

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 may have a likely significant effect on a European site (e.g. sites designated as SPA or SAC), where the plan is not directly associated with the management of the site. The purpose of AA is to determine whether the plan or project will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans, programmes and projects.
Accretion	Accumulation of sediment due to the natural action of waves, currents and wind.
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Designated by the former Countryside Agency (now Natural England). 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.
Cliff	High steep bank at the water's edge; often used to refer to a bank composed primarily of rock.
Climate change	Long term changes in climate specifically linked to those 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, tide levels, etc.
Coastal squeeze	The reduction in intertidal habitat area which can arise if the natural landward migration of a habitat under sea level rise is prevented by fixed defences or an artificial structure.
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.
CSG	Client Steering Group: A group set up to 'steer' the project, 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

Term	Definition
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 at key stages of the SMP.
Environment Agency	UK non-departmental government body responsible for delivering integrated environmental management including flood defence, water resources, water quality, 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.
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.
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 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.

Term	Definition
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, water, etc.
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, e.g. seagrass, 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 or adjustment of land masses brought about by geological processes; predominantly the post-glacial rebound of land. This land was subject to downward pressures from ice sheets during the last glaciation and rose as the ice retreated.
Jetty	Structure projecting into the sea for the purpose of mooring boats; also solid structure projecting into the sea for the purpose of 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 to help identify and understand the issues, to review the objectives and set direction for appropriate management scenarios. Key Stakeholder Forums were held at key stages of the SMP.
Land reclamation	Process of creating new, dry land on the seabed.
LLA	Local Landscape Areas. 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.
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. Sometimes termed alongshore drift.
Longshore transport	Movement of material parallel to the shore, also referred to as longshore drift or alongshore drift.
Low Water Mark (LWM)	The highest reach of the water at low tide.
Managed Realignment	Allowing the existing defence line to recede to a new line (natural or man-made) in a controlled manner to provide land to reduce flood risk.

Term	Definition
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: Assumes that existing defences are no longer maintained and will fail over time or undefended frontages will be allowed to evolve naturally.
National Character Area	England has been divided into areas with similar landscape character, which are called National Character Areas (NCAs); previously known as Joint Character Areas (JCAs). 159 separate National Character Areas in England have been mapped. These areas are identified by the Countryside Agency (now Natural England) on the basis of geomorphology, vegetation and human activity.
NNR	National Nature Reserves. Designated by Natural England. These represent some of the most important natural and semi-natural ecosystems in Great Britain, 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. It is a desired state to be achieved in the future.
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	The combinations of policies selected against the various feature / benefit objectives for the whole SMP frontage
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 certain coastal defence management policy has been defined.
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% of all nationally important wildlife sites.

Term	Definition
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% for years 0-30, 3.0% for years 31-75, and 2.5% thereafter.
Qualitative Methods	Approaches which use descriptive rather than numerical values for assessment and decision making (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment).
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.
Relic	Refers to a geomorphological feature that receives no fresh (contemporary) input of sediment.
Relict	Of or relating to something that has survived, as structures or minerals, after destructive processes, for example a 'relict landslide'.
Revetment	Shore protection structure made with stones laid on a sloping face.
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 SSSI, 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 underwater material by waves or currents, especially at the toe of a shore protection structure.
Seawall	Massive structure built along the shore to prevent erosion and damage by wave action.
Sea level rise	The rise and fall of sea levels throughout time in response to global climate and local tectonic changes.
Sediment	Particles of rock covering a size range from clay to boulders.
Sensitivity Analysis	The varying of key assumptions and values to determine their effect on the choice of option.
Setback	Prescribed distance landward of a coastal feature (e.g. the line of existing defences).

Term	Definition
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. It 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 for birds under the EU Wild Birds Directive.
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 national 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.
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.

Term	Definition
Tidal prism	The volume of water within the estuary between the level of high and low tide, typically taken for mean spring tides.
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, usually large boulders, placed at the base of a sea defence structure like 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: 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.