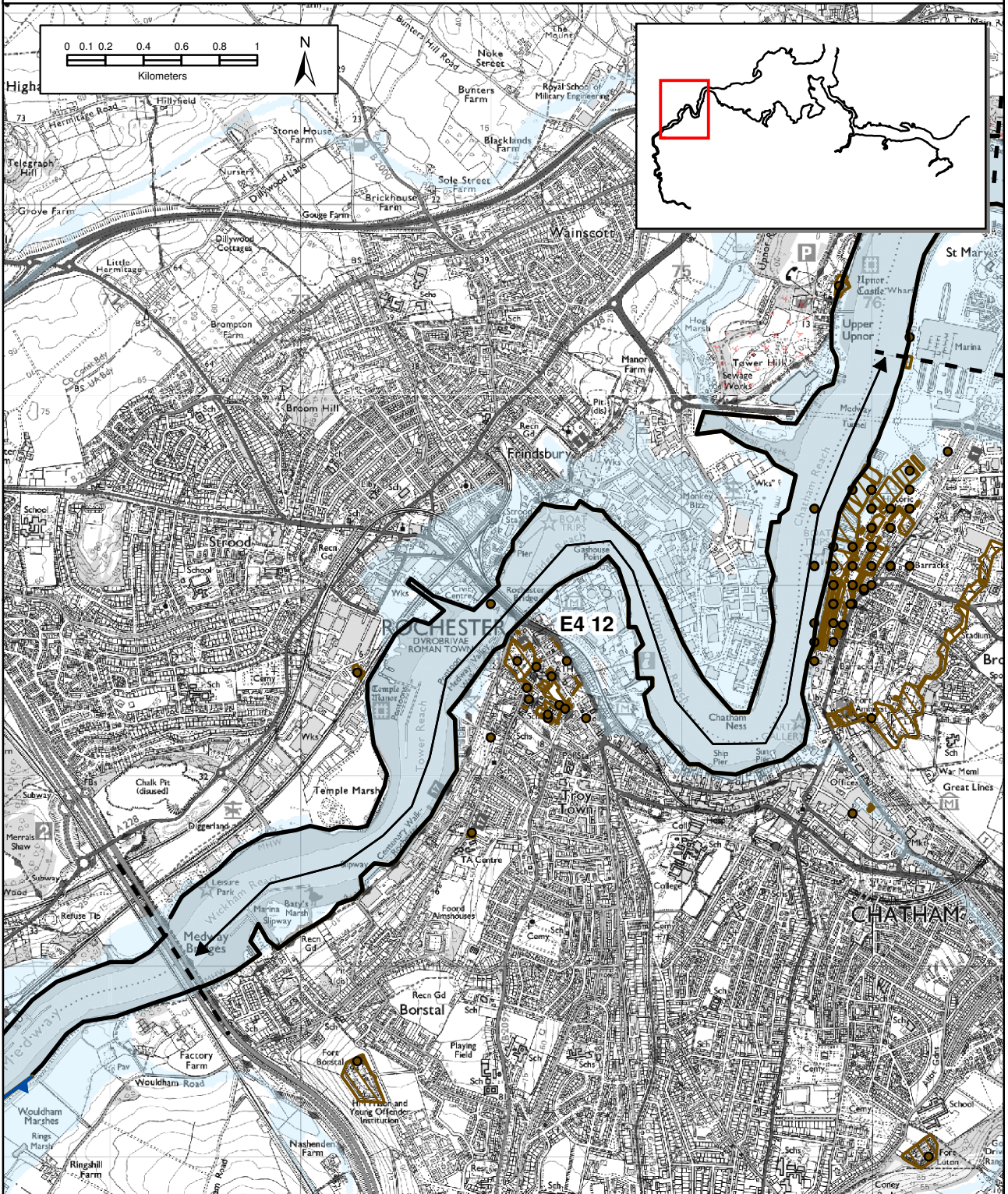


Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit E4 12: Medway Bridge to west St Mary's Island



Policy

From Present Day:	Medium-Term:	Long-Term:
Hold the Line	Hold the Line	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 (0-100 yrs)

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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Policy Unit reference:	E4 12

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

This frontage is dominated by the dense urban areas of Rochester and Chatham that extend to the shoreline. The residential and commercial frontages are interspersed with a number of river crossings and strategic links between the Medway Towns and Frindsbury and Strood, reflecting that these historic towns have been an important major crossing point across the Medway since the Iron Age and Roman times. The frontage is of considerable commercial importance (e.g. Medway Port and the potential Thames Gateway regeneration area at Rochester Riverside) and is of significant international heritage importance (e.g. Chatham Historic Dockyard), which attracts large visitor numbers.

The long term plan is to continue protecting the developments including the residential, commercial, infrastructure and heritage assets from flooding and erosion. Under this policy some localised coastal squeeze impacts will be experienced in later epochs. However, these are countered by habitat growth within the middle reaches of the estuary and the recommended policy is deemed technically and environmentally viable, for the duration of the Shoreline Management Plan.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy for Medway Bridge to West St Mary's Island is to continue to **hold the line** by maintaining and improving the existing defences to protect the significant assets contained within the Medway Towns; including assets that are important to the regional economy and national heritage. This will be achieved by continuing to maintain the existing defences, which take the form of seawalls.

Intertidal areas are likely to be stable in this area, therefore there is expected to be very little change in estuary processes or impacts on evolution within this epoch.

Medium-term: The medium term policy is to continue to **hold the line**. To maintain the standard of protection, there will be a need to upgrade the defence structures at some point during this epoch. This will protect the built assets from sea level rise. However, the constrained channel, intertidal areas and defences will become increasingly subject to erosion due to increased water levels and fluvial flows making defences more expensive to construct.

Long-term: The significant built assets along this frontage dictate that the long-term policy is to **hold the line**. To accomplish this and to keep pace with sea level rise

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defences will need to be maintained and upgraded. The increased water levels resulting from sea level rise, coupled with increased fluvial flows from climate change will increase the potential for erosion of intertidal areas in confined sections of channel. This will, in turn, increase pressure on defences making defences more expensive to construct.

Location reference: *Medway Bridge to west St Mary's Island*

Policy Unit reference: *E4 12*

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 hold the defence line.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets and infrastructure.	Estuary landscape maintained but larger defences may affect character of the landscape.	No nature conservation issues identified. Potential coastal squeeze/ accelerated erosion in constrained reach of Medway Estuary, with associated failure of 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.	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone. Protection of Chatham Historic Dockyard and Conservation Areas.	Protection of properties and recreational facilities. Opportunity to enhance recreation and amenity features.
20-50 years	Undertake engineering works to hold the defence line.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets and infrastructure.	Estuary landscape maintained but larger defences may affect character of the landscape.	No nature conservation issues identified. Potential coastal squeeze/ accelerated erosion in constrained reach of Medway Estuary, with associated failure of WFD	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.	Protection of properties and recreational facilities. Opportunity to enhance recreation and amenity 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.

				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.		
50-100 years	Undertake engineering works to hold the defence line.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets and infrastructure.	Estuary landscape maintained but larger defences may affect character of the landscape.	No nature conservation issues identified. Potential coastal squeeze/ accelerated erosion in constrained reach of Medway Estuary, with associated failure of 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.	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.	Protection of properties and recreational facilities. Opportunity to enhance recreation and amenity 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.