

Glossary



BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS (BAPs)

A strategy for conserving and enhancing wild species and wildlife habitats in the UK.

BRUSHWOOD POLDERS

Low wooden stakes are driven into intertidal area and interwoven with brushwood in an attempt to create areas of shelter against waves or strong currents to encourage silt to settle.

COASTAL HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLANS (CHaMPs)

Ensure compliance of future SMPs and Flood Management Strategies with the Habitats and Birds Directives.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ultraviolet radiation passes through the Earth's atmosphere and warms the planet's surface before being reflected back into space as infrared radiation. Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are called Greenhouse gases, which trap some of the heat from radiation in the atmosphere. The concentration of these gases has increased dramatically as a result of human activity therefore trapping more heat and thus causing global temperatures to increase and climates to change.

COASTAL SQUEEZE

Areas of saltmarsh or mudflat that become trapped between the seawall and the rising sea levels.

COMPENSATORY HABITAT

The Habitats Directive require that where works damage a European site, compensatory habitat is provided.

COASTAL PROTECTION

Those measures taken under the Coastal Protection Act 1949 to protect against coastal erosion and undertaken largely by the Local Authorities and private landowners.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

A piece of land required for development is purchased regardless of consent from the landowner in accordance with statutory procedures. Landowners affected by CPOs will receive compensation reflecting the loss they have sustained as a direct result.

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS (Defra)

Responsible for the regulation of the food industry in the UK and also animal welfare and environmental issues and flood defence.

ESSEX SEA WALL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Created in 1998 to present a coherent strategy for the management of Essex tidal defences in line with the recommendations of the Essex Shoreline Management Plans but does not include any of the recent EU Habitat Directive issues.

FLOOD DEFENCE

The Water Resources Act (1991) gives the Environment Agency general supervision over all matters related to flood defence. The Agency has the main responsibility for the prevention of flooding of low land under the Land Drainage Act (1991). The Agency's powers are permissive thus it does not have to maintain flood defences if it is deemed no longer necessary.

FORESHORE RECHARGE

Area of beach between mean low and mean high water mark where material is placed in front of existing seawalls and defence.

GROYNES

Fixed structures extending out from the seawall used to control erosion or promote deposition.

HABITAT

A habitat is the place in which an organism lives; this could range from being a small pond to a rainforest.

EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

To provide for conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in Europe.

HOLD THE LINE

Retaining the existing flood defence line by carrying out improvements, maintenance and repairs as necessary.

HYDRODYNAMIC MODELLING

Allows water movements, speeds and directions to be simulated on a computer to give a representation of how the estuary processes work and predicts how future processes (as a result of sea level rise or changes to flood defences) might behave.



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INTERTIDAL ZONE

The range of depths between highest and lowest extent of the tides.

INVERTEBRATES

Any organism that does not have a skull, vertebral column and well developed brain. Examples of such an animal would be the rag worm *Nereis diversicolor*. Commonly found in large numbers buried in the mud and sands of our coasts and estuaries.

ISOSTATIC ADJUSTMENT

Vertical changes of the land brought about by geological processes that have occurred locally.

LOCAL FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE (LFDC)

LFDCs have delegated powers from Regional Flood Defence Committees to discharge the Agency's flood defence and land drainage functions in the region.

LIMITED INTERVENTION

Maintenance and repair of flood defences only if categorised for health and safety reasons.

MANAGED REALIGNMENT

Breaching of a seawall at a specific point in the seawall to allow the tide to inundate the site over each tidal cycle.

RAMSAR TREATY

Provides the framework for the conservation of wetlands and their resources.

SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

The Habitats Directive lists important species and habitats that if present in a Member State should be considered for designation within a Special Area of Conservation.

SALTMARSH

An intertidal habitat comprising salt tolerant vegetation. Frequency and duration of tidal inundation determines which plants and animal species are present. Saltmarshes are bisected by meandering creek systems, which allow tidal waters to drain in and out. The creeks slow down tidal energy and the marsh plants slow down wave energy.

SEA LEVEL RISE

The rise and fall of sea levels throughout time in response to global climate and local tectonic changes.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS (SMPs)

A national initiative for the future planning of the coastline taking a holistic approach to include all coastal authorities. The document brings together information pertaining to coastal issues such as flooding, erosion, coastal process and human and environmental needs.

SPECIAL PROTECTED AREAS (SPA)

The Birds Directive identifies internationally important areas for breeding, over-wintering and migrating birds that if present in a Member State should be considered for designation within a Special Protected Area.

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act bestows a duty on the Government to designate land as an SSSI if the land is important in scientific terms due to its flora or fauna or geological features.

STRATEGIES

A long term approach is developed which sets out the policy and objectives for flood defence taking into account a broad range of local interests and issues.

SUFFOLK ESTUARINE STRATEGIES

Strategies for the Rivers Blyth, Alde-Ore and Deben produced in 1999 to present a coherent strategy for the management of estuarine and tidal defences between Lowestoft and Felixstowe in conjunction with the Lowestoft to Felixstowe Shoreline Management Plan (1998). The strategies did not include any of the recent EU Habitat Directive issues.



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