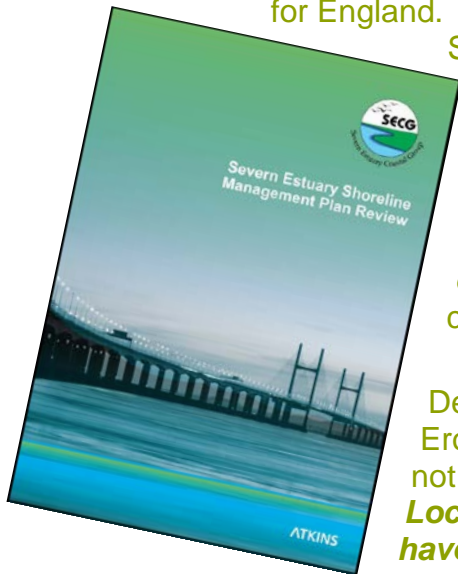


Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

What does it mean for planning in South Gloucestershire?

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 **South Gloucestershire** coast is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** (www.severnestuary.net/secg). South Gloucestershire falls within **6 SMP Policy Units**. These areas are linked by the Upper Avon and Lower Avon Levels floodplain. Flood management actions may have impacts over a wide area, including in adjacent local authorities. The SMP recommends a HTL policy in all areas except one, where high ground and hard geology naturally limit flood and erosion risk. **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, South Gloucestershire 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 South Gloucestershire 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 South Gloucestershire Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Nigel Hale nigel_hale@southglos.gov.uk



South Gloucestershire – the nature of the coast and associated risk

The county of **South Gloucestershire** crosses 6 policy units in 2 different theme areas - '*Sharpness to Severn Crossings*' and '*Bristol to Severnside*'.



Coastal Flooding - Defences manage the risk in most areas and will need to be replaced as they reach the end of their servicable life. Large flood plains mean that linkages between policy units must be considered (SEV3 , SEV5, SEV5 and BRIS1, BRIS2). Linkages extend beyond local authority boundaries.

Coastal erosion - There is limited erosion, due to the hard underlying rock. Intertidal habitat in front of defences will erode as sea levels rise (SEV3, SEV4, SEV5 and BRIS1, BRIS2).

Ecological Habitats - Coastal squeeze will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats. Other similar habitat should be created elsewhere as part of the Regional Habitat Creation Project.

Local Area	SMP2 Theme Area	SMP2 Policy Unit	SMP Policy		
			0 – 20	20 – 50	50 - 100
Shepperdine	Sharpness to Severn Crossings	SEV3	HTL	HTL	HTL
		SEV4	HTL	HTL	HTL
Oldbury-on-Severn		SEV5	HTL	HTL	HTL
Littleton-upon-Severn			HTL	HTL	HTL
Aust		SEV6	NAI	NAI	NAI
Northwick	Bristol to Severnside	BRIS1	HTL	HTL	HTL
Redwick			HTL	HTL	HTL
Severnbeach		BRIS2	HTL	HTL	HTL

SMP policies for South Gloucestershire

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
SEV3 Southern boundary of Berkeley Power Station to Oldbury Power Station	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 but may require extensive maintenance works in the short term.	Maintenance and replacement of defences. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in adjacent local authorities) and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk.
SEV4 Oldbury Power Station	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 but may require extensive maintenance works in the short term.	Maintenance and replacement of defences. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in adjacent local authorities) and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk. Although Oldbury Power Station is on higher ground, there is a risk of flooding from adjacent areas.
SEV5 Oldbury Power Station to Littleton Wharh	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 but may require extensive maintenance works in the short term.	Maintenance and replacement of defences. Planning to consider interactions with other areas (in adjacent local authorities) and use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk.
SEV6 Littleton Wharh to Aust Ferry	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . High ground and hard geology limits flood and erosion risk.	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.
BRIS1 Aust Ferry to New Passage	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 and should be replaced.	Maintenance and replacement of defences. Coastal squeeze will result in intertidal habitat loss in this area. Other similar habitat should be created elsewhere as part of the Regional Habitat Creation Project.
BRIS2 New Passage to Severnside Works, nr Smoke Lane/Chittening 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).