

**Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan**  
**Policy Unit 4b 20: Ramsgate Harbour (West) to North of the River Stour**



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

- 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:** *Ramsgate Harbour (west) to north of the River Stour*

**Policy Unit reference:** 4b20

### SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

**Plan:**

*This section of the coast is characterised by steep chalk cliffs in the east, which despite having a strategic road link to the port, running across the lower part of the slope and the town of Pegwell and holiday parks occupying a set back cliff top position, remains of international conservation and landscape importance. Fronting the chalk cliffs is a sand beach of amenity value. In the west the chalk cliffs give way to a small section of geologically important sandstone cliffs, on top of which lies the village of Cliffs End and then to low-lying land, which with the exception of the hoverport site is has no primary defences. Fronting the low-lying agricultural land are tidal flats, which extend to north of the River Stour and are of international nature conservation value. 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.*

*This section abuts the Stour Catchment Flood Management Plan at the Stour Estuary mouth near Sandwich and is also a section of coastline that has been addressed in more detail within the Pegwell to Kingsdown Coastal Management Strategy, where the preferred policy for 'Reach 1: Cliffs End to Stonar Cut' is to 'sustain', which concurs with the hold the line policy in this SMP.*

**Preferred policies to implement Plan:**

**From present day:** The present day policy for West Cliff to north of the River Stour is to **hold the line** continuing to maintain defences and subsequently assets where there is an economic justification and where there are potential contamination issues. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing defences. It is acknowledged that the presence of these defences affects the environment and the landscape quality. 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; maintaining and improving the geological, environmental and landscape interests.

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**Medium-term:** The medium term policy for West Cliff to north of the River Stour is to **hold the line**, continuing to maintain defences and subsequently assets where there is an economic justification and where there are potential contamination issues. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing defences. Again if through detailed studies an opportunity for not maintaining current defences is identified then a policy of no active intervention

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**Policy Unit reference:** **4b20**

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 and the geological, environmental and landscape interests will be maintained and improved.

Note: rates of cliff erosion 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.

**Long-term:**

The long-term policy for West Cliff to north of the River Stour is to **hold the line**, continuing to maintain defences and subsequently assets where there is an economic justification and where there are potential contamination issues. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through maintaining / upgrading the existing 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 and the geological, environmental and landscape interests will be maintained and improved.

During this epoch it is unknown whether the tidal flats of Pegwell Bay will continue to accrete due to the predicted rise in sea level and uncertainty affiliated to sediment supply. However there is potential for rates of cliff erosion (toe and top) to increase slightly during this epoch, due to the predicted rise in sea level and a potential increase in sub-aerial weathering

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<b>Policy Unit reference:</b>	<b>4b20</b>

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Management Activities</b>	<b>Property, Built Assets and Land Use</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Nature Conservation</b>	<b>Historic Environment</b>	<b>Amenity and Recreational Use</b>
<b>2025</b>	Continue maintaining and improving defences where there is an economic justification.	The current built assets will be maintained.	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 exposed / at risk.	The current amenity and recreational facilities will be maintained.
<b>2025 – 2055</b>	Continue maintaining and improving defences where there is an economic justification.	The current built assets will be maintained.	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.
<b>2055 – 2105</b>	Continue maintaining and improving defences where there is an economic justification.	Some built assets predicted to be at risk.	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.