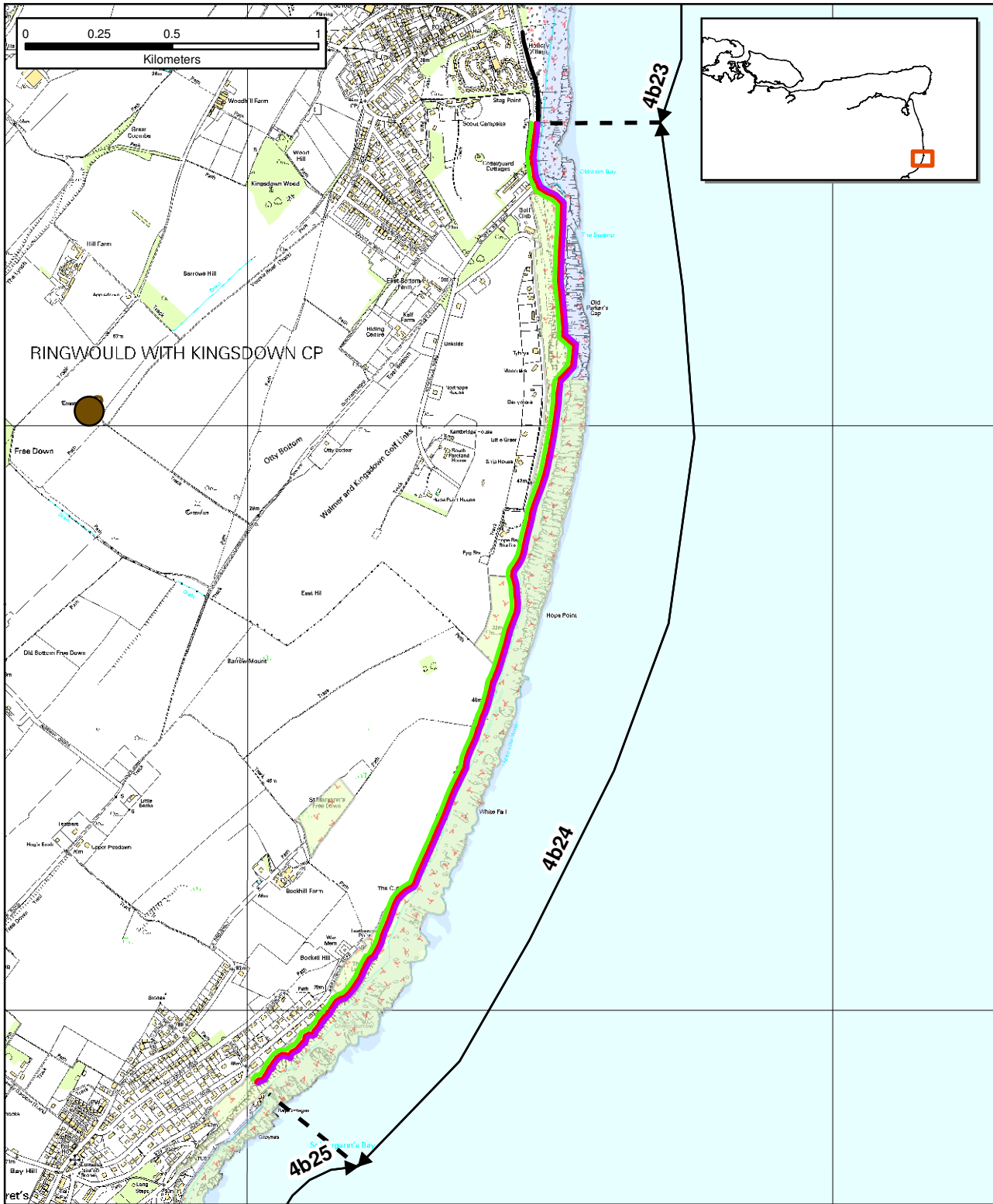


# Isle of Grain to South Foreland Shoreline Management Plan

## Policy Unit 4b24: Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's Bay - Map 1



### Policy

From Present Day:	Medium-Term:	Long-Term:
No Active Intervention	No Active Intervention	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

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**Location reference:** Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's Bay

**Policy Unit reference:** 4b24

### SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

**Plan:**

*The steep chalk cliffs become coincident with the current shoreline at Oldstairs Bay and continue through to St. Margaret's Bay. The majority of this frontage is undeveloped, unprotected and eroding; as such the area is of high nature conservation and landscape value. However, there is a section in the north which is not natural. A former Ministry of Defence Rifle Range lies at the base of the cliffs and is formed on a piece of land that is held forward of the cliff line by a substantial concrete seawall. This is now falling into a state of disrepair and as contaminated land may be an issue, its removal may need to be managed during the course of the SMP. The long term plan is to allow the cliffs to erode. This will improve and maintain the important geological, environmental and landscape qualities of this frontage.*

*This section of coastline has also been addressed in more detail within the Pegwell to Kingsdown Coastal Management Strategy, where the preferred policy for 'Reach 7: MoD Rifle Range' is 'Do minimum / Managed Realignment', dependant on further analysis of the site and funding. These policies concur with the no active intervention policy in this SMP.*

**Preferred policies to implement Plan:**

**From present day:** The present day policy for Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's is to continue allowing natural processes to operate i.e. erosion of the chalk cliffs, the rock platform and the cliff toe, under a **no active intervention** policy. This will maintain the environmental and geological assets, the landscape and a free functioning shoreline. Although a small amount of cliff top land will be lost, the majority of the assets are set back and as such not at risk during this epoch. Debris from cliff erosion will provide some natural shoreline protection to the cliff toe.

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**Medium-term:** The medium term policy for Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's is to continue allowing natural processes to take place i.e. erosion of the chalk cliffs and erosion of the shoreline under a **no active intervention** scenario. In response to sea level rise it is anticipated that cliff erosion may increase slightly during this period.

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**Long-term:** The long-term policy for South Foreland is **no active intervention**, which will see continued erosion of the chalk cliffs, the rock platform and the shoreline. Despite the predicted rise in sea level rise erosion and transportation rates along this frontage will remain low. Continued erosion will maintain the coastal landscape, the environmental and geological assets and the naturally functioning coastline. This recommendation is deemed sustainable over the SMP timescale.

<b>Location reference:</b>	<b>Oldstairs Bay to St Margaret's Bay</b>					
<b>Policy Unit reference:</b>	<b>4b24</b>					
<b>IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION</b>						
<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Management Activities</b>	<b>Property, Built Assets &amp; Land Use</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Nature Conservation</b>	<b>Historic Environment</b>	<b>Amenity and Recreational Use</b>
<b>2025</b>	No management activities, as such cliff erosion will continue	The MoD rifle range will continue to fail. No other built assets are at risk during this period. A small amount of cliff top land will be eroded.	The current coastal landscape will improve.	Continued erosion of the cliffs and a naturally functioning coast maintains and improves the environmental and geological interests.	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>	No management activities, as such cliff erosion will continue.	The MoD rifle range will continue to fail. No other built assets are at risk during this period. A small amount of cliff top land will be eroded.	The current coastal landscape will continue to improve.	Continued erosion of the cliffs and a naturally functioning coast maintains and improves the environmental and geological interests.	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>	No management activities, as such cliff erosion will continue.	No built assets are at risk. A small amount of cliff top land will be eroded.	There will be no structures impacting on the landscape therefore the current landscape will be enhanced.	Continued erosion of the cliffs and a naturally functioning coast maintains and improves the environmental and geological interests.	No known heritage assets are at risk. Some unknown heritage assets could be exposed / at risk.	Cliff top erosion may affect the coastal footpath and should this be the case it will need to be re-routed.