



Save Our Selsey
 (Campaign for Coastal Protection)
www.saveourselsey.org



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
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MEDMERRY REALIGNMENT DOES THIS AFFECT YOU YES!

Between Selsey and Bracklesham, the Environment Agency are working on a scheme to make a 100m hole in the existing shingle defence, allowing seawater to flood onto about 800 acres of low-lying land behind the existing beach. This should create saltmarshes, around which the Agency will build new earth flood banks, to reduce the risk of the flooding spreading any further. The Agency believes the overall effect will be to reduce greatly the risk of Selsey flooding from this side of the town. This scheme, called the “**Medmerry managed realignment**”, will affect the future of every Selsey resident. **SOS** has concerns about aspects of the scheme: its construction and positioning are unique, so will it work and what happens if it does not? Will the flood banks be strengthened or moved further inland?

The construction cost of the Medmerry realignment is government funded, because it creates saltmarsh habitat which is needed to replace saltmarshes that will be lost when Southampton and Portsmouth get their sea defences. It is costing about £19m, which includes about £9m to buy the farmland which will get flooded. Selsey’s urban coast defences, its sea walls and groynes, are “unlikely” to get any government funding. The estimated maintenance cost is £30m in the next 20 years. So the government will fund a flood defence scheme which creates habitat but are unlikely to fund a scheme to protect Selsey’s urban frontages. One result of the realignment could be the formation of a delta, producing surplus shingle.

SOS is calling for the newly created habitat to be readily accessible for recreation with new footpaths, cyclepaths and bridleways. Complete access to the beach is needed for anglers, general beach users and for bird watching. We are discussing this with the RSPB and the EA. On the map overleaf, you will see that there are both red and green lines indicating the position of the new, inland flood prevention banks and the extent of the intertidal “buffer” zone. These lines represent those banks to be built now and those in the future but both **SOS** and the RSPB are keen to see this entire project completed in one go.

Finally, if managed in a positive way, the Medmerry scheme could help diversify our tourist industry, stimulate our economy, and possibly even provide a new shingle resource that could be used to help protect the town’s vulnerable coast defences.

Environment Agency drop-in sessions explaining their proposals:

- i. Selsey Town Hall on Saturday 14 November 2009, 10am - 4pm
- ii. Sidlesham Village Hall on Monday 16th November, 1pm -7 pm.

For more information, see our website www.saveourselsey.org

Please join our campaign as a supporter online, or simply fill out & tear off the slip below and leave it in the **SOS** box at Selsey Town Council’s offices in Selsey High Street. We will keep you informed via our website, newsletters and the media and suggest how you can help the campaign. Membership is free but donations to our **fighting fund** are always welcome! Cheques should be made payable to “**Save Our Selsey**” – thank you!

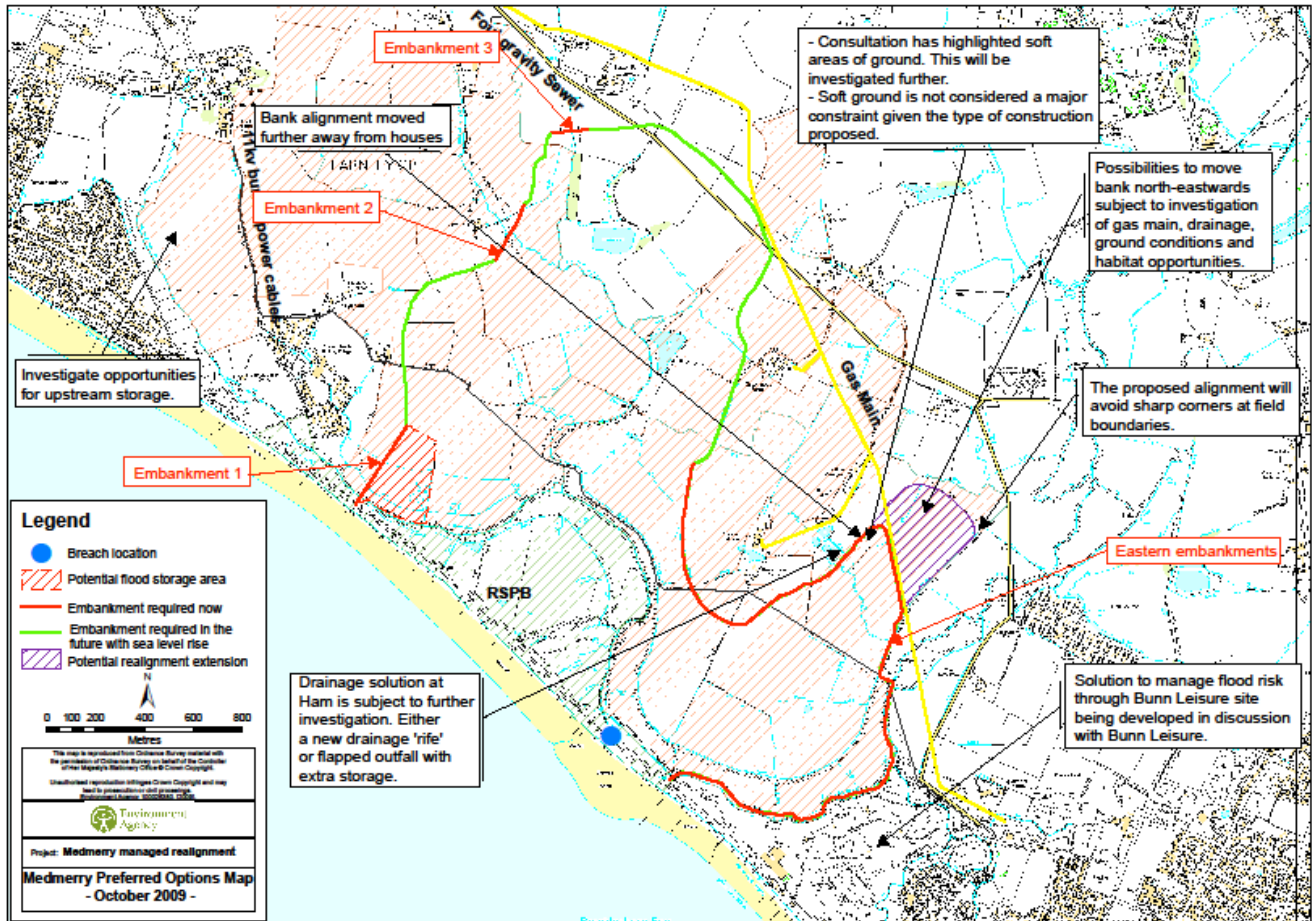
NAME: _____ (BLOCK CAPITALS please)

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL: _____

Tel. No. if willing to **help** (eg deliver newsletters, help man the SOS stall at fetes, etc.)

Medmerry Realignment Scheme – Preferred Option Oct. 2009



Map reproduced with permission from the Environment Agency's website.