



Coastal Management Strategies (DM14)

Management of coastal areas is complex and needs understanding of the different uses of coastal land and the physical processes impacting on the coast, such as erosion and longshore drift. These natural processes can cause problems for people living and working in coastal areas.

Techniques for managing these physical processes can be divided into hard engineering options and soft engineering options.

Hard engineering options can be expensive and often short-term options. They may also have a high impact on the landscape or environment and may be unsustainable. Soft engineering options are often less expensive than hard engineering options. They are usually more long-term and sustainable, with less impact on the environment.

Examples of Hard engineering:

- Building a sea wall
- Groynes
- Rock armour
- Gabions

Examples of Soft engineering:

- Beach nourishment
- Managed retreat