

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Accretion	Accumulation of sand or other beach material due to the natural action of waves, currents and wind.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Designated by the Countryside Commission, the purpose of this statutory 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.
Armour	Structural protection (rock or concrete) for the shoreline.
Asset	Something of environmental, economical, social, recreational value.
ATL	Advance the Line – one of the four Defra SMP policy options
Back beach/ Back Shore	The section of beach extending landwards from the high water mark to the point where there is an abrupt change in slope or material; also referred to as the backshore.
Bar	Fully or partially submerged mound of sand, gravel or other unconsolidated material built on the sea-bottom in shallow water by waves and currents.
Beach nourishment	Artificial process of replenishing a beach with material from another source.
Beach profile	Side view of a beach extending from the top of the dune line into the sea.
Beach recharge	Management practice of adding natural sediment on a beach by using beach material from elsewhere. Also known as beach replenishment, nourishment or feeding.
Behavioural Systems Approach	Method of looking how a coast is changing and is likely to change in the future by assessing all factors that affect its behaviour at a range of spatial and temporal scales.
Berm crest	Ridge of sand or gravel deposited by wave action on the shore just above the normal high water mark.
Biodiversity	Richness and variety of wildlife (plant and animal) and habitats
Biodiversity Action Plan	A national plan for a key habitat or species, approved by Government as part of the overall UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
Brackish water	Freshwater mixed with seawater.
Breaker	A wave as it collapses on a shore.
Catchment Flood Management	Large scale strategic planning framework for the integrated management of flood risk to people and the developed and natural environment in a sustainable manner. Broadly

Plan	equivalent to an SMP and prepared by the Environment Agency.
Coastal Defence	A term used to encompass both coastal protection against erosion and sea defence against flooding.
Coastal Defence Strategy Plan	A detailed assessment of the strategic coastal defence option(s) for a management unit(s), based on Flood and Coastal Defence Project Appraisal Guidance 2.
Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHaMP)	A non-statutory management plan which identifies potential future changes to coastal habitats and potential compensation measures for any losses to a European designated site or group of sites.
Coastal squeeze	The progressive reduction and loss of coastal habitat area and natural features which can arise if the natural landward migration of a habitat under sea level rise is prevented by man-made defences and structures
Coastal Zone Management Plan	Plans through which local authorities and others implement planning objectives and policies for an area of the coast, which deal with a range of issues such as landscape management, development, recreation, conservation, etc.
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.
CV	Capital Value. The actual value of costs or benefits.
Deep water	Area where surface waves are not influenced by the sea-bottom.
Defra	Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs
Downdrift	Direction of alongshore movement of beach materials.
Downdrift effects	Impacts occurring in the lee of any coastal activity resulting from associated changes to the coastal processes, particularly sediment supply.
Dredging	Excavation, digging, scraping, draglining, suction dredging to remove sand, silt, rock or other underwater sea-bottom material.
Dune	Accumulations of wind-blown sand in ridges or mounds that lies landward of the beach and usually parallel to the shoreline.
Ebb tide	The falling tide, part of the tidal cycle between high water and the next low water.
Economic Appraisal	An appraisal which takes into account a wide range of costs and benefits, generally those that can be valued in monetary terms.
Ecosystem	Organization of the biological community and the physical environment in a specific geographical area.
Environment	Where environmental issues are referred to, this term is used to encompass landscape/natural beauty, flora, fauna,

	geological or geomorphological features and buildings, sites and objects of archaeological, architectural or historical interest.
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	Period of time. In SMPs the three epochs are defined 0-20, 20-50, and 50-100 years from the present.
Erosion	The loss of land or encroachment by the sea through a combination of natural forces e.g. wave attack, slope processes, high groundwater levels.
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	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.
European Site	Any site that has been 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 Site. In regard to planning considerations it is Government policy to treat potential SPAs, candidate SACs and listed Ramsar Sites as if they were already designated.
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.
Fetch	Area of water where waves are generated by the wind.
Flooding	Refers to inundation by water whether this is caused by breaches, overtopping of banks or defences, or by inadequate or slow drainage of rainfall or underlying ground water levels. Flooding due to blocked drains and sewers or the escape of water from a water supply service will usually be the responsibility of the local water company and does not fall within the scope of a Shoreline Management Plan.
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.
Futurecoast	Defra funded study providing information on coastal processes and possible future development of the coast. www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/Futurecoast.htm
Gabions	Wire mesh rectangular containers filled with stones.
Geomorphology	Landforms and land forming processes.
Greenhouse effect	Heating of the earth's atmosphere due to an increase in gases like carbon dioxide.
Groyne	Shore protection structure built perpendicular to the shore;

	designed to trap sediment.
Groyne field	Series of groynes acting together to protect a section of beach.
Habitat Action Plan	A biodiversity action plan for a habitat.
Habitat Directive	EC Directive 92/43 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
Habitat Regulations	The conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994. This transposes the Habitats Directive into UK Law.
Hazard	A situation with the potential to result in harm. A hazard does not necessarily lead to harm.
High Level Targets	Important for delivering government policy. www.defra.gov.uk/enviro/fcd/hltarget/default.htm
HTL	Hold the Line – one of the four Defra SMP policy options
Integrated Coastal Zone Management	A strategy to identify lasting levels of economic and social activity in coastal areas while protecting the coastal environment. Brings together all those involved in developing, managing and using the coast within framework that makes it easier to join their interests and responsibilities together. www.defraweb/environment/water/marine/uk/iczm/index.htm
Issue	All issues and aspirations are related to flood and coastal defence and grouped or categorised under the three main themes: technical; environmental; or socio-economic
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.
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.
Managed realignment	The reintroduction of tidal waters to previously enclosed or reclaimed land
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 Low Water (MLW)	The average of all low waters observed over a sufficiently long period.
MR	Managed Realignment – one of the four Defra SMP policy options
NAI	No Active Intervention – one of the four Defra SMP policy options (In First round of SMP was termed 'Do Nothing')
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Sites designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by English Nature. 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. 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.
Offshore breakwater	Structure parallel to the shore, usually positioned in the sea, which protects the shore from waves.
Operating Authority	A body with statutory powers to undertake flood defence or coast protection activities, usually the Environment Agency or maritime District Council.
Pile	Long heavy section of timber, concrete or metal, driven into the ground or seabed as support for another structure.
Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)	Issued by Government to set out its national land use policies for England on different areas of planning. Replaced by Planning Policy Statements (PPS)
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.
Policy Unit	A length of shoreline with similar characteristics in terms of coastal processes and assets at risk that can be managed efficiently and sustainably. Replaces Management Units and Process Units from first round of SMPs.
Public Service Agreement (PSA)	PSA framework is a Government objective to drive forwards the highest priorities and ambitions for delivery within context of public services.
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.
Ramsar	Designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. The objective of this designation is to stem the progressive encroachment onto, and loss of wetlands.
Residual life	The time until a defence is no longer able to achieve minimum acceptable performance criteria in terms of serviceability or structural strength.
Residual risk	The risk which remains after risk management and mitigation. It may include, for example, risk due to very severe storms (above design standard) or risks from unforeseen hazards.
Revetment	Shore protection structure made with stones/rock laid on a sloping face.
Risk	Consideration of risks to people and the developed, historic

assessment	and natural environment.
Risk management	The activity of mitigating and monitoring risks. (http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commodata/103599/4iarbmpes_777869.doc)
River Basin Management Plan	Plans which must be developed to put EU Water Framework Directive into force
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Designated under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora), this designation aims to protect habitats or species of European importance and can include Marine Areas, and forms part of the Natura 2000 site network. All SACs sites are also protected as SSSI, except those in the marine environment below Mean Low Water
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	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 Ancient Monuments.
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.
Sediment cell	A length of coastline and its associated nearshore area within which the movement of coarse sediment (sand and shingle) is largely self-contained. Interruptions to the movement of sand and shingle within one cell should not affect beaches in an adjacent sediment cell.
Sediment sub-cell	A sub-set of a sediment cell within which the movement of coarse sediment (sand and shingle) is relatively self-contained.
Setback	Prescribed distance landward of a coastal feature (e.g. 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.
Shoreline management policy	Generic term for any management option, e.g. no active intervention, limited intervention, advance, realign or hold the existing coastal defence line.
Significant effect	Where a plan or project is likely to affect a European Site it is necessary to decide whether or not it would have a significant effect. If there is any doubt, the operating authority must consult Natural England. They will advise whether, in their view, the proposed scheme would be likely to have a significant effect.
Siltation	Deposition of silt-sized particles.

Sensitive Marine Area (SMA)	A generic term used to describe nationally important locations around our coast which require a cautious and detailed approach to management. They are identified by English Nature for their important benthic populations, spawning or nursery areas for fish, fragile inter-tidal communities, or breeding, feeding, and roosting areas for birds and sea mammals. This is a non-statutory designation.
Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	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.
Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) or Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	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. SNIC and SINC are same designation but different County and Local Authorities selected varying terminology.
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Designated under the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC Conservation of Wild Birds), these are internationally important sites, being set up to establish a network of protected areas of birds. Statutory designation.
Spit	Accretionary deposit of sand or shingle located where a shoreline changes direction, formed by wave action and joined to the shore at one end only.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	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, for wildlife and/or Earth heritage interest under Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
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".
Storm surge	A rise in the sea surface on an open coast, resulting from a storm.
Strategic	Used to describe the undertaking of any process in a holistic manner taking account of all associated impacts, interests of other parties and considering the widest possible set of potential options for the solution of a problem.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A process of systematically appraising the environmental opportunities and constraints of a project, and identifying and managing its implications. SEA is a statutory requirement of certain plans and programmes, under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
Sustainable	Sustainable policies lead to coastal defence solutions that

Development policies	avoid tying future generations into inflexible and/or expensive options for defence. They will usually include consideration of inter-relationships with other defences and likely developments and processes within a coastal cell or sub-cell. They will also take account of long-term demands for non-renewable materials.
Swell	Waves that have travelled out of the area in which they were generated.
Tidal current	Movement of water in a constant direction caused by the periodic rising and falling of the tide. Generally, 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, through which saline water moves landwards during a rising tide.
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.
Updrift	Direction opposite to the predominant movement of longshore transport.
Wave direction	Direction from which a wave approaches.
Wave refraction	Process by which the direction of approach of a wave changes as it moves into shallow water.
Wetlands	Low-lying areas that are frequently flooded and which support vegetation adapted to saturated soils e.g. mangrove swamps.
WPM	With Present Management – one of the scenarios assessed