



Aspen Burrow Crocker

**Council of the Isles of Scilly
Shoreline Management Plan**

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

I INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Brief

DHV (UK) Ltd⁽¹⁾ was instructed by the Council of the Isles of Scilly (the Coastal Authority) in a letter dated 7 August 1995, to prepare a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the archipelago of the Isles of Scilly (see Figure 1.1). The Plan has been prepared generally in accordance with Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (MAFF) guidelines⁽²⁾. Quoting from this document:

The main objectives of a Plan are to:

- improve understanding of the coastal processes operating within the sediment cell;
- › predict the future evolution of the coast;
- › identify all the assets within the area covered by the plan which are likely to be affected by coastal change;
- › identify the need for site specific research and investigations;
- › facilitate consultation between those bodies with an interest in the shoreline.

It should be noted that the unique circumstances prevailing in the Isles of Scilly mean that the guidelines have been adapted to suit the needs of the Islands. For example the islands have been considered as one littoral cell divided into four sub-cells. Sub-cells have been further sub-divided into micro-cells which, where appropriate, are either management units or are themselves sub-divided into management units (See Section 7). Thus, for example, coastal units under consideration are likely to be much smaller than those on the mainland of Great Britain.

1.2 The Study Team

The many aspects of the environment, in its widest sense, that require consideration in the preparation of a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), mean that a wide range of skills are required in order that each is approached with the correct level of experience and expertise. The SMP is, therefore, the result of a

¹⁾ DHV (UK) Ltd became Aspen Burrow Crocker Ltd in November 1996 during the currency of this project.

⁽²⁾ Shoreline Management Plans - A Guide for Coastal Defence Authorities, *PB2197*, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London, 1995

Council of the Isles of **Scilly**
Shoreline Management Plan

coordinated team approach and the members of the team and their roles are listed below:

- Council of the Isles of **Scilly** - client, formal consultation, advice and support to team;
Aspen Burrow Crocker Ltd - project managers, coastal engineering, financial appraisal, assembling and editing report;
- Sea Sediments - sedimentology and geomorphology;
- Nicholas Pearson Associates - human and built environment supported by Cornwall County Council Archaeological Unit (**CAU**).

Aspen Burrow Crocker Ltd is indebted to all the team members for their hard work and support in what has turned out to be a long and complicated study.

1.3 The Process

Each SMP will be unique and therefore the approach will be different for every study. The study in effect commenced following serious storms in 1989/1990 which caused considerable damage. After the storms died down, the Council visited the inhabited islands and prepared a report on the damage that occurred - the first strategic work (see Appendix 1). In order to gain financial assistance the Council took the powers of a Local Coast Protection Authority and with the support of MAFF commissioned a report from DHV⁽³⁾ on the damage to the islands with recommended works and their priorities.

Works on these schemes commenced and, at the time of writing five have been completed and some four further schemes are contemplated.

During the programme of works the principles of the SMP were established and promoted by MAFF and there was a requirement by Statutory Consultees to the MAFF grant aid process for the preparation of an SMP prior to approval being given for any particular scheme. In consultation with MAFF, DHV was commissioned to carry out the SMP⁽¹⁾.

The study is therefore based upon the following:

- Council's assessment of December 1989 Storm Damage;
- Report on existing sea defences, etc., DHV 1992;

⁽³⁾ *Report on Existing Sea Defences and Proposals for Remedial and Additional Works, DHV Burrow-Crocker Consulting, Bristol, April 1992*

Council of the **Isles of Scilly**
Shoreline Management Plan

- **MAFF's** Coast Protection Survey of England⁽⁴⁾ (see extracts in Appendix 2);
DHV staff local knowledge and experience gained in preparation of coastal protection schemes on Bryher, St Mary's and St Agnes and ongoing role as advisors to the Council on coastal protection matters across all of the islands;
The local knowledge of Sea Sediments;
The local knowledge and experience of **SMPs** of Nicholas Pearson Associates supported by CAU;
- Information provided by local consultees and the Council;
- Information provided by national consultees;
- Published and unpublished information including historical maps and charts.

These have been combined together in order to present the information set out in the following report.

1.4 Restraints

The preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan was undertaken in parallel with coast protection works ongoing on the islands in order that it could be made in the most cost-effective manner. Site visits for the purposes of the report were therefore combined with visits of the **SMP's** writers to the islands for purposes connected with detailed inspections of the capital programme.

In line with MAFF recommendations, the input of local and national representative bodies was sought by the Consultants and the Council during research for the SMP in order that their views could be taken into account. The first draft of the SMP was completed in October 1996 and was widely circulated to all consultees. A cut-off date for responses was set as 31 January 1997, but this deadline proved to be too tight. Responses were therefore accepted into March 1997. The input of the consultees has been incorporated into the final report.

1.5 Further Stages

The purpose of this report is to enable the Council, as the Local Coast Protection Authority, to develop a strategy covering the management units (**MU**) within their area of responsibility. It does not in itself seek to come to conclusions. This report examines the options open for each MU and provides the Council with the background information to prepare their strategy within each MU in the context of the islands as a whole.

(4)

Coast Protection Survey of England, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - Flood and Coastal Defence Division, Sir William Halcrow & Partners, Swindon, 1993



Aspen Burrow Crocker

Council of the **Isles** of **Scilly**
Shoreline Management Plan

It is intended that the SMP and subsequent strategy are live documents and should be reviewed annually and updated periodically to take into account changing circumstances.