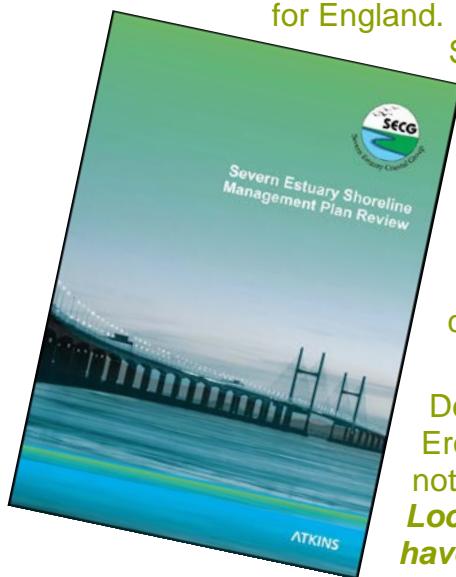


Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

What does it mean for planning in Bristol?

Coastal planning

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England. National Policy Statements set out the policies for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.



Section 10 of the National Planning Policy Framework provides guidance on coastal change, flooding and climate change. Paragraph 168 in the section on Plan Making, states that **Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) should inform the evidence base for planning in coastal areas**, taking account of climate change and the uncertainty of coastal change.

Defra and the Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England recognises that it is not possible to completely prevent flooding or stop coastal erosion. **Local Authority land use planning and development control have important roles to play in delivering the strategy.**

Your local Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

What is an SMP for?

SMPs provide important information for **planners** and **regulators** to **plan for and manage** the way that the shoreline changes over time, including:

- An assessment of the way that the coast will change over time – taking account of sea level rise and climate change
- Identifying the risks to people, property, the natural and historic environment as the coast changes
- Policies for each stretch of coastline (Policy Unit) to manage the risks in a sustainable way
- Looking ahead at the short term (0 – 20 year), medium term (20 – 50 years) and long term (50 – 100 years)

SMP's have been developed by Local Authorities, Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales with other coastal stakeholders and through public consultation. They have been developed for the whole of the Welsh and English coastline.

The shoreline around **Bristol** is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** (www.severnestuary.net/secg). Bristol City Council's area falls within **4 SMP Policy Units**. These areas are linked by the Lower Avon Levels floodplain. The SMP predicts limited coastal erosion in the Bristol City Council area.

The SMP recommends a HTL policy in all the Policy Units in the Bristol City Council area, over the whole 100 year period of the SMP. **A HTL policy does not guarantee the defences will be maintained or raised in line with climate change.**

Hold the Line (HTL):

keeping the line of defence in approximately the same location as it is now

No Active Intervention (NAI):

no maintenance, repair or replacement of existing defence structures, or building of new structures

Managed Realignment (MR):

landward moving of defences, giving up some land to the sea to create a more sustainable defence in the long term

Advance the Line (ATL):

reclaim land from the sea by building new defences further seaward

How does the SMP work with Local Plans?

The SMP supports and influences a whole range of regional, national and international policies, frameworks and strategies, not just those connected with managing the shoreline.

SMP to Local Plans: SMPs are non-statutory plans. They rely on the statutory planning process to help their implementation.

The policies in the SMP do not contain specific details for schemes – what they will be made of or the standard of protection. This will come from EA and Local Authority flood risk management plans, Local Plans, and other local development aspirations.

Local Plans are a key statutory function of local planning authorities and set the context for decision making in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. Development plans set out objectives for the development and use of land, with policies to implement them. They should be effective in delivering local aspirations and guide growth within the context of sustainable development while protecting and enhancing local character and sensitive environments.

By using SMPs, local planning authorities can help ensure that:

- Adequate **provisions for flood and coastal erosion risk are included in Local Plans** and development consents
- Current and future **communities are not at an increased risk** of coastal flooding and erosion
- Future generations are not burdened with **unsustainable defence costs**.

Although SMP2 policies are set out in specific Policy Units and timeframes ('epochs'), these should be seen as **guide to aid in planning for long term change**. The transition from one policy to the next should be a process that takes account of the physical characteristics of the coast and responds to the gradual changes at the coast over time. Change may take place earlier or later than set out in the SMP2 if it is appropriate to do so and is in accordance with the overall intent of the policies.

Where can I find the SMP?

The Severn Estuary Coastal Group (SECG) has produced the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) for the Severn Estuary. The SMP and information on the coastal group can be found on the SECG website at: <http://www.severn estuary.net/secg/>

For more information on how Bristol City Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Chris Barrow chris.barrow@bristol.gov.uk

Coastal protection and planning are inextricably linked. The SMP can help Local Authority planning departments to **understand the risks in coastal areas** and take those risks into consideration when **developing Local Plans** and making **development control decisions**.

SMP's are developed through an understanding of coastal processes and defence needs, environmental considerations, planning issues and current and future land use.

Local Plan to SMP: The SMP process is designed to inform Local Plans and to be informed by them.

In order to manage risks at the coast, Bristol City Council should use the SMP in conjunction with its Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework to help it to provide advice to others on how they may undertake works affecting the coastline, without conflicting with Local Plans or the SMP.

The SMP will help Bristol City Council look beyond the Local Plan time horizon to plan up to 2105.



Bristol City – the nature of the coast and associated risk

Bristol City Council crosses 4 policy units in the theme area - '*Bristol to Severnside*'.



Coastal Flooding - The current defences will the risks of impacts from flooding. The existing defences will reach the end of their servicable life in the first or second epoch. HTL recommends that defences are replaced, but does not guarantee funding.

Coastal erosion - Some areas have stable hard geology, with limited erosion (BRIS4 & BRIS5). In other areas, saltmarsh in front of defences will erode as sea level rises (BRIS2 & BRIS3).

Ecological Habitats - Coastal squeeze will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats (saltmarsh). Other, similar habitat should be created elsewhere in the Estuary to maintain / improve the condition of the European protected sites.

Local Area	SMP2 Theme Area	SMP2 Policy Unit	SMP Policy		
			0 – 20	20 – 50	50 – 100
Crooksmarsh	Bristol to Severnside	BRIS2	HTL	HTL	HTL
Avonmouth		BRIS3	HTL	HTL	HTL
Sea Mills		BRIS4	HTL	HTL	HTL
Sneyd Park		BRIS5	HTL	HTL	HTL
Bristol City Centre					
South Bristol					

SMP policies for Bristol City Council

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
BRIS2 New Passage to Severnside Works, nr Smoke Lane/Chittingen Road (east bank)	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in 20 - 50 years. HTL does not guarantee funding or that defences will keep pace with sea level rise.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in adjacent local authorities).
BRIS3 Severnside Works, nr Smoke Lane/Chittingen Road (east bank) to Avonmouth Pier	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life within 20 years. HTL does not guarantee funding or that defences will keep pace with sea level rise.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. There may be interactions with proposed development / land reclamation at Bristol Port. Any proposed works will need to take account of possible environmental impacts and the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment.
BRIS4 Avonmouth Pier to Netham Weir (north bank of River Avon)	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in 20 - 50 years, although some sections may need to be replaced within 20 years. HTL does not guarantee funding or that defences will keep pace with sea level rise.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. New defences should tie in with defences in linked Policy Units (BRIS1 – BRIS5).
BRIS5 Netham Weir (north bank of River Avon) to Avon Road, Easton-in-Gordano (south bank of River Avon)	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in 20 - 50 years, although some sections may need to be replaced within 20 years. HTL does not guarantee funding or that defences will keep pace with sea level rise.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. New defences should tie in with defences in linked Policy Units (BRIS1 – BRIS5).