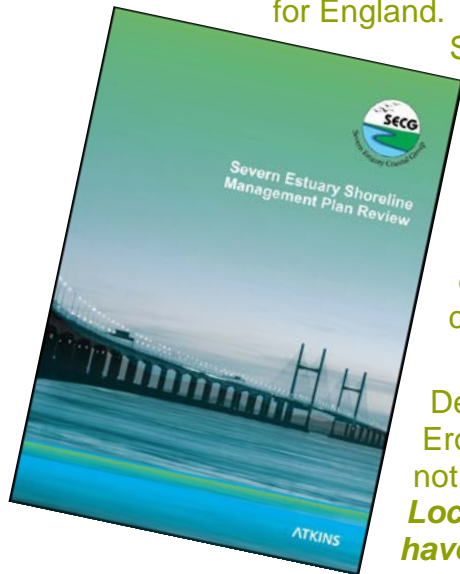


Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

What does it mean for planning in Gloucester?

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 **Gloucester City Council** coast is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** (www.severnestuary.net/seccg). Gloucester City Council falls within **3 SMP Policy Units**. Coastal erosion is not an issue in the area. There are extensive links between policy units on the left and right banks of the river, meaning that management actions may have impacts over a wide area, including in adjacent local authorities. The SMP predicts recommends a HTL policy in all areas. **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.

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, Gloucester 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 Gloucester City Council look beyond the LDP 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 Gloucester City Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact

Name Name@Gloucester.gov.uk



Gloucester City Council – the nature of the coast and associated risk

The **Gloucester City Council** area crosses 3 policy units in the theme area - 'Gloucester to Haw Bridge'.



Coastal Flooding - Defences manage the risk of coastal flooding and should be replaced as they reach the end of their servicable life. There are extensive links between the left and right banks of the river, meaning that management actions may have impacts over a wide area, including in adjacent local authorities.

Coastal erosion - The SMP predicts no erosion issues in this area.

Ecological Habitats - A hold the line policy will protect freshwater habitats from salt water intrusion, but may also lead to coastal squeeze, which will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats.

Local Area	SMP2 Theme Area	SMP2 Policy Unit	SMP Policy		
			0 – 20	20 – 50	50 - 100
Longford	Gloucester to Haw Bridge	MAI4	HTL	HTL	HTL
Gloucester		MAI5	HTL	HTL	HTL
Alney Island		MAI6	HTL	HTL	HTL
Gloucester			HTL	HTL	HTL
Hempstead					

SMP policies for Gloucester City Council

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
MAI4 Upper Parting to Lower Parting (east bank of the Severn)	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 the medium term, although maintenance may extend their life.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. There are some undefended areas, where defences may be required in the future, although in some areas high ground limits flood risk. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in other local authorities) and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.
MAI5 Alney Island	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 the medium term, although maintenance may extend their life.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. There are some undefended areas, where defences may be required in the future, although in some areas high ground limits flood risk. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in other local authorities) and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.
MAI6 Lower Parting to Severn Farm (east bank of the Severn)	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 the medium term, although maintenance may extend their life.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. There are some undefended areas, where defences may be required in the future, although in some areas high ground limits flood risk. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in other local authorities) and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents.