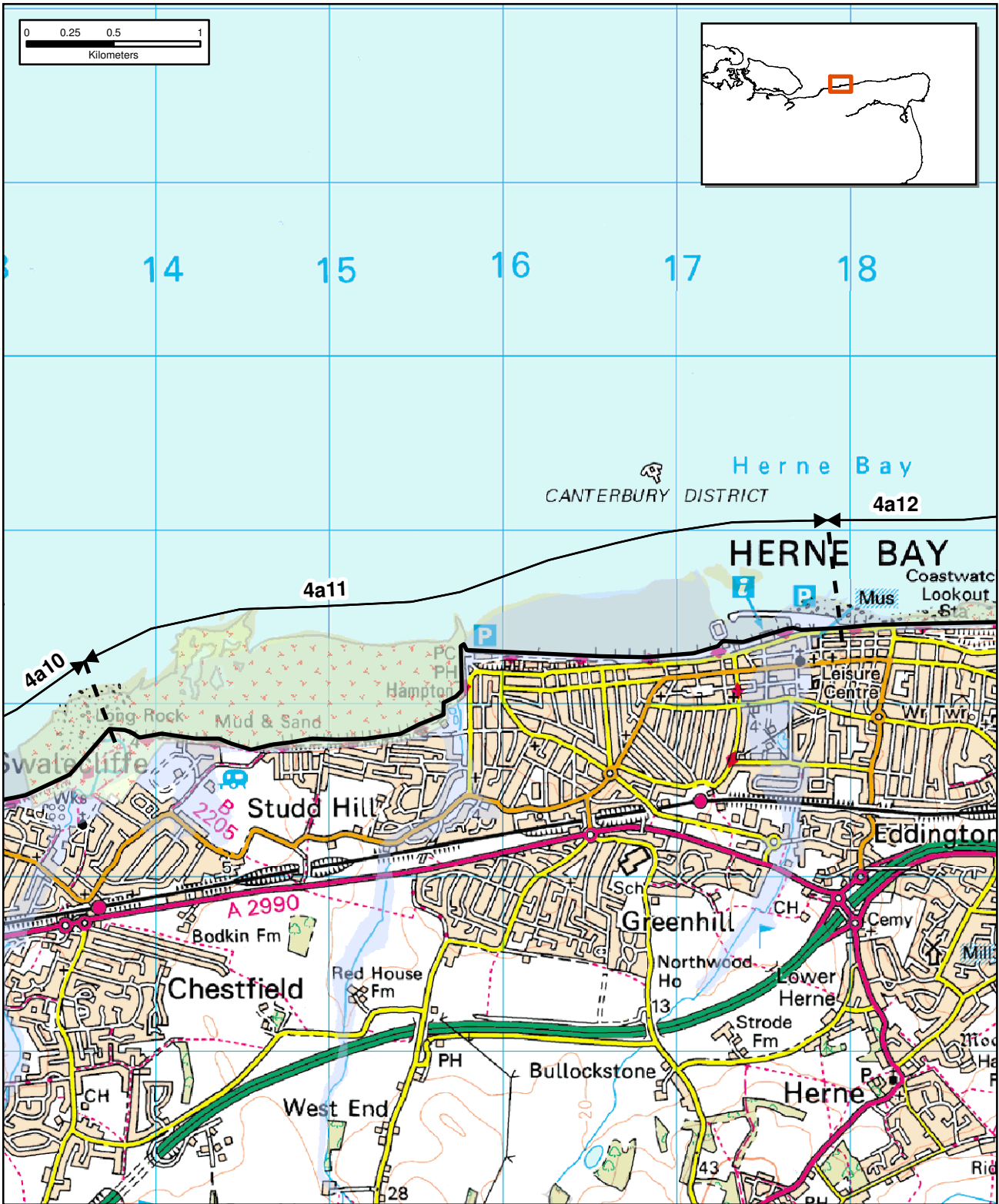


**Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan
Policy Unit 4a 11: Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater - Map 1**



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

- Hold the Line (0-100 years)
- Policy Unit Boundary



Potential maximum long-term realignment option



2005 Indicative floodplain © Environment Agency

Environmental/Cultural Heritage

- National Nature Conservation Designation
- International and National Nature Conservation Designation

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Location reference: Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater

Policy Unit reference: 4a11

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

This is a dense urban frontage, with assets extending to the shoreline fronted by a popular tourist beach, which is protected by the Neptune Arm breakwater. The plan is to continue protecting the frontage, which comprises the towns of Studd Hill and Herne Bay (west) and the amenity assets, such as the seafront which is of great value to the local economy. 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 that buried unknown heritage assets could be lost.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy, for Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater is to **hold the line**, by maintaining the defences, thus continuing to protect the densely populated towns of Studd Hill and Herne Bay (west) and its associated assets. 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 or indeed the confines of the SMP.

Medium-term: The medium term policy is to continue to **hold the line**. In response to sea level rise it is anticipated that the defence structures and beach management will increase at some point 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. This will continue to protect assets from predicted sea level rise but will probably induce 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 technically unfeasible then alternative (hard engineering) options may need to be sought. If this were to be the case then the character of the frontage would change. However, this recommendation is deemed sustainable over the SMP timescale although this may not be technically viable in the much longer term.

Location reference:		Swalecliffe to Herne Bay Breakwater				
Policy Unit reference:		4a11				
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 existing defences and current beach management practises.	Residential and commercial properties maintained.	Current landscape value maintained.	Current marine, inter-tidal and terrestrial habitats maintained.	Known heritage assets will be maintained. Some unknown heritage assets may be exposed / lost.	Current amenity and recreational facilities maintained
2025 – 2055	Maintain / upgrade engineering and management practises to compensate for sea level rise and beach narrowing.	Residential and commercial properties maintained.	Increased engineering may have an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape	Current terrestrial habitats will be maintained but the inter-tidal habitats will be at risk.	Known heritage assets will be maintained. Some unknown heritage assets may be exposed / preserved / lost.	Recreational value will be reduced due to denuding beach
2055 – 2105	Maintain / upgrade engineering and management practises to compensate for sea level rise and beach narrowing.	Residential and commercial properties maintained.	Increased engineering is likely to have an adverse effect on the landscape and townscape	Current terrestrial habitats will be maintained but the inter-tidal habitats will be at risk.	Known heritage assets will be maintained. Some unknown heritage assets may be exposed/ preserved / lost.	Unless artificially maintained, little / no recreational beach will remain.