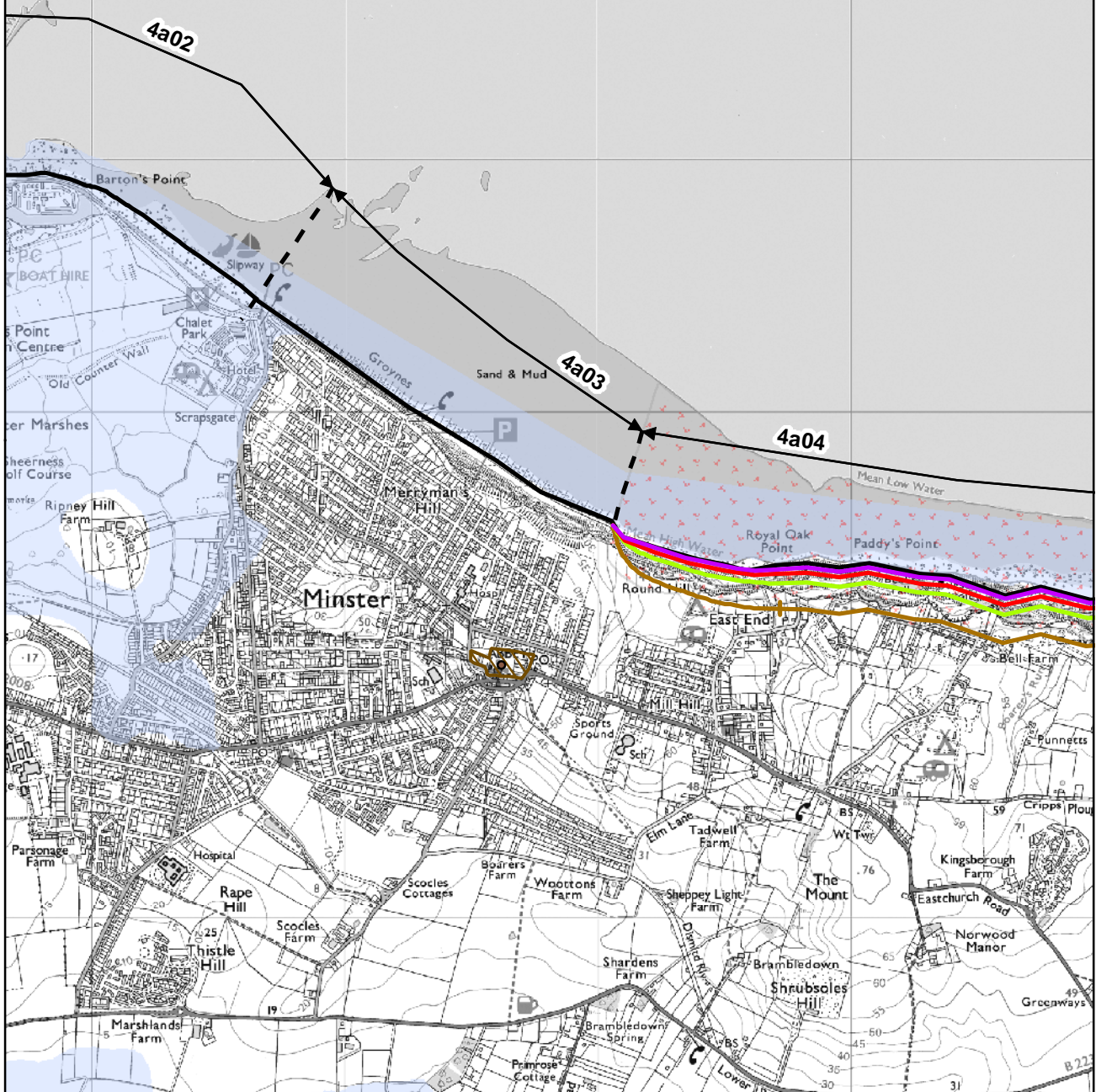
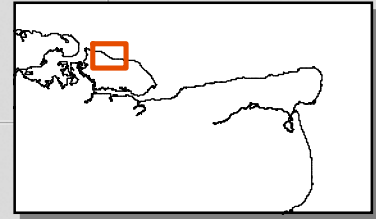
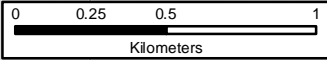


Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit 4a 03: Minster Town - Map 1



Policy

From Present Day:	Medium-Term:	Long-Term:
Hold the Line	Hold the Line	Hold the Line

Erosion Lines

- 0-20 year erosion
- 20-50 year erosion
- 50-100 year erosion
- 50-100 year top of landslide
- Hold the Line (0-100 years)
- Current shoreline
- Policy Unit Boundary
- Potential maximum long-term realignment option
- 2005 Indicative floodplain

Environmental/Cultural Heritage

- ★ National Nature Conservation Designation
- International and National Nature Conservation Designation
- Important Heritage Sites (Scheduled Monuments)

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Location reference: Minster Town

Policy Unit reference: 4a03

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

Minster Town is an urban development located on clay cliffs and fronted by a popular tourist beach. The plan is to continue protecting the town and cliffs, which in turn will reduce landslide risk and the possible development of a flood corridor to adjacent low-lying land at Sheerness. The seafront is value to its economy (tourism), so protection of amenity assets is critical. However, in the long term and under a scenario of sea level rise the beach will narrow. Subsequently significant amounts of beach nourishment will be required if an amenity beach is to be maintained. This approach will ensure the protection of the commercial and residential area. However, there is the potential for a loss of buried unknown heritage under this policy.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy is to **hold the line**, continuing to protect the town and the assets by maintaining and improving the defences. With rates of sediment feed and transportation along this frontage being low, very little change in coastal processes or impacts on evolution are likely to occur within this epoch. In maintaining the defences the shoreline will continue to be held seaward of its natural alignment and the groynes will continue to interrupt alongshore sediment transport.

Medium-term: The medium term policy is to continue to **hold the line**. In response to sea level rise it is anticipated that the need for defence structures and beach management will increase at some point during this period.

Long-term: The long term policy is to continue to **hold the line**. This will be achieved by maintaining and upgrading the present defence structures. Under a scenario of sea level rise and the plan form being held seawards of its natural alignment, defences will experience increased scour. Beaches along this section of the coast are anticipated to denude during this epoch and additional maintenance will be necessary to sustain an amenity driven frontage. If this becomes increasingly difficult, alternative (hard engineering) options may need to be sought and as such the character of the frontage would change. This recommendation is deemed sustainable over the SMP timescale although it may not be technically viable in the much longer term.

Location reference:	Minster Town					
Policy Unit reference:	4a03					
IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION						
Time Period	Management Activities	Property, Built Assets and Land Use	Landscape	Nature Conservation	Historic Environment	Amenity and Recreational Use
2025	Continue with current practises.	All properties and the seafront assets are defended.	Current landscape value sustained	Limited conservation interest on this frontage.	Current heritage assets maintained.	Current amenity and recreational facilities maintained
2025 – 2055	Maintain existing hard defences, as beaches narrow and sea level rises.	All properties and the seafront assets are defended.	Increased engineering has an adverse effect on the land and townscapes.	Inter-tidal area will reduce as sea level rises.	Any inter-tidal heritage assets may be damaged / lost but the terrestrial heritage assets will continue to be protected	Some shoreline recreational facilities will be lost due to a denuding beach and increased engineering
2055 – 2105	Maintain and upgrade hard defences, as sea level rises. Beaches management practises will need to increase to maintain a beach.	All properties and the seafront assets are defended.	Increased engineering has an adverse effect on the land and townscapes.	Inter-tidal area will reduce as sea level rises.	Any inter-tidal heritage assets may be damaged / lost but the terrestrial heritage assets will continue to be protected	Unless artificially maintained, little / no recreational beach will remain.