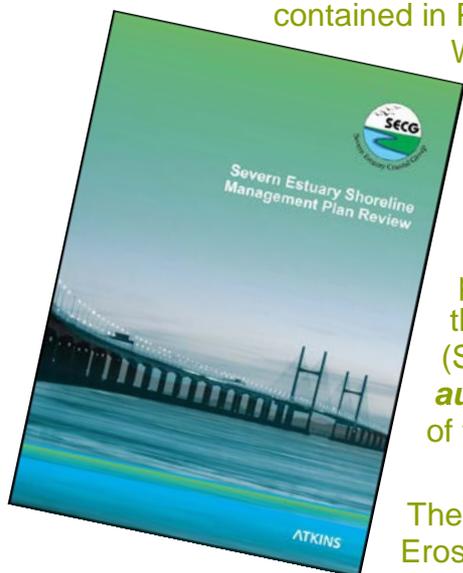


# Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

## What does it mean for planning in Monmouthshire?

### Coastal planning

Welsh Ministers are responsible for planning policy in Wales. Welsh planning policy is contained in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Minerals Planning Policy Wales (MPPW) with practical advice and support in Technical Advice Notes (TANs), clarification letters and other guidance issued by the Welsh Government.



Chapter 5 of Planning Policy Wales, TAN 14 (Coastal Planning) and TAN 15 (Development and Flood Risk) provide guidance on planning in coastal areas and other areas at risk of flooding. All three documents make reference to Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) and the ***need to take SMPs into account in local authority plan making and development control*** to take account of the risk from physical changes and risks at the coast.

The Welsh Government National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management 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 ***Monmouthshire*** coast is covered by the ***Severn Estuary SMP*** ([www.severnestuary.net/secg](http://www.severnestuary.net/secg)). Monmouthshire falls within ***6 SMP Policy Units***. The SMP predicts limited coastal erosion in Monmouthshire, due to existing defences and recommends a mixture of NAI and HTL policies, while considering how MR could take place in some 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 the Local Development Plan?

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 LDP:** 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 NRW and Local Authority flood risk management plans, the LDP, 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 Development 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 Development Plans are a key statutory function of local planning authorities and set the context for decision making in line with national planning policy and the Wales Spatial Plan. 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 LDPs** 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.

**LDP to SMP:** The SMP process is designed to inform local development plans and be informed by them.

In order to manage risks at the coast, Monmouthshire County Council should use the SMP in conjunction with its LDP, Planning Policy Wales, TAN 14 and TAN 15 to help it to provide advice to others on how they may undertake works affecting the coastline, without conflicting with the Plans.

The SMP will help Monmouthshire County 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 Monmouthshire County Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Dave Harris [DaveHarris@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:DaveHarris@monmouthshire.gov.uk)



## Monmouthshire – the nature of the coast and associated risk

The county of **Monmouthshire** crosses 6 policy units in 3 different theme areas - 'Newport, the River Usk and surrounding area', 'Caldicot Levels' and 'Chepstow & the River Wye'.



**Coastal Flooding** - With the current defences, high ground and hard geology there are limited areas at risk of coastal flooding. As the defences reach the end of their servicable life there will be some increase to flooding of low lying areas.

**Coastal erosion** - Some sections of shoreline and headlands will undergo limited erosion (CALD2 & WYE2), however overall erosion will not have a significant impact, due to the hard underlying rock.

**Ecological Habitats** - Coastal squeeze will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats. Opportunities to create habitat and help manage the impacts of sea level rise through MR should be investigated when the position of any new defences is chosen.

Local Area	SMP2 Theme Area	SMP2 Policy Unit	SMP Policy		
			0 – 20	20 – 50	50 - 100
Llanhennock	Newport & Usk	NEW3	NAI	NAI	MR
Newbridge-on-Usk					
Magor	Caldicot Levels	CALD1	HTL	HTL	HTL
Undy					
Rogiet					
Caldicot					
Sudbrook					
Portskewett					
Wallstone	CALD2	NAI	NAI	NAI	
Mathern					
Bulwark	CALD3	HTL	HTL	HTL	
Chepstow					
Crossway Green	Chepstow & the River Wye	WYE1	NAI	NAI	NAI
St. Arvans					
Tintern					
		WYE2	NAI	NAI	NAI

# SMP policies for Monmouthshire

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
<b>NEW3</b> <b>River Usk (both banks) from M4 crossing to Newbridge on Usk</b>	The short and medium term policy is <b>no active intervention</b> . The long term policy is <b>managed realignment</b> . Existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life in 20 – 50 years.	Construction of new defences in a realigned position. Planning to consider potential effects to areas in front of and behind newly aligned defences.
<b>CALD1</b> <b>Uskmouth Power Station point to Sudbrook Point</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>hold the line</b> . The existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life within 20 years.	Replacement and maintenance of defences. Opportunities to create habitat and help manage the impacts of sea level rise through MR should be investigated when the position of any new defences is chosen, to create a long term sustainable defence.
<b>CALD2</b> <b>Sudbrook Point to Black Rock</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>no active intervention</b> . High ground and hard geology limit the risks of flooding and erosion in this area.	Defences should be monitored to ensure they do not pose a risk to H&S – they may need to be dismantled safely. Erosion at the Old Red Sandstone headland, Sudbrook should be monitored and development planning to consider risks in this area.
<b>CALD3</b> <b>Black Rock at Black Rock Road to River Wye at Park Redding, Thornwell</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>hold the line</b> . The existing defences are expected to last over 50 years.	Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the defences. Planning to consider long term development constraints.
<b>WYE1</b> <b>River Wye at Park Redding to River Wye at Alcove Wood</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>no active intervention</b> . Existing defences are expected to last over 50 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.
<b>WYE2</b> <b>River Wye at Alcove Wood to Bigsweir Bridge to Bridge Street Bridge, Sedbury</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>no active intervention</b> . 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.