

# Flood and coastal erosion risk management



## Whose responsibility?

Coast protection authorities and the Environment Agency have permissive powers to protect against coastal flooding and to carry out erosion defence works. However, this is not a legal obligation.

This means that the coastal partnership (Havant Borough Council, Portsmouth City Council, Gosport Borough Council and Fareham Borough Council) has the 'power to' carry out coast protection works but it is not duty bound to do it and will not be liable for the failure to exercise these powers.

## Permissive powers

In general, local authorities and the Environment Agency will only act where there is a clear economic benefit and/or an appropriate engineering solution that is achievable, and where environmental legislation is not contravened.

**Land owners have ultimate responsibility for protecting their own property from flooding and erosion and they must act within statutory planning regulations and other applicable legislation.**

## Environment Agency

### Flood defence

Low-lying areas susceptible to flooding

Flood defence sea wall



Breached flood defence



## Local authority

### Coastal protection

Cliffs and high land susceptible to erosion

Eroding cliff



Eroded cliff

