Location reference: Policy Unit reference:

Roundham Head to Churston Cove (East)

6b56 to 6b59

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The long term Plan along this section of the Tor Bay shoreline is to achieve a more sustainable defence line, through allowing the shoreline to roll back landwards and adapt more naturally to rising sea levels. This would be achieved through undertaking Managed Realignment of the seawalls that presently defend the low-lying land at Goodrington Sands and Broadsands against flood risk. As such, not only would future protection be provided in a more sustainable way, but this should also enable a beach to be retained in front of the defences, which would be of amenity value.

The remainder of the coastline is characterised by undefended cliffs of geological and landscape value, which lie within the English Riviera Geopark. Under this policy, it is not proposed that any new defences would be constructed along these presently undefended cliffs, thereby conserving their geological value within the English Riviera Geopark site. The Plan is for these sections to allow the slow coastal retreat to continue. An erosion risk would however remain to part of a scheduled monument along the cliff top on the eastern side of Churston Cove in the event of small landslides.

Parts of this undefended stretch of coast, particularly towards Churston Cove, may be affected by the presence of the Brixham Harbour breakwater farther east, which serves to reduce wave exposure along parts of this section. It is, however, assumed that the breakwater will be maintained and will therefore remain through to the long term (refer to Policy Unit 6b58). If this were not to be the case it would not affect the SMP policies, merely how they are implemented as the shoreline in other parts of Tor Bay would be exposed greater wave action in places.

Preferred policies to implement Plan: Along the undefended parts of this stretch, the short term policy is for No From present day (short Active Intervention. Negligible cliff recession is predicted. term): At Goodrington Sands and Broadsands the policy is to continue to provide protection from flooding and erosion, through Hold the Line, whilst plans are put in place for Managed Realignment of the defences along parts or all of these frontages in the medium term. Existing defences will therefore be maintained. The beaches along these frontages are expected to remain relatively stable during this period, but there is a risk of beach narrowing as a result of sea level rise. The very small pocket beaches at Elberry and Churston Coves have been stable and slowly accreting over the long term, with material likely derived from local cliff erosion. This trend is expected to continue. Medium term: Along the undefended parts of this stretch, the medium term policy is to allow continued cliff retreat, through **No Active Intervention**, with negligible change expected in cliff top position due to the resistant nature of these cliffs. The two pocket beaches at Elberry and Churston Coves could change from accreting states to eroding states, due to sea level rise. Along parts of the Goodrington Sands and Broadsands sections, subject to detailed study in the short term, this will be a period of transition, with a move towards a policy of Managed Realignment. This policy would involve construction of a new set back defence line in the northern half of Goodrington Sands, therefore flood risk would continue to be minimised. Realignment in the southern half of Goodrington Sands is not likely to be feasible due to the close proximity to the shoreline of key infrastructure.

	Therefore the defences here would need to be maintained under a policy to Hold the Line in this area. This would be guided by detailed study in the short term.
	At Broadsands it is possible that instead of a set back defence, realignment could be to the higher ground behind.
	Due to the lack of linkages with other beaches within Tor Bay, this is unlikely to have a wider impact beyond these areas.
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Longer-term:	Along the undefended remainder of this stretch, the long term policy is for No Active Intervention to continue. Little or no change in cliff position is expected, due to the resistant geology of the cliffs. As sea levels rise, the small pocket beaches at Elberry and Churston Coves could become narrower and steeper if there is insufficient material supplied from erosion of local cliffs.
	The long term policy at Goodrington Sands will be to Hold the Line of defences, either along existing lines or along realigned positions established in the medium term. If realignment at Broadsands in the medium term involves construction of a set back defence then this would also be maintained under this policy. However, if realignment at Broadsands only occurs to higher ground then it is likely that the policy in this period would move towards No Active Intervention . Due to the lack of linkages with other beaches within Tor Bay, this is unlikely to have a wider impact beyond this section.

Summary of Specific Policies

Policy Unit		Preferred Policies				
		Short term Medium term		Long term		
6b56	Goodrington Sands	Continue to maintain existing defences under a Hold the Line policy. Investigate Managed Realignment options along northern part of this stretch.	Implement Managed Realignment through constructing a set-back defence where detailed study finds it is appropriate to do so. Continue to maintain and improve defences under a Hold the Line policy in areas where realignment is not found to be appropriate.	Hold the Line of defence, either along existing or realigned extents.		
6b57	Goodrington Sands to Broadsands	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue through No Active Intervention.		
6b58	Broadsands	Continue to maintain existing defences under a Hold the Line policy. Investigate Managed Realignment options.	Implement Managed Realignment where detailed study finds it is appropriate to do so, either through constructing a set-back defence or simply to higher ground.	Hold the Line of the realigned defence if constructed in medium term, else No Active Intervention if realigned to higher ground.		
6b59	Broadsands to Churston Cove	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue	Allow natural coastal evolution to continue		

Policy Unit	Preferred Policies			
	Short term	Medium term	Long term	
(East)	through No Active	through No Active	through No Active	
	Intervention.	Intervention.	Intervention.	

Location reference: Policy Unit reference:		Roundham Head to Churston C	Cove (East)						
		6b56 to 6b59							
	IMPLICATIONS OF THE PREFERRED PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION								
Time Period	Management Activities	Property, Population and Human Health	Land Use, Infrastructure and Material Assets	Historic Environment	Landscape Character and Visual Amenity	Earth Heritage, Soils and Geology	Water	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
2005 – 2025	Maintenance of existing defences at Goodrington and Broadsands, whilst Managed Realignment options are investigated. Continued slow cliffline retreat in undefended areas.	Risk of flooding to people and properties to the south of Goodrington Sands, to the preserved Paignton to Broadsands railway in some areas and to Broadsand wetland area. Loss of some tourist facilities, including parts of the coast path due to flood risk.	Risk of flooding/ erosion to local roads would be minimised by continued defence provision.	No known impacts on scheduled monuments or archaeological features.	Minor changes in landscape character of South Devon AONB.	Continuation of natural processes is key to the integrity of the English Riviera Geopark, Saltern Cove and Roundham Head SSSIs; NAI in these areas would continue to maintain these features Two historic landfill sites protected from flooding.	No known impacts on water quality.	Holding the line (e.g. at Goodrington Sands) may result in a net change in the area of intertidal habitats at Saltern Cove SSSI, and increased risk of coastal squeeze due to the presence of a railway embankment located at the back of the cove. No adverse effect on the submerged or partially submerged sea caves in 6b55 within the Poole Bay to Lyme Bay Reefs pSAC as there is no need to extend the existing	
					M:			defences on the seacaves.	
2025 – 2055	Implementation of Managed Realignment. Continued slow cliffline retreat in undefended areas.	Risk of flooding to people and properties to the south of Goodrington Sands, to the preserved Paignton to Broadsands railway in some areas and to Broadsand wetland area Loss of some tourist facilities, including parts of the coast path due to flood risk	Risk of flooding/ erosion to local roads.	No known impacts on scheduled monuments or archaeological features.	Minor changes in landscape character of South Devon AONB	Continuation of natural processes is key to the integrity of the English Riviera Geopark, Saltern Cove and Roundham Head SSSIs; NAI in these areas would continue to maintain these features. Two historic landfill sites at risk of flooding depending on location of Managed Realignments.	Potential impacts on water quality due to realignment, potentially affecting landfill sites – see soils and geology. Works in areas selected for Managed Realignment should be implemented so as to not adversely impact on the water quality status of the coastal waters or compromise the achievement of WFD water quality targets.	Implementing Managed Realignment may result in a net change in the area of intertidal habitats at Saltern Cove SSSI, and increased risk of coastal squeeze due to the presence of a railway embankment located at the back of the cove.	
2055 – 2105	Maintenance of set back defence lines. Continued slow cliffline retreat in undefended areas.	Risk of flooding to people and properties to the south of Goodrington Sands, to the preserved Paignton to Broadsands railway in some areas and to Broadsand wetland area Loss of some tourist facilities, including parts of the coast path due to flood risk	Risk of flooding/ erosion to local roads.	No known impacts on scheduled monuments or archaeological features.	Minor changes in landscape character of South Devon AONB	Continuation of natural processes is key to the integrity of the English Riviera Geopark, Saltern Cove and Roundham Head SSSIs; NAI in these areas would continue to maintain these Two historic landfill sites at risk of flooding depending on location of Managed Realignments.	Potential impacts on water quality due to realignment, potentially affecting landfill sites – see soils and geology. Works in areas selected for Managed Realignment should be implemented so as to not adversely impact on the water quality status of the coastal waters or compromise the achievement of WFD water quality targets.	Holding the line of realigned defences may result in a net change in the area of intertidal habitats at Saltern Cove SSSI, and increased risk of coastal squeeze due to the presence of a railway embankment located at the back of the cove.	



The above provides the <u>local</u> details in respect of the SMP-wide policy presented in the preceding sections of this Plan document. These details <u>must</u> be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as reported therein.







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