

North West & North Wales Coastal Group

North West England and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan SMP2

Main SMP2 Document

Annex 2 - Glossary

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary explains some of the technical words and terms used in the Shoreline Management Plan 2.

Term	Definition
Accretion	In geography, accretion means the land increasing due to sediment being added to it.
Advance the Line (ATL)	Creating more land by moving coastal defences into the sea
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Nationally important areas that are protected to conserve and enhance natural beauty including flora, fauna, geological and landscape features. These areas are set by Natural England.
Beach Recharge	This is the management practice of adding to the natural amount of sediment (such as sand) on a beach by using material from elsewhere. This is also known as beach replenishment, nourishment or feeding.
Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS)	Strategies for conserving and enhancing wild species and wildlife habitats in the UK.
Cell 11 Regional Monitoring Strategy (CERMS)	Regional Monitoring Strategy for the area known as Cell 11 from Llandudno to Solway Firth
Catchment	The area drained by a river or body of water.
Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)	Broadly equivalent to an SMP to manage river defences.
Character Area	Nationally significant areas of England due to the make up of the land, plants and human activity. These areas are set by Natural England.
Chart Datum (CD)	Approximately the lowest astronomical tidal level, excluding the influence of the weather.
Climate change	Long term changes in climate, specifically linked to human activity. For example, the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels; the results of which may lead to increased rainfall, tide levels, etc.
Coastal squeeze	The process by which coastal habitats and natural features are progressively lost or drowned, caught between coastal defences and rising sea levels
Conservation Area	A conservation area is a tract of land that has been awarded protected status in order to ensure that natural features, cultural heritage or biota are safeguarded. A conservation area may be a nature reserve, a park, a land reclamation project, or other area.
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)	The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters.
County Character Area	Areas with attractive landscapes of countywide significance.
Client Steering Group (CSG)	A group set up to 'steer' the SMP2 project. Made up of members of the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group, technical officers and representatives from Local Authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.
Capital Value (CV)	The actual value of costs or benefits.

Term	Definition
Defra	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs. The Government Department responsible for setting out what the SMP2 should do and look like.
Defra SMP Guidance	Guidance produced by Defra in 2006 to ensure a consistent approach is taken to producing the Shoreline Management Plan 2s.
Designated Sites	These are areas identified or mapped out to enhance the conservation and protection of habitats. A habitat is a place inhabited by animals, insects, plants or other living organisms
Discounting	The conversion of all future costs and benefits into comparable units (present value).
Downdrift	Longshore drift is the movement of beach materials along the shore, if a location is described as downdrift, it is located further down the sediment pathway than an alternative area.
Environment Agency Flood Map	Area currently at risk from coastal flooding during the extreme flood event, 0.1% annual probability of occurrence (1 in 100 year return period).
Ebb-tide	The falling tide. Part of the tidal cycle between high water and the next low water.
Economic Analysis	An assessment which takes account of a wide range of costs and benefits, generally those that can be valued in money terms.
Economic justification	Economic justification assesses whether the whole life costs of constructing and maintaining the sea defences can be justified by the financial value of the residential, commercial and Agricultural assets they are protecting.
Elected members	local and district authority councillors
Elected Members Forum (EMF)	Meetings attended by Elected Members to give them opportunities to inform and comment on the development of the SMP2.
Environment Agency	A non-departmental government body responsible for looking after the environment in England and Wales including flood defence, water resources, water quality, pollution control.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Detailed studies which predict the effects of a project on the environment, and includes plans for dealing with any adverse impacts.
Epoch	A specific period of time.
Erosion	The loss of land due to the effects of waves and, in the case of coastal cliffs, slope processes (such as high groundwater levels). This may include cliff instability, where coastal processes result in landslides or rock falls.
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	An area where defra can provide payment to encourage farming practices which are beneficial to the environment.
Estuary	Mouth of a river, where fresh river water mixes with seawater.
European Sites	Any site that has been officially named ('designated') as a site of European nature conservation importance, either as a special protection area (SPA), a special area of conservation (SAC) or a Ramsar (see the glossary) site.
Flood cell	The total area at risk of flooding in any location.
Flood storage	Storing flood water in one area to reduce water levels elsewhere.
Fluvial	Belonging to rivers streams or ponds. e.g. Fluvial flooding, fluvial plants
Foreshore	The area between the high water and low water marks.

Term	Definition
Geological Conservation Review Site (GCR)	Sites of national and international importance for their geology.
Geomorphology/ Morphology	The make up of the earth's surface including the distribution of the land, water, etc.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	A computer system for mapping information about geographical areas.
Groyne	A structure built into the sea from the shore which traps material moved around by the sea.
Habitat creation	The creation of new ecosystems (such as saltmarsh) in areas that did not previously support that system.
Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	The Habitats Regulations Assessment considers the possible effects of implementing the Plan on a site's conservation objectives. This is a requirement under the Habitats Directive and only applies to sites that are designated under European law.
Heritage Coast	Heritage Coast is a national definition to cover the most unspoilt areas of undeveloped coastline around England and Wales
Heritage features	Features of historical importance.
High Water Mark (HWM)	The highest reach of the water at high tide. It can sometimes be recognised by a line of debris, e.g. seaweed, pieces of wood.
Hinterland	The area landward of flood or coastal defences.
Hold the line (HTL)	Keeping the shoreline in the same place
Hydrological regime	The pattern of a river's varying flow.
Infrastructure	The basic facilities and equipment for the functioning of the country or area, such as roads, rail lines, pipelines and power lines.
International environmental designations	Any site that has been officially named ('designated') as a site of international nature conservation importance, either as a special protection area (SPA), a special area of conservation (SAC) or a Ramsar (see the glossary) site
Intertidal habitat	Habitat between mean low water mark and mean high water mark.
Intertidal zone	The area of the seabed exposed between the highest and lowest levels of the tide.
Inundation modelling	Using a computer model to predict the flow of flood water submerging an expanse of land.
Land reclamation	Creating new, dry land on areas that have previously been seabed.
Limited intervention	When the desired outcome can be achieved with limited human inputs
Local Landscape Areas (LLA)	An area that is important to the appearance and environment of the local area. These areas are promoted in Local Development Frameworks and set by Local Authorities.
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Sites of local significance which provide important opportunities for public enjoyment, recreation and interpretation. These are set by Local Authorities in consultation with Natural England.
Longshore current	A movement of water along the shore, caused by waves and tides.
Longshore transport	Movement of material along the shore. Sometimes called longshore drift or alongshore drift.

Term	Definition
Low Water Mark (LWM)	The highest reach of the water at low tide.
Managed realignment	Allowing the existing sea defence line to move further inland (naturally or in a controlled way) to reduce flood risk.
Management scenario	The plan and outcome that future management will aim to achieve.
Material assets	Properties, equipment or items to which a value can be assigned
Mean sea level	Average height of the sea surface over a 19-year period.
Mean High Water (MHW)	The average of all high waters recorded over a long period.
Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)	The average height of the high waters of spring tides recorded over a long period.
Mean Low Water (MLW)	The average of all low waters recorded over a long period.
Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)	The average height of the low waters of spring tides recorded over a long period.
No Active Intervention (NAI)	Existing defences will not be maintained and will fail over time or undefended shorelines will be allowed to evolve naturally.
National environmental designations	Areas identified as nationally special sites for the wildlife and habitats.
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Nationally important natural and semi-natural areas which are managed to protect the habitats on these sites. These areas are set by Natural England.
NWRCZA	North West Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment 2009
Objective	A desired goal to be achieved in the future.
Ordnance Datum (OD)	The universal zero point used in the UK (equal to the mean sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall) from which the height of the land is measured.
Pluvial	'Produced by rain', e.g. surface water flooding
Policy	In this context, "policy" refers to the generic shoreline management options (No Active Intervention, Hold the Existing Line of Defence, Managed Realignment and Advance the Existing Line of Defence).
Policy Scenario	Brings together individual policy units that interact with those next to them (i.e. a group of policy units which share the same SMP2 policy option).
Policy Statement	A statement declaring and describing the proposed management policy to be adopted in a particular time period.
Policy Unit	Sections of coastline for which a certain coastal defence management policy has been defined.
Present Value (PV)	The value of a stream of benefits or costs when discounted back to the present day. For this SMP the discount factors used are the latest provided by Defra for assessment of schemes, i.e. 3.5% for years 0-30, 3.0% for years 31-75, and 2.5% thereafter.
Preferred Options or Preferred policy	The preferred options for managing the shoreline based on assessment of the issues facing the area and the impacts of any solutions.
Primary defence	The main line of defence, usually the most seaward if several defence structures are present.

Term	Definition
Primary policy drivers	The main reason for a certain policy to be chosen
Policy Unit	Small sections of the coastline, each of which will have a specific, individual policy.
Qualitative Methods	Using a written or verbal description instead of numbers to inform assessment and decision making.
Ramsar	Sites of international importance which aim to protect and maintain wetlands wetlands.
Relic	An area which is not fed and built up by new sediment.
Relict	Something that has survived after a destructive process has happened. This can include structures or geological formations.
Residual Flood Risk	The risk which remains after managing and reducing risks. It may include, for example, risk due to very severe storms or risks from unexpected hazards
Revetment	A coastal defence made with stones laid on a bank sloping upwards from the beach
Regionally Important Geological / Geomorphological Site (RIGS)	Sites which are regionally important for their geological or geomorphological form.
Risk Management Strategy	The plan for managing and monitoring risks.
Roll-back	The process whereby coastal habitats move landward due to rising sea levels.
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	A UK charity working to promote the conservation of birds and other wildlife by protecting and re-creating habitats.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Areas which aim to protect habitats or species of European importance and can include Marine Areas.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Looks at the impacts of plans and programmes on the environment and involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing an environmental report • carrying out of consultations • Using the environmental report and the results of the consultations to inform decision making • providing information when the plan or programme is adopted showing that the results of the environment assessment have been taken into account
SEA Impact	The impacts of the management policies being adopted in a particular Location as investigated in the SEA (above)
Secondary or Set back defences	Secondary defences are usually smaller defences that provide protection in additional to the primary defences. These may be referred to as set back defences if they are set back land ward of the primary defences.
Scour	Sand and sediment being removed by waves or currents, especially at the base and ends of coastal defence structures.
Sea level rise	The rise of the height of the sea in relation to the land. This can be caused by global climate change and changes in local land levels.

Term	Definition
Sensitivity Analysis	Changing the key things that have been assumed about the plan, or different data and information in the plan to see the potential effect of these changes on the suggested option.
Shoreline	The specific point at which the sea meets the land. This can vary depending on when the shoreline is measured, e.g. high water shoreline.
Scheduled Monument (SM)	Nationally important archaeological sites which protect and preserve the site for the educational and cultural benefit of future generations.
Siltation	The build up of small pieces of sediment.
Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Areas which have a strategic landscape importance.
Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	A plan which assesses the coast and provides evidence to Local Authorities and other organisations to help them reduce risk of erosion and flooding to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable way. The original SMPs were developed in the late 1990s.
Shoreline Management Plan 2 (SMP2)	This document is the draft Shoreline Management Plan 2. It is a review of the original SMP document.
Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)	Sites of local nature conservation interest, set by the Wildlife Trusts and Local Authorities
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Internationally important sites that establish a network of protected areas for birds.
Spit	A build up of sand or stones deposited where a shoreline changes direction. These are formed by waves moving sand or stones along the shoreline to form a promontory jutting out from the coast.
Source Protection Zone (SPZ)	Zones which the Environment Agency have defined groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Sites which represent some of the best examples of Britain's nature including plants, wildlife and landscape. These are set by Natural England.
Stakeholder	A person or organisation with an interest in the preparation of, and outcomes from, the shoreline management plan. Stakeholders can include agencies, authorities, organisations, individuals and private bodies.
Stakeholder Forum (SF)	Meetings for stakeholders to help them get involved in producing the shoreline management plan. Stakeholder Forums were and will be held at key stages of developing the SMP.
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	In England and Wales, Strategic Flood Risk Assessments are a required part of the local planning process which assesses the risks of flooding to and from development at the local level.
Strategy Studies	A long term plan, known as a flood defence management strategy, which sets out ways to manage. These look at a broad range of local interests and issues.
Sustainability (in flood risk management)	Making sure that current flood defences are not too costly or difficult to maintain in the future.
Tidal current	The direction that the sea moves when influenced by the rise and fall of the tide.
Tidal energy impoundment lagoon	The lagoon formed behind a barrage or barrier used to create tidal energy.

Term	Definition
Tidal power embayments and barrages	Tidal power barrages and embayments trap the falling tide in Tidal energy impoundment lagoons to release it in a controlled manner through turbines to create electricity.
Tidal prism	The amount of water in the estuary between the level of high and low tide.
Tide	The rise and fall of the sea caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun on the earth.
Toe protection	Putting boulders or other large materials at the bottom of coastal defences to stop waves from removing the material that the defence sits on.
Topography	The shape of the earth's surface including land levels and the position of natural and man-made features.
Transgression	The way that the shoreline moves towards the land due to a rise in sea level.
Updrift	The opposite direction to the movement of beach materials along the shore.
Visual amenity	The pleasant or desirable appearance of an area or feature
Water body morphology	The physical structure or form of a water body (lake, river, pond etc)
Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)	The Welsh Assembly Government is the executive of the government in Wales.
Wetlands	Low-lying areas of land that are often flooded and are home to plants that thrive in saturated soils.
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	A European Directive that aims to improve and protect inland and coastal waters
With Present Management (WPM)	Assumes that coastal defences are maintained to provide a similar level of protection to that currently provided.
World Heritage Site (WHS)	A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place (such as a forest, mountain, lake, desert, monument, building, complex, or city) that is listed by UNESCO as of special cultural or physical significance.