
2 Consultation

2.1 Consultees

The involvement in the SMP process of all groups and organisations with an interest in the East Solent shoreline is seen as critical to its long-term success. Table 1 presents the list of Consultees with an indication of their response within the development of the Stage 2 documents. More details of their responses are contained in Appendix 2.

2.2 Consultation process

A three phase approach was adopted for consultation:

- initial contact and request for information, plus a public presentation of the SMP process (Stage 1)
- meetings with major Consultees (Stage 1)
- circulation of Management Unit plans for discussion and agreement, plus an open day for discussion of the plans (Stage 2).

The Stage 1 activities are summarised in Volumes I and III. Responses from Consultees were extremely helpful in highlighting concerns and bringing together information.

Consultation for Stage 2 comprised the circulation of Consultation Documents, an open day of presentations and discussions, and a three month response and discussion period. Each Consultation Document contained:

- an introduction to the SMP
- the management issues and objectives for the East Solent
- the approach to defining Units and selecting the preferred strategic defence options
- a plan for each Unit

The plan for each harbour Unit was set out as an individual document, intended to contain sufficient information to stand alone for consultation purposes. Each plan included:

- a summary of the background information collated in Stage 1
- a discussion of the strategic defence options based on seven standardised shoreline management types giving consideration to the physical, human and natural environments
- a discussion of alternative defence options for specific frontages where one of the standardised approaches may not be appropriate
- suggested management operations to achieve the preferred options.

The open day was attended by over 60 people, including residents and representatives of many of the Consultee groups. Written responses to the Consultation Documents were received from over 40 Consultees and from an additional 40 private residents. Written replies were sent in answer to all concerns. Appendix 2 summarises the responses received from Consultees and the actions taken within the SMP.

Major concerns for the harbours centred on the proposed coastal defence option of shoreline realignment for a number of frontages within Langstone and Chichester Harbours, the proposed future maintenance of defences recently built on Hayling Island that contravene the European Union Habitats Directive and the lack of attention to the long term management of the internationally important natural assets within the harbours. Conflicting views from residents/ property owners, recreation interests and groups responsible for managing threatened natural assets have not been resolved for all frontages and have highlighted the need for further information and policy guidance. As a result of the consultation process the proposed coast defence options for a number of sensitive areas have been amended, particularly where realignment is proposed. The SMP now recommends further studies of methods to achieve sustainable defence, without a presupposition of the preferred option.

Consultation also resulted in a number of minor modifications to the background information. The modified harbour Consultation Document formed the basis of this volume of the SMP.

Coastal Groups representing adjacent shorelines are also preparing SMP's. The South Downs Group, to the east, are led by Arun District Council and have appointed Gifford Associated Consultants to act as consultants. The West Solent Group are led by New Forest District Council and have appointed Sir William Halcrow & Partners

Ltd as consultant. The Plan areas overlap to some extent to ensure continuity of management. In the east the overlap extends from Selsey Bill to Pagham. In the west the overlap is limited to the River Hamble frontage from Hook Spit to Warsash. Consultation between the Groups has ensured that the three plans are compatible.

Table 1 Stage 2 consultation response

Organisation	Response
Steering Committee	Chichester DC ✓ Fareham BC ✓ Gosport BC ✓ Havant BC ✓ Portsmouth CC ✓ Environment Agency ✓ English Nature ✓
County Councils	Hampshire CC ✓ West Sussex CC ✓
Other statutory Consultees	Arun DC ✓ Countryside Commission Crown Estates Department of Transport Ministry of Defence MAFF (Marine Protection) ✓
Harbours	Chichester Harbour Conservancy ✓ Langstone Harbour Board ✓ Langstone Harbour Advisory Committee ✓ Portsmouth Commercial Port Flag Officer Portsmouth (MoD)
Parish Councils	Apuldram PC ✓ Birdham PC ✓ Bosham PC ✓ Chidham PC ✓ East Wittering PC ✓ Earnley PC ✓ Fishbourne PC ✓ Pagham PC ✓ Selsey Town C ✓ Sidlesham PC ✓ Southbourne PC ✓ West Wittering PC ✓
Residents Associations	Emsworth ✓ Hardaway and Elson Residents Group ✓ Hayling Island Hill Head Langstone (Residents Association) ✓ Langstone (Village Association) ✓ Lee-on-the-Solent + Northney + NE Hayling ✓ Pagham Beach ✓ Warsash ✓ West Wittering ✓

✓ Written response

+ Open day discussions only

Organisation	Response
Commercial	British Maritime Industries ✓ Continental Ferryport Local Fisheries Committee Southern Marine Industries Selsey Regeneration ✓
Landowners	Cakeham Manor Estate + Church Farm Holiday Village Country Landowners ✓ Defence Land Services Hayling Island Golf Club ✓ Meon Shore Chalet Owners Association National Farmers Union ✓ National Grid Company

Organisation	Response
	Pagham Beach (Holdings) ✓ Park World Holidays ✓ Solent Breezes Chalet Owners West Wittering Estate White Horse Caravan Co. ✓
Conservation Groups	Bosmere Hundred Society ✓ Council for the Protection of Rural ✓ ✓ + English Heritage Fareham Society ✓ Friends of the Earth (Portsea) Friends of the Earth (Gosport and Fareham) ✓ Friends of the Earth (Manhood Peninsula) + Friends of the Earth (Havant) Gosport Environmental Forum Gosport Society Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime + Archaeology ✓ Hampshire Wildlife Trust National Trust Portchester Society Portsmouth Harbour Conservation Group Portsmouth Urban Wildlife Portsmouth Society Portsmouth Environmental Forum RSPB Solent Protection Society Stokes Bay Society Sussex Wildlife Trust
Recreation	Fareham Sea Angling Club ✓ Hill Head Sailing Club ✓ Marine Safety Agency Portsmouth and Langstone Sailing Association ✓ Royal Yachting Association ✓ Southern Tourist Board