

Sidmouth & East Beach Management Plan (BMP)

Introduction

East Devon District Council, working in partnership with the Environment Agency, Sidmouth Town Council, local community representatives including CRAG, the South West Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and our consultants CH2M (formerly Halcrow), are developing a Beach Management Plan (BMP) for Sidmouth Beach, East Beach and the River Sid up to the Weir.

This exhibition aims to provide you, as a member of the local community, with information about the purpose of this project, proposals for the future management of coastal flood and erosion risk at Sidmouth, and how you can influence the choice of preferred option.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to review and update the existing Sidmouth BMP and develop it to include the beach to the east of the River Sid, 'East Beach', where significant cliff erosion is taking place, to produce a Sidmouth and East Beach Management Plan that achieves the following aims:

1. Maintain the 1990's Sidmouth Coastal Defence Scheme's Standard of Service (Sidmouth Beach).
2. Reduce the rate of beach and cliff erosion to the east of the River Sid (East Beach).
3. Carry out (1) and (2) in an integrated, justifiable and sustainable way.

What is a Beach Management Plan?

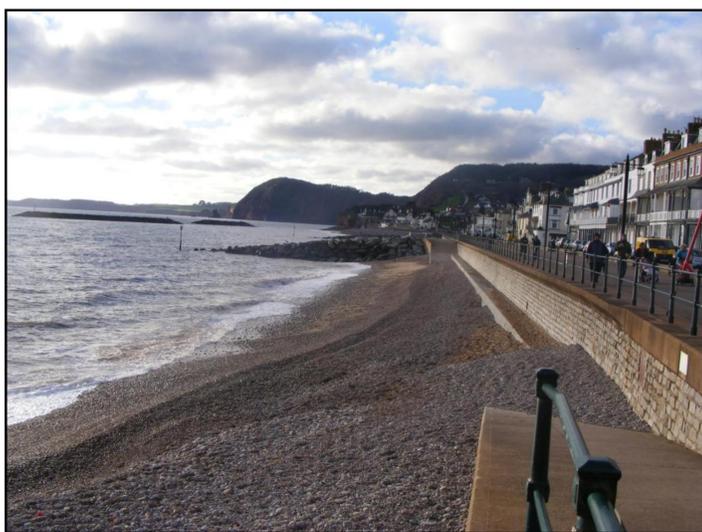
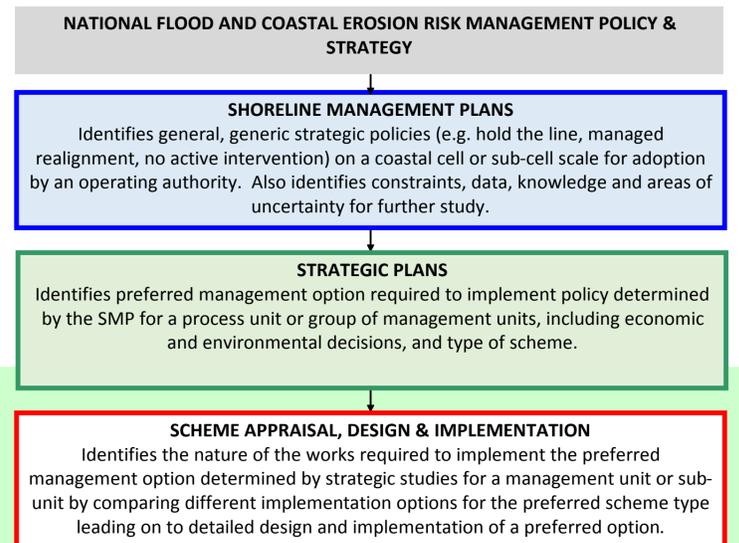
Beaches have many uses and functions. These include amenity, recreation, commercial and community uses, and coast defence, habitat and earth science functions; all of which have social, environmental and economic value.

BMPs are a non-statutory method of providing a coastal defence plan for managing a beach at a local level that takes into account and, where possible, promotes or enhances the other uses and functions of a beach.

BMPs provide a framework for more cohesive management of a beach that may be regulated and used by different parties, all with their own agendas. They establish a means to control the physical form of beaches and the general beach environment, and to promote good practice within the environment.

A BMP should provide a detailed plan for the short (c.10 years), medium (c.50 years) and long (c.100 years) term management of a beach to achieve an agreed aim and objectives.

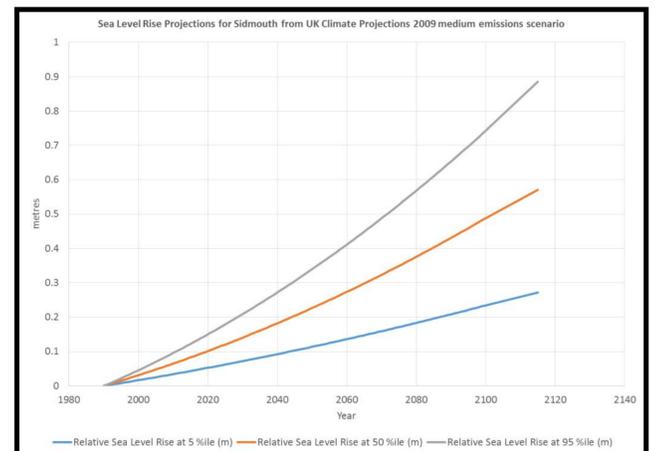
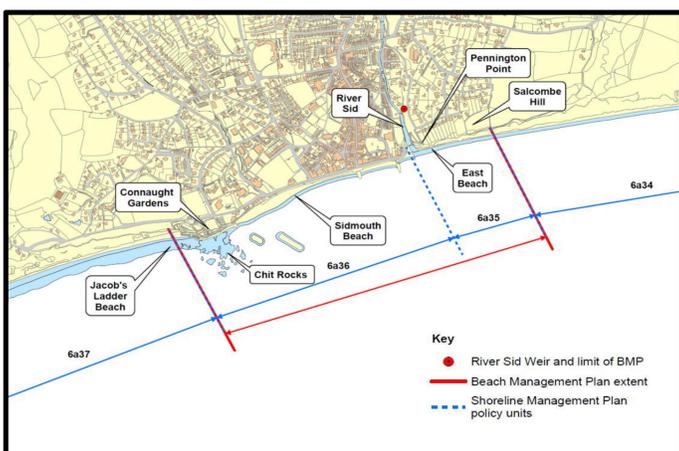
In this context, beach management is defined as a process for physically managing the beach by such things as simple interventions, nourishment and recycling of beach material, the construction and maintenance of beach control structures (e.g. groynes and breakwaters) and monitoring.



How does this relate to other recent coastal management projects?

The Sidmouth coast has been subject to human intervention to manage the risk of coastal flooding and erosion since the 19th century. In the past 26 years there have been a number of significant projects looking at the future management of coastal flood and erosion risk at Sidmouth, as follows:

- **1990: Report on Coast Protection at Sidmouth** – this led to the implementation of **Phase I** of the Sidmouth coastal defences we see today, involving repairs to the seawall which was severely damaged in 1990. It also paved the way for subsequent phases of coast protection works during the 1990s.
- **1992: Coast Protection at Sidmouth (Phase II) Engineers Report** – this developed the design and business case for constructing the two offshore breakwaters, the two easternmost rock groynes and beach recharge along the Sidmouth town frontage as **Phase II** of coastal defence works at Sidmouth.
- **1994: Coast Protection Connaught Gardens Revised Engineers Report** – this developed the design and business case for construction of the rock revetment constructed in the 1990s in front of the promenade and seawall that extends around the base of Chit Rocks.
- **1998: Sidmouth Phase II Coast Protection Scheme: Revised Beach Management Plan** – This BMP included assessment of the **Phase II** scheme performance, and developed the design and business case both for ongoing maintenance works and construction of a third rock groyne adjacent to the Bedford Hotel.
- **2001: Pennington Point Coastal Study** – This study undertook assessment of risk posed to the western wall of the River Sid and cliff top properties along Cliff Road above Pennington Point. The findings of this report provided the basis for development of a coast protection scheme proposal in 2003 by EDDC to construct a 200m long rock revetment along the base of the cliff at East Beach to reduce coastal erosion. This scheme was withdrawn by EDDC at planning.
- **2011: South Devon & Dorset Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2)** – With reference to the map to the right, the preferred option defined in the Sidmouth and East Beach Management Plan will contribute to the implementation of SMP2 policies of 'Hold the Line' along the Sidmouth part of the frontage (6a36), and 'Managed Realignment' along the East Beach part of the frontage (6a35), including inter-relationships with and impact upon the adjacent undefended coasts where the policy is for 'No Active Intervention' (6a34 and 6a37).
- **2011: Dorset and East Devon Jurassic Coast Coastal Change Pathfinder Project** – The Pathfinder Project was funded by Defra to investigate ways in which coastal communities that are at risk of future coastal change due to climate change and associated sea level rise can be engaged. This enabled communities to contribute to the development of 'adaptation measures' for their communities in response to coastal change (*see adjacent boards*).



The graph above shows the sea level rise guidance that has to be assumed for appraising coastal flood and erosion risk management measures in England.