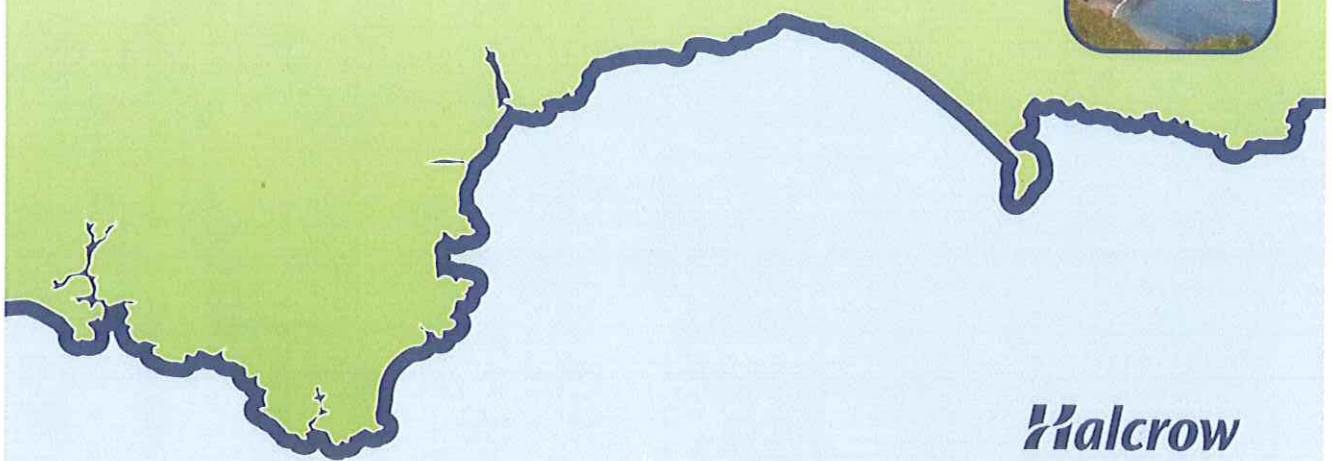


South Devon and Dorset Coastal  
Advisory Group (SDADCAG)

Shoreline Management Plan Review (SMP2)  
Durlston Head to Rame Head

Summary of Draft Final SMP  
September 2010



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## I Introduction

### I.1 What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution. It addresses these risks in a sustainable manner with respect to people and the developed, historic and natural environment. In doing so, an SMP is a high-level document that forms an important part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strategy for flood and coastal defence (Defra, 2001). The SMP provides the policy framework from which more detailed strategies and schemes are developed to identify the best way of implementing policy. It is important to note that adoption of policy does not guarantee future funding for defence works.

This SMP is a review of the first generation SMPs that were completed in 1998 and covers the South Devon Devon and Dorset Coast, from Durlston Head to Rame Head (see Figure I.1). It is being prepared by the South Devon And Dorset Coastal Advisory Group (SDADCAG).

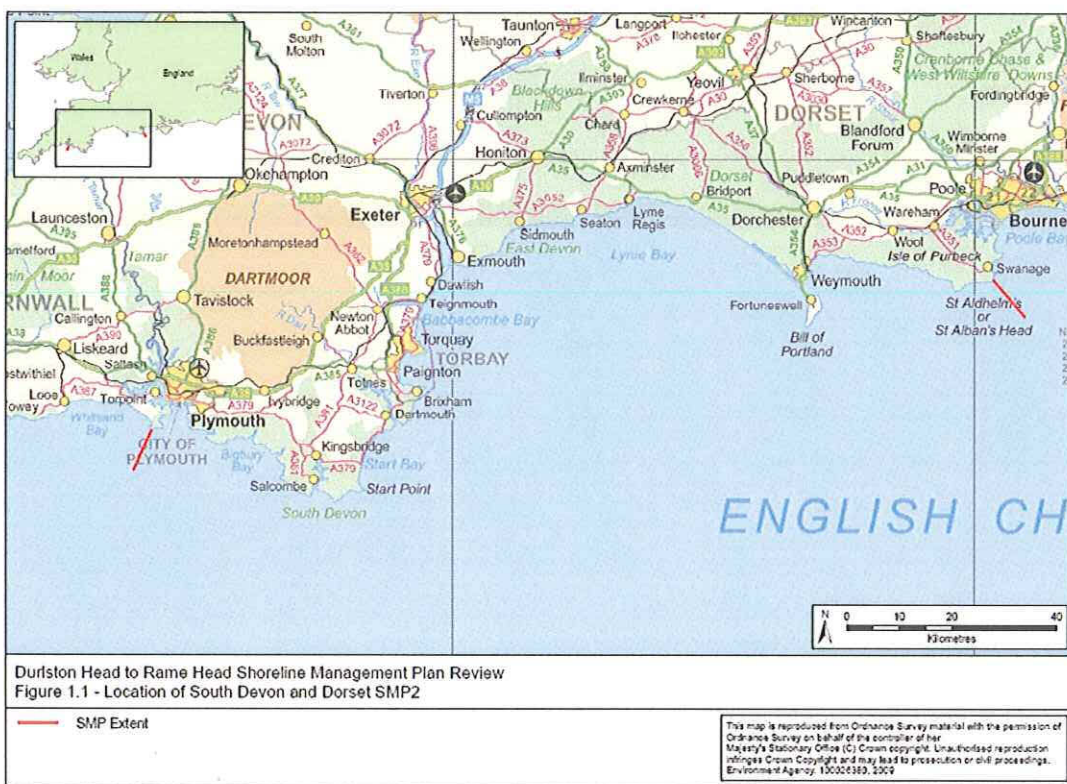


Figure I.1 South Devon and Dorset SMP area

Within the SMP area, one of four policies must be applied to each section of coast for each of three time-periods (also referred to as epochs), for 0 to 20 years, 20 to 50 years and 50 to 100 years. The policy can change over time. The policies that can be assigned in the SMP are defined by Defra and stated in Table I.1.

Hold the existing defence line	maintain or change the level of protection provided by defences in their present location.
Advance the existing defence line	build new defences on the seaward side of the existing defence line to reclaim land.
Managed realignment	allowing the shoreline position to move backwards (or forwards) with management to control or limit movement.
No active intervention	a decision not to invest in providing or maintaining defences.

Table 1.1 SMP policies defined by Defra.

## 1.2 About this Summary Document

This document is a summary of the South Devon and Dorset SMP2 draft final report. It is a relatively concise summary of much more detailed information contained in the main SMP document and supporting appendices. In particular, this document provides the following information:

- Summary of the significant changes to preferred policies made following the public consultation (Section 2).
- Concise summary of preferred policy options, including some details on justification and implications of policies (Section 3).
- Summary Action Plan, setting out what actions, when, where and by whom are required over the next 10 years to implement SMP policies (Section 4).

The final SMP will be available on the SDADCAG website once it has been adopted by Coastal Operating Authorities, Regional Flood Defence Committees, Natural England and the Environment Agency. It is anticipated that this will be in late Autumn 2010.

## 2 Changes to Policies following Public Consultation

Following the completion of the public consultation phase in July 2009, all comments were reviewed and amendments made to the SMP documents. The full details of all changes made are included in **Appendix B** of the supporting documents provided with the full Draft Final SMP. However, for ease of reference, the key significant changes relating to policies and policy units are summarised in the following:

- **Short defended lengths at Kimmeridge (5g03) and Lulworth Cove (5g07)** – the policy has changed to No Active Intervention from Managed Realignment to reflect that public funds (flood and coastal defence budget) would not be used to fund future works here, although the policy wording still clearly states that continued intervention here would be acceptable from a process point of view if other funds were available.
- **Portland Harbour North West Shore (5g18 to 5g20)** – policy wording has been revised and agreed with relevant parties to make it clear exactly what is intended for this shoreline. The policies have not themselves been altered.
- **Portland Harbour Breakwaters** – these have been removed as an SMP policy unit as they would potentially form part of the implementation and do not require a specific policy. It is however indicated in the policy statements both the assumption they will remain and what would be the implication if this assumption was wrong. In doing this, the policies for the units within Portland Harbour have been reviewed and it is believed that even if the breakwaters were not there, the long-term policy would not change; only the nature and timing of the implementation measures. To keep these as an SMP unit would also not be consistent with other SMPs.
- **Chesil Beach (Portland end) (6a02 and 6a03)** – an extra policy unit has been added to distinguish between where measures to Hold the Line should be considered, and where intervention to restore the beach in an emergency situation only should be considered. This was stated in the draft

policy statement but splitting this into two distinct units makes the intent of the Plan clearer in this area.

- **Freshwater Beach (6a09)** – following further review, it is felt that the SMP policy should reflect the management of the front line of defence. In the short-term, beach management would need to move back as the adjacent cliffs retreat therefore the policy would be Managed Realignment not Hold the Line as previously indicated in the consultation draft. The medium and long-term policy would also be Managed Realignment as there would be continued beach management to manage the beach in line with adjacent cliffs. This would be supported by construction and maintenance of a set-back defence.
- **Lyme Regis (East Cliff) (6a20)** – the long-term policy of Managed Realignment in the draft document was to allow extension of measures to manage the transition area between undefended (policy unit 6a19) and defended coasts as the cliffs to the east receded further. However, upon further reflection it is thought that this would more appropriately be called Hold the Line along a transitional policy unit boundary in order to protect property and infrastructure at Lyme Regis. Recent information has also shed a greater degree of uncertainty on this area, and to reflect this and allow more flexibility of approach to future management whilst also highlighting risks for future development in this area, the long term policy has been changed to one of either Managed Realignment or Hold the Line, to be determined by ongoing monitoring and sustainability of Phase IV works to be constructed in the immediate future.
- **Sidmouth (6a35)** – the policy unit boundary on the east side of Sidmouth where Managed Realignment is proposed has been moved to the eastern end of the developed area of Sidmouth along the cliff top. The policy for soft engineering techniques to retain beach material along the base of the cliff and so produce a more natural rate of recession remains and moving of the policy unit boundary demonstrates the area in which it would occur. The draft text suggested beach management would extend into this area in any case and it is felt that the changes made now make this clearer.
- **Lower Clyst (6b08)** – this is now a separate unit to provide clear detail of what is intended in this area. The policy statement for this unit therefore allows greater discussion of this issues, justification, possible implementation and implications of a Managed Realignment policy in this area.
- **Dawlish Warren (6b19 to 6b22)** – there is much disagreement over the long-term management of Dawlish Warren and it is not felt that the SMP can currently determine robustly if the policy here should be one of managed realignment or continued hold the line. Therefore the revised policy for the short-term is to retain a Hold the Line policy for Dawlish Warren and allow long-term management to be determined by more detailed investigations in this period (starting with the Exe Estuary Strategy that has recently been commissioned by the Environment Agency in January 2010). Note, an additional policy unit has also been added for the landward side of Dawlish Warren with a No Active Intervention policy for the short-term.
- **Sprey Point (6b26)** – policy here has been changed to be Hold the Line for all epochs as, upon further reflection, there is little economic, technical or environmental benefit in realigning here.
- **The Point (Teignmouth) (6b29)** – this has been separated out as its own unit with a Managed Realignment policy to allow intervention if future detailed study finds it necessary to manage this area for the benefit of the wider area. Otherwise, the intent of the Plan is to allow this feature to evolve as naturally as possible.
- **Goodrington Sands (6b56)** – the text for this area has been clarified to state that Managed Realignment would be implemented following more detailed investigation but only if found to be appropriate to do so. It also indicates that this is more likely to be appropriate along the northern part of the frontage. We have also stated that where Managed Realignment does not occur, existing defences should be retained under Hold the Line.
- **Blackpool Sands (6b73)** – having reviewed further information provided through the consultation process and to be consistent with other areas where there are private defences, the policy has been changed from Hold the Line to No Active Intervention for all three epochs. This reflects that there is likely to be little risk to the A379, the only reason to justify public expenditure in this area.

However, this change does state that the private localised defences could continue as to do so poses little risk of impacts to a wider area in terms of processes.

- **Beesands (6b78 and 6b79)** – this unit has been split this into two parts to make it clearer what is intended in this area. Widdicombe Ley frontage (6b78) is No Active Intervention. Beesands village (6b79) is Hold the Line to reflect that the recent works there were funded on the basis of a 100-year scheme life, but with provision that localised realignment may be needed at the north end of the village to manage the transition between the defended and undefended parts as the beach rolls back into the Ley.
- **Kingsbridge Estuary (6c04 to 6c06)** – the policy statement wording has been amended to reflect that in areas where there are existing defences, either Hold the Line or Managed Realignment could occur (if appropriate) but that this needs more study. The policy of No Active Intervention for areas that are currently undefended has been retained.
- **Thurlestone Rock to Warren Point (6c11)** – having further reviewed the data and information in this area, there is little flood risk at the current time to warrant short term intervention to realign in this area. As such, the short term policy has been changed from Managed Realignment to No Active Intervention, in line with the No Active Intervention policies for the medium and long term. Within this policy provision remains for private defences to be maintained if funds are available as to do so is unlikely to have a significant processes impact.
- **Warren Point (Bigbury-on-Sea) to Challaborough (West) (6c16)** – having reviewed the data held, and in order to be consistent with similar situations along other parts of the SMP frontage, the policy here has changed from to one of No Active Intervention in all three epochs. This better reflects that public funds (flood and coastal defence budget) would be unlikely to be justified in a robust economic case to fund future works here. However, the policy wording still clearly states that continued intervention here would be acceptable from a process point of view if other funds were available.
- **Upper Tamar Estuary (6c32 and 6c33)** – the wording of the policy statement has been amended to reflect that in areas where there are existing defences, either Hold the Line or Managed Realignment could occur (if appropriate) but that this needs more study. The policy of No Active Intervention for areas that are currently undefended has been retained.
- **Plymouth Sound Breakwater** – these have been removed as an SMP policy unit as they would potentially form part of the implementation and do not require a specific policy. The revised text for the policy statements around Plymouth Sound do, however, indicate both the assumption they will remain and what would be the implication if this assumption was wrong. To keep these as an SMP unit would also not be consistent with other SMPs.

In addition to these more significant changes, small adjustments to policy unit boundary lines, unit names and clarification to policy statement text have been made. Section 3 provides a concise summary of the revised policy unit names, boundaries and policies.

Policy Unit (Number and Description)	SMP1 Policy	Preferred Policy			Supporting Information
		Short Term (to 2025)	Medium Term (to 2055)	Long Term (to 2105)	
Mouth to Orchard Wood)		evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	not result in any more assets being at risk of flooding.
6c19 Erne Estuary (Upstream section –Orchard Wood to Pamflete Wood)	N/A	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	There are no defences or assets at risk of flooding in this area.
6c20 Erne Estuary (West Bank – Pamflete Wood to Mouth)	N/A	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	There are no defences or assets at risk of flooding in this area.
6c21 Erne Estuary (West) to Yealm Estuary (East)	Selectively Hold The Line	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Undefended section of coast, which would be allowed to continue to evolve naturally.
6c22 Yealm Estuary (East Bank – Mouth to Passage House)	N/A	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to occur through No Active Intervention.	There are no defences or assets at risk of flooding in this area.
6c23 Yealm Estuary (East Bank – Passage House to Newton Ferrers North)	N/A	Continue to Hold the Line of existing defences.	Continue to Hold the Line of existing defences.	Continue to Hold the Line of existing defences.	Defence to reduce the risk of flooding to the developed areas of Noss Mayo and Newton Ferrers would be provided.
6c24 Yealm Estuary (East Bank – Newton Ferrers North to Fish House Plantation)	N/A	Allow natural coastal evolution through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	There are no defences or assets at risk of flooding in this area.
6c25 Yealm Estuary (West Bank – Fish House Plantation to Season Point)	N/A	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to occur through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	There are no defences and very few assets at risk of flooding; a policy of no active intervention will not result in any more assets being at risk of flooding.
6c26 Season Point to Wembury Point	Do Nothing	Allow natural coastal evolution to occur through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to occur through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to occur through No Active Intervention.	Undefended section of coast, which would be allowed to continue to evolve naturally. There is a small length of defence providing flood and erosion protection at Wembury; although unlikely to attract public funds, retention of this defence would not have an adverse impact upon coastal processes.
<b>POLICY SCENARIO AREA: WEMBURY POINT TO DEVIL'S POINT</b>					
6c27 Wembury Point to Mount Batten Breakwater	Selectively Hold The Line	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	This predominantly undefended section of coast would be allowed to continue to evolve naturally. There is a small length of defence providing protection locally to the access road to Mount Batten; although unlikely to attract public funds, retention of this defence would not have an adverse impact upon coastal processes. If not maintained, this road would need to be relocated only a short distance inland as the cliffs erode very little and very slowly. This would also improve the environmental features of this section of coast.
6c28 Plym Estuary - Mount Batten Breakwater to Marsh Mills	N/A	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding to extensively developed area of the city of Plymouth, as well as ensuring a landfill site continues to be protected.
6c29 Plym Estuary - Marsh Mills to Cossade	N/A	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding to extensively developed area of the city of Plymouth, including a key access road part of the mainline railway that serves the wider South-West region, linking it to the rest of the UK.
6c30 Cossade to Devil's Point	Selectively Hold The Line	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion to extensively developed area of the city of Plymouth. This would be achieved in part by maintenance of tourism related infrastructure.
<b>POLICY SCENARIO AREA: TAMAR ESTUARY</b>					

Policy Unit (Number and Description)	SMP1 Policy	Preferred Policy			Supporting Information
		Short Term (to 2025)	Medium Term (to 2055)	Long Term (to 2105)	
6c31 Tamar Estuary - Devil's Point to Tamerton Lake	N/A	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding to the city of Plymouth from the Tamar Estuary.  There is insufficient information about the upper Tamar Estuary to allow definitive policies to be assigned to specific lengths of shoreline. The policy here is therefore to allow more detailed studies to assign such prescriptions, but within the framework that should seek to achieve no active intervention in areas that are presently undefended, and to either hold or realign currently defended areas where viable to do so.
6c32 Tamar Estuary - Tamerton Lake to Gunnislake (upper Tamar Estuary East)	N/A	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Investigate and implement Managed Realignment in strategic locations, whilst continuing to Hold the Line of existing defences where realignment is not feasible.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. If necessary, implement further Managed Realignment in strategic locations, whilst continuing to Hold the Line of existing defences where realignment is not feasible.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. If necessary, implement further Managed Realignment in strategic locations, whilst continuing to Hold the Line of existing defences where realignment is not feasible.	Managed realignment within strategic areas of this section could provide beneficial reductions in flood risk to other parts of the estuary, whilst also providing habitat creation opportunities. The purpose of this would not be to increase flood risk to currently defended areas, and so defences could be maintained as a result, although no new defences would be constructed along presently undefended parts of this section, unless associated with implementation of managed realignment.
6c33 Tamar Estuary - Gunnislake to Saltash North (upper Tamar Estuary West)	N/A	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Investigate and implement Managed Realignment in strategic locations, whilst continuing to Hold the Line of existing defences where realignment is not feasible.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. If necessary, implement further Managed Realignment in strategic locations, whilst continuing to Hold the Line of existing defences where realignment is not feasible.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. If necessary, implement further Managed Realignment in strategic locations, whilst continuing to Hold the Line of existing defences where realignment is not feasible.	There is insufficient information about the upper Tamar Estuary to allow definitive policies to be assigned to specific lengths of shoreline. The policy here is therefore to allow more detailed studies to assign such prescriptions, but within the framework that should seek to achieve no active intervention in areas that are presently undefended, and to either hold or realign currently defended areas where viable to do so.  Managed realignment within strategic areas of this section could provide beneficial reductions in flood risk to other parts of the estuary, whilst also providing habitat creation opportunities. The purpose of this would not be to increase flood risk to currently defended areas, and so defences could be maintained as a result, although no new defences would be constructed along presently undefended parts of this section, unless associated with implementation of managed realignment.
6c34 Tamar Estuary - Saltash	N/A	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	The policy here will ensure that there is continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding to the developed town of Saltash, whilst the areas that are currently undefended will be allowed to continue to evolve naturally.
6c35 Tamar Estuary - River Lynher (Saltash South to Torpoint North (Jupiter Point))	N/A	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	Continued maintenance of existing defences to reduce the risk of flooding to currently defended assets. This would not involve construction of new defences along presently undefended sections of the estuary, which would be subject to no active intervention or managed realignment if opportunities exist.
6c36 Tamar Estuary - Torpoint North (Jupiter Point) to Torpoint South (Landing Stage)	N/A	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	The policy here will ensure that there is continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding to the developed town of Torpoint, whilst the areas that are currently undefended will be allowed to continue to evolve naturally.
6c37 Tamar Estuary - St John's Lake (Torpoint South (Landing Stage) to Millbrook (Mill Farm))	N/A	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	Continued maintenance of existing defences to reduce the risk of flooding to currently defended assets. This would not involve construction of new defences along presently undefended sections of the estuary, which would be subject to no active intervention, although managed realignment could occur if opportunities arise.
6c38 Tamar Estuary - St John's Lake (Millbrook (Mill Farm) to Millbrook (Hancock's Lake))	N/A	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continued maintenance of existing defences to reduce the risk of flooding to currently defended assets. This would not involve construction of new defences along presently undefended sections of the estuary, which would be subject to no active intervention, although managed realignment could occur if opportunities arise.



Policy Unit (Number and Description)	SMP1 Policy	Preferred Policy			Supporting Information
		Short Term (to 2025)	Medium Term (to 2055)	Long Term (to 2105)	
6c39 Tamar Estuary - St John's Lake (Millbrook (Hancock's Lake) to Palmer Point	N/A	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages. Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences.	Continued maintenance of existing defences to reduce the risk of flooding to currently defended assets. This would not involve construction of new defences along presently undefended sections of the estuary, which would be subject to no active intervention, although managed realignment could occur if opportunities arise.
6c40 Tamar Estuary - Palmer Point to Mount Edgcumbe (Cremyll)	N/A	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continue to Hold the Line where there are existing defences, with No Active Intervention along the undefended frontages.	Continued maintenance of existing defences to reduce the risk of flooding to currently defended assets. This would not involve construction of new defences along presently undefended sections of the estuary, which would be subject to no active intervention, although managed realignment could occur if opportunities arise.
<b>POLICY SCENARIO AREA: MOUNT EDGCUMBE TO RAME HEAD</b>					
6c41 Mount Edgcumbe to Picklecombe Point	Selectively Hold The Line	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Undefended section of coast, which would be allowed to continue to evolve naturally.
6c42 Fort Picklecombe	Selectively Hold The Line	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy (assuming funds are available).	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy (assuming funds are available).	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy (assuming funds are available).	Continued defences of this section, subject to availability of funds, would reduce the risk of flooding and erosion to property in this area without impacting upon coastal processes or evolution.
6c43 Picklecombe Point to Kingsand	Selectively Hold The Line	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Undefended section of coast, which would be allowed to continue to evolve naturally.
6c44 Kingsand/Cawsand	Selectively Hold The Line	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continue to maintain the existing defences under a Hold the Line policy.	Continued defence to reduce the risk of flooding and erosion to the settlements of Kingsand and Cawsand; which are key policy drivers.
6c45 Cawsand to Rame Head	Do Nothing	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Undefended section of coast, which would be allowed to continue to evolve naturally.