

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
AA	Appropriate Assessment: Regulation 48 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that an Appropriate Assessment is undertaken for plans or projects that will have a significant effect on a European site (e.g. sites designated as Special Protection Area for Birds or Special Area for Conservation), where the plan is not directly associated with the management of the site. The Appropriate Assessment essentially assesses the implications of the plan in respect of the site's conservation objectives.
Accretion	Accumulation of sand or other beach material due to the natural action of waves, currents and wind.
ALLI	Area of Local Landscape Importance: areas which represent landscapes of importance at a local level. They are identified as areas that enhance local amenity and environmental quality and provide attractive settings for villages and urban areas. These areas are promoted in local development frameworks.
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: designated by the Countryside Commission. The purpose of the AONB designation is to identify areas of national importance and to promote the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty. This includes protecting its flora, fauna, geological and landscape features. This is a statutory designation.
Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS)	A strategy for conserving and enhancing wild species and wildlife habitats in the UK.
Brackish water	Freshwater mixed with seawater.
CD	Chart Datum: Approximately the lowest astronomical tidal level, excluding the influence of the weather.
CFMP	Catchment Flood Management Plan: broadly equivalent to an SMP, for fluvial defence management.
Character Area	Areas of England identified by the Countryside Agency as separate character areas of national significance which are identified on the basis of geomorphology, vegetation and human activity. The Agency has mapped 159 separate Character Areas in England.
Cliff	Areas of elevated relief often forming a distinct break in slope between the surrounding area and the shoreline. Sea cliffs are vertical or steeply sloped faces cut by marine action.
Climate change	Long term changes in climate. The term is generally used for changes resulting from human intervention in atmospheric processes through, for example, the release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels, the results of which may lead to increased rainfall and sea level rise.
Coastal squeeze	The reduction in intertidal (habitat) area which can arise if the natural landward migration of the high water mark under sea level rise is prevented by a fixation of the high water mark, for example by resistant cliffs or hard defences.
Concern	This is a stated actual or perceived problem, raised by an individual or stakeholder. A concern can be strategic or local.
Conservation	The political/social/economic process by which the environment is protected and resources are used wisely.
Cost Benefit Analysis	A conceptual framework which evaluates projects by taking into account all the costs and benefits associated with the project.

Term	Definition
County Character Area	Areas identified under policy ENV4 of the Kent Structure Plan as attractive landscapes of countywide significance.
CSG	Client Steering Group: a group set up to 'steer' the SMP, comprising relevant members of the South East Coastal Group, including technical officers and representatives from local authorities, the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.
CV	Capital Value: the actual value of costs or benefits.
Defra	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (formerly known as MAFF)
Defra Procedural Guidance	The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Procedural Guidance produced by Defra in 2006 to provide a nationally consistent structure for the production of future generation shoreline management plans.
Discounting	The conversion of all future costs and benefits into comparable units (present value).
Downdrift	Direction of alongshore movement of beach materials.
Dredging	Excavation, digging, scraping, drag-lining, suction dredging to remove sand, silt, rock or other underwater sea-bottom material.
Ebb-tide	The falling tide, part of the tidal cycle between high water and the next low water.
Economic Analysis	The assessment of all the impacts of a policy or project and valuing them in national resource terms.
Ecosystem	Organisation of the biological community and the physical environment in a specific geographical area.
Elected members	Representatives, elected from each of the local and district authorities, chosen to be representatives of the SMP due their technical experience and local knowledge.
EMF	Elected Members Forum: meeting attended by the elected members to 'inform and comment on' the developing stages of the SMP by providing some degree of input into policy development, by those who will ultimately be adopting the policies. Elected members forums were held throughout development of the SMP.
Environment Agency	UK non-departmental government body responsible for delivering integrated environmental management including flood defence, water resources, water quality and pollution control.
Environmental impact assessment	Detailed studies which predict the effects of a development project on the environment. They also provide plans for mitigation of the adverse impacts.
Epoch	A period of time. Used in the SMP to refer to the three time periods considered in developing policies: short term (0 to 20 years), medium term (20 to 50 years) and long term (50 to 100 years).
Equilibrium	State of balance.
Erosion	Wearing away of the land, usually by the action of natural forces.
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area: this is an area where special land management payments are available through agreement with DEFRA to provide farming practices which are beneficial to the environment. This is a non-statutory designation.

Term	Definition
Estuary	Mouth of a river, where fresh river water mixes with the seawater.
Feature	Something tangible that provides a service to society in one form or another or, more simply, benefits certain aspects of society by its very existence. This will be of a specific geographical location and specific to the SMP.
Flood defence	A structure (or system of structures) for the alleviation of flooding from rivers, estuaries or the sea.
Flood plain	Any area of land to which water flows onto or is stored during a flood event, or would flow onto but for the presence of flood defences.
Flood-tide	Rising tide, part of the tidal cycle between low water and the next high water.
Foreshore	Zone between the high water and low water marks, also known as the inter-tidal zone.
Geomorphology/ morphology	That branch of physical geography/geology which deals with the form of the earth, the general configuration of its surface, the distribution of the land and water.
GIS	Geographic Information System: a computer system for managing spatial data and associated attributes.
Groyne	Shore protection structure built perpendicular to the shore; designed to trap sediment.
High water mark (HWM)	The highest reach of the water at high tide. It is sometimes marked by a line of debris such as seagrass or pieces of wood.
Hinterland	The area landward of the flood defences.
Inter tidal habitat	Habitat between mean low water mark and mean high water mark.
Inter tidal zone	The area exposed between highest and lowest extent of the tides.
Isostatic adjustment	Vertical changes of the land brought about by geological processes that have occurred locally.
Jetty	Structure projecting into the sea for the purpose of mooring boats or protecting a navigational channel.
Key stakeholder	A person or organisation with a major interest in the preparation of, and outcomes from, a shoreline management plan. This includes agencies, authorities, organisations and private bodies with responsibilities or ownerships that affect the overall management of the shoreline in a plan.
KSF	Key Stakeholder Forum: meetings attended by key stakeholders, as part of the SMP process, to help identify and understand the issues, to review the objectives and set direction for appropriate management scenarios. Key stakeholder forums were throughout the SMP.
Land reclamation	Process of creating new, dry land by excluding the sea from part or all of the intertidal area. Also known as land claim.
LLA	Local Landscape Area: an area identified by the local authority as being important to the appearance and environment of the local area. These areas are promoted in local development frameworks.
LNR	Local Nature Reserves: These are established by local authorities in consultation with Natural England. These sites are generally of local significance and also provide important opportunities for public enjoyment, recreation and interpretation. This is a non-statutory designation.

Term	Definition
Location	A discrete point on the coast or a length of coastline between two defined points.
Longshore current	A movement of water parallel to the shore, caused by waves.
Longshore transport	Movement of material parallel to the shore, also referred to as longshore drift or alongshore drift.
Low Water Mark (LWM)	The reach of the water at low tide.
Managed realignment	SMP policy, allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, with management to control or limit movement. This includes reducing erosion or building new defences on the landward side of the original defences.
Mean sea level	Average height of the sea surface over a 19-year period.
Mean High Water (MHW)	The average of all high waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
Mean High Water Springs (MHWS)	The average height of the high waters of spring tides.
Mean Low Water (MLW)	The average of all low waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS)	The average height of the low waters of spring tides.
Monitoring	Systematic recording over time.
NAI	No Active Intervention: SMP policy that assumes that existing defences are no longer maintained and will fail over time or undefended frontages will be allowed to evolve naturally.
NNR	National Nature Reserve: designated by Natural England, these represent some of the most important natural and semi-natural ecosystems in the UK, and are managed to protect the conservation value of the habitats that occur on these sites. This is a statutory designation
Objective	An objective is set, through consultation with key parties, to encourage the resolution of the issue or range of issues.
OD	Ordnance Datum: a universal zero point used in the UK, equal to the mean sea level at Newlyn in Cornwall.
Pile	Long heavy section of timber, concrete or metal, driven into the earth or seabed as support for another structure.
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	A combination of policies for a particular stretch of coast.
Preferred options	Flood management options that meet most or all of the strategic objectives. There is high confidence at a strategic level that these options are feasible and should be developed by undertaking a detailed scheme appraisal prior to implementation.
Policy unit	Sections of coastline for which a single shoreline management policy has been defined.

Term	Definition
PSA	Public Service Agreement: targets set by the government for governmental departments. Part of the PSA target for Defra includes: To care for our natural heritage, make the countryside attractive and enjoyable for all and to preserve biological diversity by bringing into favourable condition, by 2010, 95 per cent of all nationally important wildlife sites.
PV	Present Value: 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 per cent for years 0 to 30, 3 per cent for years 31 to 75, and 2.5 per cent thereafter.
Ramsar	Designated under the “Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat.” 1971. The objective of this designation is to stem the progressive encroachment onto, and loss of, wetlands.
Relict	Refers to a geomorphological feature that was deposited or created by processes no longer active in the area where the feature, or sediment, now occurs, e.g. a relict shingle barrier or relict landslide.
Revetment	A sloping surface of stone, concrete or other material used to protect an embankment or natural shoreline against erosion.
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: a UK charity working to promote the conservation of birds and other wildlife through the protection and re-creation of habitats.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation: this designation aims to protect habitats or species of European importance and can include Marine Areas. SACs are designated under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and will form part of the Natura 2000 site network. All SACs sites are also protected as Site of Special Scientific Interest, except those in the marine environment below the Mean Low Water (MLW).
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment: an environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use, which complies with the EU Directive 2001/42/EC. The environmental assessment involves the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation of an environmental report • carrying out of consultations • taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision making • provision of information when the plan or programme is adopted • showing that the results of the environment assessment have been taken into account
Scour	Removal of material by waves or currents, especially at the toe of a shore protection structure.
Seawall	Solid coastal defence structure built parallel to the shoreline to prevent erosion and damage by wave action.
Sea level change	The rise and fall of sea levels throughout time in response to global climate and local tectonic changes.
Sediment	Particles derived from rock, minerals or bioclastic debris, covering a size range from clay to boulders.

Term	Definition
Sensitivity analysis	The appraisal to identify any uncertainties or risks which may affect the policy decision and the impacts of variations in these factors.
Setback	Prescribed distance landward of a coastal feature such as the line of existing defences.
Shore	Narrow strip of land in immediate contact with the sea.
Shoreline	Intersection of a specific water height with the shore or beach, e.g. the high water shoreline is the intersection of the high water mark with the shore or beach.
SM	Scheduled Monument: formerly referred to as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Scheduled Monuments are nationally important archaeological sites which have been awarded scheduled status in order to protect and preserve the site for the educational and cultural benefit of future generations. The main legislation concerning archaeology in the UK is the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. This Act, building on legislation dating back to 1882, provides for nationally important archaeological sites to be statutorily protected as Scheduled Monuments.
Siltation	Deposition of silt-sized particles.
SLA	Special Landscape Area: an area identified as having a strategic landscape importance.
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan: strategic level document that provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes and presents a policy framework to reduce these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.
SNCI	Site of Nature Conservation Importance: these sites are defined by the Wildlife Trusts and local authorities as sites of local nature conservation interest. These are non-statutory but form an integral part of the formulation of planning policies relating to nature conservation issues.
SPA	Special Protection Area: these are internationally important sites, being set up to establish a network of protected areas of birds
Spit	Accretionary deposit of sand or stones located where a shoreline changes direction, formed by wave action and joined to the shore at one end only.
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest: these sites, notified by Natural England, represent some of the best examples of Britain's natural features including flora, fauna, and geology. This is a statutory designation
Stakeholder	A person or organisation with an interest in the preparation of a shoreline management plan or affected by the policies produced. This broad interpretation has been taken to include agencies, authorities, organisations and private persons. See "key stakeholder".
Strategy studies	A long term plan, known as a flood defence management strategy, is developed and sets out the policy and objectives for flood defence taking into account a broad range of local interests and issues.
Sustainability (in flood risk management)	The degree to which flood risk management options avoid tying future generations into inflexible or expensive options for flood defence. This usually includes consideration of other defences and likely developments as well as processes within catchments. It will take account of long term demand for non-renewable materials.

Term	Definition
Tidal current	Movement of water in a constant direction caused by the periodic rising and falling of the tide. As the tide rises, a flood-tidal current moves in one direction and as the tide falls, the ebb-tidal current moves in the opposite direction.
Tidal inlet	A river mouth or narrow gap between islands, within which salt water moves landwards during a rising tide.
Tidal prism	The volume of water that enters and leaves an estuary every flood and ebb tide respectively.
Tide	Periodic rising and falling of large bodies of water resulting from the gravitational attraction of the moon and sun acting on the rotating earth.
Toe protection	Material, commonly large boulders, placed at the base of a sea defence structure, such as a seawall, to prevent wave scour.
Topography	Configuration of a surface including its relief and the position of its natural and man-made features.
Transgression	The landward movement of the shoreline in response to a rise in relative sea level.
Updrift	Direction opposite to the predominant movement of longshore transport. Also see 'downdrift'
Wave direction	Direction from which a wave approaches.
Wetlands	Low-lying areas that are frequently flooded and which support vegetation adapted to saturated soils.
WPM	With Present Management: SMP policy which assumes that all defences are maintained to provide a similar level of protection and defence to that currently provided.
WFD	Water Framework Directive: a European Directive that aims to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater.