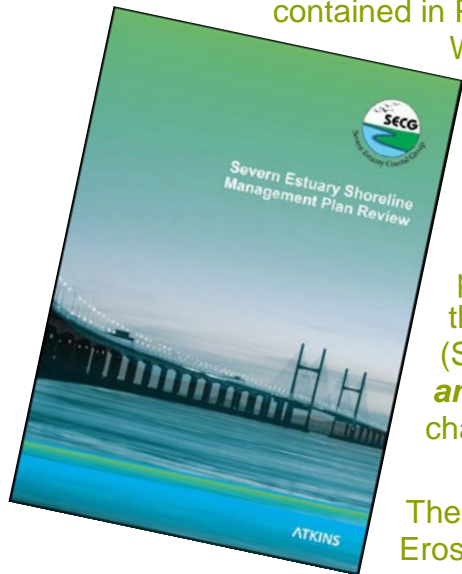


Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan

What does it mean for planning in Cardiff?

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 SMPs into 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, the 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 **Cardiff** coast is covered by the **Severn Estuary SMP** (www.severnestuary.net/secg). Cardiff falls within **5 SMP Policy Units** (including Flat Holm island). The SMP predicts limited coastal erosion in most areas, but erosion rates are unclear at Rhymney Great Wharf. The SMP recommends HTL for the whole 100 years. The policy for Flat Holm is NAI. **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.

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, Cardiff 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 Cardiff Council look beyond the LDP time horizon to plan up to 2105.

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.

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 Cardiff Council has been involved with the development of the SMP please contact Gary Jenkins gjenkins@cardiff.gov.uk



Cardiff – the nature of the coast and associated risk

The **Cardiff Council** area crosses 5 policy units in 3 different theme areas - 'Cardiff', 'Wentlooge' and 'The Holms'.



Coastal Flooding - Current defences, including the Cardiff Bay Barrage manage the risk of coastal flooding. High ground limits flood risk in some areas, although there are localised flood risks in some places. Defences will require maintenance and replacement to continue to manage risks.

Coastal erosion - Most areas will undergo limited erosion (CAR1, CAR2 & CAR3). Rhymney Great Wharf is likely to erode as sea levels rise - the erosion rate is unclear and should be monitored. Salt marsh in front of defences will erode as sea levels rise.

Ecological Habitats - Coastal squeeze will result in the loss of some intertidal habitats (saltmarsh). Other, similar habitat should be created elsewhere. 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
Penarth Flats	Cardiff	CAR1	HTL	HTL	HTL
Cardiff Bay					
Cardiff Docks		CAR2	HTL	HTL	HTL
East Moors					
Tremorfa		CAR3	HTL	HTL	HTL
Pen-y-Lan					
Llanederyn					
Rumney					
Lamby					
Rumney	Wentlooge	WEN1	HTL	HTL	HTL
Newton					
Trowbridge					
Llanrumney					
St. Mellons					
Flat Holm	The Holms	HOL1	NAI	NAI	NAI

SMP policies for Cardiff

The area	SMP approach	Potential planning issues
CAR1 Cardiff Bay Barrage	The short, medium and long term policy is hold the line . The Cardiff Bay Barrage would remain in place with some maintenance.	Maintenance of defences, the harbour and navigable channels. Works should take account of possible environmental effects and the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
CAR2 Western end of Cardiff Bay Barrage to mouth of River Rhymney at Rover Way	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.	Maintenance and replacement of defences. Works should take account of linkages to other areas (CAR1, CAR3, WEN1). Coastal squeeze will increase as sea level rises. Possible environmental impacts will need to be considered.
CAR3 Both banks of the River Rhymney from the mouth at Rover Way to the Lamby Way landfill drain	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. Defences manage the risk of flooding to the landfill site.	Maintenance and replacement of defences and managing the risk of flooding to the landfill site. Works should take account of linkages to other areas (CAR1, CAR3, WEN1). Coastal squeeze will increase as sea level rises. Possible environmental impacts will need to be considered.
WEN1 Lamby Way landfill drain to Sluice House Farm (Tarwick Rhye)	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. Erosion rates are unclear and should be monitored.	Maintenance and replacement of defences. Opportunities to create habitat and help manage the impacts of sea level rise through MR should be investigated with stakeholders.
HOL1 Flat Holm	The short, medium and long term policy is no active intervention . High ground limits flood risk in most areas.	Minimal issues due to limited risk from flooding and erosion.