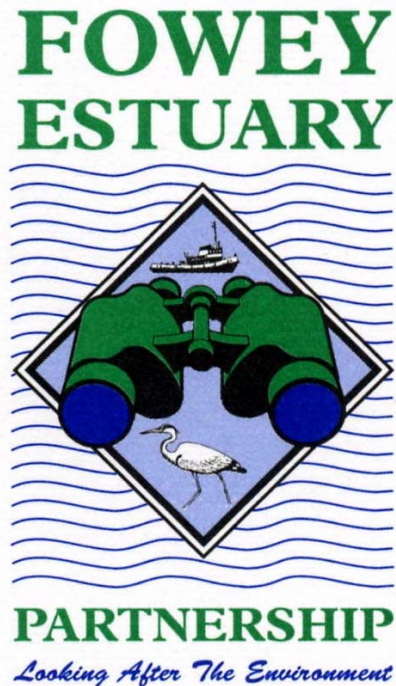


Fowey Estuary Management Plan



Fowey Estuary Partnership

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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|--|
| AGLV | Area of Great Landscape Value |
| AONB | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| BAP | Biodiversity Action Plan |
| CBWPS | Cornwall Bird Watching and Preservation Society |
| CCC | Cornwall County Council |
| CDC | Caradon District Council |
| CGS | Cornwall Geology Site (formerly known as RIGS) |
| CSFC | Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee |
| CWS | County Wildlife Site |
| CWT | Cornwall Wildlife Trust |
| DEFRA | Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs |
| DTR | Department of Transport & the Regions |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EC | European Commission |
| EN | English Nature |
| ERCCIS | Environmental Records Centre for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly |
| EU | European Union |
| FEMP | Fowey Estuary Management Plan |
| FEP | Fowey Estuary Partnership |
| FHC | Fowey Harbour Commissioners |
| FPHA | Fowey Port Health Authority |
| FWAG | Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group |
| HC | Heritage Coast |
| JNCC | Joint Nature Conservancy Committee |
| LEAP | Local Environment Agency Plan |
| MCA | Maritime & Coastguard Agency |
| MoU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MAFF | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food |
| NT | The National Trust |
| RIGS | Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Site (now known as CGS) |
| RBC | Restormel Borough Council |
| SAFFA | Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 |
| SSSI | Site of Special Scientific Interest |
| SWW | South West Water |
| VMCA | Voluntary Marine Conservation Area |
| WeBS | Wetland Bird Survey |
| WCRT | West Country Rivers Trust |

Definitions

Estuary management is a generic term representing a spectrum of planning and management activity. Three further definitions are needed to describe specific elements of estuary management.

The Estuary Management Plan – refers to the planning document. This is an estuary specific plan that includes guidance and action plans that have been prepared by the Partnership in consultation with all who live, work and relax on the estuary.

The Fowey Estuary Partnership – refers to the organisations and bodies involved in preparing and implementing the Estuary Management Plan.

Estuary Management Process – refers to the process of estuary management. This is a broader term that embraces the Plan, the Partnership, the framework and the decision making process for the estuary.

Advisory Group - refers to the grouping of organisations that oversee the estuary management process and are largely responsible for setting the Fowey Estuary Partnerships work programme from the Estuary Management Plan.

Focus Group – comprises organisations with similar concerns, interests and areas of expertise. A representative from each focus group sits on the Advisory Group.

Estuary Forum - open to any one group or individual who has an interest in the management of the estuary.

Section 1 Introduction & Vision

Britain has the most extensive estuarine resource of any country in Europe. Its estuaries are of fundamental importance to the economy and are subject to a wide range of uses including commercial navigation, commercial fisheries, tourism and recreation. Many of England's estuaries are also nationally or internationally important for wildlife.

Estuarine habitats are sensitive to human use and pressure. Some of these pressures result in adverse impacts on the natural estuarine resources and other estuary users. The estuary management process seeks to achieve a balance between the competing demands placed on estuaries through the principle of sustainable use.

The Fowey Estuary Management Plan is a practical document containing guidelines to inform, advise and guide current and future management. It is not a statutory plan and has not been designed to dictate detailed management actions or set up complex new working arrangements. Instead it builds upon the successes and strengths of existing organisations and activities by providing a framework within which decisions can be made and actions can be taken.

Our Vision

The Fowey Estuary is valued and appreciated as a place to live, work & relax, an environmental asset and a focus for activities in the local area.

The Partnership seeks to:

Stimulate an appropriate balance between competing demands placed on the Fowey Estuary, through shared information, co-operation and action

Create a culture of openness and communication

Work towards a sustainable future for the Fowey Estuary

To achieve this vision will take more than the production of this document. It requires the commitment, awareness and co-operation for the ideas and guidance it contains, through action now and in the future.

Section 2 Background

Increasing concern over the sustainable future of estuaries and coastal areas has led the government to re-examine the way in which these important areas are managed and used. Internationally, the UK government has played an active part in negotiating and signing up to several international conventions and European Directives. An important stimulus for action was the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development introducing the concept of an environmentally sustainable agenda for action for the 21st Century (Agenda 21), which the UK government and other world governments have since ratified. Local Agenda 21 programmes have since been drawn up by local authorities to promote action at a local level. These non-statutory programmes involve a process of consultation and consensus building between local authorities, public, local organisations and businesses.

In May 2002, the EU passed a recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) which the UK government has committed to. This involves a national stocktaking exercise in ICZM, to be followed by national strategies for England, Wales, N. Ireland and Scotland. This process will result in reporting back on progress to the EU in 2006.

In 1990, the House of Commons Select Committee on the Environment established a special enquiry into coastal zone protection and planning within England and Wales. The committee reported that management of estuarine areas in the UK had in the past suffered from uncoordinated decisions and actions at all levels and called for an *integrated management approach*.

In response to this, English Nature, under their Campaign for a Living Coast, suggested guidance for developing non-statutory management plans. Many other initiatives have followed such as the Planning Policy Guidance note on coastal areas (PPG 20: Coastal Planning) and the establishment of a national forum of relevant organisations. Other government undertakings have included the encouragement of Shoreline Management Plans that provide the basis for sustainable coastal defence policies within sediment cells.

Bodies with jurisdiction over the marine environment are required to perform their duties and use their statutory powers, including making byelaws, in ways that safeguard conservation interests. DEFRA considers that effective conservation of marine habitats is possible without unnecessary interference to activities such as navigation, fishing and recreation. To react positively to this and to ensure other aspects of the estuarine resource were fully taken into account, it was considered necessary to develop a Plan to provide the basis for an integrated and co-operative approach to future management. In May 1997, the first Fowey Estuary Management Plan was published.

It was clear a need would arise to ensure that the success of the plan in meeting its stated objectives was reviewed. The plan is a rolling programme of liaison and action, rather than a one off, all embracing management plan and has therefore been reviewed after five years of implementation.