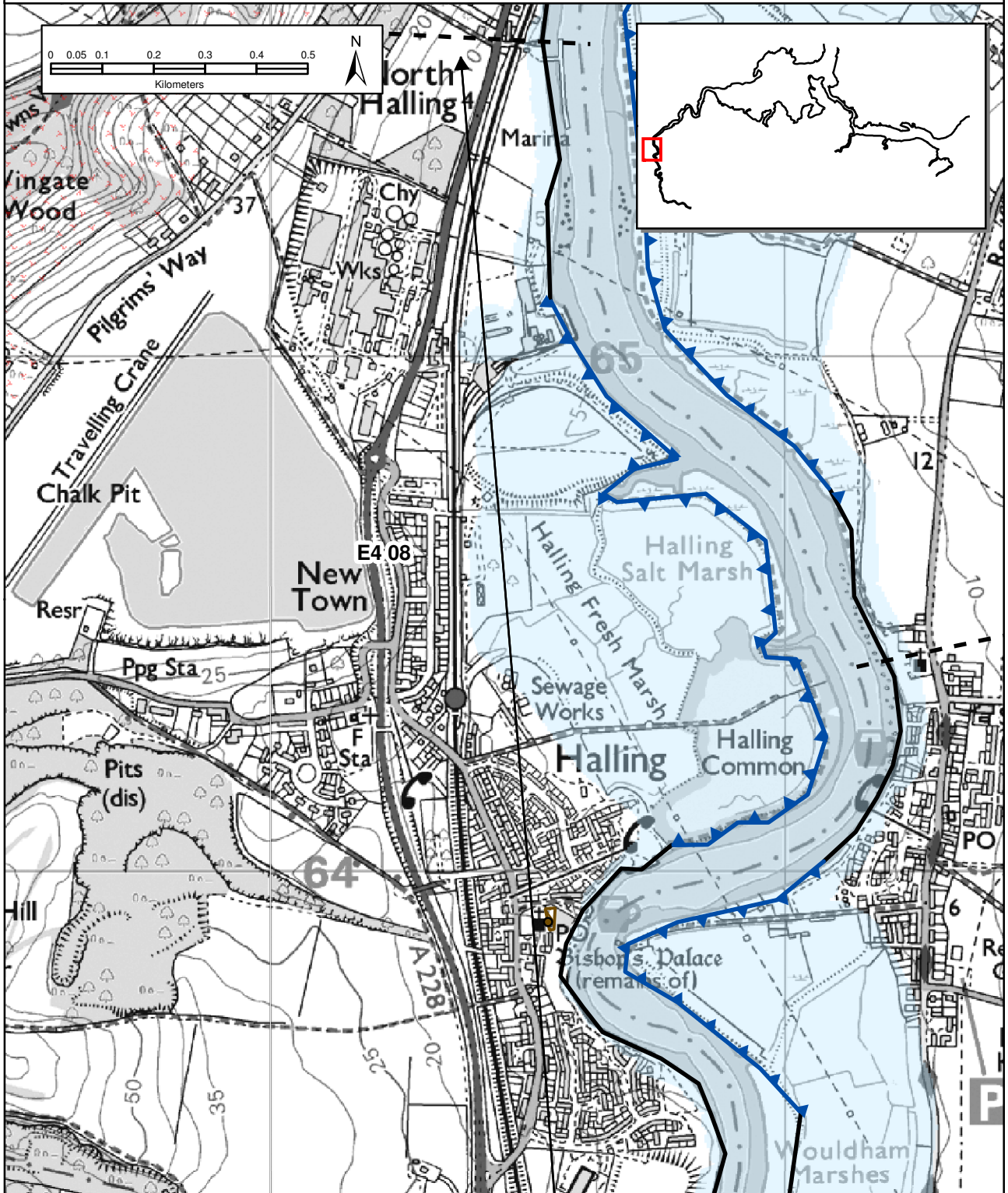





Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan


Policy Unit E4 08: North Halling to Snodland (Part 1 of 2)




Policy


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

-  Indicative erosion zone up to 2025
-  Indicative erosion zone up to 2055
-  Indicative erosion zone up to 2105

 Indicative realignment location*

* Actual realignment extent and location will be the subject of further studies.



 Policy Unit Boundary


 Policy Unit Extent


 Current shoreline

 Hold the Line

Environmental/Cultural Heritage

-  National Nature Conservation Designation
-  International Nature Conservation Designation

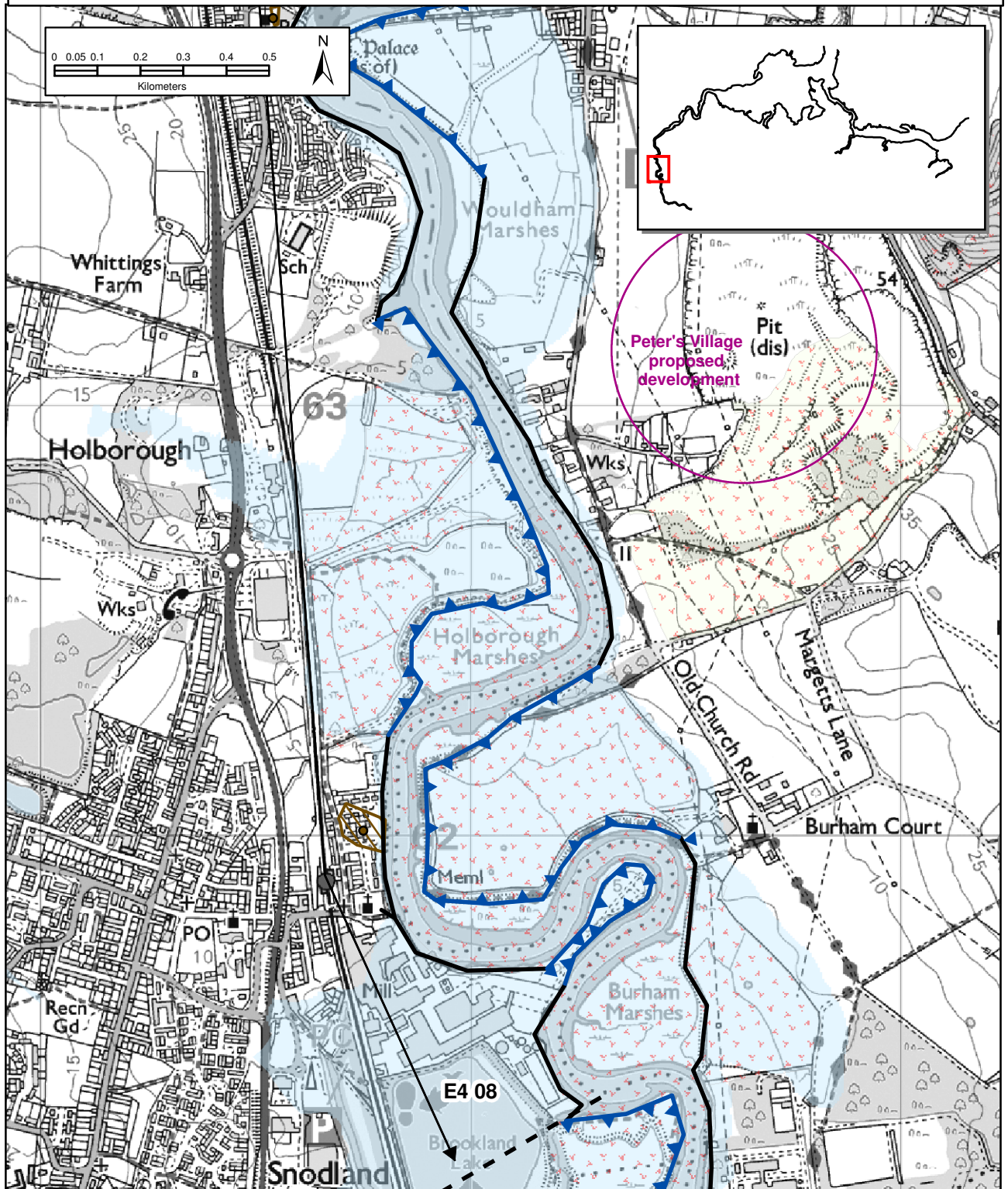
 Important Heritage Sites (Scheduled Monuments)

 2005 Indicative floodplain © Environment Agency

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Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit E4 08: North Halling to Snodland (Part 2 of 2)








Policy

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


-  Indicative erosion zone up to 2025
-  Indicative erosion zone up to 2055
-  Indicative erosion zone up to 2105

Environmental/Cultural Heritage





-  National Nature Conservation Designation
-  International Nature Conservation Designation

-  Proposed river crossing
-  Proposed development
-  Indicative realignment location*

* Actual realignment extent and location will be the subject of further studies.

-  Important Heritage Sites (Scheduled Monuments)

-  2005 Indicative floodplain © Environment Agency

-  Policy Unit Boundary
-  Policy Unit Extent
-  Current shoreline
-  Hold the Line

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Location reference: North Halling to Snodland

Policy Unit reference: E4 08

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The meandering narrow Medway channel is bordered by the residential communities of Halling and Snodland and pockets of freshwater habitat.. The floodplain is restricted due to the presence of the railway line, which is set-back from the meandering river bank.

The recommended long-term plan is to allow the shoreline to realign to a more naturally functioning system where possible, creating brackish and saline habitat in some locations, whilst continuing to provide flood defence to Halling and Snodland and flood risk areas. It is recognised that this section of shoreline provides an opportunity for localised environmental enhancements and habitat creation through localised managed realignment.

No specific realignment positions have been identified for the SMP. 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. These studies will also need to investigate the exact standard and alignment of any defences for this frontage

The aim of these policies is to work towards achieving a more naturally functioning estuary and the creation of important brackish and saline habitats whilst at the same time creating a shoreline with a reduced requirement for defence maintenance.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy is managed realignment with localised hold the line for North Halling to Snodland. The detailed alignment, will be subject to further study to address uncertainties and confirm the best technical, environmental and economic option to manage the estuary. This will be implemented by maintaining and upgrading the current defence line along some sections of the frontage and by constructing new realigned secondary defences ensuring continued protection to built assets. This policy will require the re-routing of footpaths in localised areas.

No specific realignment position has been identified for the SMP. However, an affect on designated freshwater habitat may occur, dependant on realignment extents. These impacts will need to be managed in line with the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appendix J) and the Regional Habitat Creation Programme. Intertidal areas will remain stable as sediment supply is expected to meet demand in the Medway estuary throughout this epoch.

Medium-term: The medium term policy is to continue allowing the shoreline to evolve naturally in places, whilst continuing to provide protection to residential communities and

The above provides the local details in respect of the SMP-wide Plan; therefore the above must be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as presented in the preceding sections and Appendices to this Plan document.

Location reference: North Halling to Snodland

Policy Unit reference: E4 08

low lying areas, under a policy of **managed realignment with localised hold the line**. Defences will require further maintenance and potentially upgrading throughout this period as sea levels rise and fluvial flows increase with climate change. Consequently, the channel may deepen and erosion may become more prevalent, especially on the outside of meanders (at Halling and Snodland) and within confined areas. Managed realignment in adjacent areas may help to accommodate flood waters, reduce pressure on defences and afford added protection to the hinterland.

Environmental transitions will be prominent during this epoch as brackish and intertidal habitats replace some of the freshwater interests. This may require specific management to maximise the environmental benefits and limit potential habitat impacts.

Long-term:

The long-term policy is a continuation of **managed realignment with localised hold the line**, to enable more flexible and sustainable flood and erosion risk management within the estuary. Defences will require periodic maintenance and upgrading (potentially at Halling and Snodland) with sea level rise and increased fluvial flows, to maintain protection of built assets and flood risk areas. It is expected that created habitat will become well-established during this epoch. Intertidal erosion may be exacerbated in confined sections of this frontage, leading to the potential undermining of defences. However, areas of realignment may continue to reduce pressure in these locations.

Location reference: *North Halling to Snodland*
Policy Unit reference: *E4 08*

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

Time Period	Management Activities	Material Assets, Infrastructure & Land Use	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic Environment	Population (Amenity & Recreational Use and Human Health)
0-20 years	Undertake engineering works to defences to Hold the Line of sections of defences that protect key assets and construct secondary defences in suitable locations.	<p>Defences will provide an appropriate level of protection to built assets and infrastructure.</p> <p>Areas of land affected by managed realignment will become intertidal.</p> <p>MR may impact on current and future commercial traffic in the estuary.</p>	Designated estuary landscape will be maintained, however, some features will change through realignment. Potential for a more 'natural' shoreline.	<p>Dependant on MR extent, potential affect on grazing marsh and nationally important (BAP) habitat at Halling, pasture at Snodland and nationally designated freshwater marshes and nationally important (BAP) habitat at Holborough Marshes.</p> <p>Transition of habitats from freshwater to brackish to saline in realigned areas.</p> <p>Potential for contamination of water resources under a managed realignment policy.</p> <p>Managed realignment will result in future changes to habitat drained by at tributary of the Medway Estuary at Holborough, due to tidal flooding, and</p>	<p>No loss of SMs.</p> <p>Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.</p>	Re-routing of footpaths where MR is implemented.

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Location reference: *North Halling to Snodland*
Policy Unit reference: *E4 08*

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

Time Period	Management Activities	Material Assets, Infrastructure & Land Use	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic Environment	Population (Amenity & Recreational Use and Human Health)
				will contribute to WFD objective 2, "no changes that will cause failure to meet surface water "good" ecological status or potential (where potential relates to HMWB or AWB) or result in a deterioration of surface water ecological status/potentials" by accepting a sustainable change in this river water body.		
20-50 years	Undertake engineering works to defences to Hold the Line of sections of defences protecting key assets. Maintain secondary defence line.	Defences will provide an appropriate level of protection to built assets and infrastructure. Areas of land affected by managed realignment will become intertidal. MR may impact on future commercial traffic in the estuary.	Designated estuary landscape will be maintained, however, some features will change through realignment. Potential for a more 'natural' shoreline.	Establishment of brackish and saline habitats in realigned areas. Potential for contamination of water resources under a managed realignment policy. Managed realignment will result in future changes to habitat drained by at	No loss of SMs. Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	No loss of recreational features.

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Location reference: *North Halling to Snodland*
Policy Unit reference: *E4 08*

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

Time Period	Management Activities	Material Assets, Infrastructure & Land Use	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic Environment	Population (Amenity & Recreational Use and Human Health)
				tributary of the Medway Estuary at Holborough, due to tidal flooding, and will contribute to WFD objective 2, "no changes that will cause failure to meet surface water "good" ecological status or potential (where potential relates to HMWB or AWB) or result in a deterioration of surface water ecological status/potentials" by accepting a sustainable change in this river water body.		
50-100 years	Undertake engineering works to defences to Hold the Line of sections of defences protecting key assets. Construct secondary defences in suitable realignment locations.	Defences will provide an appropriate level of protection to built assets and infrastructure. Areas of land affected by managed realignment will become intertidal.	Designated estuary landscape will be maintained, however, some features will change through realignment. Potential for a more 'natural' shoreline.	Establishment of brackish and saline habitats in realigned areas. Potential for contamination of water resources under a managed realignment policy.	No loss of SMs. Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	No loss of recreational features.

The above provides the local details in respect of the SMP-wide Plan; therefore the above must be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as presented in the preceding sections and Appendices to this Plan document.

Location reference: *North Halling to Snodland*
Policy Unit reference: *E4 08*

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

Time Period	Management Activities	Material Assets, Infrastructure & Land Use	Landscape	Natural Environment	Historic Environment	Population (Amenity & Recreational Use and Human Health)
		MR may impact on future commercial traffic in the estuary.		Managed realignment will result in future changes to habitat drained by at tributary of the Medway Estuary at Holborough, due to tidal flooding, and will contribute to WFD objective 2, "no changes that will cause failure to meet surface water "good" ecological status or potential (where potential relates to HMWB or AWB) or result in a deterioration of surface water ecological status/potentials" by accepting a sustainable change in this river water body.		

The above provides the local details in respect of the SMP-wide Plan; therefore the above must be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as presented in the preceding sections and Appendices to this Plan document.