

Severn Estuary

Flood Risk Management Strategy

November 2010: Briefing Note

Completion of Shoreline Management Plans

The finalised Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) for both the Severn Estuary and the North Devon and Somerset Coast are now available online. Local Authorities are in the process of reviewing these documents. We anticipate that all Local Authorities will have adopted their relevant SMP by the end of 2010 so that the policies can be embedded into local planning.

The SMPs will have impacts on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 designated site. The case to implement the SMPs for reasons of “imperative reasons of overriding public interest” (IROPI) has been submitted to Defra and WAG. This government approval is required to enable us to continue maintaining and improving flood defences on the estuary.

Plans for consultation on the strategy

Our Flood Risk Management Strategy will be available for public consultation in early 2011. We can discuss our proposals with Local Authorities in advance of this, if required, so they can understand the implications of the SMPs and our strategy and take these into account within their planning.

We are producing a consultation brochure to explain our proposals, and this will be published as three separate editions. It will be divided into the following geographical areas to help make the information more accessible, and relevant to local people:

- South East Wales
- Gloucestershire
- South Gloucestershire to Hinkley Point, Somerset.



We recently repaired 2.8km of flood bank between Oldbury and Berkeley in South Gloucestershire using geo-textile matting and rock. This follows the Hold-the-line SMP policy for the area.

The brochures will be available electronically and printed, though to minimise costs we hope to signpost interested parties to the online versions. These will be available on both our website and the Severn Estuary Gateway website. We are also sending reference copies to public libraries along the estuary and to Parish Councils.

To publicise the consultation we will send postcards to households in areas where the strategy is likely to be of greatest interest, ie areas at greatest flood risk or where there may be changes over time. We will also use local media and Severn Estuary Partnership e-news to promote the consultation.

Public events were held for the SMPs and we do not consider it worthwhile repeating these. We anticipate meeting with parish councils where there are likely to be changes to defences in the short term. However we will not be able to hold meetings with all parish councils, especially where our strategy advocates “business-as-usual” for the foreseeable future.

Uncertainty over future funding

The completion of our strategy does not mean that we can be certain of ongoing funding for works to flood defences. Even before the recent Spending Review of public investment, we would have to adjust our plans to match available budgets. But having a long term plan in place means we can:

- prioritise and achieve maximum value from our investment
- influence others to plan for flood risk
- find partnership arrangements to help build the best flood management solutions

It is clear that many future investments in new flood defences will rely on contributions from the organisations that gain the most benefit from the defences. The strategy will enable us to enter into negotiations with other interested parties and help develop partnership arrangements.

Where to get further information

We are publishing our documents on

www.severnestuary.net

This site contains information for both the Severn SMP and the Strategy.

To contact the team who are developing the Strategy please email

Severn_Estuary_FRM_Strategy@atkinsglobal.com

Details of the North Devon and Somerset SMP can be found at

www.ndascag.org

A reminder

SMPs : These are owned by Coastal Advisory Groups. They provide management policies for each stretch of coast from a choice of advance the line, hold the line, managed realignment or no active intervention.

Strategy : It is owned by the Environment Agency. It provides the economic case for investment, defines defence alignments and the optimum standard of protection for each flood cell.