

# Living with the Sea LIFE Project

## Questions and Answers



### 1) What is meant by the term 'dynamic'?

A dynamic coastline is one which rapidly evolves naturally with the wind/waves. It may be accreting or eroding but does not stay the same.

### 2) What is meant by the term 'sustainability'?

Section 4.4 of the 'Interim Guide' considers the sustainability of schemes to protect European sites in detail. Sustainability should be considered over a 30-100 year time scale.

### 3) How will the implementation of CHaMPs be funded, and who will carry it out?

CHaMPs will consider the responsibilities of the flood and coastal defence operating authorities. The recommendations in CHaMPs will, therefore, be fed into the next generation of SMPs and into flood and coastal defence strategies and schemes. Hence, the relevant operating authorities will implement CHaMPs through their programme of works, and will be supported by MAFF grant aid in the usual way.

### 4) How are CHaMPs different to SMPs and other Defence strategies?

CHaMPs will consider the implications of the Habitats Regulations only. They will then inform SMPs, which take account of a wider range of factors such as socio-economic and cultural issues.

### 5) Do the recommendations outlined by CHaMPs legally have to be taken up by SMPs and other flood and coastal defence strategies?

It is a legal requirement for flood and coastal defence schemes to comply with the Habitats Regulations. Hence, whilst operating authorities are not legally obliged to adopt the recommendations in CHaMPs, it is in their interest to do so. Otherwise, there is a strong possibility that future schemes will not be implementable.

### 6) How will each final CHaMP be produced and who will have access to them?

Each CHaMP will be produced on a CD-Rom GIS Database with an additional limited number of paper copies, and a summary of each CHaMP will be posted on the website as each one is completed. This data will be owned by English Nature and the Environment Agency.

### 7) Will the findings of CHaMPs be applied elsewhere?

There is a danger that CHaMPs will be seen as the solution to all coastal issues and problems. CHaMPs are specific to sites designated under the Habitats Regulations, and a provisional list of sites that may require a CHaMP was given in appendix 1 of the 'Interim Guide'. The sites are mainly in the south and east of England between

the Humber and the Solent. However, there is the need to be aware of the implications and opportunities for habitat creation in other areas.

**8) How will CHaMP boundaries be defined and will non-designated sites be included?**

All CHaMPs will be based on European sites, although the CHaMP boundaries will not follow the European site boundaries rigidly. They will include adjacent areas that may be affected by rising sea levels, or may provide habitat creation opportunities.

**9) Why are socio-economic issues not covered within the project?**

Socio-economic issues will be fully considered by SMPs. The role of CHaMPs is to consider the implications of the Habitats Regulations only.

**10) Will landowners receive compensation for land used in habitat re-creation and restoration?**

The Project itself will not lead to a programme of works, so compensation issues do not arise directly from it. It will, however, recommend to the operating authorities those areas that may be suitable for habitat re-creation and restoration. The location of any future habitat re-creation will be considered as part of SMP/flood and coastal defence strategies and is subject to the normal environmental, social and economic considerations.

**11) Who is being consulted by the Project?**

The Project has consulted a range of organisations and individuals to gain understanding of local issues as well as to disseminate information about the project. It does not replace the detailed consultation process involved in the preparation of SMPs and schemes. Individual landowners have not been consulted because the Project is not concerned with individual fields. It looks at an area as a whole. The consultation process is working on a representative basis. Representative of relevant stakeholders attend Advisory Group meetings, local representatives from English Nature and the Environment Agency formed a local CHaMP group, and local representatives of stakeholders attend CHaMP awareness/dissemination meetings/dissemination. The information that these representatives receive will then cascade down through their network of contacts.

**12) How does the Project influence Europe?**

The project is part funded by the EU LIFE Nature programme. The project will, therefore, report its findings in full to the relevant section in the EU. There will also be a series of meetings with experts in other EU member states, both to develop understanding of approaches in these countries, and to share experience and approaches in the UK. The project will, therefore, have an opportunity to influence legal and policy matters in Europe.

**13) What is the relationship between the outcomes of this project and the need to demonstrate over-riding public interest under the Habitats Regulations?**

CHaMPs will consider what flood defence work is necessary to maintain the designated features in European sites in favourable condition. This means that, if future schemes adopt the recommendations in CHaMPs, they may be able to demonstrate overriding public interest.