



Arun District Council

# Coast Protection in the Arun District



[www.arun.gov.uk/engineers](http://www.arun.gov.uk/engineers)



**ARUN**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Coast Protection in the Arun District

Before purchasing or developing a property on the coast, Arun District Council would like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to the following information regarding Arun District Council's Coast Protection approach. This information is sent to all properties located within 200m of Mean High Water.

### Risks

Living close to the sea always carries some level of risk, there can be no guarantee that properties are 100% safe. Owners should be aware of this and should take appropriate precautionary measures if they consider it necessary.

The main risks relating to coastal development is that your home may be subjected to flooding or erosion. If you are considering buying or developing a property in the District we strongly recommend you check the risk of flooding on the Environment Agency [website](#)<sup>i</sup>.

Coastal erosion is difficult to predict as there are multiple factors that could influence the development of the foreshore. These include, but are not limited to, changes in the littoral drift regime, variable ground conditions, storm events and topography. The Environment Agency has published National Coastal Erosion Risk Management [mapping](#)<sup>ii</sup> which gives an estimation of erosion risk with respect to the Shoreline Management Plan policy and a No Active Intervention baseline. These figures should not be taken as precise predictions, as coastal erosion is often episodic. Interested parties are also guided to the coast protection strategies (below) to make their own assessment.

Neither Arun District Council nor the Environment Agency has a duty under the Coast Protection Act 1949 to protect the coast from erosion or flooding. The various Acts of Parliament under which we work, provide powers by which Arun may reduce the risk of erosion and the Environment Agency reduce the risk of flooding. We direct readers to the [Coast Protection Act 1949](#)<sup>iii</sup> and the [Land Drainage Act 1991](#)<sup>iv</sup> which primarily guide the work that Arun District Council undertakes.

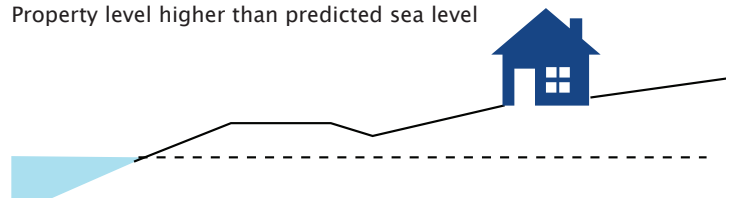
### Planning

We recommend familiarising yourself with the Adopted Local Plan 2018 and specifically to [Chapter 18:Water](#)<sup>v</sup> which covers both risk of flooding and erosion by the sea. In considering new locations for development, and to minimise future risks, it is also important that developers consult the latest [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)<sup>vi</sup> which details current data and maps to ensure that development is avoided in areas at risk of flooding.

Arun District Council may hold non-digital records of coastal flooding, including some spatial data. These records can be obtained by contacting the engineering department on [coast.protection@arun.gov.uk](mailto:coast.protection@arun.gov.uk).

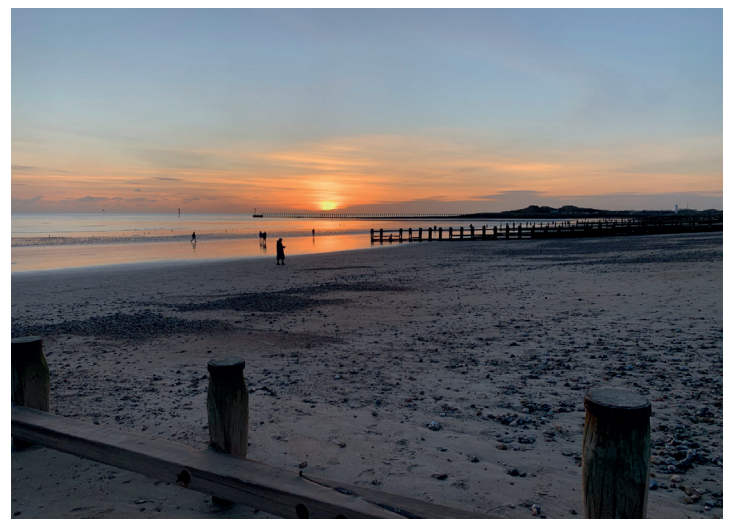
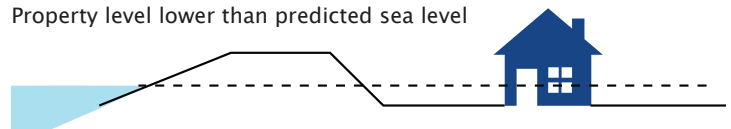
#### Coastal Protection: Risk of Erosion

Property level higher than predicted sea level



#### Sea Defence: Risk of Flooding

Property level lower than predicted sea level



## Current Coast Protection Strategies

[The Shoreline Management Plan](#)<sup>vii</sup> (SMP) provides a high level assessment of the risks associated with coastal evolution and presents a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner.

The Coastal Defence Strategies build on the policies set by the SMP and analyse each frontage in closer detail. The Arun District coastline is managed by different authorities which include: ourselves (Arun District Council); the Environment Agency (EA); private management companies and in some cases private owners. The coastal management bodies for the length of the Arun coastline are illustrated on the map overleaf. The Coast Defence Strategies consider the frontages over a 100 year appraisal period and provide a detailed analysis of specific frontages and the challenges they face. They also include recommendations for potential management solutions for the medium to long term.

For the Arun District there are three applicable Coastal Defence Strategies (depending on which area of the district you live in). These are the [River Arun to Pagham Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy](#)<sup>viii</sup>, the [Rivers Arun to Adur Flood and Erosion Management Strategy 2010-2020](#)<sup>ix</sup>, and the [Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy](#)<sup>x</sup>.

In addition, there are Regional Beach Management Plans for [Littlehampton to Brighton Marina](#)<sup>xi</sup> and [Selsey to Littlehampton](#)<sup>xii</sup>. These give a summary of the data collected through strategy led monitoring.

It is important to note that SMP policies are not statutory, nor do they guarantee funding, they are intended to guide the planning and management processes and illustrate how defences could be managed in the future.

The coastal plain in the Arun District is densely populated and as a result, Arun District Council has chosen to adopt the policies recommended by the strategies. Arun District Council aims to uphold the policies set out in the SMP where funding allows. Pagham is slightly unique in its

management approach, as the recommendation made by the strategy is to implement an 'adaptive management' approach. This is due to the complexity and dynamic nature of the system, where prediction of the future evolution of the coastline is extremely uncertain and therefore inappropriate. Homeowners, prospective purchasers and readers are encouraged to investigate [Pagham](#)<sup>xiii</sup> in further detail to fully understand the sensitivity of the site.

The defences and coast protection structures across the District include approximately 285 timber and 15 rock structures, concrete sea walls, timber breastwork, revetments as well as natural and recycled shingle.

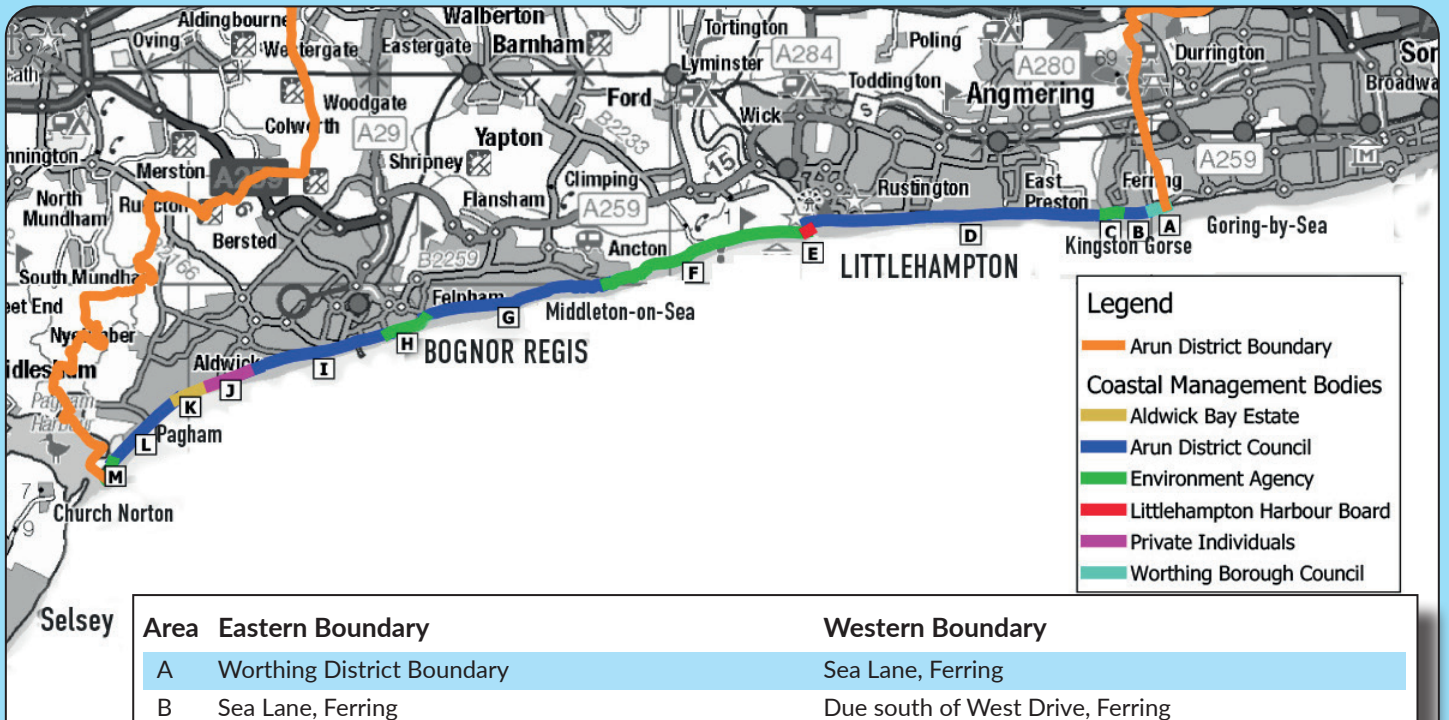
## Funding Coast Protection

Arun District Council undertakes both capital and revenue works in order to maintain the current defences. The defences are all monitored through regular inspections and repaired/replaced on a priority basis, within a finite Revenue budget, set by the Council. The Council seeks Flood Defence Grant in Aid for major works. The Government's current national strategy for funding capital works (e.g. major groyne replacement schemes) is known as Partnership Funding. If or when any Partnership Funding might be required, residents directly benefiting from the defences are likely to be approached to help offset the funding deficit, i.e. those likely to be at risk from flooding or erosion within the timescale of the scheme. More information about partnership funding may be found on the government [website](#)<sup>xiv</sup>.

In addition, Arun District Council also undertakes revenue works of repair and maintenance of our assets. These small-scale projects are currently funded by the council on a priority basis.

Readers wishing to obtain further data on physical coastal issues are directed to the [CCO](#)<sup>xv</sup> (free and freely available).

# Coast Protection in the Arun District



Area	Eastern Boundary	Western Boundary
A	Worthing District Boundary	Sea Lane, Ferring
B	Sea Lane, Ferring	Due south of West Drive, Ferring (approx 120m east of the Ferring Rife Outfall)
C	Due south of West Drive, Ferring (approx 120m east of the Ferring Rife Outfall)	Due south of Brookside Road, Kingston Gorse (approx. 150m west of Ferring Rife Outfall)
D	Due south of Brookside Road, Kingston Gorse (approx. 150m west of Ferring Rife Outfall)	Littlehampton East Pier
E	Littlehampton East Pier	West river bank of the River Arun
F	West river bank of the River Arun	Between the 4th and 5th rock islands at Elmer
G	Between the 4th and 5th rock islands at Elmer	End of Outram Road, Elmer
H	End of Outram Road, Elmer	Due south of Gloucester Road, Bognor Regis
I	Due south of Gloucester Road, Bognor Regis	Due south of west end of Marquis Way, Aldwick
J	Due south of west end of Marquis Way, Aldwick	Due south of end of Barrack Lane, Aldwick
K	Due south of end of Barrack Lane, Aldwick	Pagham Parish Boundary (western end of Arun Way)
L	Pagham Parish Boundary (western end of Arun Way)	Approximately 100m south-west of western end of West Front Road, Pagham
M	Approximately 100m south-west of western end of West Front Road, Pagham	Chichester District Boundary

- i <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>
- ii <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9cef4a084bbb4954b970cd35b099d94c>
- iii <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo6/12-13-14/74>
- iv <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents>
- v <https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n12861.pdf&ver=13001>
- vi <https://www.arun.gov.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n9774.pdf&ver=9670>
- vii <https://se-coastalgroup.org.uk/shoreline-management-plans/beachy-head-to-selsey-bill/>
- viii <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXU8eFOevCR2nJy58L4HNo9JDxs5ckTr/view>
- ix <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I7zD4ul-p3Tma84CBbmeSCoGo1sYhSsR/view>
- x [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kLyfHYo-\\_4qrjWWLpiGmYjWP7idZpJFG/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kLyfHYo-_4qrjWWLpiGmYjWP7idZpJFG/view)
- xi <https://se-coastalgroup.org.uk/beach-management-plans/littlehampton-to-brighton-marina/>
- xii <https://se-coastalgroup.org.uk/beach-management-plans/selsey-to-littlehampton/>
- xiii <https://www.arun.gov.uk/pagham-coastal-protection>
- xiv <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-and-coastal-resilience-partnership-funding>
- xv <https://www.channelcoast.org/>

