

Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

What does it mean for planning in the Forest of Dean?

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 **Forest of Dean** coast is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** (www.severnestuary.net/secg). The Forest of Dean falls within **14 SMP Policy Units**. The SMP predicts limited coastal erosion in the Forest of Dean. There are extensive links between policy units on the left and right banks of the river in the Forest of Dean, meaning that management actions may have impacts over a wide area, including in other local authorities. The SMP recommends a mixture of NAI and HTL policies, while considering how MR could take place in some areas in the long term. **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.

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 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.

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, the Forest of Dean District 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 the Forest of Dean District Council look beyond the Local Plan time horizon to plan up to 2105.

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.severnestuary.net/secg/>

For more information on how the Forest of Dean District Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Keith Jones keith.jones@fdean.gov.uk



Forest of Dean – the nature of the coast and associated risk

The **Forest of Dean** crosses 14 policy units in 4 different theme areas – ‘Chepstow & the River Wye’, ‘Tidenham and surrounding villages’, ‘Lydney’, and ‘Lydney to Gloucester’.



Coastal Flooding - High ground limits flood risk in some areas. Defences manage risk in other areas and will need to be replaced as they reach the end of their servicable life. Flood risk from river flows interacts with coastal flood risk. Interactions between different sources of flood risk need to be considered.

Coastal erosion - there is minimal erosion risk in most areas. Mustone cliffs will undergo some erosion leading to realignment of the shore in some places (TID1, LYD1, GLO1).

Ecological Habitats - Coastal squeeze will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats in areas of HTL. In other areas NAI will allow roll back of the shore. MR will provide opportunities to create replacement intertidal habitat.

Local Area	SMP2 Theme Area	SMP2 Policy Unit	SMP Policy		
			0 – 20	20 – 50	50 - 100
Woodcroft	Chepstow and the River Wye	WYE2	NAI	NAI	NAI
Tutshill		WYE3	NAI	NAI	NAI
Sedbury		WYE4	NAI	NAI	NAI
Beachley	Tidenham and surrounding villages	TID1	NAI	NAI	NAI
Beachley		TID2	HTL	HTL	MR
Sedbury					
Tidenham	Lydney to Gloucester	LYD1	HTL	HTL	HTL
Alvington		GLO1	NAI	NAI	NAI
Aylburton		GLO2	MR	HTL	HTL
Lydney		GLO3	NAI	NAI	NAI
Blakeney		GLO4	HTL	HTL	HTL
Awre		GLO5	HTL	HTL	HTL
Bullo		GLO6	NAI	NAI	NAI
Newnham		GLO7	HTL	HTL	HTL
Broadoak		GLO8	HTL	HTL	HTL
Westbury-on-Severn					
Rodley					
Bollow					

SMP policies for the Forest of Dean

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
WYE2 River Wye at Alcove Wood to Bigsweir Bridge to Bridge Street Bridge, Sedbury	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . Existing defences are expected to remain in place for up to 100 years. High ground limits flood risk in most areas.	Some areas may be at risk from high tides and surges. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents. Consider individual property defences, awareness raising and resilience.
WYE3 River Wye (east bank) from Bridge Street bridge, Sedbury to Sedbury STW	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . Existing defences are expected to remain in place for up to 100 years. High ground limits flood risk in most areas.	Some areas may be at risk from high tides and surges. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.
WYE4 River Wye (east bank) Sedbury STW to the end of Beachley Road, Beachley Point	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . Existing defences are expected to remain in place for up to 100 years. High ground limits flood risk in most areas.	Some areas may be at risk from high tides and surges. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.
TID1 The end of Beachley Road, Beachley Point to Guscar Rocks	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . Erosion will lead to realignment of the shore, but high ground limits flood risk. Flap valves and sea level rise may increase flood risk in some areas.	Some areas may be at risk from sea level rise and failed flap valves. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents. Consider awareness raising and resilience.
TID2 Guscar Rocks to Lydney Harbour	The short and medium policy is hold the line . The long term policy is managed realignment . Existing defences are expected to remain in place with limited maintenance until a new set back defence is built.	Construction of new, realigned defences. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents and consider long term realignment.
LYD1 Lydney Harbour and basin	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The existing defences (harbour gates) are expected to remain in place with maintenance.	Flood risk management in this policy unit affects flood risk in adjacent areas. Planning to consider interactions with other local authority areas and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.

GLO1
Lydney Harbour to Brims Pill (west bank of the Severn)

The short, medium and long term policy is **no active intervention**. There are no built defences in this policy unit but there is limited flood risk.

Flood risk from rivers may pose a risk in this area. Planning to consider flood risk from all sources in development control decisions. Communication of flood risk from different sources may be a challenge.

GLO2
Brims Pill to Northington Farm (west bank of the Severn)

The short term policy is **managed realignment**. The medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. Existing defences are expected to come to the end of their life within 20 years and should be replaced by a set back defence.

Construction of new, realigned defences. Planning to consider defence realignment and use appropriate development controls and conditions. Set back defence will provide longer term management of risk.

GLO3
Northington Farm to Newnham Church (west bank of the Severn)

The short, medium and long term policy is **no active intervention**. High ground and hard geology limit flood and erosion risks.

Minimal issues due to limited risk from flooding and erosion.

GLO4
Newnham Church to the farm north of Broadoak (west bank of the Severn)

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. Existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in the medium or long term.

Maintenance and replacement of defences. There may be localised flood risk around Newnham that requires local management measures. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions.

GLO5
The farm north of Broadoak to Hill Farm (west bank)

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. Existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in the medium term.

Maintenance and replacement of defences. Key areas of Garden Cliff SSSI and Westbury Court Gardens may need special consideration.

GLO6
Hill Farm, Rodley to Goose Lane farm (west bank)

The short, medium and long term policy is **no active intervention**. High ground and hard geology limit flood and erosion risks.

Minimal issues due to limited risk from flooding and erosion.

GLO7
Goose Lane farm to Ley Road (west bank of the Severn)

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. Existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in the medium term.

Maintenance and replacement of defences. Planning to consider interactions with other local authority areas and use development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents. Walmore Common may need special consideration.

GLO8
Ley Road to the drain from Long Brook (west bank of the Severn)

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. Existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable within 20 years.

Maintenance and replacement of defences. Planning to consider interactions with other areas and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.