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Contract	Rother District SFRA update
Client	Rother District Council
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Subject	Rother District SFRA update – CCMA definition

1 Previous approach

Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs) were defined for the Level 1 SFRA¹ using the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM1; 2018 to 2021) dataset and the future functional floodplain (FZ3b plus climate change) for coastal flood risk. Erosional distances were mapped based on the estimated rates of erosion based on the SMP policy for the Long-Term time period under the 50th percentile confidence level.

2 Neighbouring council CCMA approaches

A review of neighbouring and comparable local authority approaches demonstrates that there is currently no single regionally adopted methodology for defining Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMAs). Several authorities have not yet designated CCMAs, while others are actively reviewing their approach in response to updated evidence and national planning guidance.

The emerging approach in neighbouring authorities is generally based on a combination of Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) policies and National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping (NCERM) data. For example, Hastings Borough Council is proposing a CCMA informed by SMP policy, NCERM and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment evidence, covering areas considered vulnerable to coastal change over the period 2025-2105^{2,3}. The designated CCMA at Hastings Borough extends from Fairlight Cliffs (East of Coastguard Lane) to Glyne Gap on the border with neighbouring Rother and includes shoreline and coastal intertidal area. Similarly, work is ongoing at Pevensey Bay to determine whether a precautionary

1 Rother District Council. Rother District Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2024).

2 Hastings Borough Council (2026). Hastings Local Plan Draft Local Plan Preferred Options (Regulation 18). Available online: <https://hastings.oc2.uk/document/190/29935#d29998> [Accessed 11/06/2026]

3 Hastings Borough Council (2026). Hastings DRAFT Policies Map Local Plan Preferred Options (Regulation 18) February 2026 Consultation. Available online: <https://hastingsbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=c8c615dc1e7f49d3a867d6d3a487b91b> [Accessed 11/06/2026].

CCMA designation is required, supported by Environment Agency evidence and stakeholder engagement⁴.

Authorities that have adopted CCMA's typically define them using projected erosion extents derived from SMP policy and NCERM datasets. Examples include Dover District Council, which utilised NCERM1 erosion projections alongside SMP evidence to identify areas at risk from cliff retreat⁵, and New Forest District Council, which mapped coastal change zones corresponding to different planning horizons⁶.

In contrast, some authorities have concluded that CCMA's are not currently required. Folkestone and Hythe District Council, for example, has not designated CCMA's in areas where SMP policies predominantly support Hold the Line, although the position will be reviewed as evidence evolves⁷.

Some local authorities explicitly designate CCMA's along estuaries, including multiple sections of the Wyre Estuary⁸ where the CCMA area has been identified using the Environment Agencies tidal flood zone 2⁹ (land having between a 0.1% and 0.5% annual probability of flooding from the sea) with an added 10 metre buffer.

Overall, neighbouring authorities are increasingly adopting precautionary, evidence-led approaches based on SMP policy and NCERM projections to capture any area likely to be affected by physical changes to the coast. In estuarine environments, tidal flood zone 2 has been used to designate CCMA areas. The proposed methodology follows this established direction while incorporating the latest NCERM2 dataset, updated climate change allowances and additional consideration of coastal instability processes.

3 Proposed approach

Coastal Change Management Areas (CCMA's) have been updated using the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping 2 (NCERM2; 2024) dataset and the future coastal flooding extents; NCERM2 capturing physical change and flood risk capturing permanent inundation. Areas of physical change were mapped based on the NCERM2 estimated rates of erosion based on the SMP policy for the Long-Term time period (2105) under the 95th percentile confidence level. British Geological Survey mass movement deposits and

4 Environment Agency (2026). Position statement: Coastal Change Management Area (CCMA) at Pevensy Bay. Available online at: <https://engage.environmentagency.uk/engagementhq.com/48604/widgets/147902/documents/104106> [Accessed 11/06/2026].

5 Herrington Consulting Limited (2018). Review of Coastal Change Management Areas in Dover District. Available online at: <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy/PDF/SFRA-Coastal-Change-Management-Areas-Final-Report-June-2018.pdf> [Accessed 11/06/2026].

6 New Forest Council (2026). Local Plan. Available online at: <https://maps.newforest.gov.uk/public/en-gb/PublicMap/LocalPlan#/featureinformation> [Accessed 11/06/2026].

7 Folkestone & Hythe District Council (2020). Places & Policies Local Plan. Available online at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan> [Accessed 11/06/2026].

8 <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/downloads/file/610/coastal-change-management-area-note-oct-17> [Accessed 12/06/2026].

9 <https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/104434b0-5263-4c90-9b1e-e43b1d57c750/flood-map-for-planning-flood-zones1> [Accessed 12/06/2026].

NCERM2 potential ground instability zones were identified and cross-checked. The offshore extent of the CCMA aligns with the Ordnance Survey 2026 High Water Mark¹⁰.

Areas of permanent inundation were defined using the future functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b plus climate change), clipped to the 3.3% AEP extreme still water level for 2125, using the 95th percentile UKCP18 sea level rise projections. Coastal Flood Boundary (CFB) Extreme Sea Level point 4466, located at the mouth of the River Rother, was used to derive the future water levels. This approach retains areas exposed to tidal flooding while excluding areas where flooding is solely derived from fluvial processes.

Urbanised areas identified from the OS Built up area's dataset, alongside Rother District Council's development and employment area boundaries, were removed from the flood risk areas, however they were not excluded from areas with projected coastal erosion risk. This reflects the assumption that existing and planned development areas will continue to be protected from flood risk or managed in accordance with the local planning policy. This is considered appropriate, given the SMP policy of Managed Retreat, which is not expected to extend beyond existing urbanised areas.

Areas under an SMP Hold-the-Line (HTL) policy are assumed to remain protected from coastal change and were therefore excluded from both the erosion and coastal flood risk extents. The final CCMA was defined as the combined extent of future coastal erosion and coastal flood risk, following application of the above exclusions.

4 Recommendations

The proposed approach broadly aligns with neighbouring regions, however there is no consistent approach for CCMA designation. Areas close to the landward CCMA boundary should be treated with caution, particularly where access routes or supporting infrastructure may be affected by future coastal change.

¹⁰ Ordnance Survey VectorMap® District (2026). Available online at: <https://osdatahub.os.uk/data/downloads/open/VectorMapDistrict> [Accessed 11/06/2026].