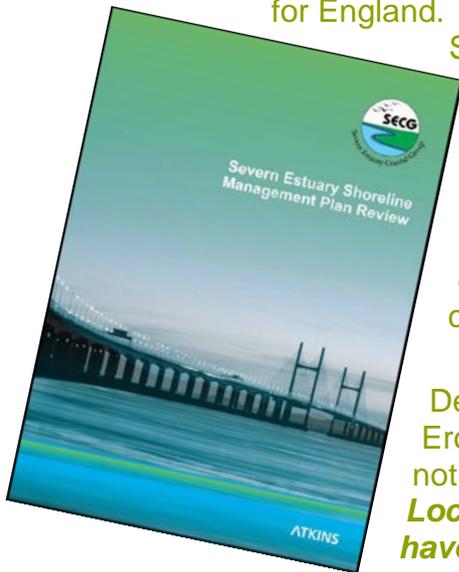


# Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

## What does it mean for planning in Stroud?

### 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 **Stroud District Council** coast is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** ([www.severnestuary.net/secg](http://www.severnestuary.net/secg)). Stroud falls within **11 SMP Policy Units**. 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 other local authorities. The SMP recommends HTL policies, with MR in some areas in the medium and long term. NAI is recommended where the risk of flooding and erosion is low. **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, Stroud 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 Stroud 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 Stroud District Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Peter Gilbert [peter.gilbert@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:peter.gilbert@stroud.gov.uk)



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

**Stroud District Council** crosses 11 policy units in 2 different theme areas - 'Gloucester to Sharpness' and 'Sharpness to Severn Crossings'.



**Coastal Flooding** - As defences reach the end of their servicable life they will need to be replaced and, in some cases, set back. 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 limited erosion in this area. NAI will allow natural coastal processes in some areas (SHAR5, SHAR8)

**Ecological Habitats** - HTL will protect freshwater habitat from salt water (SHAR6). Coastal squeeze will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats in areas of HTL. 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	
Elmore	Gloucester to Sharpness	SHAR1	HTL	MR	MR	
Longney		SHAR2	HTL	MR	HTL	
Upper Framilode		SHAR3	HTL	HTL	HTL	
Arlingham		SHAR4	HTL	MR	MR	
		SHAR5	NAI	NAI	NAI	
Fretherne		Sharpness to Severn Crossings	SHAR6	HTL	HTL	HTL
Frampton-on-Severn			SHAR7	MR	HTL	HTL
Slimbridge			SHAR8	NAI	NAI	NAI
Purton			SEV1	HTL	HTL	HTL
Sharpness			SEV2	HTL	HTL	HTL
Newton	SEV3		HTL	HTL	HTL	
Berkeley						
Clapton						

# SMP policies for Stroud District Council

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
<b>SHAR1</b> <b>Severn Farm to Wick's Green</b>	The short term policy is <b>hold the line</b> . The medium and 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. These should be replaced with a new set back defence.	Construction of new, realigned defences. Communication of MR can be challenging. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents and consider approach to realignment. Consider awareness raising and resilience.
<b>SHAR2</b> <b>Wick's Green to Longley Green</b>	The short and long term policy is <b>hold the line</b> with a policy of <b>managed realignment</b> in the medium term, when existing defences are expected to come to the end of their serviceable life and should be replaced.	Construction of new, realigned defences. Communication of MR can be challenging. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents and consider approach to realignment. Consider awareness raising and resilience.
<b>SHAR3</b> <b>Longley Green to Overton Lane</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>hold the line</b> . The existing defences are expected to last 20 - 50 years, but may require extensive works in the short 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.
<b>SHAR4</b> <b>Overton Lane to Hock Cliff</b>	The short term policy is <b>hold the line</b> . The medium and 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. These should be replaced with a new set back defence.	Construction of new, realigned defences. Communication of MR can be challenging. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents and consider approach to realignment. Consider awareness raising and resilience.
<b>SHAR5</b> <b>Hock Cliff</b>	The short, medium and long term policy is <b>no active intervention</b> . High ground and hard geology naturally limit flood and erosion risk.	Minimal issues due to limited risk from flooding and erosion. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to manage risks bearing in mind the uncertain erosion rates in the long term.

**SHAR6  
Hock Cliff to Frampton  
Pill**

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. The existing defences are expected to last 20 - 50 years, but may require extensive works in the short 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.

**SHAR7  
Frampton Pill to Royal  
Drift outfall**

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 serviceable life within 20 and should be replaced with a new set back defence.

Construction of new, realigned defences. Communication of MR can be challenging. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to help manage the risk to businesses and residents and consider approach to realignment. Consider awareness raising and resilience.

**SHAR8  
Royal Drift outfall to  
Sharpness Docks**

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

Minimal issues due to limited risk from flooding and erosion. Planning to use appropriate development controls and conditions to manage risks bearing in mind the uncertain erosion rates in the long term.

**SEV1  
South of Sharpness  
Docks to Bull Rock**

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. The existing defences are expected to last 20 - 50 years, but may require extensive works in the short 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.

**SEV2  
Bull Rock to southern  
boundary of Berkeley  
Power Station**

The short, medium and long term policy is **hold the line**. The existing defences are expected to last 20 - 50 years, but may require extensive works in the short 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.

**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.