frome and Piddle, extending upstream to Wareham
- The lower Avon & Stour at Christchurch (top of harbour and entrance)

Section 105 of the Water Resources Act 1991 requires the Environment Agency to exercise a general supervision over all flood defence matters. Actual flood problems are presently being reviewed as part of the Section 105 Survey (Development and Flood Risk). From this, where significant numbers of properties are shown at risk, further work is likely to be undertaken to see if an improvement scheme may be justified on cost benefit grounds.

Undoubtedly, the key issue here is how relevant are these structures within the scope of the SMP (ie: to what extent are they influenced by coastal processes). This discussion is concentrated upon in the Coastal Defences section of this volume.

TABLE 2.1 (a) Statutory Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F-1)

New Forest District Local Plan (Deposit version)		
Policy	Title	Description
DW-E41	River and coastal Flooding	Development will not be permitted in areas at risk from river or coastal flooding unless Local Authority planning criteria set out in the local plan are met
DW-C3	Coast Protection & Flood defence	Coast protection & coastal defence works will be permitted in certain circumstances if their effects on those aspects of the coastal environment listed in the policy are met
DW-C4	Development requiring Coastal Works	Development giving rise to a need for new coast protection works or for extensions/improvements to existing works will not normally be permitted
DW-C5	Coastal erosion	Development will not be permitted in areas on or near the coast at risk from coastal landslip or erosion, as defined on the proposals map
DW-C6	Reclamation of land From the sea	Permission will not normally be granted for the reclamation of land from the sea or the reclamation, development, excavation or permanent flooding of intertidal areas
Christchurch Borough Local Plan (Deposit version)		
Policy	Title	Description
ENV 5	Flood Plain Development	Planning permission will not be granted within floodplains for new development if likely to impede the flow of water or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
ENV 6	Flooding / surface water runoff	Development which would result in an unacceptable increase in flood risks in areas downstream and upstream, due to additional surface water runoff, will not be permitted unless adequate mitigating measures are taken
ENV 7	Protection of the Coastal zone	Within the coastal area defined on the proposals map development will only be permitted following the meeting of criteria stated in the local plan

The New Forest District Local Plan covers the eastern section of this management unit from Hurst Spit to Chewton Bunny (Dorset-Hampshire border). The Stage 1 Scoping Document highlighted that with regard to coastal defence planning, the coast is specifically protected by several local planning policies. Land adjacent to the coastline from Milford on Sea to beyond Hurst Spit is susceptible to flooding and policy DW-E41 states 'development will not be permitted in areas at risk from river or coastal flooding'. Such flooding generally occurs in the coastal areas of Milford on Sea (Danes Stream) and Chewton Bunny (Walkford Brook).

Policy DW-C3 allows for new and improved coastal defence works where there is a significant potential loss or inundation of land which poses a threat to the surrounding area. This policy also permits coast protection work but policy DW-C4 ensures this work is not undertaken simply to enable new coastal development. On areas on or near the coast at risk from landslip or erosion, policy DW-C5 does not permit development. New Forest District Council produced a proposals map that includes areas of coastal erosion where the DW-C5 policy applies. This policy accords with the advice given in PPG 14 "Development on Unstable Land" and PPG20 'Coastal Planning'. Those areas of undeveloped land at risk extend from Milford on Sea to Chewton Bunny (edge of the NFDC boundary).

Christchurch Borough Council are responsible for the remaining length of coast from Chewton Bunny to Mudeford Quay. Within the local plan key policies have been established that will endeavour to ensure future planning and management along the shoreline is achieved sustainably. With reference to the protection of flood risk areas, policies ENV 5 and 6 are established to protect people and property, located in the flood plain, from the risk of flooding and to ensure future developments will not lead to flooding in downstream and upstream areas. Flood defences along the Rivers Stour and Avon are the responsibility of the Environment Agency.

The issue of global warming and sea level rise is also mentioned in relation to flood risks to Harbourside properties. Although no specific policy for Christchurch is presently in place to accommodate such change, the local plan encourages the preparation of schemes to reduce such risks. In addition coastal zone protection from development proposals is achieved through policy ENV 7 which ensures development is subservient to more dominant physical features and the existing built environment. The Local Plan also stresses the importance of protecting land required for the execution of coast protection work, given the long term effect of global warming.

Bournemouth Borough Council also have jurisdiction in this Area as the LA boundary terminates at Hengistbury Head. However, due to the small size of the Area, policies for Bournemouth are discussed in Areas 5F-2 and 5F-3.

TABLE 2.1 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F-1)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
New Forest LEAP	Information on flood defence structures in Danes Stream (Environment Agency/privately owned) and details of new Flood Alleviation Scheme at Milford on Sea
New Forest District Coastal Management Plan	Covers coastline from Highcliffe in west to Hurst Spit (limit of SMP study) to Redbridge in the east. Sets out coast protection policies for the above area. Those of relevance are for zone 1 to 4
A Strategy for Hampshire's Coast	Attempts to integrate coastal planning and management in addition to establishing policies for land and sea. As well as restating Structure Plan policies it addresses coastal defence issues
West Solent & Southampton Water SMP	Provides detailed information on coastal defence works and options for future defence strategies for the coastline between Chewton Bunny and Hurst Spit

TABLE 2.1 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F-1) Cont'd

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides a detailed history of coast protection schemes from 1670 to 1994 and sets out a number of coast protection objectives, policies and management options

Although a non-statutory document, the policies and proposals of the New Forest District Coastal Management Plan are in harmony with those of local Agenda 21, the Hampshire County Structure Plan and the New Forest District Local Plan. Those policies of relevance are for zone 1 to 4 (listed below) and state the District Council's proposed coast protection policy in each case.

- Zone 1: Naish Farm (extends from Chewton Bunny to the western end of Marine Drive West)
- Zone 2: Barton-on Sea (extends from Naish Farm Holiday Village to the eastern end of Marine Drive East)
- Zone 3: Barton Golf Club to Hordle Cliff (extends from eastern end of Marine Drive to western end of Hordle Cliff)
- Zone 4: Milford-on-Sea (extends from eastern end of Hordle Cliff to rock armouring at western end of Hurst Spit)

A small section of Hengistbury Head falls within this Area and as a consequence it is subject to the Hengistbury Head Management Plan. The only working compartment of relevance to coastal defence in this Area is Mudeford Beach Sandspit (compartment 4).

TABLE 2.2 (a) Statutory Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F- 2)

Christchurch Borough Local Plan (Deposit version)		
Policy	Title	Description
ENV 5	Flood plain development	Planning permission will not be granted within floodplains for new development if likely to impede the flow of water or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere
ENV 6	Flooding/surface water runoff	Development which would result in an unacceptable increase in flood risks in areas downstream and upstream, due to additional surface water runoff, will not be permitted unless adequate mitigating measures are taken
ENV 7	Protection of the Coastal zone	Within the coastal area defined on the proposals map development will only be permitted following the meeting of criteria stated in the local plan
Bournemouth Borough Local Plan		
8.8	Land liable to flooding	Development in the floodplain of any watercourse will not normally be permitted
11.47	Cliffs	Development within 200m of cliffs/chines must demonstrate such proposals will have no influence upon existing cliffs, chines or steep embankments
11.48	Unstable ground	Proposals for development in areas of unstable ground must demonstrate identification of the order and extent and that adequate measures are taken to

Christchurch Borough Council and Bournemouth Borough Council have joint planning responsibilities within this Area. Those policies relating to coastal defence and flood protection in the Christchurch Borough Local Plan are discussed in the previous process unit. It should be noted that there are no statutory policies in place at present for coastal erosion or flood protection under the auspices of the South Christchurch Local Plan until it is superseded by the Borough Local Plan.

There is only a small section of coastline that is relevant to Bournemouth Borough Council in this Area. The Council have recently produced a District wide Local Plan which is under consultation and likely to be placed on deposit in the near future. However, sub area local plans for Bournemouth, Town Centre and Boscombe are currently used as the statutory documents. Development within flood plains is controlled by policy 8.8 in the Bournemouth Local Plan. Cliff stability problems exist throughout the length of the coastline, extending into Sub Area 5F-3. As a consequence cliff top development and development on unstable ground is strictly controlled through policies 11.47 and 11.48 of the Bournemouth Local Plan. Although reference is made to the Council's cliff stabilisation programme no policies exist of direct relevance to coast protection and flood defence issues.

TABLE 2.2 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F- 2)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides a detailed history of coast protection schemes from 1670 to 1994 and sets out a number of coast protection objectives, coastal policies and management options
Hampshire Avon CMP	Sets out an action plan monitoring report detailing progress on a tidal defence scheme on the lower Avon at Christchurch, Christchurch Harbour and identification of areas in Christchurch at risk from flooding

The Hengistbury Head Management Plan is divided into a number of working compartments. Those of relevance to coastal defence are Compartment 1 (The Cliffs) Compartment 4 (Mudford Beach Sandspit), and Compartment 10b (Double Dykes). Each compartment sets out details of required management objectives and a suggested time span for such works.

TABLE 2.3 (a) Statutory Policies for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F- 3)

Bournemouth Borough Local Plan		
Policy	Title	Description
8.8	Land liable to flooding	Development in the floodplain of any watercourse will not be permitted
11.47	Cliffs	Proposals for development/redevelopment within 200m of cliffs and chines or in proximity to steep embankments must demonstrate the development will have no influence on such areas
11.48	Unstable ground	Proposals for development in areas of unstable ground must demonstrate identification of the order and extent and that adequate measures are taken to overcome such instability

TABLE 2.3 (a) Statutory Policies for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F- 3) Cont'd

Boscombe Local Plan		
T & I 29	Cliffs	Proposals for development/redevelopment within 200m of cliffs and chines or in proximity to steep embankments must demonstrate the development will have no influence on such areas
T & I 30	Unstable ground	Proposals for development in areas of unstable ground must demonstrate identification of the order and extent and that adequate measures are taken to overcome such instability
Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
NE18	The shoreline	Development within the coastal zone will be permitted provided that it respects the essential features which define the character and appearance of the shoreline and does not have a detrimental impact upon the wider landscape of Poole Harbour, Bays or the coastal zone
NE21	Unstable ground	Development will not be permitted on/near unstable ground unless measures can be taken to eliminate the instability in a manner compatible with the character and amenity of the area
NE22	Flooding by tidal waters	Within the flood protection area, development involving construction of new buildings should incorporate finished floor levels of at least 2.4m above Ordnance Datum unless criteria detailed apply

Bournemouth Borough Council and Borough of Poole both have planning responsibilities for the coast in this management unit. Those policies controlling development in flood plain and cliff top areas set out in the Bournemouth Local Plan and referred to in Area 5F-2 mirror those of the Boscombe Local Plan policies T & I 29 and 30) and are equally applicable here.

The Local Plan for Poole acknowledges the vital importance of protecting its harbour, beaches and coastline for the continued well-being of Poole. A number of policies exist to control development within the coastal zone. Policy NE18 ensures development proposals are appropriate to their setting, the character of which is detailed in specified shoreline character areas set out in the Local Plan and listed below:

The Cliffs and Chines

Sandbanks Peninsula, Luscombe Valley and Evening Hill

Development in areas of unstable ground and areas of flood risk are controlled through policies NE21 and 22 respectively. The issue of global warming has been discussed in some detail with specific requirements for minimum floor levels attached to new development proposals under policy NE22 for areas at risk from flooding by tidal waters.

TABLE 2.3 (b) Non Statutory Plans for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F- 3)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides a detailed history of coast protection schemes from 1670 to 1994 and sets out a number of coast protection objectives, coastal policies and management options
The Sandbanks Management Plan	Details information of the coast protection scheme for the management plan including past coast protection measures
Bournemouth Seafront Management Plan	Sets out detailed information on areas of cliff instability and various measures which have been undertaken to increase stability, beach profile measurement and its importance for maintaining coastal defences through beach recharge

The Sandbanks Management Plan outlines the importance of coast protection works for this low lying area which is prone to damage from storms and erosion by the sea. Details of the coast protection scheme are referred to in section 3 and section 6 (compartments 1, 2 and 4).

There are no specific policies detailed with regard to coast protection in the Bournemouth Seafront Management Plan. Reference to coast protection works is mainly dealt with under the environmental information section where issues of cliff stability, groyne replacements and beach recharge are discussed. A number of key recommendations are made as part of the council's leisure strategy, one of which highlights the council's commitment to protection of the seafront and cliff environment.

TABLE 2.4 (a) Statutory Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F- 4)

Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
NE18	The shoreline	Development within the coastal zone will be permitted provided that it respects the essential features which define the character and appearance of the shoreline and does not have a detrimental impact upon the wider landscape of Poole Harbour, Bay or the coastal zone
NE21	Unstable ground	Development will not be permitted on/near unstable ground unless measures can be taken to eliminate the instability in a manner compatible with the character and amenity of the area
NE22	Flooding by tidal water	Within the flood protection area, development involving construction of new buildings should incorporate finished floor levels of at least 2.4m above Ordnance Datum unless criteria detailed apply
Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
AH1	Ground instability	Development in areas of ground instability or potential instability will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated the site is stable or can be made so for the expected lifetime of the development

TABLE 2.4 (a) Statutory Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F- 4) Cont'd

Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
AH2	Areas at risk from flooding	Development will not be permitted within river or coastal floodplains or in areas at risk from flooding outside coastal and river floodplains unless criteria set out in the policy are met
AH3	Increased risk of Flooding	Development outside areas at risk from flooding will be permitted provided the criteria set out in the policy are met

Borough of Poole and Purbeck District Council both have planning responsibilities in this management unit. At present three statutory documents exist for this area, the Poole Local Plan, the North East Purbeck Local Plan and the Isle of Purbeck Local Plan. The latter two are soon to be replaced with the Purbeck District Wide Local Plan which is currently on deposit.

Those policies of relevance to coastal defence for Poole discussed in Area 5F-3 are equally applicable to this area. However, a number of shoreline character areas detailed in the Local Plan (policy NE18) apply specifically to this area:

Parkstone Yacht Club, Pearce Avenue, the Blue Lagoon and Lilliput
 Baiter and Whitecliff
 Ballast Quay, the Wharves West Quay Road
 The Ferry Terminal
 Hamworthy: the Harbour coast
 Ham Common
 Rockley Point
 Lytchett Bay and Turlin Moor
 Holes Bay (west side)
 Holes Bay (north/west side)
 Holes Bay (east side)

There are no specific policies within either the North East Purbeck or Isle of Purbeck Local Plans of relevance to coastal defence planning. Reference has therefore been made to relevant policies concerning natural and man-made hazards outlined in the District Wide Local Plan which will eventually replace these statutory documents. Issues of ground instability, flooding and coastal erosion are discussed for Purbeck and tightly controlled through policies AH1, AH2 and AH3 respectively. Specific requirements for ground stability reports in areas of potential ground instability and detailed risk evaluations in flood risk areas are attached to development proposals.

TABLE 2.4 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F- 4)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Poole Harbour Management Policies	Reference is made to the role of the Environment Agency in flood defence issues for the harbour. There is no mention of coast protection works.
Poole Quay Quality Management Plan	The plan reiterates policy TO7 in the Poole Local Plan regarding development on the quay and provides information on flood defence options for the quay
Evening Hill Management Plan	Provides details of previous cliff top and toe protection measures undertaken within the plan area
Ham Common Management Plan	Details information on erosion problems at the site and previous cliff stabilisation measures implemented. Also sets out proposals for installation of anti-erosion measures
Branksome Dene Chine Management Plan	Discusses issue of cliff erosion and the need to compromise between conservation, aesthetics and safety

The Poole Quay Quality Management Plan highlights the issue of flood defence in its action plan (Action point 23) where it discusses the role of the National Rivers Authority (now the Environment Agency) and the measures that the working party would like to see implemented.

TABLE 2.5 (a) Statutory Policies for South Haven Point to Durlston Head (Area 5F-5 – Area 5F-7)

Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
AH1	Ground instability	Development in areas of ground instability or potential instability will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated the site is stable or can be made so for the expected lifetime of the development
AH2	Areas at risk from Flooding	Development will not be permitted within river or coastal floodplains or in areas at risk from flooding outside coastal and river floodplains unless criteria set out in the policy are met
AH3	Increased risk of Flooding	Development outside areas at risk from flooding will be permitted provided the criteria set out in the policy are met

Those policies of relevance to coastal defence for Purbeck discussed in Area 5F-4 are equally applicable to this area as Purbeck District have sole responsibility for the coastline in this management unit. Consequently, Areas 5F-5 to 5F-7 have been grouped together for the purposes of this planning section.

TABLE 2.5 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for South Haven Point to Durlston Head (Area 5F- 5)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Swanage Seafront Improvement Scheme	Provides a detailed history of the seafront, the current position today and seafront improvement proposals

The seafront improvement scheme provides a comprehensive analysis of current issues facing the seafront and puts forward improvement proposals for the area. Those of particular relevance for coast protection are the proposals for the pier and Stone Quay.

2.3 Limitations of present policies and future needs

Perhaps the key limitation of present statutory policy concerning coastal defence in the future is the lack of a proactive initiative to standardise the role of defence ownership across authorities. Situations are common where small lengths of coast may comprise a number of different owners. If a coherent approach to future decision making is to be established in Dorset and Hampshire, a clearer understanding of responsibilities needs to be ascertained. Consequently, some SMP's have attempted to divert, in planning terms, away from piecemeal ownership along the coast and instead sought to encourage the development of "coastal defence owners committees". This approach aims to improve co-ordination and communication between Parish and District level and conforms to the wider requirements of strategic shoreline management. This is an option which the Coastal Group may wish to consider at adoption stage.

In terms of planning for coastal defence, jurisdictional and legislative problems arise in that the delineation of Schedule 4 boundaries, set out in the 1949 Coast Protection Act, commonly do not coincide with the most appropriate boundaries for 'management'.

3 PLANNING POLICIES FOR COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Introduction

As an introduction to planning policy in Dorset and Hampshire, it is useful to initially understand some of the history to planning along the coast. Much of the development along the east Dorset and west Hampshire coast took place before the introduction of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947. Today there is an emphasis on protecting and conserving the undeveloped coast, an approach recently formalised by the guidelines set out in PPG 20. This sets the general context for coastal policy making, setting out guidance for development requiring a coastal location and how this should be reflected in development plan policies. In general there is a need for coastal planners to forward plan from a broad knowledge base as on-shore development, even if outside the coastal zone, can often have an impact offshore, eg. the effect of development on shell fish and fish stocks.

The following section has been structured to assess present coastal development policy within Dorset and Hampshire. An appraisal of existing practice within each individual Operating Authority is carried out along with requirements presented within relevant non-statutory plans. In addition to this, an indication of pertinent planning issues and apparent future areas of concern are discussed.

As issues pertaining to coastal development are linked to statutory planning policies, the majority of non-statutory documents do not refer to guiding principles on how to promote sustainable development along the shoreline. Issues relating to shoreline access, recreation and tourism are instead focussed upon within the SMPs.

3.2 Present Statutory and Non-Statutory Policies and Plans

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has no responsibilities over planning for future coastal development. However, the success of flood defence/alleviation schemes is measured with regard to the potential downstream flooding impacts associated with the scheme on new developments.

TABLE 3.1 (a) Statutory Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F- 1)

New Forest District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
DWE28	Green Belt	In the Green Belt, development will only be permitted if for agriculture, forestry, essential facilities for outdoor sport and recreation, cemeteries or other uses identified in the plan
DW-C1	Coastal development	Development on the coast shall be aesthetically pleasing and not adversely affect coastal townscape, landscape, seascape, nature conservation or archaeological interests
DW-C7	Pedestrian & vehicular Coastal access	Development proposals on the coast should make provision for public access to the shore and cliff top where practicable, without causing conflict with nature conservation

TABLE 3.1 (a) Statutory Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F- 1) Cont'd

New Forest District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
DW-C8	Coastal car parks	Planning permission will not be granted for new coastal amenity car parks unless the objectives set out in the local plan are met
Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
ENV16	Green Belt	Within the greenbelt approval for development, for purposes other than agriculture and forestry, will not be given except in very special circumstances
T14	Cycle Track	The cycling strategy will aim for a network of cycleways in the Borough, minimising impact on the Highcliffe to Milford Cliffs site of special scientific interest by utilising access roads
L1	Public open spaces	Planning permission resulting in the loss of public open space will not be permitted unless criteria in the local plan are met
L5	Castle Grounds/Beach Access	The castle grounds shall be maintained as public open space and access to the beach will be preserved
L6	Highcliffe Coastal Park	Land shall be designated as public open space to form a coastal park on Highcliffe cliff top to enable the completion of the coastal footpath
BE11	Castle Park Landscaping	Landscaping around the car park in the Mudeford Quay conservation area will be carried out
BE19	Highcliffe Castle Uses	Planning permission will be granted for uses compatible with continuing public access of the grounds and access to the beach

The New Forest District Council Local Plan covers the eastern section of this management unit from Hurst Spit to Chewton Bunny (Dorset-Hampshire border). A number of policies exist relating to coastal development, particularly DW-C1 which seek to ensure that new development on the coast does not detract from, and where possible improves the coastal environment. This policy is in accordance with PPG20, Coastal Planning and policies C9 and C10 of the Hampshire County Structure Plan. Due to the sensitivity of the District's coastline, environmental assessments for development proposals on the coast falling within schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988 and amendment regulations 1994 are likely to be requested. Much of the coastline in this area is designated as Green Belt and as such is covered by Policy DW-E28 which aims to control the spread of coastal urban development in this area and to preserve those coastal open spaces adjoining built up areas.

Parts of the coastline in this area are not readily accessible to the public such as Naish Farm Holiday Village where access could be provided to Chewton Bunny and Highcliffe foreshore. Consequently, where practicable, the Council aims to improve pedestrian and vehicular access with Policy DW-C7. Policy DW-C8 permits coastal car parks providing they will resolve an existing parking problem and do not have any adverse environmental effects.

Christchurch Borough Council encourages the protection of both public and private areas of open space if they provide a valuable recreation facility and contribute to the environmental quality of the area. Consequently open spaces are protected for their contribution to the environmental quality of the area through

policy L1 which prevents loss of public open space without adequate replacement. It also prevents developments on other areas of open space subject to certain criteria. Other site specific policies, notably L5, L6, BE11 and BE19 have been developed to ensure that beach and areas of open space within the environs of Highcliffe Castle remain easily accessible to the public.

Bournemouth Borough Council also have jurisdiction within this Area as the LA boundary terminates at Hengistbury Head. However, due to the small size of the Area, policies for Bournemouth are discussed in Areas 5F-2 and 5F-3.

TABLE 3.1 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Hurst Spit to Mudeford Quay (Area 5F -1)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
A Strategy for Hampshire's Coast	Attempts to integrate coastal planning and management in addition to establishing policies for land and sea. As well as restating Structure Plan policies it assesses land issues such as commercial activity water/based and land-based recreation.
New Forest District Coastal Management Plan	Covers coastline from Highcliffe in the west, beyond Hurst Spit (limit of SMP study) to Redbridge in the east. Sets out development, access and local plan issues and puts forward a number of development proposals. Those of relevance are for zone 1 to 4
West Solent and Southampton Water SMP	Examines matters relating to the landuse, local economy and commerce as well as recreation and tourism for Chewton Bunny to Hurst Spit

Although a non-statutory document, the policies and proposals of the New Forest District Coastal Management Plan are in harmony with those of local Agenda 21, the Hampshire County Structure Plan and the New Forest District Local Plan. Those policies of relevance are for zone 1 to 4 and state the District Council's proposed strategies for development issues.

TABLE 3.2 (a) Statutory Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F- 2)

Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
ENV16	Green Belt	Within the greenbelt approval for development, for purposes other than agriculture and forestry, will not be given except in very special circumstances
T14	Cycle Track	The cycling strategy will aim for a network of cycleways in the Borough, minimising impact on the Highcliffe to Milford Cliffs site of special scientific interest by utilising access roads
L1	Public open spaces	Planning permission resulting in the loss of public open space will not be permitted unless criteria in the local plan are met
BE10	Mudeford Quay	Development will not be permitted unless it is sympathetic in scale, proportions and materials to the existing buildings
L12	Fishermans Bank	Open character and visual amenities of Fishermans Bank, Stanpit, will be maintained by restricting the grant of planning permission

TABLE 3.2 (a) Statutory Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5f- 2) Cont'd

Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
L17	Harbour Bank Access	Underdeveloped riversides and harbour banks will be preserved and public access to these areas maintained and encouraged
L18	Boating Facilities	Proposals for new or extended boating facilities that have a significantly adverse effect on the harbour landscape and its users will not be permitted
ET6	Sandhills Caravan Park	Development of Sandhills Caravan Park to increase its attraction as a tourist facility will be permitted subject to the safeguarding of environmental features pertaining to the site
Bournemouth Borough Local Plan		
8.7	Recreation	The council will pursue the creation of a continuous Stour Valley walk from Bearwood to Hengistbury Head. Any proposed development prejudicing this aim will not be granted planning permission
9.10	Public gardens, sea front & cliff areas	Public / private open spaces will normally be protected from inappropriate development subject to the provisions set out in the local plan

As mentioned in the previous process unit, Christchurch Borough Council encourages the protection of both public and private areas of open space if they provide a valuable recreation facility and contribute to the environmental quality of the area. This is in accordance with policy 6.4 of the Structure Plan. Consequently open spaces are protected for their contribution to the environmental quality of the area through policy L1 which prevents loss of public open space without adequate replacement. This plan also stresses the need to balance the conflicting recreation and nature conservation uses of Christchurch Harbour and Mudeford Quay and provision is made for this in policy L18. The value of the riverside and harbour areas has also been noted in policy L17 which seeks to preserve public access to these areas where possible. Special provision is made for the maintenance and development of Sandhills Caravan Park in policy ET6 due to its vital contribution to the tourism and recreation facilities in the Borough.

Reference here is made to the sub area Local Plan for Bournemouth as the recently produced District wide Local Plan is under consultation. There is only a small section of coastline that is relevant to Bournemouth Borough Council in this Area thus reference here is only made to those policies of relevance.

The preservation of areas for amenity and recreational value is of great importance and controlled through policy 9.10 in the Bournemouth Local Plan. Coastal access along this stretch of coastline is not of the standard found along the coast fronting Bournemouth itself thus policy 8.7 exists to create a continuous Stour Valley walk to Hengistbury Head.

TABLE 3.2 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F- 2)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides a comprehensive history of land use and past management of the area, puts forward recreational policies and management options

Those policies of direct relevance to coastal development in the Hengistbury Head Management Plan are dealt with in compartments 19 and 20. It focuses on issues such as the relocation of facilities and the provision of a visitor / interpretation centre.

TABLE 3.3 (a) Statutory Policies for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F- 3)

Bournemouth Borough Local Plan		
Policy	Title	Description
8.7	Recreation	The council will pursue the creation of a continuous Stour Valley walk from Bearwood to Hengistbury Head. Any proposed development prejudicing this aim will not be granted planning permission
9.10	Public gardens, sea front & cliff areas	Public / private open spaces will normally be protected from inappropriate development subject to the provisions set out in the local plan
9.15	Water based recreation	Proposals for boating facilities, moorings and jetties shall be assessed on their merits having regard to any possible adverse effect on users, archaeological/natural history importance of the harbour and visual impact upon the area
Boscombe Local Plan		
R4	Public gardens, sea front & cliff areas	Public / private open spaces will normally be protected from inappropriate development subject to the provisions set out in the local plan
(Bournemouth) Town Centre Local Plan		
7.1	Tourism and recreation	Entertainment, cultural and recreational uses will normally be granted planning permission in the areas specified
7.4	Public gardens seafront and Cliff Areas	Presumption against development on the public gardens, clifftop, cliff, beach and foreshore
Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
TO13	Tourism (the beach)	Existing car parking for the beach will be retained and where possible improved and regulated. Park and ride schemes will be designed to relieve parking problems at the beach
TO14	Tourism (the beach)	The Borough Council will effect a programme of environmental improvements at the eastern end of Shore Road
L18	Recreation facilities	Development involving new or extended marina, jetty, slipway, or other boating or mooring facilities will be permitted subject to criteria outlined in Local Plan

Bournemouth Borough Council and Poole Borough Council both have planning responsibilities for the coast in this management unit. Those policies controlling development, particularly with regard to recreation, set out in the Bournemouth Local Plan referred to in Area 5F-2 are equally applicable here. Policy 9.10 is of particular importance here and is also mirrored by policies R4 and 7.4 of the Boscombe and Town Centre Local Plans respectively. Development of further recreational and cultural facilities is encouraged near the seafront but carefully controlled through policy 7.1 of the Town Centre Local Plan. Opportunities for development of water based recreation facilities are limited through policy 9.15 of

the Bournemouth Borough Local Plan due to the nature of the seafront and provision of existing facilities in Poole and Christchurch.

Poole's beach between Sandbanks and Branksome Dene chine is a major attraction for both residents and visitors with access from various car parks. These car parks are inadequate at peak times thus policy TO13 makes provision for these to be improved and regulated where possible.

A programme of environmental improvements for the Sandbanks area is also proposed through policy TO14. Water based recreation is a key attraction of Poole Harbour and as a consequence there is tremendous pressure for increased recreation facilities, however this must be balanced against the ecological and aesthetic value of the harbour. Policy L18 exists to achieve this aim.

TABLE 3.3 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F- 3)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides a comprehensive history of land use and past management of the area, puts forward recreational policies and management options
Bournemouth Seafront Management Plan	Discusses past and present recreation, tourism and commercial use of the seafront.
Poole Bay Coastal Management Plan	Management of coastal land within BoP ownership using an integrated approach to balance the various pressures on its use and promote sympathetic management.

Information of relevance to coastal development within the Hengistbury Head Management Plan is discussed in the previous management unit. There are no specific policies detailed with regard to coastal development in the Bournemouth seafront Management Plan. However, a number of key recommendations are made as part of the Council's leisure strategy. These include:

- Development/enhancement of existing attractions along the seafront (3)
- Examine possibility of providing a slipway with suitable parking and facilities (10)
- Encourage leisure developers to propose schemes on the seafront at specified sites (13)
- To maintain and develop facilities along the seafront, ensuring new developments do not have a detrimental effect on the natural environment (14)

The Poole Bay coastal management plan is currently being developed by the BoP in an attempt to produce a management framework for land along the Poole Bay coast lying within BoP ownership.

TABLE 3.4 (a) Statutory Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F- 4)

Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
TO1	Poole's tourism assets	Planning permission will not be granted for development in or adjacent to Poole's tourism assets if it would be likely to harm the features which contribute to the character of those assets
TO4	Rockley	New development at Rockley Park will be required to respect the sensitive nature of the site in relation to surrounding sites of special scientific interest, heritage coast and AONB's
TO7	The Quay	Development on the quay will be permitted provided that it protects or improves the particular features which attract tourists to the quay and to be of quality materials and design to provide a public frontage to the quay
TO13	Tourism (the beach)	Existing car parking for the beach will be retained and where possible improved and regulated. Park and ride schemes will be designed to relieve parking problems at the beach
TO14	Tourism (the beach)	The Borough Council will effect a programme of environmental improvements at the eastern end of Shore Road
L18	Water based Recreation	Development involving new or extended marina, jetty, slipway or other boating or mooring facilities will be permitted subject to conditions listed
E11	Port and harbour related uses	Sites on Lower Hamworthy Peninsula with deep water frontage will be reserved for appropriate port/harbour related uses whose operations require direct access to such a frontage. Development on other sites with deep water frontage will be permitted if frontage retained for uses which require it
TC15	Preservation of Deepwater frontage	Development of the site to the south east of bridge approach, will be required to reserve the deep water quay, together with sufficient land for operational purposes, for conventional cargo handling
Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
CA 8	Quiet Area – Poole Harbour	Development in, or impacting on the quiet area of the southern shores of Poole Harbour will not be permitted if it results in the criteria specified in the Local Plan
CA 9	Green Belt	Within the South East Dorset Green Belt planning permission will not be given, except in very special circumstances, for the construction of new buildings for purposes other than those outlined in the Local Plan

Those policies in the Poole Local Plan relating to Poole's beaches (notably TO13 and TO14) are discussed in the previous process unit. The Local Plan also sets out a number of other policies to control development in this important tourism area. Development in or adjacent to Poole's many tourism assets, notably its beach, harbour coastline, heathland and town centre conservation areas is strictly controlled through policy TO1. Demand for increased provision of water – based recreation facilities is recognised through policy L18 which seeks to balance demand for development of moorings and other boating related facilities with the interests of other harbour users, in particular public access, and the environmental

and aesthetic value of the harbour. The visual impact of the site at Rockley, itself a major tourist area in Poole, also poses a threat to the aesthetic quality of the area. This has prompted policy TO4 that seeks to limit the impact of development upon the coast and designated areas that lie in close proximity.

The quay is one of Poole's main tourism assets and the importance of maintaining an attractive frontage is reflected in Policy TO7 which aims to restrain development unless it makes a positive contribution to the tourist environment of the quay. Such issues will also apply to any future sea defence works along this stretch. The lack of available sites with deep water frontage has prompted policy E11 which limits development on the Lower Hamworthy Peninsula to specified port and harbour related uses. Policy TC15 also sets out criteria for the development of a site to the south-east of Bridge approach at Lower Hamworthy, limiting development to port related industrial or commercial use.

The Purbeck District Local Plan covers the southern shores of Poole Harbour, an area of high ecological value that requires special protection. This is provided through policy CA 8 which prevents development within the specified area that may 'harm its quiet undeveloped and wild character'. There is particular emphasis on controlling tourist and recreation related development, especially that which may generate greater levels of traffic. Part of this area is also designated as Green Belt and policy CA 9 exists to prevent inappropriate development within this area and to safeguard the countryside from encroachment. Other policies of relevance to this area are considered under the environmental management and nature conservation section.

TABLE 3.4 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F- 4)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Poole Harbour Management Policies	Sets out a number of general policies controlling development within specified areas of the plans remit
Poole Quay Quality Management Plan	Provides a framework for future major development in the area based around a strategic review and action programme outlining action points for the area
A Leisure Strategy for Poole	Sets out recommendations, an action plan and implementation of various proposals to improve leisure and amenity recreation in Poole
Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan	Discusses issue of harbour capacity and highlights the need for a second slipway in Poole Harbour, drawing attention to policy L15 in the Poole Local Plan
Keeping Purbeck Special	Puts forward a number of action points aimed at controlling development within the Heritage area and in particular to conserve the southern shores of Poole Harbour.

The Poole Harbour Management Policies Plan sets out a number of policies aimed directly at controlling development within Poole Harbour. It stresses the importance of maintaining a balance between the many different users who require land with access to the harbour.

The Poole Quay Quality Management Plan is a comprehensive document aimed at controlling development in the Poole Quay area. The preferred solutions for most major sites on, and around, the quay detailed in the draft local plan, are summarised in chapter 2 of the management plan. Recommendations that follow are concerned with stimulating investment and seeking short to medium term solutions which may enhance the area during the lead-in time to more major redevelopment.

The Leisure Strategy for Poole sets out a number of policy statements and recommendations aimed at the provision of recreational facilities to meet the needs of the local population. Main issues of relevance include the provision of a new water sports activity centre and associated facilities adjacent to Poole Harbour in Hamworthy and provision of a boat haven for visiting yachtsmen. One of the main principles of the strategy is achieving objectives in a sustainable way, thus a number of recommendations are concerned with limiting development in existing open spaces and balancing recreational pressures against nature conservation needs.

The Strategy for the Purbeck Heritage area sets out policies for joint action to improve the economy of the area whilst conserving its special heritage, discouraging major developments which would have a significant adverse effect on the character and quality of the area.

TABLE 3.5 (a) Statutory Policies for South Haven Point to Durlston Head (Area 5F- 5 to Area 5F- 7)

Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
MN 13	Protected Open space	Development that would result in the loss or reduction of important areas of recreational and amenity open space within settlements or public recreational open space outside settlements will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
MN 14	Public recreational open space provision	New housing developments will only be permitted where recreational open space to meet the needs of new residents as specified in the Local Plan is supplied
S 54	Recreational facilities	Approximately 5.8ha of land adjacent to King George V Field is allocated for public open space

Those policies of relevance to development for Purbeck discussed in Area 5F-4 are not applicable to this area. Few specific policies exist which have direct relevance to development in the study area. The main issue is regarding the preservation of open space which is protected through policies MN 13 and 14. This is particularly relevant in the Swanage locality where open space is relatively limited prompting the policy S 54 which sets aside a specific area of land for recreational open space.

The varied nature of tourism developments and the wide range of issues raised has meant they cannot be covered easily by specific policies thus the Local Plan details the main types of tourist development indicating the policies they are likely to be tested against.

TABLE 3.5 (b) Non Statutory Plans & Policies for South Haven Point to Durlston Head (Area 5F- 5 to Area 5F-7)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Keeping Purbeck Special	Puts forward a number of action points aimed at controlling development within the Heritage area and in particular to conserve the Studland Peninsula.
Swanage Seafront Improvement Scheme	Outlines a historical assessment of the seafront, the present situation today and suggestions for improvement in the future

Reference to the strategy for the Purbeck Heritage Area is made in Area 5F-4. The Swanage Seafront Improvement Scheme details a number of development proposals for the square, the Stone Quay and the Seafront between the pier and the parade however no actual policies are set out.

3.3 Limitations of present policies and future needs

Commonly, there has been a lack of communication and co-ordination between coastal defence strategies and land use planning. It is clear that the decision to proceed with an engineering (or proactive) defence solution needs to be made within the framework of a range of planning policies. This procedure has been outlined in Section 1.6. It is apparent that in the past, this procedure was commonly not adhered to, leading to development proceeding in areas prone to either flooding or erosion. As the pressure for coastal development (possibly on more vulnerable sites) increases and the implications of increased sea level rise become clearer, it is important that local planning authorities reduce the risks to public safety by implementing strong planning policies. However, stricter development controls in these "risk" areas is likely to increase the calls for compensation by affected land owners, which in itself would require new legislation.

Dorset and Hampshire Structure Plans stress the importance of identifying the boundaries of the coastal zone through the local plan process, acknowledging the guidelines set out in PPG20. The adoption of the concept of the "coastal zone" has not been reflected as clearly in the majority of local plans with jurisdiction in the SMP study area. It is recommended that a clear definition of the coastal zone, such as that detailed in the Poole Local Plan, would aid development control along the coast and prevent unnecessary expense for coast protection work.

Nevertheless, exact locations of landslide activity and/or flooding areas are not easily defined. This is partly due to the present level of uncertainty with regard to being confident enough to place areas on a planning map. The results from the SMP are useful in illuminating such sites for future forward development planning. Paradoxically, it may have been the success of engineered defences around the Dorset and Hampshire coastline that may lead to a lack of control of development in specific areas from natural hazards. For example, construction of sea defences often leads to increased pressure for development in what is now perceived as being a safe area. In reality, the construction of sea defences only reduces the risk of damage and cannot eliminate it.

In the context of the SMP, it is also important to recognise that a number of activities do not require express planning permission (DoE 1993). Swimming pool construction, terracing for gardens, vegetation removal from slopes and building

improvements may all contribute to slope instability problems and thus should not be overlooked in terms of coastal planning in Dorset and Hampshire.

One omission from all Local Plans is the uncertainty over coastal development "setback" and what is the most appropriate distance from which to build. It is felt that specific distance lengths are not appropriate within Local Plans as this issue is covered within PPG20. However, greater confidence in providing each local authority with specific guidance on appropriate set back distances has been provided through the production of the SMP. This has been created to some extent in the framework set out in Section 1.6.

Issues pertaining to development offshore plus the issue of dredging/spoil disposal are covered more fully in Section 5.

4 PLANNING POLICIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND NATURE CONSERVATION

4.1 Introduction

The following section has been structured to assess present natural environmental and historical conservation policy with Dorset and Hampshire. An appraisal of existing practice within each individual Operating Authority is carried out for each management unit along with requirements presented within relevant non-statutory plans. In addition to this, an indication of pertinent planning issues and apparent future areas of concern are discussed. A more detailed assessment of the natural environment is prepared within the Natural Environment Section of this SMP. The majority of non-statutory plans covering the east Dorset and west Hampshire coast have a section on nature conservation. The main aspects of these plans are highlighted in Section 1.5. It is important for the SMPs to establish how these plans aim to inform the statutory planning process and what significance this has on establishing strategies for coastal defence.

4.2 National Policy and Guidance

Successive Governments since 1949 have built up and applied a framework of statutory measures to safeguard the natural heritage. This consists of both conservation and planning legislation and has been strengthened significantly in recent years. Key legislative landmarks of relevance to the SMP include:

- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act - 1949
- Countryside Act 1968
- Wildlife and Countryside Act - 1981
- Environmental Protection Act - 1990
- Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations – 1994
- Environment Act - 1995

Details on these pieces of legislation may be attained in more detail from PPG9.

Environmental policy and legislation in the UK has been influenced by the membership of the European Community and participation at the World Summit at Rio in 1992. In June 1992, the UK agreed to the Convention on Biological Diversity at Rio and thereby has produced a Biodiversity Action Plan for the UK, which sets out the UK's conservation strategy for the future.

The Nature Conservation Planning Policy Guidance (PPG9), published in October 1994, indicates how Government's policies for nature conservation are to be reflected in land use planning. It gives reference to the concept of sustainable development and to conserving the diversity of wildlife. This PPG contributes to the implementation of the Habitats Directive (see below) and provides a structure for the control of development affecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). It also emphasises the importance of undesignated sites. This PPG is acknowledged within the Regional Planning Guidance Document for the South West (RPG10, July 1994) which itself elaborates on the importance of the coastal environment to the South West and takes a positive attitude to its protection and conservation.

4.3 European Directives

The key statutory environmental obligation presently affecting the production of SMPs is associated with European Directives on the conservation of wildfowl and coastal habitats and species. The European Habitats Directive was adopted by the UK parliament in May 1992 after many years of negotiation. It was hoped that the Directive would provide the impetus to develop new measures for the statutory protection of Europe's threatened natural heritage. Importantly, it deals with the conservation of both species and their habitats and crosses the boundary of low water mark to include the marine environment.

The UK is required to fulfil the Directive and the Government aims to achieve this requirement, in part, by the designation of SACs and SPAs which are included in the setting up of a coherent ecological network known as "Natura 2000". At present, no single agency has been given the authority to implement the Directive and responsibility is shared by a number of agencies, although English Nature has a critical role to play.

Whilst national nature conservation areas and archaeological assets are protected by legislation within the UK and are subsequently covered by statutory planning documents, the onset of newer European designations are becoming equally, if not more important for future planning. Under the European Habitats Directive (1992), the European Birds Directive (1979) and the UK Habitats Regulations (1994), there is a requirement for "relevant authorities" to pay special attention to European Sites (SPAs and SACs). These authorities are required to establish a management scheme by which SACs are managed in order to achieve the conservation objectives. This should be a material consideration for shoreline management planning in Dorset and Hampshire. The acknowledgement of such sites and activities needs to be clear within the present planning framework.

4.4 Present Statutory and Non Statutory Policies and Plans

The following sections detail the statutory and non statutory policies and plans relating to environmental management and nature conservation for each management unit.

TABLE 4.1 (a) Statutory Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F-1)

New Forest District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
DW-E33	Nature conservation Sites	Prevention of development which would destroy, damage, or otherwise have an adverse effect on sites of nature conservation value.
DW-E32	Development in AONBs	In designated AONBs development will not normally be permitted other than in accordance with the policies in parts D and E of the local plan.
Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
ENV 11	SSSI protection	Proposals for development in SSSIs will not be permitted unless the reasons for development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site itself.

TABLE 4.1 (a) Statutory Policies for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F-1) Cont'd

Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
ENV13	SNCI's	The BC will seek to safeguard SNCIs. Development likely to have an adverse effect on an SNCI will only be approved if reasons for development outweigh nature conservation value
ENV14	Other Wildlife Sites	Council will have regard to the need to protect other sites of wildlife interest in the consideration of all development proposals
BE1-7	Conservation Area Policies	Local planning authority will place particular emphasis on the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of the designated conservation areas
BE11 & 12	Development in Mudeford Quay Conservation area	Landscaping to be carried out around the Avon Run Road and development proposals in specific areas outlined on proposals map to be prevented if affects open character or natural appearance of the site.
BE13	Mudeford Quay conservation area	Development between Waterside and Coastguard Way will not be permitted where it would adversely affect the areas open space, or natural appearance of harbour landscape.
BE22-23	Archaeology	Planning permission is unlikely to be granted in sites of archaeological value and if development is proposed a archaeological field evaluation must be undertaken

The majority of the shoreline within the New Forest Council's responsibilities (from Chewton Bunny to Hurst Spit) consists of sites of scientific conservation value (notably for geology). Policy DW-E33 of the local Plan seeks to protect these areas from development. Specifically, development is restricted in the South Hampshire coast AONB, except where it can be justified in terms of proven national interest and lack of alternative sites, in accordance with Government advice in PPG7 The Countryside and the Rural Economy.

The natural environment of the Borough of Christchurch is diverse and of a high quality with some areas identified by English Nature as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The stretch of coast from Highcliffe to Milford is the only SSSI of relevance to this management unit and this is protected from development by policy ENV11. Other areas of nature conservation importance which are not afforded statutory protection are safeguarded from development through policies ENV13 & 14. Development is also restricted in the Conservation Areas through policies BE1-7 which aim to preserve and enhance their characters. Specific policies exist for the Mudeford Quay Conservation Area to protect the character of the Quay and the surrounding open areas. Enhancement of the conservation area is achieved through policy BE11 whilst policies BE 12 and 13 enable preservation of the open amenity value of the site through restricting development in key locations within the conservation area.

Bournemouth Borough Council also have jurisdiction within this Area as the LA boundary terminates at Hengistbury Head. However, due to the small size of the Area, policies for Bournemouth are discussed in Areas 5F-2 and 5F-3.

TABLE 4.1 (b) Non Statutory Policies & Plans for Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Area 5F-1)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
New Forest District Coastal Management Plan	Covers coastline from Highcliffe in west to Hurst Spit (limit of SMP study) to Redbridge in the east. Details a number of nature conservation issues and sets out proposals to address these. Those of relevance are for zone 1 to 4.
A strategy for Hampshire's Coast	Attempts to integrate coastal planning and management in addition to establishing policies for land and sea. As well as restating Structure Plan Policies it assesses environmental issues such as wildlife, ecology, historic sites and maritime archaeology.
West Solent and Southampton Water SMP	Provides information on the landscape, ecology, geology and geomorphology for Chewton Bunny to Hurst Spit. Also details international and national conservation designations for the area.

The West Solent and Southampton Water Shoreline Management Plan also provides important information on the relationship between nature conservation, coastal dynamics and coastal structures for this management unit.

TABLE 4.2 (a) Statutory Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F-2)

Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
ENV11	SSSIs	Proposals for development in SSSIs will not be permitted unless the reasons for development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site itself.
ENV13	SNCI's	The BC will seek to safeguard SNCIs. Development likely to have an adverse effect on an SSCI will only be approved if reasons for development outweigh nature conservation value.
ENV14	Other Wildlife Sites	Council will regard the need to protect other sites of wildlife interest in the consideration of all development proposals
BE1-7	Conservation Area Policies	Local planning authority will place particular emphasis on the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of the designated conservation areas
BE11 & 12	Development in Mudeford Quay Conservation Area	Landscaping to be carried out around the Avon Run Road and development proposals in specific areas outlined on proposals map to be prevented if affects open character or natural appearance of the site.
BE13	Mudeford Quay Conservation Area	Development between Waterside and Coastguard Way will not be permitted where it would adversely affect the areas open space, or natural appearance of harbour landscape.

TABLE 4.2 (a) Statutory Policies for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F-2) Cont'd

Christchurch Borough Local Plan (on Deposit)		
L12	Fishermans Bank Conservation Area	The council will seek to maintain the open character and other visual amenities of Fishermans Bank by restricting planning permission for further structures/enclosure.
Bournemouth Borough Local Plan		
8.9	Nature conservation	The local planning authority will seek to protect areas of nature conservation value in the countryside where possible.
9.13	SSSIs, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites	Development will only be permitted if material considerations outweigh the special interest of the site. Development in SPA, SAC, Ramsar sites only permitted if no alternative and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for them.
10.25	Archaeology	The LPA will seek to protect SAMs and nationally important archaeological sites/monuments from development which would have an adverse effect, involve alterations or damage.

A number of conservation designations exist within the Borough of Christchurch and various policies exist to control development in such areas. These policies (BE 11, 12 and 13) have been discussed in the previous Sub Area. An additional policy, L2 exists to control development within the Fishermans Bank conservation Area which is located on the northern shores of the harbour. Policy ENV 13 prevents development on SNCIs such as the Stanpit Marsh Nature Reserve and the SSSI for Christchurch Harbour is protected by policy ENV 11 as discussed in Area 5F-1.

Although the jurisdiction of Bournemouth Borough Council is only relevant for a small section of this coastline a number of policies apply. The area around Hengistbury Head is of national conservation importance and afforded SSSI status thus policy 9.13 exists to prevent development in such areas. The site is also rich in archaeological remains, containing scheduled ancient monuments and protection of these finds is achieved through policy 10.25 of the Local Plan.

TABLE 4.2 (b) Non Statutory Policies & Plans for Christchurch Harbour (Area 5F-2)

Plan Title	Relevance to SMP
Stanpit Marsh Management Plan	A strategy is developed to conserve the public NNR open space and environmental importance of this and SSSI through local byelaws.
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides detailed information on environmental, archaeological and conservation issues within the plan area, putting forward objectives for each.

The Hengistbury Head Management Plan provides comprehensive information on physical, biological and cultural features within the plan area. A number of general objectives, policies and management options for the environment and archaeology are set out. This is followed by specific localised objectives and the required management plan for the next 5 years for the 20 compartment units.

Those compartments of immediate relevance include:

- 1: Cliffs
- 2: Beaches
- 3: New Dunes
- 4: Mudeford Sandspit
- 10a: Barnfield
- 10b: Double Dykes
- 11: Warren Hill
- 14: The Batters (Zone 1)
- 19: Westfield
- 20: Whitepits

TABLE 4.3 (a) Statutory Policies for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F-3)

Bournemouth Borough Council Local Plan		
Policy	Title	Description
8.9	Nature conservation	The local planning authority will seek to protect areas of nature conservation value in the countryside where possible.
9.13	SSSIs, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites	Development will only be permitted if material considerations outweigh the special interest of the site. Development in SPA, SAC, Ramsar sites only permitted if no alternative and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for them.
9.14	Heathland	The BC will safeguard areas of remaining heathland and will ensure retention of buffer zone around a new development site where there is a boundary with a heathland area
10.25	Archaeology	The LPA will seek to protect SAMs and nationally important archaeological sites/monuments from development which would have an adverse effect, involve alterations or damage.
Boscombe Local Plan		
R5	SSSIs, SPA, SAC and Ramsar Sites	Development will only be permitted if material considerations outweigh the special interest of the site. Development in SPA, SAC, Ramsar sites only permitted if no alternative and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for them.
C&T20	Archaeology	The LPA will seek to protect SAMs and nationally important archaeological sites/monuments from development which would have an adverse effect, involve alterations or damage.
Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
NE12	Nature conservation	Development which is not directly connected with or necessary for nature conservation management and is likely to have a significant effect upon a designated or proposed Ramsar site, SPA or SAC will not be permitted if it adversely affects the integrity of the designated or proposed site unless criteria in the plan are met

TABLE 4.3 (a) Statutory Policies for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F-3) Cont'd

Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
	SSSIs	Planning permission will not be granted for development which would significantly affect, or be likely to affect, designated Sites of special scientific interest unless criteria in the plan are met
NE15	SNCIs	Development on designated sites of nature conservation interest will be permitted subject to criteria in the Local Plan
NE17	Legally protected species	Development of land supporting statutorily protected flora and fauna will not normally be permitted unless provision is made for the retention of species in their existing habitat
BE29	Archaeology	Proposals affecting nationally important archaeological remains whether scheduled or not and their setting will only be permitted where the proposal ensures their preservation in situ
BE30	Locally important archaeological remains	Proposals involving unscheduled sites of local archaeological importance and their setting will only be permitted where the proposed benefits of the scheme outweigh the need for preservation of remains in situ

The Borough of Bournemouth has several areas designated as SSSI and policy 9.13 (mirrored by policy R5 of the Boscombe Local Plan) has been included in the Local Plan to reflect their ecological value. Similar safeguards against development are attached to the internationally important Dorset Heathlands through Policy 9.14 to protect those areas not included within policy 9.13 above. Archaeological protection is afforded by policy 10.25 (mirrored by policy C & T 20 of the Boscombe Local Plan) as mentioned in the previous Sub Area.

Virtually all of the area within Poole Harbour which is above mean low water mark is designated as SSSI. The SSSIs in Poole, with the exception of the geologically valued Poole Bay cliffs, are of international importance and consequently safeguarded against development through policy NE... of the Poole Local Plan. Those areas which are designated or proposed Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation or Ramsar sites are also protected though policy NE12 which prevents development unrelated to conservation management unless it is for reasons of over-riding public interest or there is no alternative solution.

There are currently forty Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) in Poole and these are afforded protection by policy NE15. Those SNCIs of relevance to this Area are located at Sandbanks, Canford Cliffs and Branksome Cliffs.

The rich archaeological heritage of Poole is safeguarded by Policies BE 29 and BE 30 which provide protection for archaeological remains of national and local significance respectively. Those areas identified as being of especially high archaeological potential are likely to require an archaeological programme. Relevant areas are listed below.

- The Eastern shore of Poole Harbour
- The Poole Bay littoral

TABLE 4.3 (b) Non Statutory Policies & Plans for Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway (Area 5F-3)

Title	Relevance to SMP
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Provides detailed information on environmental, archaeological and conservation issues within the plan area, putting forward objectives for each.
Sandbanks Management Plan	Identifies and evaluates areas of semi-natural habitats within the Sandbanks area. Management Proposals are set out for each compartment unit.
Bournemouth Seafront Management Plan	Sets out detailed environmental information on the physical and biological nature of the Seafront and its habitats. A number of environmental and ecological management options are discussed.
Alum, Middle and Durley Chine Management Plans	Provides detailed ecological and environmental evaluation of each site, setting out management aims and objectives.

Details of the Hengistbury Head Management Plan of relevance have been discussed in the previous process unit.

The Bournemouth Seafront Management Plan sets out a comprehensive list of environmental and ecological management options for the seafront. These objectives are backed up by a number of recommendations including the establishment of an environmental monitoring database and development / implementation of a habitat management programme.

Alum and Durley Chine Management Plans are compartmentalised providing management objectives for each working compartment.

TABLE 4.4 (a) Statutory Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F-4)

Poole Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
NE12	Nature conservation	Development will not be permitted which would adversely affect designated/proposed Ramsar sites, SPAs, SACs or SSSIs through reduction in area or disturbance to nature conservation.
NE15	SNCIs	Development will not normally be permitted on sites of nature conservation interest unless the retention and protection of their conservation interest is secured by the development.
NE17	Legally protected species	Development of land supporting specially protected flora and fauna will not normally be permitted unless provision is made for the retention of species in their existing habitat
BE29	Archaeology	Development which may adversely affect sites, structures, buildings or areas of archaeological interest or their settings will not be permitted unless policy criteria are met.
BE30	Locally important archaeological remains	Proposals involving unscheduled sites of local archaeological importance and their setting will only be permitted where the proposed benefits of the scheme outweigh the need for preservation of remains in situ

TABLE 4.4 (a) Statutory Policies for Poole Harbour (Area 5F-4) Cont'd

Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
CA 1	Internationally important conservation sites	Development which would have an impact on a Ramsar site, potential or classified SPA, or candidate or designated SAC will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 2	SSSIs	Development which would have an adverse effect on the nature conservation interest of an SSSI will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 3	Non-Statutory Nature conservation sites	Development that would have a significant adverse effect on a non-statutory site of substantive nature conservation value will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 4	Regionally important geological/geomorphological sites	Development that would have a significant adverse effect on a RIGS will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 5	Protected species	Development that would have an adverse effect on a site supporting a legally protected species will not be permitted unless adequate measures specified in the Local Plan have been taken
CA 6	AONB	Major industrial/commercial development within or impacting on the AONB will not be permitted unless there is an overriding national need and no alternative site is available
CA 7	Purbeck Heritage Coast	Development within the Purbeck Heritage Coast will not be permitted unless criteria in the Local Plan are met
CA 12	Archaeological sites	Development affecting nationally important archaeological remains and their settings will only be permitted if the remains can be preserved in situ. Development affecting locally important remains will only be permitted if the need outweighs their archaeological importance
CA 17	Conservation Areas	Development which would adversely affect the character, appearance or setting of a Conservation Area will not be permitted. Only permitted subject to criteria in Local Plan

Those policies of relevance to environmental management and nature conservation for Poole discussed in Area 5F-3 are equally applicable to this area.

The protection of SNCI's by policy NE15 is of relevance to a number of sites in Poole Harbour, notably Greenland, Sandbanks, Fitzworth, Purbeck Forest, Ham Hill Copse, Brooks Pit, Holes Bay Relief Road, Harkwood Saltmarsh and Lutched Bay Meadows. Those areas which are safeguarded by policies BE29 and BE30 in Area 5F-3 also apply to this area. There are also a number of other areas of high archaeological potential within this Area that are likely to require an archaeological programme. Relevant areas include:

- South Western Poole
- The Old Town
- Poole Harbour

Purbeck District Council have jurisdiction for the southern and western shores of Poole Harbour. A number of policies exist affording protection against development for areas of national conservation importance. Most of these policies cover designated conservation areas such as Heritage Coast (CA 7), SSSIs (CA 2) and AONBs (CA 6). Areas of international conservation importance are covered by policy CA 1. Policies also exist to afford protection against development for regionally important geological / geomorphological sites within the Districts boundary. Those sites of relevance are namely the Agglestone on Studland Heath and low lying cliff sections within Poole Harbour. Remaining sites which are not afforded statutory protection but which have substantive nature conservation value, notably SNCI's are protected through policy CA 3. A number of protected species also occur within Purbeck and policy CA 5 exists to ensure development does not adversely affect the conservation status of any such species.

Purbeck also has a rich and diverse archaeological heritage which requires protection. Those features of archaeological interest within the study area are detailed in the developed environment section and are afforded protection through policy CA 12 which covers archaeological remains of both national and local significance. Policy CA 17 also exists to provide detailed control over development within those conservation areas that have been designated within the District, details of which are found in the Developed Environment section.

TABLE 4.4 (b) Non Statutory Policies & Plans for Poole Harbour (Area 5F-4)

Title	Relevance to SMP
Poole Harbour Management Policies	Contains a section devoted to conservation and landscape with detailed information on statutory and non-statutory designations and archaeology.
A Leisure Strategy for Poole	Sets out recommendations, action plan and implementations for some issues of environmental management and nature conservation.
Evening Hill Management Plan	Gives detailed information on site ecology and evaluation of wildlife and landscape. Sets out a number of wildlife and landscape objectives and prescriptions.
Ham Common Management Plan	Focuses on the issue of nature conservation, stating a number of management issues and proposals for the area.
Branksome Dene Chine Management Plan	Contains a detailed site description and evaluation. Sets out a number of management policies to improve the ecological value of the site on a compartmentalised basis.
Luscombe Valley Nature Reserve Management Plan	Provides a detailed physical and biological description of site. Evaluates a number of management issues such as habitat diversity setting out a series of management objectives with prescription set out on a compartmentalised basis.
Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan	Contains a small section on nature conservation within the harbour but no policies are set out.
Keeping Purbeck Special	Provides a comprehensive section on caring for Purbeck's environment. A series of aims, objectives and proposals are detailed including early action points to be taken.
A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Purbeck	Aims to preserve biodiversity through a structured planning framework based on audit, action plans, implementation and monitoring and review.

A number of policies have been developed within the Poole Harbour Management Policies document specifically concerning nature conservation and landscape:

Those general policies include:

Policy G12 Protection and enhancement of nature conservation interests;

Policy G13 Development proposals affecting the harbour;

Policy G14 Habitat/landscape management plan preparation;

Policy G15 Wildfowling management plan preparation;

Policy G16 Establishment of a co-ordinated environmental monitoring programme;

Policy G17 Environmental stewardship;

Policy G22 Establish central reference point for environmental data.

The majority of area policies are also of considerable relevance as most refer to the ecological or conservation value of the harbour.

**TABLE 4.5 (a) Statutory Policies for South Haven Point to Durlston Head
(Area 5F-5 – Area 5F-7)**

Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
CA 1	Internationally important conservation sites	Development which would have an impact on a Ramsar site, potential or classified SPA, or candidate or designated SAC will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 2	SSSIs	Development which would have an adverse effect on the nature conservation interest of an SSSI will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 3	Non-Statutory Nature conservation sites	Development that would have a significant adverse effect on a non-statutory site of substantive nature conservation value will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 4	Regionally important geological/geomorphological sites	Development that would have a significant adverse effect on a RIGS will not be permitted unless criteria in Local Plan are met
CA 5	Protected species	Development that would have an adverse effect on a site supporting a legally protected species will not be permitted unless adequate measures specified in the Local Plan have been taken
CA 6	AONB	Major industrial/commercial development within or impacting on the AONB will not be permitted unless there is an overriding national need and no alternative site is available
CA 7	Purbeck Heritage Coast	Development within the Purbeck Heritage Coast will not be permitted unless criteria in the Local Plan are met
CA 12	Archaeological sites	Development affecting nationally important archaeological remains and their settings will only be permitted if the remains can be preserved in situ. Development affecting locally important remains will only be permitted if the need outweighs their archaeological importance

TABLE 4.5 (a) Statutory Policies for South Haven Point to Durlston Head (Area 5F-5 – Area 5F-7) Cont'd

Purbeck District Local Plan (on Deposit)		
Policy	Title	Description
CA 17	Conservation Areas	Development which would adversely affect the character, appearance or setting of a Conservation Area will not be permitted. Only permitted subject to criteria in Local Plan

Those policies of relevance to environmental management and nature conservation for Purbeck discussed in Area 5F-4 are equally applicable to this area.

TABLE 4.5 (b) Non Statutory Policies & Plans for South Haven Point to Durlston Head (Area 5F-5 – Area 5F-7)

Title	Relevance to SMP
Keeping Purbeck Special	Provides a comprehensive section on caring for Purbeck's environment. A series of aims, objectives and proposals are detailed including early action points to be taken.

The overall aim of the Purbeck Heritage Committee, with regard to the environment, is to conserve and enhance the environmental quality of Purbeck, including landscape, cultural heritage, wildlife and geological interest. Three key objective's have been developed to achieve this aim and a series of proposals to meet the objectives are stated. These proposals are subdivided into three sections:

- Proposals to increase understanding and awareness;
- Proposals to support conservation and discourage damaging activities;
- Proposals to co-ordinate conservation effort and encourage community involvement.

It is hoped such proposals will lead to a better understanding and awareness of the conservation and management issues affecting Purbeck.

A number of habitats and species have been chosen for habitat and species action plans respectively following the implementation of a habitat and species audit for Purbeck. Each action plan puts forward a number of proposals and details headline actions to be taken within a specified time frame. Habitat Action Plans of relevance include:

- Lowland heaths and associated habitats;
- Maritime cliff and slope;
- Maerl beds;
- Rivers;
- Reedbed;
- Lowland wet grassland;
- Calcareous grassland.

4.5 Requirements from non-statutory plans and initiatives

The key issues coming out of the non-statutory plans are linked to habitat enhancement schemes, archaeological protection and the preservation of landscape quality including the important role of wildlife and conservation "corridors" and "buffer zones" to future development.

(a) Habitat Re-creation

The primary aims of most plans reviewed are to promote the conservation and enhancement of the natural resources of the area. Key objectives county wide are associated with finding possible areas where habitats may be increased in size or at least protected in terms of present day spatial extent. Habitat re-creation is a priority identified within the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and is a common objective that comes out of most environmental non-statutory plans. In key areas where habitat re-creation may be critical, such as within harbours nominated as candidate SAC's and proposed SPAs (ie: Poole Harbour), it has been beneficial for the SMP to be able to utilise the expertise of the SAC Management Scheme to inform stakeholders / organisations of relevance of possible locations for habitat recreation.

The SMP will be seen as a tool to propose areas of habitat recreation as part of adopting coastal defence strategies for lengths of coast and so a clear "horizontal" link between non-statutory plans can be seen within the existing planning framework (see Section 1.6). The SMP should therefore be used by coastal decision makers in Dorset and Hampshire as the vehicle to inform statutory plans of the most appropriate way of achieving this.

Finally, the SMP clearly outlines where the impacts of rising sea levels are likely to have most effect (eg: on saltmarshes and mudflats in particular where these occur in front of hard defence structures already and on cliffs). Planning to avoid "coastal squeeze" is integral within the SMP process and assessing the present extent and condition of such vulnerable soft habitats is vital as a precursor to the selection of sustainable coastal defence policies. The sustainable management of flood defences and sustainable conservation of habitats such as saltmarshes and clifftop habitats is deemed as indivisible within the work remit for this and future SMP updates for Dorset and Hampshire.

(b) Archaeological Requirements

Common throughout most documents reviewed, it is stressed that the inter-tidal and subtidal zones can contain important archaeological remains both on the surface and buried beneath the substrate. Shipwrecks, submerged forests and palaeolithic camps are all examples of important artefacts in this zone.

A theme running through all plans reviewed refers to the importance of appreciating the presence of undiscovered and undesignated sites of interest as these are usually very fragile and non-renewable. Management of this issue is predictably focussed upon finding funding for research and development of interpretative material. Similarly, any development of the seabed or intertidal zone should take into account the Code of Practice for Seabed Developers produced by the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee. A specific yet equally important aspect that is related to "unfound archaeology", refers to the fragility and importance of the buried landscape. Consequently, onshore and offshore "unfound" archaeology is an issue that is addressed in some detail in the SMP ahead of the selection of coastal defence strategies.

The consideration of historical assets within existing and future coastal management initiatives is important. The development of the SMP has reflected this in its approach (see Developed Environment section) and the recommendations for future defence work have assessed whether historical assets are either directly or indirectly affected by the range of coastal defence options evaluated.

(c) Landscape Protection

General objectives for the landscape are associated with reducing the impact of visually intrusive elements and protecting and enhancing the traditional landscape (Dorset Landscape Assessment). The key issue concerned with both the Dorset and Hampshire landscape and thus integral to the SMP is the applicability and aesthetic acceptance of a certain coastal defence structure within an area. This issue has been filtered through into the evaluation process when decisions are made on selecting appropriate defence strategies. The objectives of landscape management are vitally important, especially in Dorset due to its history and rural character, and so have been evaluated as part of the SMP process.

4.6 Limitations of Present Policies and Future Needs

Following a detailed review of existing statutory and non-statutory plans concerning the natural environment, it is concluded that guidance (prepared in the form of PPG9, RPG9 and RPG10) and initiatives that have led to the production of reports such as the Purbeck Biodiversity Action Plan has promoted environmental awareness high into the planning agenda.

5 PLANNING POLICIES FOR AREAS AND ACTIVITIES BELOW HIGH WATER

5.1 Introduction

The following section has been structured to assess present policies related to offshore or intertidal practices within east Dorset and west Hampshire that may have an influence on the natural dynamics of the shoreline. This is to include an assessment of statutory and non-statutory policies associated with dredging practices, mineral extraction and spoil disposal. An appraisal of existing practice within each individual Operating Authority area is carried out in more detail within the Developed Environment Section. An indication of pertinent planning issues and apparent future areas of concern are discussed below.

5.2 Offshore Dredging and Disposal of Spoil

(a) Existing Planning Regulations

Planning regulations concerning marine and estuarine dredging of minerals do exist within the planning system. Government Policy on marine aggregates dredging is contained in the Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England, Minerals planning Guidance Note 6 (MPG6) published in April 1994. In addition to setting out the likely level of aggregates provision in each region, the guidance also provides general planning criteria to be taken into account in planning for aggregates. Nationally, minerals dredging in territorial waters and on the continental shelf can only be carried out with the consent of the owner of the mineral rights. The Crown Estate Act (1961) vests the management of the foreshore and seabed owned by the Crown Estate. This includes the rights to dredge for minerals.

The Government is committed to the use of marine dredged materials and recognises that this will continue to be an important source of supply. It is also acknowledged that mineral dredging may cause damage to the marine environment that may have implications for future coastal defence. The Government presently considers that such extraction should take place against a policy of sustainable development. This is relevant in particular to minerals dredging in places where SPAs or SACs designated under specific European Directives are likely to be affected.

Almost all dredging for marine minerals takes place around the UK coastline on the seabed owned by the Crown Estate. The nearest Crown Estate licensed marine extraction site to Dorset and Hampshire is found well offshore from the coast is not likely to affect coastal defence decision making within this SMP. There is, however, potential for more areas to be considered.

Harbour Authorities are responsible for controlling maintenance dredging which does not need planning permission. Harbour Authorities general powers are, as a rule, sufficient to permit them to undertake dredging for navigation purposes. They may also have the powers to grant works licenses for dredging operations (DoE 1994), though these are subject to consent under Section 34 of the Coastal Protection Act if they are likely to obstruct or danger navigation. The key issue in terms of coastal planning, acknowledged in the SMPs, is what direct consequences on the physical and biological environment does "existing" and "future" dredging practices have and how can this knowledge be transposed into effective mitigation or sustainable multiple use management.

The existing Government View Procedure (GV) does provide a mechanism whereby a comprehensive analysis of the environmental implications of a proposed dredging licence is reviewed. This requests the need for an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the European Council Directive 85/337/EEC6. However, the GV procedure does not apply where minerals extraction falls within land use planning controls or where the seabed is not in Crown ownership (ie is leased out to other bodies such as the Poole Harbour Commissioners).

(b) Current Activity Within the Study Area

With regard to the disposal of spoil offshore, there is one known licensed disposal site off Old Harry. The individual location, physical characteristics, bathymetry and the sensitivity of the surrounding environment determines the type of material which may be dumped at a site and may limit the total quantity and rate at which it may be deposited. The Food and Environment Protection Act (1985) requires that a licence must be obtained from MAFF as the licensing authority, prior to the deposit of any substances or articles at sea. Guidance Notes produced by MAFF on 'Controls over the Deposit of Materials at Sea and Approval of Oil Dispersants' is a relevant document that the SMPs have reviewed.

Dredged material may be used in artificial beach recharge schemes for coastal defence. Such a scheme was used at Bournemouth beach where 1,000,000 cubic metres of navigation dredgings from the Poole Harbour approach channel were deposited during 1989/90.

Today, site specific extraction takes place in a few areas off the Dorset Coast although nowhere is this believed to be causing a problem. There are currently three licences for offshore marine dredging located to the west of the Isle of Wight. At present there are no sand and gravel workings close to Poole Harbour, though there have been previous unsuccessful planning applications submitted and there may be further applications in the future.

As these actions commonly fall in locations below low water, they are outside of planning responsibility for local authorities. Consequently, existing local plans do not mention dredging or offshore disposal of material. This SMP reciprocates this need, concentrating specifically on the potential drawbacks of the planning system in terms of foreshore activities and offshore sediment disposal.

5.3 Offshore Resource Extraction

(a) Oil and Gas

National policy advice on oil and gas development is set out in DoE circular 2/85 'Planning Control Over Oil and Gas Operations'. Government policy is essentially to encourage exploration for, and production from, the country's own oil and gas resources and to ensure maximum exploitation of these resources consistent with good oilfield practice and with the protection of the environment. Industry must demonstrate that need for the development outweighs any environmental objections. Oil and gas development is also controlled by a licensing system operated by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Offshore oil and gas development is not subject to planning control but is subject to licensing by the Department of Trade and Industry and coastal local authorities are consulted to ensure sensitive areas are identified and adequate restrictions imposed.

There are two types of seaward licence:

- 1) Exploration Licences: Enable the survey of areas within the continental shelf not currently under a production licence. Valid for three years.
- 2) Production Licences: Only available during 'licensing rounds' where the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry offers specified blocks for exploration. The license holder has exclusive rights for exploration and production of petroleum within this area.

All local authorities within the SMP study area are represented on the Standing Conference on Oil and Gas development in the English Channel, which agreed a revised 'Policy towards Offshore Exploration and production' in 1993. It describes the issue arising from oil exploration off the south coast and sets out appropriate policies, stressing the sensitivity of the coastal environment and the need for consultation.

Poole Bay and the area south of Swanage have been explored in the past and coastal waters here have been licensed for many years. A few years ago, proposals for an artificial island off Poole Sandbanks for oil extraction were withdrawn at a late stage following technological developments which allowed directional drilling from on land. The 14th round of licensing in 1993 made available blocks along the undeveloped parts of the Dorset coastline, westwards, up to and beyond Portland. It is likely that exploration will commence in the near future. There are three oil blocks which are currently under license within the study area. BP and Partners operate 98/6 and 7 whilst Amoco/Elf Exploration/Enterprise operate license block 98/12. If discoveries in commercial quantities are made there may be a requirement for pipeline landfalls, where the oil is brought ashore, together with onshore facilities for processing.

As there is no local authority planning control over offshore development it is not possible for County Councils to adopt formal policies. The Authorities should, however, offer guidance to operators and pursue its approach to the development of the Dorset and Hampshire coastline through the standing conference. Continued adherence to criteria and policies of the standing conference is necessary in addition to continued reluctance with regard to oil development at nearshore locations. This Shoreline Management Plan provides the latest information on coastal processes within the study area and any future development proposals for such works should take this into consideration.

(b) Aggregates

Marine dredged sands and gravels, which are a potential source of aggregate, are found between Durlston Head and the Isle of Wight. Such aggregates can only be supplied from licensed sites that have had a positive Government Review Procedure, which indicates that no potential impact upon the nearshore environment exists. There is presently only one active wharf at Poole receiving marine dredged sand and gravel although the Minerals and Waste Local Plan anticipates the need for increased imports by reserving additional storage locations. Policy 23 of the Dorset Minerals and Waste Local Plan states 'the County Council will encourage and support proposals for the provision of alternative sources of aggregates'. Such alternative aggregates include marine-dredged aggregate landed at wharves in Dorset and sea-borne aggregate from coastal super-quarries, however, such quarries do not exist within the Area.

The planning process does not extend offshore thus any decisions regarding such activities are taken at a national level by the Department of Transport, Environment and the Regions (DETR). Consideration needs to be given to a number of planning issues such as the market for such material, its suitability for meeting supply needs and the adequacy of facilities for importation.

6 THE FUTURE OF COASTAL PLANNING IN DORSET AND HAMPSHIRE

6.1 Future Socio-economic and Environmental Change

The cultural, socio-economic and natural environments of east Dorset and west Hampshire are all influential upon land use planning for the coast. The SMP produced is sufficiently flexible to respond positively to any temporal change in population though, initially, it is focused on present and anticipated future trends outlined in the Dorset and Hampshire Structure Plans to enable the development and adoption of sustainable strategies for coastal defence and/or coastal developments of relevance.

The Dorset Structure Plan (Deposit version) produced in 1996 sets out the key characteristics and future trends that are likely to be of importance for future planning in Dorset. The following represents general future trends that may impact on the coast:

Economic Change	The need for diversification of industry and to improve network communications.
Social Change	New health threats such as pollution to air, land and water and the 'polarisation' of the social fabric of villages are issues particularly where coastal 'historic' settlements occur alongside the development of coastal towns and the resulting social pressures this brings to an area.
Environmental Changes	Reconcile the need for economic growth and the pressures consequent from an increasing population with the conservation and protection of Dorset's unique environment.

The importance of future economic, social and environmental objectives also forms an integral part of the Hampshire Structure Plan (review) which states that such objectives should be seen as "reinforcing each other, rather than in conflict."

Undoubtedly, one of the major future challenges facing both Dorset and Hampshire in planning terms is to improve the quality of life in both counties in all respects: economic, social and environmental. In order to continue to attract visitors to spend money in the Dorset and Hampshire areas, the protection of the natural asset base is perhaps the most fundamental issue. The strategies selected in the SMPs recognise this fact and the importance of preserving the 'beach' as an economic asset as well as a natural coast defence.

SMP strategies put forward in the strategy document reflect the visions and objectives of existing statutory and non statutory documents, initially by acknowledging the statements/objectives made in these plans and, secondly, by creating suitable objectives for specific lengths of coast. This helps to ensure that sustainable coastal defence strategies are selected which do not compromise the existing landscape and environmental quality of the coastline.

6.2 Planning for Future Natural and Social Change

Although not deemed a local planning issue, the future trend of sea level rise should be considered as the risks of flooding to the built environment and the threat of saline intrusion or habitat squeeze within the natural environment is of future concern in this subcell. The use of appropriate environmental, biological,

economic and social "indicators" could prove to be an appropriate way forward to achieve this and to ensure sustainable future coastal planning in east Dorset and west Hampshire. This is a new "science" at present, but one which is likely to be instrumental in how coastal change is monitored and thus may require existing coastal planning to adapt accordingly.

There are a range of "indicators" that have been experimented with in the past, some have proved successful whilst others have been too subjective to elucidate any meaningful results from. In terms of coastal defence planning, there are specific "indicators" that may be used to assess the performance of specific SMP strategies. These may include economic and social parameters, such as demographic patterns or settlement/land use change, though it is more likely that physical and ecological parameters will prove of greater use, including key species such as Southern Damselfly.

A detailed assessment of introducing appropriate indicators is not deemed part of the SMP process. Nevertheless, linked to the presence of the draft Biodiversity Action Plan for Purbeck and other non-statutory plans such as Poole Harbour Management Policies, the SMP acknowledges their future requirement. To ensure that these are useful, indicators should only be selected if they are of relevance to coastal defence planning, measurable, comparable, meaningful to decision makers, are objective and, finally, are targetable.

DORSET COAST STRATEGY

The Dorset Coast Forum is one of ten projects chosen by the European Union to demonstrate good practice in coastal zone management. In addition to the direct support it gives the Dorset Coast, this recognition provides a unique opportunity for Dorset to help shape the future UK and European policies for the coastal zone.

The operating authorities responsible for this SMP are all members of the Dorset Coast Forum. The lead authorities for the three SMP's which cover the Dorset Coast are represented on the Forum's steering committee, and have provided funding for the Strategy.

The Dorset Coast Strategy is being prepared on behalf of the Dorset Coast Forum. It will set out a long-term future for the coast, covering the coastline and inshore seas from Lyme Regis to Christchurch. Over the next 3 years, the strategy will bring together all the key interests to agree principles and priorities for the future use and protection of the coast, and support co-ordinated practical action. As land and sea are currently managed and planned separately, the Strategy will provide integrated policies for the whole of the coastal zone for the first time.

The Dorset Coast Strategy will provide a long-term view of the Dorset coast, which will set the context for future revisions of the shoreline management plans. The strategy will also draw together the long-term issues identified by the SMP's which relate to the Dorset Coast, and help to integrate their proposals with other plans and initiatives. This SMP will form an important and integral part of the implementation of the strategy by ensuring a sustainable approach to coastal defence in the long term, and by providing an effective technical input relating to coastal processes and physical management of the coast.

Appendix A

APPENDIX A - STATUTORY PLANNING POLICY SUMMARIES

AREA 5F-1 HURST SPIT TO HENGISTBURY HEAD LONG GROYN

DATA COLLECTION AREA 5F - 1	COAST DEFENCE POLICIES		COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES		CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES	
Statutory Plans Coastal Towns Local Plan	C10	Provision & maintenance of coastal defences	T16 & 20 H7(e) H9 & H12 R1 R6 R19 R21 R31.1	Traffic & Parking Residential development Height of new developments (Barton & Milford- on Sea) Open space Provision of small scale tourist facilities Beach huts – Barton-on-Sea Beach huts Milford Public access (extension of Solent Way through Barton Golf Course)	CV1-3 CV4-6 CV8 C6	Conservation Area Policies Listed Buildings Scheduled Monuments & Archaeology SSSIs & SNCIs
	NONE		RT 6 CE8 RT4 RT8 RT7 T12 CE6	Recreation and tourism Green Belt Public Open Space Highcliffe Castle Grounds Cliff Top Path Highcliffe Cliff Top Car Park Highcliffe Castle	CE1-4	Conservation Area Policies

Note: Bournemouth Borough Local Plan has not been included in this process unit as it only applies to a small area of Hengistbury Head. Policies for Bournemouth are shown in Areas 5F-2 and 5F-3.

AREA 5F-2 CHRISTCHURCH HARBOUR

DATA COLLECTION AREA 5F-2	COAST DEFENCE POLICIES	COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES	CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES
<u>Statutory Plans</u> South Christchurch Local Plan	NONE	RT 1 RT2 RT9 TC17 Harbour recreation Open Space Sandhill Caravan Park Green Belt	TC1-3 TC19 TC4 TC8 TC5 TC7 Conservation Area Policies Archaeological sites Mudeford Quay Harbour Frontage Improvements Harbour Frontage
Bournemouth Borough Local Plan	8.8 11.47 11.48 Land Liable to flooding Cliffs Unstable ground	8.7 9.10 9.15 Recreation Public gardens, sea front & cliff areas Water based recreation	8.9 9.13 9.14 10.25 Nature conservation SSSIs, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites Heathland Archaeology

AREA 5F-3 HENGISTBURY HEAD LONG GROUYNE TO SANDBANKS FERRY SLIPWAY

DATA COLLECTION AREA 5F-3	COAST DEFENCE POLICIES		COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES		CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES	
Statutory Plans Bournemouth Borough Local Plan	8.8 11.47 11.48	Land Liable to flooding Cliffs Unstable ground	8.7 9.10 9.15	Recreation Public gardens, sea front & cliff areas Water based recreation	8.9 9.13 9.14 10.25	Nature conservation SSSIs, SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites Heathland Archaeology
	T & I 29 T & I 30	Cliffs Unstable Ground	R4	Public gardens, sea front & cliff areas	R5 C&T20	SSSIs, SPA, SAC and Ramsar Sites Archaeology
Bournemouth Town Centre Local Plan	NONE		7.1 7.4	Tourism and recreation Public gardens seafront and Cliff Areas	NONE	
Poole Coastal Local Plan	NONE		Flats policy Area A 5.04, 5.07, 5.08, 5.115.13 & 5.14 Flats policy Area B 5.17, 5.19 9.40 10.08 10.09 10.11 10.13 10.17 10.22 10.29	- Sandbanks Peninsula - The Cliff Top Open space Open space (non recreational development) Open space (recreational development) Beach Car parking facilities Beach hut/chalet development Tourism (the beach) Recreation facilities Accommodation development	9.05, 9.08, 9.11 9.25 9.35 9.36 9.38	Conservation Area Policies Archaeological / historical interest SSSIs Luscombe Valley Nature Reserve Specially protected flora and fauna

AREA 5F-4 POOLE HARBOUR

DATA COLLECTION AREA 5F - 4	COAST DEFENCE POLICIES	COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES		CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES	
Poole Town Centre Local Plan	NONE	6.10 7.09 7.12 7.16 7.20 12.03, 12.05 12.07	Deep water frontage Hotel development (East Quay depot) Marina development Recreation facilities Open space Poole Quay policies	7.10 9.04 9.17	Conservation Area Policies Listed buildings / archaeology Archaeology
Broadstone Creekmoor local Plan	NONE	4.18 10.21 10.26 10.28 10.38 10.45	Green Belt Green Belt development Upton Country Park Recreation Pedestrian footpaths Caravan / Chalet Parks	10.31 10.33	Protection of Roman Road Archaeology
Poole Coastal Local Plan	NONE	5.04, 5.07, 5.08, 5.11, 5.13, 5.14 5.17, 5.19 9.40, 10.08, 10.09 10.11 10.13 10.17 10.22 10.29	Flats policy Area A Flats policy Area B Open space Beach Car parking facilities Beach hut/chalet development Tourism (the beach) Recreation facilities Accommodation development	9.06, 9.08, 9.11 9.25 9.35 9.36 9.38	Conservation Area Policies Archaeological / historical interest SSSIs Luscombe Valley Nature Reserve Specially protected flora and fauna

AREA 5F-4 POOLE HARBOUR Cont'd

DATA COLLECTION AREA 5F - 4	COAST DEFENCE POLICIES	COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES	CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES
Isle of Purbeck Local Plan	NONE	<p>H6A H7 H8 T1 T2 T8 T12 -13 T17 TR11</p> <p>Hoburne Caravan Park Important gaps / open areas Flats policy area Additional tourist attractions Recreation facilities Caravan sites Open space Recreation / leisure facilities Footpath provision</p>	<p>C1-2 CC4 CC5 CC7 CC8 CC9 CC11 CC12 CC13 CC15 CC19 CC21</p> <p>Conservation Area policies Nature conservation / LNRs NNR, SSSI, heathlands Heaths, Harbour and island Heaths, Harbour and Island Heath farms and countryside Chalk Ridge policy area Clay Vale Coastal valleys and limestone plateau Ball clay conservation area Archaeology Heritage Coast</p>
North East Purbeck Local Plan	NONE	<p>CC2A-3 T4 T9</p> <p>Green Belt Caravan / camping zones Open space</p>	<p>CC2 CC13A CC14 CC15 CC16 CC20 CC22-23 T10</p> <p>Protection of strategic gaps Conserving character of landscape Protection of Heritage Coast Protection of nature conservation sites Management of land for nature conservation Minerals in Heritage Coast/SSSI Archaeological sites Conservation</p>

AREA 5F-5 to AREA 5F-7 SOUTH HAVEN POINT TO DURLSTON HEAD

DATA COLLECTION AREA 5F - 5F-7	COAST DEFENCE POLICIES	COASTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES	CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES
Isle of Purbeck Local Plan	NONE	H6A H7 H8 T1 T2 T8 T12 -13 T17 TR11	C1-2 CC4 CC5 CC7 CC8 CC9 CC11 CC12 CC13 CC15 CC19 CC21 Conservation Area policies Nature conservation / LNRs NNR, SSSI, heathlands Heaths, Harbour and island Heaths, Harbour and island Heath farms and countryside Chalk Ridge policy area Clay Vale Coastal valleys and limestone plateau Ball clay conservation area Archaeology Heritage Coast
		CC2A-3 T4 T9	CC2 CC13A CC14 CC15 CC16 CC20 CC22-23 T10 Protection of strategic gaps Conserving character of landscape Protection of Heritage Coast Protection of nature conservation sites Management of land for nature conservation Minerals in Heritage Coast/SSSI Archaeological sites Conservation

Appendix B

TABLE 1.5 Non Statutory Plans of Relevance to the SMP

Title	Author	Description
Shoreline Management Plans		
SMP Phase 1 Report for the West Solent and Southampton Water	Halcrow	Sets out a strategy for coastal defence taking account of natural coastal processes and socio-economic influences and needs. Provides the basis for sustainable coastal defence and the setting of policies for future management of the coastline
Durlston Head to Portland Bill Stage 1 SMP	Halcrow	Sets out data collection of brief for a strategy for coastal defence taking account of natural processes and socio-economic influences and needs. Stage 2 will provide the basis for sustainable coastal defence and the setting of policies for future management of the coastline
Local Environment Action Plans		
New Forest Local Environment Action Plan	Environment Agency	Plan includes tables of action to address issues raised forming the basis of improvements to the water environment by outlining proposed areas of work and investment
Poole Harbour and Purbeck Catchment Management Plan (CMP)	Environment Agency	Plan includes tables of action to address issues raised forming the basis of improvements to the water environment by outlining proposed areas of work and investment
Frome and Piddle Catchment Management Plan (CMP)	Environment Agency	Plan includes tables of action to address issues raised forming the basis of improvements to the water environment by outlining proposed areas of work and investment
Dorset Stour LEAP	Environment Agency	Plan includes tables of action to address issues raised forming the basis of improvements to the water environment by outlining proposed areas of work and investment
Hampshire Avon CMP	Environment Agency	Plan includes tables of action to address issues raised forming the basis of improvements to the water environment by outlining proposed areas of work and investment
Environmental Management		
Hengistbury Head Management Plan	Bournemouth Borough Council	Produced as a guide to understanding of the area, making recommendations for its care and maintenance. Aims to balance preservation / improvement of natural features with optimum public enjoyment.
Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan	Poole Harbour Steering Group	Aims to promote sustainable use of the harbour, balancing demands on its natural resources and resolving conflicts of interest.
Poole Harbour Management Policies	Poole Harbour Steering Group	Aims to devise a pattern of agreed management policies within which each authority can make their own detailed plans and carry out proper functions in conjunction with other bodies.
New Forest District Coastal Management Plan	New Forest District Council	Provides a framework and a set of proposals to sustain and improve the quality of the New Forest coast.
Keeping Purbeck Special – A Strategy for the Purbeck Heritage Area	Purbeck Heritage Committee	Strategy developed to address a number of the pressures affecting Purbeck, including land use and the rural economy, tourism and traffic
Stanpit Marsh Management Plan	Christchurch Borough Council	Sets out a strategy to conserve the public open space of this NNR, and SSSI through local byelaws, e.g. control of dogs and general disturbance.
Landscape Management		
Poole Quay Quality Management Plan	Borough of Poole	Identifies key issues and future requirements for change. Through consultation process and involvement in actions programmes assure the future prosperity of the quay area.
South West Coast Path Strategy	South West Coast Path Steering Group	A strategy for the management of the South West Coast Path stretching from Minehead to Poole
South West Regional Planning Conference		A regional strategy with compilation of plans underway in the South West related to Coastal Management

TABLE 1.5 Non Statutory Plans of Relevance to the SMP Cont'd

Title	Author	Description
Landscape Management		
National Trust Coastal Ownership Management Plans	National Trust	In preparation at present
Ham Common Management Plan	Borough of Poole	Balances amenity and recreation with maintenance of its high ecological importance, reflected in its designation as a SSSI.
Sandbanks Management Plan	Borough of Poole	Plan identifies, evaluates and develops objectives for the future management of areas of semi-natural habitats within the Sandbanks area.
Luscombe Valley Nature Reserve Management Plan	Borough of Poole	Balances public access and enjoyment with maintenance and improvement of habitat diversity of the area.
Branksome Dene Chine Management Plan	Borough of Poole	Balances public use and enjoyment with the conservation and improvement of local flora and fauna of national and international importance.
Alum, Middle and Durley Chines Management Plans	Bournemouth Borough Council	Provides a basis for the future active management and improvement of the Chine in terms of nature conservation, landscape quality and recreational use.
Seafront Management Plan	Bournemouth Borough Council	Plan produced to manage the activities and features of Bournemouth seafront as a whole through evaluation, issue analysis and strategy formulation.
A Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Purbeck	Purbeck District Council	Aims to preserve through a structured planning framework based on audit, action plans, implementation and monitoring and review.
Other Council Plans		
Towards 2000 – A Leisure Strategy for Poole	Borough of Poole	A strategic approach to recreation provision. Through evaluation of local needs, analysis of current provision and identification of general deficiencies in provision, the document identifies strategic objectives to meet needs identified in a sustainable manner.
Swanage Seafront Management Plan	Purbeck District Council	Provides detailed plans for enhancement of the seafront and redevelopment of vacant or run down sites set out in the Isle of Purbeck Local Plan, 1991
Poole Bay Coastal Management Plan	Borough of Poole	Management of coastal land within BoP ownership using an integrated approach to balance the various pressures on its use and promote sympathetic management.

Part E

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Annex A

CORE OBJECTIVES FOR THE POOLE AND CHRISTCHURCH BAYS SMP

COASTAL PLANNING

"To inform the statutory planning process and related coastal zone planning"

COASTAL PROCESSES

"To ensure that future policies for coastal defence do not adversely interfere with the behaviour of the natural processes within the plan or across plan boundaries"

"To promote co-ordinated monitoring of coastal processes and/or regular shoreline surveys throughout the sub-cell to improve knowledge and understanding of the coastal environment, including identifying gaps in knowledge and proposing future research"

CONSERVATION

"To ensure compatibility with national and local biodiversity targets by protecting and where possible enhancing nature conservation interest and in particular to safeguard the integrity of sites of regional, national or international interest"

"To determine sensible and sustainable options for the management of important earth heritage and archaeological assets where applicable"

EDUCATION

"To develop an improved public awareness of the behaviour of the coast and the influences they and others have on it"

PROCESS UNIT ISSUES

Area 5F-1 Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Christchurch Bay)

Physical Processes

- Will piecemeal intervention continue to exacerbate the erosion problem in this Unit?
- There has been a recent marked increase in erosion rates at Hordle Cliffs.
- What would be the implications of managing retreat to the west of Milford on Sea to Hordle Cliffs, at Beckton Bunny and at Naish Farm
- Littoral transport is moving material offshore from Hurst Spit to Shingles Bank, which is a significant sediment sink for coarse grained material within Christchurch Bay
- There does not appear to be an obvious natural feedback mechanism to return material from Shingles bank back onshore or sufficient sediment supply within the Bay.
- Implications of introducing beach recharge along the only unprotected stretch of coastline at Naish Farm.
- Planning of defence schemes have historically not properly taken into account the effects on the whole Bay
- Need to continue to protect Hurst Spit and vulnerable areas behind

Conservation

- How coastal defences may interrelate with obligatory requirements set out in EC Directives (Annex 1 – Habitats and Annexe 2 – Species) at the Solent and Southampton Water proposed SPA and the Solent Maritime proposed SAC
- Need to consider coastal archaeological resources from terrestrial sites through to sub-tidal areas (wrecks) and acknowledge the archaeological importance of the eroding coastline west of Hurst Spit for liberating archaeological assets.
- Preserve the geological importance of the International Geological Stratotype between Highcliffe Castle and Milford-on-Sea
- Hurst Spit's protection is important not only for the protection of shingle habitats but also for the protection of saltmarsh behind the spit

Development on the Coast

- Concern raised by Naish Estate (Hobourne Ltd) over loss of private land due to increased erosion.
- NFU's objective to maintain the existing coastline and to protect dwellings adjacent to the shoreline.
- Need to continue to protect Hurst Spit Castle as an asset.
- Need for the SMP to acknowledge the incidences of land subsidence further inland from the cliff top at Barton

Use of the Coast

- Possible adverse impacts of continued/increased erosion on tourism and the local economy in the Naish and Barton areas.
- Provision of safe access to the shoreline zone in order to accommodate leisure pursuits especially around Barton on Sea where appropriate
- Any future coastal scheme must aim to balance engineering stabilisation requirements with the need to minimise impact on sediment transport and to improve coastal access in the unit

PROCESS UNIT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY TESTS

Area 5F-1 Hurst Spit to Hengistbury Head Long Groyne (Christchurch Bay)

Critical Process Unit Objectives

1. Where a coastal defence strategy may reduce the supply or transport of littoral sediments to the shoreline, this should not have detrimental impacts on immediate and adjacent beach levels within Christchurch Bay.
2. Coastal defence schemes should not interfere with sediment transport pathways operating within Christchurch Bay, unless paramount to the protection of life and critical assets.
3. Where appropriate and economically viable, strategic coastal defence options should ensure the protection of life and residential property along the Highcliffe, Barton and Milford on Sea frontage using sustainable and environmentally acceptable methods
4. Strategic coastal defence options should be based on a sound geomorphological understanding of Christchurch Bay and be compatible with the strategies set for adjacent lengths of coast.

Strategy Test Statements

- Coastal defence options should minimise the loss, or reduction in area, of international or nationally important terrestrial or marine habitats, nor jeopardise the sustainability of earth heritage sites.
- Coastal defence options should not detract from the landscape quality of the immediate or adjacent coastline.
- Coastal defence provision should seek to not adversely affect areas of known, or potential, archaeological or historical value.
- Coastal defence options should not increase the risks of erosion or flooding to other developed areas nor to non-developed areas where natural land loss or inundation is not preferred for strategic or economic reasons.
- Coastal defence options should seek not to adversely affect the amenity, touristic and / or commercial value of an area over the long term by indirectly impacting on the economies of those stakeholders using the coast (eg: shipping fishing, tourism or recreation).
- Coastal defence options should seek to improve coastal access where appropriate
- Coastal defence options should not compromise inshore fisheries at Mudeford

PROCESS UNIT ISSUES

Area 5F-2 Christchurch Harbour

Physical Processes

- Increased rates of siltation experienced in the Harbour
- Possible impacts of dredging for navigation impacting on natural coastal processes
- Breaching of the spit at the harbour entrance during periods of high river flow.
- Potential contribution of fine sediments from fluvial sources into Christchurch Harbour,
- Importance of Mundeford Sandbank in protecting Christchurch Harbour from flooding

Conservation

- How coastal defences may interrelate with obligatory requirements set out in EC Directives (Annex 1 – Habitats and Annexe 2 – Species) at the Dorset Heathlands proposed SPA
- Seek opportunities for habitat enhancement including restoration and re-creation of soft habitats within the Harbour
- Need to consider the options for protecting Hengistbury Head and other Scheduled Monuments in the Harbour as sea levels rise
- Importance of fluvially derived fine material in maintaining the growth of mudflats and saltmarshes in Christchurch Harbour
- Conservation implications for floral species linked to stabilisation of the Mundeford Spit
- Implications of managed retreat and increased flooding frequency at Stanpit Marsh and the landfill site behind
- Importance of maintaining sediment supply around Hengistbury Head to stabilise rare eel grass beds in Christchurch Bay
- Importance of mudflats as bird feeding areas in Christchurch Harbour

Development on the Coast

- NFU's objective to maintain the existing coastline and to protect dwellings adjacent to the shoreline.
- Increase in flooding along the perimeter of Christchurch Harbour when storm surges coincide with high spring tides (and high freshwater flows).
- Implications of increased erosion and more frequent flooding at Stanpit Marsh and the threat to the dis-used landfill site behind

Use of the Coast

- Provision of safe access to the intertidal zone in order to accommodate leisure pursuits where appropriate
- High tourism and recreational use of the harbour should not be jeopardised during summer months by recommended coastal defence works.
- Future dredging requirements for navigation and for commercial fisheries

PROCESS UNIT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY TESTS

Area 5F-2 Christchurch Harbour

Critical Process Unit Objectives

1. Coastal defence schemes should not adversely interfere with sediment transport pathways operating within or at the mouth of Christchurch Harbour, unless paramount to the protection of life and critical assets.
2. Where appropriate and economically viable, strategic coastal defence options should ensure the protection of life and property along the periphery of Christchurch Harbour using sustainable and environmentally acceptable methods.
3. Strategic coastal defence options should not be detrimental to the Harbour as a whole

Strategy Test Statements

- Coastal defence options should minimise the loss, or reduction in the area, of international or nationally important terrestrial or marine habitats.
- Coastal defence options should not detract from the aesthetic quality of the immediate or adjacent coastline, especially those areas designated for historical importance.
- Coastal defence provision should seek to not adversely affect areas of known, or potential, archaeological or historical value.
- Coastal defence options should not increase the risks of erosion or flooding to other developed areas nor to non-developed areas in Christchurch Harbour where natural land loss or inundation is not preferred for strategic or economic reasons.
- Coastal defence provision should seek not to adversely affect the amenity, touristic and / or commercial value of Christchurch Harbour over the long term by indirectly impacting on the economies of those stakeholders using the coast (eg: shipping and navigation, fishing, tourism or recreation).

PROCESS UNIT ISSUES

Area 5F-3 Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway

Physical Processes

- Breaching of Double Dykes and the threat of continued erosion of Hengistbury Head and future flooding implications in Christchurch Harbour
- Importance of maintaining present beach levels for coast protection and tourist reasons
- Effect of the Swash Channel on sediment transport

Conservation

- How coastal defences may interrelate with obligatory requirements set out in EC Directives (Annex 1 – Habitats and Annexe 2 – Species) at the Dorset Heaths proposed SAC and Dorset Heathlands proposed SPA
- Seek opportunities for habitat enhancement including restoration and re-creation of soft habitats along the cliff tops or further inland
- Need to consider coastal archaeological resources from terrestrial sites through to sub-tidal areas, in particular at Hengistbury Head where the volume of shingle to the west of the Long Groyne is diminishing due to a lack of supply
- Need to highlight nationally and internationally important protected species (eg: Sand Lizard) and the problems of coastal defence on cliff and sand dune development.
- Implications of accelerated erosion and sea level rise at Hengistbury Head
- Importance of maintaining sediment drift in Poole Bay to protect the eel grass beds off Hengistbury Head
- Importance of establishing a strategy to preserve Hengistbury Head as a site for geological conservation and thus as a provider of littoral material whilst seeking to protect various coastal habitats from natural erosion.

Development on the Coast

- Impact of artificial cliff drainage on the hydrology of wetland areas (cliff seepages and reed beds)
- Possibilities of marine habitat enhancement through the encouragement of marine species colonisation on hard substrates (ie: new and existing defences or piers)

Use of the Coast

- Provision of safe access to the intertidal zone in order to accommodate leisure pursuits where appropriate
- Preservation of the beaches in Poole Bay is vital to the local economy
- Impact of increased visitor pressure on habitats for sand lizards in Poole Bay

PROCESS UNIT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY TESTS

Area 5F-3 Hengistbury Head Long Groyne to Sandbanks Ferry Slipway

Critical Process Unit Objectives

1. Where a coastal defence strategy may reduce the supply or transport of littoral sediments to the shoreline, this should not have detrimental impacts on immediate and adjacent beach levels within Poole Bay.
2. Where appropriate and economically viable, strategic coastal defence options should ensure the protection of life and property along the seaward section of the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation using sustainable and environmentally acceptable methods
3. Strategic coastal defence options should be based on a sound geomorphological understanding of Poole Bay and be compatible with the strategies set for adjacent lengths of coast.

Strategy Test Statements

- Coastal defence options should not cause the loss, or reduce the area, of international or nationally important terrestrial or marine habitats in Poole Bay.
- Coastal defence options should not compromise the existence of valuable habitats, or geological sites, such that it has adverse impacts on their sustainability or the existence of rare faunal/floral species.
- Coastal defence options should seek to not adversely affect areas of known, or potential, archaeological or historical value.
- Coastal defence options should not increase the risks of erosion or flooding to other developed areas along this frontage
- Coastal defence provision should seek not to adversely affect the amenity, touristic and / or commercial value of an area over the long term by indirectly impacting on the economies of those stakeholders using the coast (eg: shipping fishing, tourism or recreation).

PROCESS UNIT ISSUES

Area 5F-4 Poole Harbour

Physical Processes

- Accelerated erosion on Brownsea Island
- Poor flushing characteristics in the Harbour causing sediments to accumulate
- Perception of increased siltation rates within Lytchett Bay and Poole Harbour in general (Lytchett Minster Town Council)
- Current and future changes in tide levels and wave action adjacent to Poole Town Quay
- Saltmarsh loss which has exposed south and west facing coasts to increased erosion
- Implications of Port and Harbour dredging regimes on existing and future coastal defences and littoral processes operating within the Harbour

Conservation

- How coastal defences may interrelate with obligatory requirements set out in EC Directives (Annex 1 – Habitats and Annexe 2 – Species) at the Dorset Heaths and Studland Dunes possible SAC and the Dorset Heathlands and Poole Harbour proposed SPA
- Seek opportunities for habitat enhancement including restoration and re-creation of soft habitats
- Concern raised over the conservation of Poole Harbour SSSI as development pressure increases
- Need to minimise and mitigate against adverse impacts, brought about by coastal defence schemes, on archaeological remains. consider coastal archaeological resources from terrestrial sites through to sub-tidal areas
- Importance of continued saline intrusion or overtopping of saltwater at Luscombe Valley to maintain the ecological interest.
- Continuation of erosion at Ham Common to maintain ecological and geological interests.
- Die back of marshes to the south west of Poole Harbour

Development on the Coast

- NFU's objective to maintain assets and to protect shoreline dwellings (south of Harbour)
- Proposed boat haven and breakwater at Poole Quay
- Protection of the developed Old Town of Poole from flooding on high tides and wave action.
- Current levels of protection afforded to Poole is 1:20 year return period, well below the indicative standard of 1:200 years.
- Flooding along the perimeter of Poole Harbour when storm surges and spring tides coincide
- Coastal squeeze as a result of sea level rise likely to be felt most at Holes Bay, Lytchett Bay and the western side of Poole Harbour adjacent to the railway line.
- Ecological implications for Poole Harbour of possible future dredging of contaminated sediments at Holes Bay

Use of the Coast

- Problem of protecting existing land uses (both agricultural and developed) in Poole Harbour.
- Improve foreshore management to better control public access.
- Improve, where appropriate, public access to the shoreline within the Harbour
- Importance of a good beach at Rockley Sands for tourism and the nearby caravan park
 - Importance of Poole Harbour as a nursery ground for shellfish

PROCESS UNIT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY TESTS

Area 5F-4 Poole Harbour

Critical Process Unit Objectives

1. Coastal defence options should not significantly alter estuarine processes unless paramount to the protection of life, critical assets or navigation in Poole Harbour
2. Strategic coastal defence options should be able to adapt to the onset of sea level rise without compromising the protection of life and property in Poole Harbour
3. Strategic coastal defence options should appreciate the implications of its implementation on adjacent stretches of coast and acknowledge the Harbour as an inter-linked hydrodynamical unit
4. Implications of changes to dredging regime should be appropriately studied

Strategy Test Statements

- Coastal defence options should minimise the loss, or reduction in the area, of international or nationally important terrestrial or marine habitats in Poole Harbour where possible
- Coastal defence options should minimise interference with the overall coastal processes or saline interaction / prevention requirements integral to the formation / existence of valuable habitats
- Coastal defence options should not detract from the landscape quality of the immediate coastline.
- Coastal defence options should not adversely affect areas of known archaeological / historical value
- Coastal defence options should not increase the risks of erosion or flooding to other developed areas nor to non-developed areas in Poole Harbour where natural land loss or inundation is not preferred for strategic, environmental or economic reasons.
- Coastal defence options should seek not to adversely affect the amenity, touristic and / or commercial value of Poole Harbour over the long term (and parts thereof) by indirectly impacting on the economies of those stakeholders using the coast (eg: navigation, fishing, recreation)
- Coastal defence options should seek to improve access in Poole Harbour where appropriate

PROCESS UNIT ISSUES

Area 5F-5 South Haven Point to Durlston Head

Physical Processes

- Cliff instability caused by groundwater flow and draining of surface water into the ground to the north of Swanage Bay
- Importance of natural littoral drift and retention of the beach in Swanage Bay for coastal defence and the economy of Swanage.
- Impact on beach levels caused by the construction of the outfall jetty at the southern half of Swanage Bay in 1993
- Accretion and erosion at Studland and the implications of preventing littoral drift to the dunes further north

Conservation

- English Nature intentions to extend the SSSI designation in Swanage Bay to include sections of the Wealden Clays exposed in the cliff line.
- Problems of incorporating cliff drainage schemes in important geological SSSI sites
- How coastal defences may interrelate with obligatory requirements set out in EC Directives (Annex 1 – Habitats and Annex 2 – Species) at the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs candidate SAC, the Dorset Heaths and Studland Dunes possible SAC and the Dorset Heaths pSPA
- Seek opportunities for habitat enhancement including restoration and re-creation of soft habitats adjacent to the dunes or along the cliff tops.
- Need to consider archaeological importance of the barrows located at the east of Ballard Down
- Need to highlight nationally and internationally important protected species (eg: Sand Lizard) and the problems of coastal defence on cliff and sand dune development.
- Recent establishment of lobster breeding grounds (artificial reef structure at Studland)
- Need for continued littoral drift to protect and stabilise the eel grass beds in Studland Bay

Development on the Coast

- Pressure to raise the sea defence adjacent to the Swanage Sailing Club
- Concern over the condition of sewage pipe at Peveril Point
- Problems of surface water drainage in the Swanage area and the implications this has on development, coastal defence and conservation
- NFU's objective to maintain the existing coastline and to protect dwellings on the shoreline.
- Concern over erosion at Studland Beach and the possible options of car park relocation
- Accessibility of beach at Studland Beach is now a problem especially at high tide
- Development of the flood alleviation outfall stone pier on Swanage beach has impacted on beach levels to the north and south of it.
- Concern over the safety of the flats on Durlston Cliffs

Use of the Coast

- Need to improve/repair the coastal path adjacent to the Wessex Water scheme on Peveril Downs.
- Dredging of Poole swash channel affecting the local sediment dynamics including Studland Bay
- Need to review visitor management at Studland Beach.
- Provision of safe access to the intertidal zone in order to accommodate leisure pursuits

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- Coastal defence options should minimise the loss, or reduce the area, of international or nationally important terrestrial or marine habitats, nor jeopardise important earth heritage sites.
- Coastal defence options should seek not to interfere with processes integral to the existence of valuable habitats or geological sites, such that it has adverse impacts on their sustainability.
- Coastal defence options should not detract from the aesthetic and landscape quality of the immediate or adjacent coastline.
- Coastal defence options should not adversely affect areas of known archaeological or historical value where possible.
- Coastal defence options should not increase the risks of erosion or flooding to other developed areas nor to non-developed areas (eg: Studland Dunes) where natural land loss or inundation may not be preferred for strategic or economic reasons.
- Coastal defence provision should not adversely affect the amenity, touristic and / or commercial value of the Swanage and Studland Area by indirectly impacting on the economies of those stakeholders using the coast (eg: fishing, tourism or recreation).
- Coastal defence options should not compromise or damage the lobster breeding ground that has developed off Studland or inshore fisheries off Hook Sand.