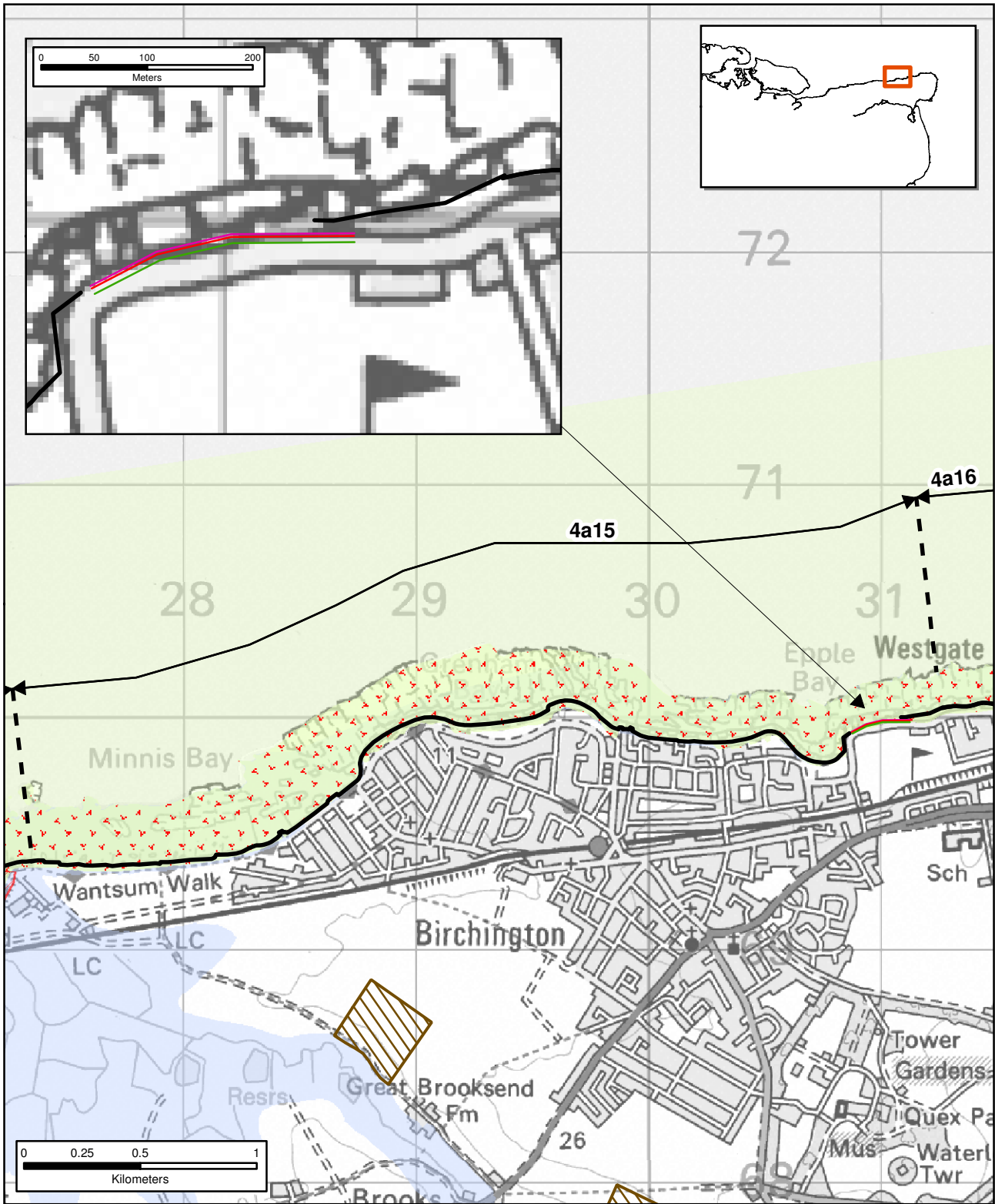


Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit 4a 15: Minnis Bay to Westgate on Sea - Map 1



Policy

From Present Day:	Medium-Term:	Long-Term:
Hold the Line and No Active Intervention	Hold the Line and No Active Intervention	Hold the line and No Active Intervention

Erosion Lines

- 0-20 year erosion
- 20-50 year erosion
- 50-100 year erosion
- 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
- Important Heritage Sites (Scheduled Monuments)

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Location reference: Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea

Policy Unit reference: 4a15

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea is characterised by steep, chalk cliffs which are of international conservation and landscape importance. The towns of Birchington and Westgate are set back from the cliff top. Therefore the recommended policy is to continue maintaining defences where there is an economic justification. However, if through detailed studies an opportunity for not maintaining current defences are identified then this will be implemented.

Where there currently are no defences in place, a continuation of this is recommended, which will allow natural processes to take place and the geological and environmental and landscape assets to be realised. There could be a potential for loss of unknown heritage assets.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy for Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea is to **hold the line** continuing to maintain defences and subsequently assets where there is an economic justification. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing toe defences. (Note: the defences arrest erosion at the cliff toe but not at the cliff top, although the rate of erosion is reduced). It is acknowledged that the presence of these defences affects the environment and landscape quality of the cliffs. However, if through detailed studies an opportunity for not maintaining current defences is identified then a policy of no active intervention will be implemented.

Where there currently are no defences in place, a policy of **no active intervention** is recommended, which will allow natural processes to take place i.e. erosion of the chalk cliffs and the fronting rock platform as well as maintain / improve the geological, environmental and landscape interests.

Medium-term: The medium term policy for Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea is to **hold the line**, continuing to maintain defences and subsequently assets where there is an economic justification. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing toe defences. Again if through detailed studies an opportunity for not maintaining current defences is identified then a policy of no active intervention will be implemented.

Where there currently are no defences in place, a policy of **no active intervention** is recommended, which will allow natural processes to take place i.e. erosion of the chalk cliffs and the fronting rock platform as well as maintain / improve the geological, environmental and landscape interests.

Note: rates of cliff erosion (toe and top) may increase slightly during this epoch, due to the predicted rise in sea level and sub-aerial weathering. Despite ongoing sea level rise, erosion and transportation rates, along this frontage, will remain low. Therefore the general character of this frontage will not alter significantly.

Location reference: Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea

Policy Unit reference: 4a15

Long-term:

The long-term policy for Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea is to **hold the line**, continuing to maintain defences and subsequently assets where there is an economic justification. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing toe defences. Again if through detailed studies an opportunity for not maintaining current defences is identified then a policy of no active intervention will be implemented.

Where there currently are no defences in place, a policy of **no active intervention** is recommended, which will allow natural processes to take place i.e. erosion of the chalk cliffs and the fronting rock platform as well as maintain / improve the geological, environmental and landscape interests.

Rates of cliff erosion (toe and top) may increase slightly during this epoch, due to the predicted rise in sea level and sub-aerial weathering. Despite ongoing sea level rise, erosion and transportation rates, along this frontage, will remain low. Therefore the general character of this frontage will not alter significantly.

Location reference:	<i>Minnis Bay to Westgate-on-Sea</i>					
Policy Unit reference:	<i>4a15</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	Continue maintaining and improving defences where there is an economic justification.	The cliff top road, at the eastern end of this frontage, is believed to be at risk from cliff erosion.	A nominal amount of land is lost but the coastal landscape is maintained.	The current environmental and geological interests are maintained.	No known heritage assets are at risk. Some unknown heritage assets could be at exposed / at risk.	The current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained.
2025 – 2055	Continue maintaining and improving defences where there is an economic justification.	Some properties could be at risk during this epoch.	A nominal amount of land is lost but the coastal landscape is maintained.	The current environmental and geological interests could improve.	No known heritage assets are at risk. Some unknown heritage assets could be exposed / at risk.	The current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained.
2055 – 2105	Continue maintaining and improving defences where there is an economic justification.	Some properties could be at risk during this epoch.	A nominal amount of land is lost but the coastal landscape is maintained.	The current environmental and geological interests could improve.	No known heritage assets are at risk. Some unknown heritage assets could be exposed / at risk.	The current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained.