

## Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project

South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol City Council and the Environment Agency are working together to improve flood defences and create new habitats for important wildlife species. This project will help to ensure that economic development can continue within the Local Enterprise Partnership's designated Enterprise Area without harming the environment. In addition, this work will also have benefits for the local community.

**We are almost ready to submit planning applications for the works required.**

**This newsletter provides an update on the proposals and recaps the strategic benefits these will deliver.**

### Background to the project

We have been working with partners to develop proposals for the works required to:

- Deliver new and improved **flood defences** between Aust and Avonmouth.
- Provide **new wetland habitat** in the Hallen Marsh and Northwick areas.

Last summer we published an overview of our proposals, held a series of public exhibitions and attended various community meetings. Since then we have been undertaking further technical assessments and working to finalise our proposals, taking account of the feedback received.

### Planning applications

We are now almost ready to submit planning applications for the works required and expect to do so in May. Our proposed works affect land within both South Gloucestershire and Bristol so we will be submitting two planning applications, one to South Gloucestershire Council and one to Bristol City Council.

Once our applications are registered, both Council's will publish the application documents on their planning application web site. You will be able to search for the South Gloucestershire application [here](#) and the Bristol City Council application [here](#). We will put details of how you can access the application documents on our web page:

[www.insouthglos.co.uk](http://www.insouthglos.co.uk)

### Strategic benefit

The works proposed are required to ensure the Enterprise Area can reach its full economic potential and protect existing communities. The proposals are designed to reduce flood risk from a severe flood, taking into account at least 60 years' worth of climate change and will create new habitat to mitigate the impact of development in the Enterprise Area.

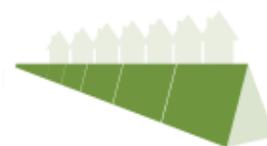
The Enterprise Area will safeguard and/or unlock **12,000** jobs by 2026. Raising the flood defences is important to help give businesses confidence to invest.



Through the provision of **80** hectares of wetland habitat we will protect the internationally important species of the Severn Estuary.



**2,500** households will rely on flood defences for their protection and will benefit from our proposals for years to come. Many businesses will also benefit.



### Proposed works for flood defences

Our planning application will seek consent to raise the height of the flood defences between Aust and Avonmouth. The method we propose to use to do this varies from place to place (as shown on Figure 1) and includes:

- Raising the height of existing flood banks.
- Building new, higher concrete flood walls.
- Building new, higher flood defences from steel sheet piles.

The height increase required varies depending on the standard of the existing flood defences and the topography. For example:

- At Old Passage we need to build a new 1.4 metre high flood wall between the houses and the estuary.
- Along Northwick Warth we will need to raise the height of the flood banks by around 1.6 to 2 metres.
- At New Passage, the defences need to be around 1.6 metres higher. We propose a wall incorporating glass panels.
- At Severn Beach, north of Station Road, the existing sea wall (the Binn Wall) is already high enough to adequately protect for years to come, so we do not propose to increase the height here, except for a small section near Salthouse Farm.
- South of Station Road in Severn Beach, a low flood wall is needed to increase the height of the defences by 0.7 metres.
- Adjacent to the Enterprise Area new flood walls are needed and will vary in height from around 1.4 to 1.7 metres higher.
- Around the Docks and along the banks of the River Avon, new flood walls will need to be between 1.3 and 2.5 metres higher.
- At Lamplighters Marsh a sheet pile flood wall, up to 1.5 metres high is needed.

*Artists' impression - flood defences, Severn Beach*



In some places the height required has been updated since the time of our public exhibitions. This is because the heights of the final proposals are based on new modelling, utilising the best available data. They are intended to achieve a robust design which will adequately protect against rising sea levels. For further details of the final proposals please see our web page [www.insouthglos.co.uk](http://www.insouthglos.co.uk) (Enterprise Areas – Avonmouth Severnside – Flood and Ecology) or the application documents.

Within our Environmental Statement (which forms part of our planning application) we set out the expected impact of the works on people, footpaths, wildlife, trees and hedgerows and detail our proposals for minimising and mitigating these effects.

### Proposed works for habitat creation

On land at Northwick and Hallen Marsh we are seeking planning permission to create a network of permanent ponds and areas of shallow water and wet grassland over the winter months (these are called scrapes).

To do this we propose to reprofile the land and work with the natural drainage system to trap rainwater. These measures are designed to ensure they do not increase flood risk to homes, businesses or other infrastructure.

### Next steps

South Gloucestershire Council and Bristol City Council will determine our planning applications. During this period, members of the public can make comments on the applications, in the normal way. Details of how to do this can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

We will be submitting Business Cases to secure funding from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (this funding comes from the City Deal via business rate retention) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Subject to planning and funding, works will be delivered in phases, with the earliest work starting on site in 2019.

Figure 1 – Overview of proposed flood defence and habitat creation works. Please refer to the planning application documents for full details.

