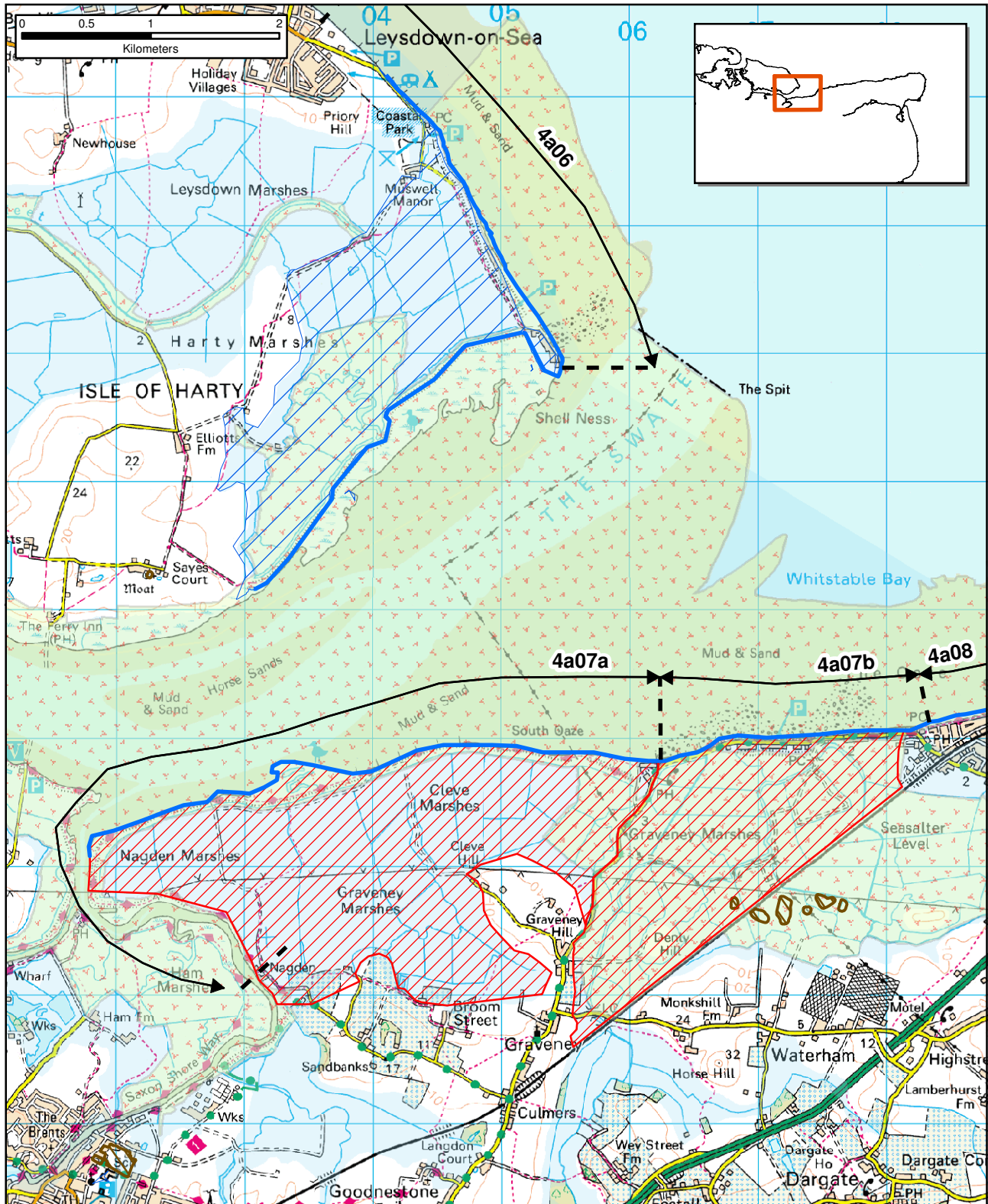


Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit 4a 07a: Faversham Creek to Sportmans Pub - Map 1



Policy

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

Erosion Lines

- 0-20 year erosion
- 20-50 year erosion
- 50-100 year erosion
- Policy Unit Boundary
- Current shoreline

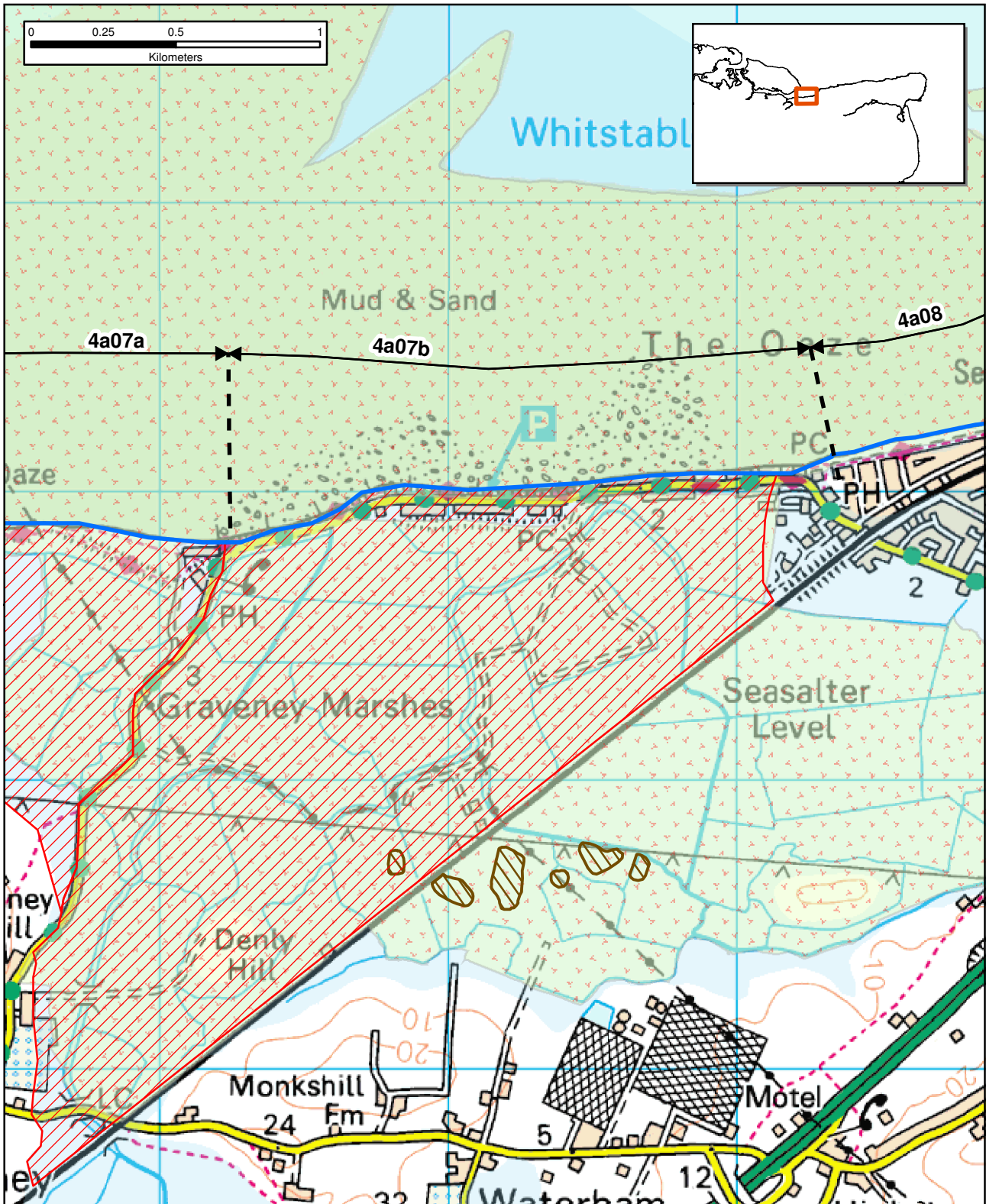
- Potential maximum long-term realignment option
- 2005 Indicative floodplain © Environment Agency
- Indicative realignment extent

Environmental/Cultural Heritage

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

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**Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan
Policy Unit 4a 07b: Sportmans Pub to Seasalter (Blue Anchor) - Map 1**



Policy

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

Erosion Lines

- 0-20 year erosion
- 20-50 year erosion
- 50-100 year erosion
- Policy Unit Boundary
- Current shoreline

- Potential maximum long-term realignment option
- 2005 Indicative floodplain © Environment Agency
- Indicative realignment extent

Environmental/Cultural Heritage

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

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Location reference:	Faversham Creek to the Sportsman Pub
Policy Unit reference:	4a07A

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

Faversham Creek to the Sportsman Pub marks the interface between the eastern landward limit of the Medway Estuary and Swale SMP and the open coast (Policy Unit E4 24: Faversham to Nagden – Medway Estuary and Swale SMP. The preferred policy for the estuary frontage is to Hold the Line in the short, medium and long terms). The frontage comprises extensive tidal mudflats to the west and a narrow beach extending to a small sand, shingle and shell spit at Castle Coot in the east. A concrete seawall, extending along the majority of frontage, protects undeveloped low lying coastal grazing marsh. The intertidal habitats along the frontage and a small section of wetland (immediately west of the Sportsman Pub) is of international nature conservation value. Under rising sea levels and a limited supply of contemporary beach building sediment, it is anticipated that the sparse section of beach will become increasingly difficult to maintain in the future. If the current alignment were to be held in the long-term, coastal squeeze, together with a diminished supply of natural beach building sediment would lead to substantial hard defences and / or significant beach management. Managed realignment would avoid the need for such defences, possibly creating cost savings and environmental enhancement.

No specific realignment 'line' has been defined but a maximum extent has been identified (see map). Further studies will be required to investigate and define the extent, location and implementation of the realignment i.e. the best technical, environmental and economic option that best manages flood risk, as well as to investigate the exact standard and alignment of any defences for this frontage and any mitigation measures required for loss of designated habitat. However, it is recognised that the greatest environmental benefits would be realised if the non-designated areas underwent realignment first.

A set back here would involve the loss of agricultural land and freshwater habitats. Realignment would however, create a coast that will not require ever increasing expenditure to maintain in the coming centuries, negate the effects of coastal squeeze and create important brackish and saline habitats. (The loss of the designated freshwater habitats would normally require mitigation measures to be implemented – and this aspect will require a more detailed appraisal in the strategy study).

The short term plan therefore, is to continue protecting the low-lying assets, which include footpaths, agricultural land and freshwater habitats. There remain opportunities for managed realignment to be implemented, for habitat creation purposes, in the short-term; however, this will be subject to further studies. In the medium and long term the plan is to realign the defences, along the majority of this frontage, allowing the shoreline to respond in a managed approach. The potential environmental, engineering and coastal process benefits will then be realised under a policy of managed realignment. There is the potential for a loss of buried unknown heritage within realigned areas in the latter two epochs.

(Note: there is the potential that this section of the coast could become more exposed to 'open coast' conditions, with the realignment of Leysdown-on-Sea to Shell Ness.)

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

Location reference: Faversham Creek to the Sportsman Pub

Policy Unit reference: 4a07A

From present day: The present day policy for Faversham Creek to the Sportsman Pub is to continue holding the current plan form position of the shoreline and providing protection to the backing hinterland, by maintaining defences under a policy of **hold the line**. As such, maintaining the defences will continue to reduce the flooding risks to the low-lying hinterland. However, in response to ongoing sea level rise and limited feed of beach building material, it is anticipated that the fronting beach will continue to narrow. Lower foreshore erosion will continue to be a significant problem in the west of the area.

Opportunities for implementing managed realignment in the short-term, to create habitat, may be realised, dependant on the outcome of further studies.

Medium-term: If the socio-economic, environmental and technical benefits are confirmed, then the medium term policy is to introduce a policy of **managed realignment**. Prior to *allowing the existing defences to fail*, a secondary defence would need constructing to eliminate the risk of uncontrolled flood propagation.

No specific realignment position has been identified for the SMP. However any set back would involve the loss of agricultural land and freshwater habitat. Realignment would create a coast that will not require ever increasing expenditure to maintain in the coming centuries, create important brackish and saline habitats, negate the impact of coastal squeeze and reduce the risk of uncontrolled flooding.

Long-term: The long-term policy is to continue allowing the coastline to realign, albeit in a controlled manner, under a policy of **managed realignment**. This policy will allow a more flexible and sustainable approach to flood and erosion risk management.

During this epoch it is envisaged that all defences will require periodic maintenance (and potential upgrading in response to sea level rise) and that the created brackish / saline habitats will become increasingly well-established during this epoch.

Thus, under a scenario of accelerated sea level rise and limited natural feed, managed realignment is considered sustainable in the long term.

Location reference:	The Sportsman Pub to Seasalter
Policy Unit reference:	4a07B

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The frontage comprises a managed beach, which is backed by Faversham Road, a number of residential properties along the road and partially developed low lying coastal grazing marsh, which is of international nature conservation value. Under rising sea levels and a limited supply of contemporary beach building sediment, it is anticipated that it will become increasingly difficult to maintain a beach along this frontage. If the current alignment were to be held in the long-term, coastal squeeze, together with a diminished supply of natural beach building sediment would lead to substantial hard defences and / or significant beach management. Managed realignment would avoid the need for such defences, possibly creating cost savings and environmental enhancement.

No specific realignment 'line' has been defined but a maximum extent has been identified (see map). Further studies will be required to investigate and define the extent, location and implementation of the realignment i.e. the best technical, environmental and economic option that best manages flood risk, as well as to investigate the exact standard and alignment of any defences for this frontage and any mitigation measures required for loss of designated habitat. However, it is recognised that the greatest socio-economic benefits will to be realised if managed realignment does not go beyond the railway line.

A set back here would involve the loss of built assets; nominally residential properties, local industries (tourism), agricultural land and freshwater habitats. Realignment would however, create a coast that will not require ever increasing expenditure to maintain in the coming centuries, negate the effects of coastal squeeze and create important brackish and saline habitats. (The loss of the designated freshwater habitats would normally require mitigation measures to be implemented – and this aspect will require a more detailed appraisal in the strategy study).

The short and medium term plan therefore, is to continue protecting the low-lying assets, which include properties, local industries, footpaths, agricultural land and freshwater habitats. In the long term the plan is to realign the defences, along the majority of this frontage, allowing the shoreline to respond in a managed approach. The potential environmental, engineering and coastal process benefits will then be realised under a policy of managed realignment. There is the potential for a loss of buried unknown heritage within realigned areas in the latter two epochs. It is recommended that the policies for the medium and long term are kept under review, being subject to further studies.

(Note: there is the potential that this section of the coast could become more exposed to 'open coast' conditions, with the realignment of Leysdown-on-Sea to Shell Ness.)

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy for the frontage between the Sportsman Pub to Seasalter is to continue holding the current plan form position of the shoreline and providing protection to the backing hinterland, under a policy of **hold the line**. The current defences and management practices will need to be upgraded to achieve this. As such, maintaining the defences will continue to reduce the flooding risks to the low-lying hinterland and the assets it supports i.e. properties, local industries, agricultural land and freshwater habitats.

However, in response to ongoing sea level rise and limited feed of beach building material, it is anticipated that the fronting beach will continue to narrow.

There is likely to be a loss of some properties in Faversham Road which lie in front of the sea defence especially if there is a storm.

Medium-term:

The medium-term policy is to continue to **hold the line**, providing protection to the backing hinterland. Maintaining the upgraded defences will continue to reduce the flooding risks to the low-lying hinterland and the assets it supports i.e. properties, local industries, agricultural land and freshwater habitats. However, in response to ongoing sea level rise and limited feed of beach building material, it is anticipated that the fronting beach will continue to narrow.

There is likely to be a loss of more properties in Faversham Road which lie in front of the sea defence with increased storminess.

Long-term:

If the socio-economic, environmental and technical benefits are confirmed, then the long term policy is to introduce a policy of **managed realignment**. Prior to allowing the existing defences to fail, a secondary defence would need constructing to eliminate the risk of uncontrolled flood propagation.

No specific realignment position has been identified for the SMP. However any set back would involve the loss of assets, which is likely to include houses, agricultural land and freshwater habitat. Realignment would create a coast that will not require ever increasing expenditure to maintain in the coming centuries, create important brackish and saline habitats, negate the impact of coastal squeeze and reduce the risk of uncontrolled flooding.

This policy will allow a more flexible and sustainable approach to flood and erosion risk management.

During this epoch it is envisaged that realigned defences will require periodic maintenance (and potential upgrading in response to sea level rise) and that the created brackish / saline habitats will become increasingly well-established during this epoch.

Thus, under a scenario of accelerated sea level rise and limited natural feed, managed realignment is considered sustainable in the long term.

Location reference:	Faversham Creek to the Sportsman Pub					
Policy Unit reference:	4a07A					
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	Maintain the existing shoreline structures and construct secondary defences.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate level of protection to areas of agricultural land.	The current landscape will remain.	Existing habitats will be maintained. Compensatory habitat will need to be secured before any designated habitat is lost.	Current heritage assets maintained.	Current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained.
2025 – 2055	Maintain secondary structures / management practises.	Loss of agricultural land in this period.	The current landscape will alter, giving way to a transgressed shoreline and greater inter-tidal area.	Some freshwater areas give way to saline habitats. Saline intrusion of the watercourse as a result of managed realignment.	Some unknown heritage assets may be exposed / lost.	Current amenity and recreational facilities will change i.e. potential for green tourism, as the new habitats develop further.
2055 – 2105	Maintain secondary structures / management practises.	Loss of agricultural land in this period.	The current landscape will alter, giving way to a transgressed shoreline and inter-tidal areas.	Further freshwater areas give way to saline habitats. Saline intrusion of the watercourse as a result of managed realignment. Saline habitats will establish themselves.	Some unknown heritage assets may be exposed / lost.	Current amenity and recreational facilities will change i.e. potential for green tourism, as the new habitats further develop.

Location reference:		<i>The Sportsman Pub to Seasalter</i>				
Policy Unit reference:		<i>4a07B</i>				
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	Maintain the existing shoreline structures.	Current built assets behind the defence line will be maintained. Built assets seaward of the defence line will be at increased risk.	The current landscape will remain.	Existing habitats will be maintained.	Current heritage assets maintained.	Current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained.
2025 – 2055	Maintain the existing shoreline structures and construct secondary defences.	Current built assets behind the defence line will be maintained. Built assets seaward of the defence line will be at increased risk.	The current landscape will remain.	Existing habitats will be maintained. Compensatory habitat will need to be secured before any designated habitat is lost.	Current heritage assets maintained.	Current amenity and recreational facilities will change i.e. beach will diminish as sea levels rise.
2055 – 2105	Maintain secondary structures / management practises.	Residential and commercial properties considered to be at risk / lost in this period.	The current landscape and land use will alter, giving way to a transgressed shoreline and inter-tidal areas.	Freshwater areas will give way to saline habitats. Saline intrusion of the watercourse as a result of managed realignment. Saline habitats will establish themselves.	Some unknown heritage assets may be exposed / lost.	Current amenity and recreational facilities will change i.e. potential for green tourism, as the new habitats further develop.