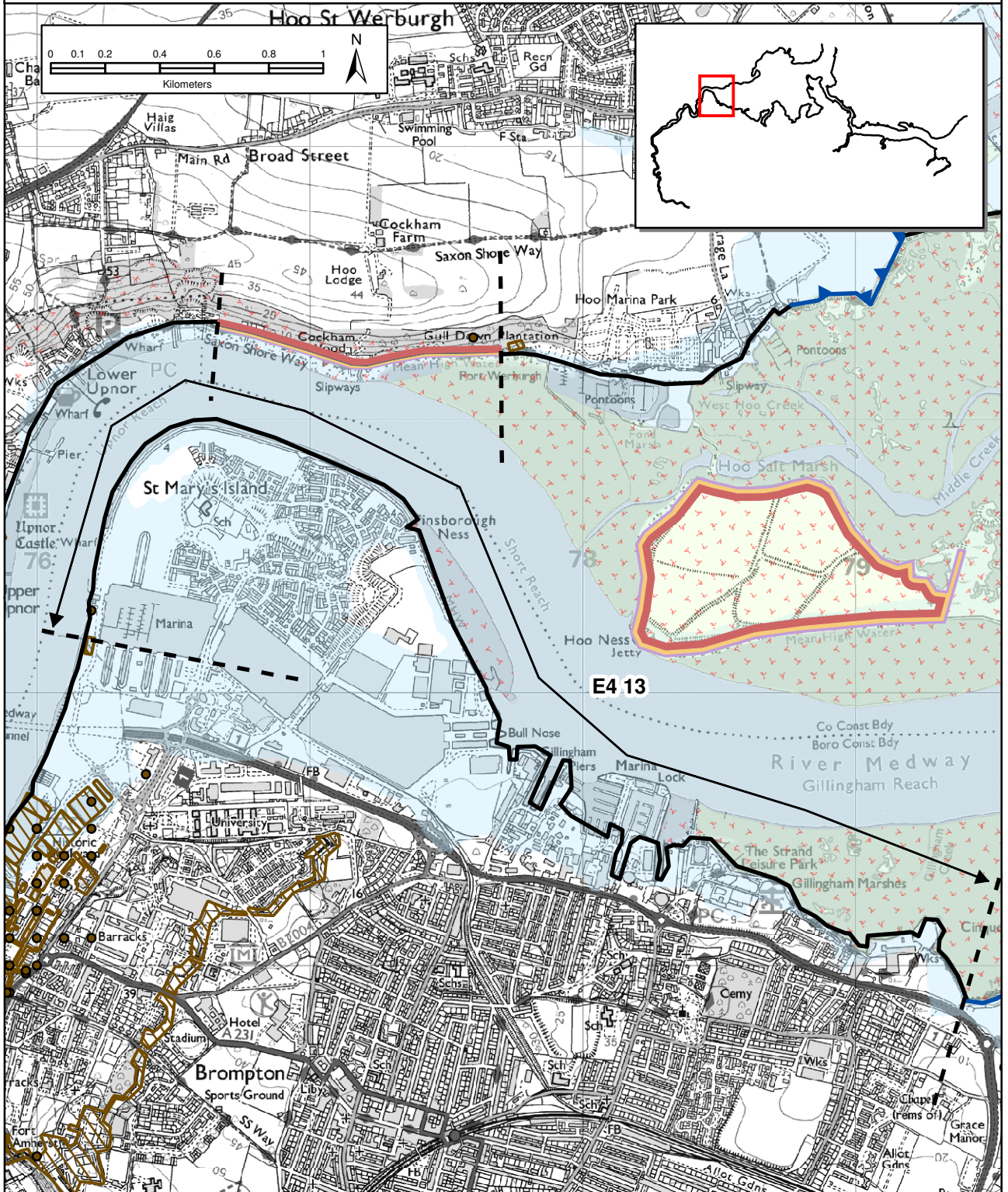





Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan


Policy Unit E4 13: St Mary's Island to the Strand



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.

Environmental/Cultural Heritage

-  National Nature Conservation Designation
-  International Nature Conservation Designation
-  Important Heritage Sites (Scheduled Monuments)
-  2005 Indicative floodplain © Environment Agency

-  Policy Unit Boundary
-  Policy Unit Extent
-  Current shoreline
-  Hold the Line (0-100 yrs)

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Location reference: St Mary's Island to The Strand

Policy Unit reference: E4 13

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The frontage is dominated by the expanding residential area of St Mary's Island and the residential, commercial and recreational areas along the Gillingham frontage, both of which extend to the shoreline. The frontage is of considerable importance for attracting visitors to its recreational areas (e.g. Gillingham Pier and Marina). The narrow Intertidal mudflats along the eastern shoreline of St Mary's Island are nationally designated, whilst the intertidal mudflat and saltmarshes along The Strand frontage are internationally designated.

The long term plan is to continue protecting these developments 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 St Mary's Island to The Strand is to continue to **hold the line** by maintaining and improving the existing defences to protect the significant assets located along the frontage; including assets that are important locally and regionally. This will be achieved by continuing to maintain the existing defences, i.e. seawalls and revetments.

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 intertidal areas and defences will become increasingly subject to erosion due to increased water levels and fluvial flows with climate change making them more expensive to manage.

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 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

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Location reference: St Mary's Island to The Strand

Policy Unit reference: E4 13

sections of channel. This will, in turn, increase pressure on defences making them more expensive to manage.

Location reference: *St Mary's Island to The Strand*

Policy Unit reference: *E4 13*

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, infrastructure and agricultural land during this period.	Designated landscape of the industrial area maintained.	No net loss of internationally designated intertidal habitats and nationally important (BAP) habitat. However, due to coastal squeeze, loss will occur in some areas as will accretion elsewhere. 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. Potential impacts on the historic revetments with policies of managed realignment upstream.	Protection of properties and recreational facilities along Gillingham waterfront. Opportunity to enhance recreation and amenity features.
20-50 years	Undertake engineering works to hold the defence	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate	Designated landscape of the industrial area	No net loss of internationally designated	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal	Protection of properties and recreational facilities

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	line.	standard of protection to built assets, infrastructure and agricultural land during this period.	maintained but with increased defences. Larger defences may affect landscape character.	<p>intertidal habitats and nationally important (BAP) habitat. However, due to coastal squeeze, loss will occur in some areas as will accretion elsewhere.</p> <p>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".</p>	<p>zone.</p> <p>Potential impacts on the historic revetments with policies of managed realignment upstream.</p>	<p>along Gillingham waterfront.</p> <p>Opportunity to enhance recreation and amenity features.</p>
50-100 years	Undertake engineering works to hold the defence line.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets, infrastructure and agricultural land during this period.	Designated landscape of the industrial area maintained but with increased defences. Larger defences may affect landscape character.	<p>Potential effect on internationally designated intertidal habitats and nationally important (BAP) habitat with coastal squeeze, as sediment supply decreases in the estuary.</p> <p>Potential coastal squeeze/ accelerated erosion in constrained reach of Medway Estuary, with associated failure of WFD</p>	<p>Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.</p> <p>Potential impacts on the historic revetments with policies of managed realignment upstream.</p>	<p>Protection of properties and recreational facilities along Gillingham waterfront.</p> <p>Opportunity to enhance recreation and amenity features.</p>

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				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".		
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