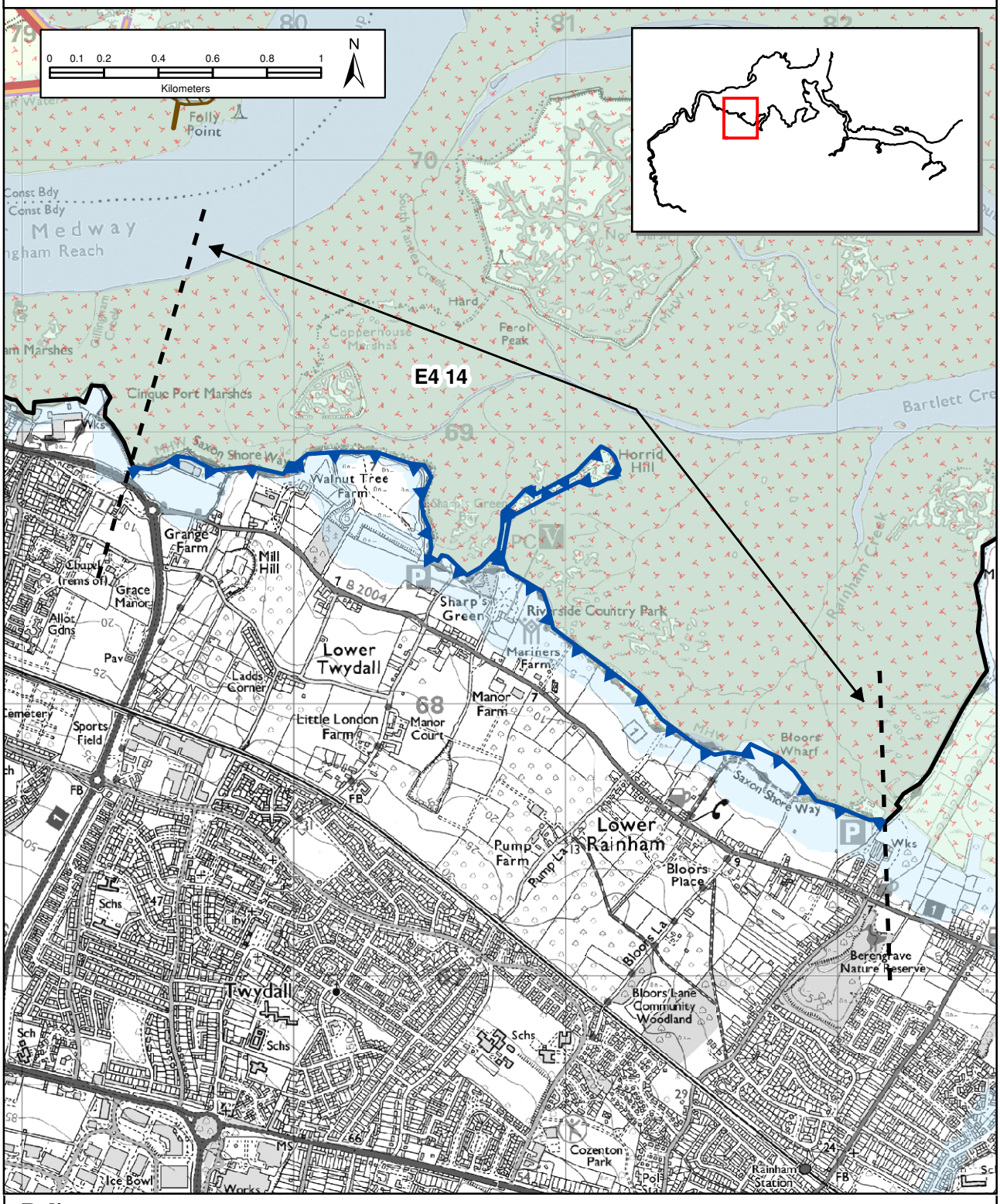
Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan
Policy Unit E4 14: The Strand to west Motney Hill



Policy

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

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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Location reference:	**The Strand to west Motney Hill**
Policy Unit reference:	**E4 14**

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The frontage extending from The Strand to west of Motney Hill comprises an important recreation area. The Riverside Country Park, incorporating Motney Hill and Berengrave Local Nature Reserve, is backed by the B2004 road and rising land along the majority of the frontage. The Saxon Shore Way follows the shoreline along the whole of this frontage. Intertidal mudflat and saltmarshes along the frontage are internationally designated for their ecological importance.

The short term plan is to continue protecting these recreational areas from flooding and erosion, to allow further studies to investigate managed realignment with regards to infrastructure and potential contamination issues at Horrid Hill. 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 and erosion defence to built assets.

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.

The effect of these policies on designated conservation sites has been assessed in partnership with Natural England.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day:	The present day policy for The Strand to west Motney Hill is **hold the line** by maintaining existing defences to provide protection to the Country Park and recreational areas. 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 changes to **managed realignment.** 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. The policy will be implemented by constructing realigned secondary defences

The above provides the <u>local</u> details in respect of the SMP-wide Plan; therefore the above <u>must</u> 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:	**The Strand to west Motney Hill**
Policy Unit reference:	**E4 14**

at a set-back position, ensuring continued protection to assets. Re-routing of shoreline footpaths may be required in localised areas.

The evolution of intertidal areas will be dependant on sediment supply. However, it is predicted that intertidal areas will continue to remain stable throughout this epoch as sediment supply is expected to meet demand throughout this epoch in the Medway.

Long-term:

The long-term policy is **managed realignment** to enable more flexible and sustainable flood and erosion risk management within the estuary**.** Set-back defences will require further maintenance throughout this period as sea levels rise. However, the increased saltmarsh and intertidal area, where defences are set-back, will afford added protection to the hinterland.

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

Erosion of intertidal habitats may become more prevalent due to coastal squeeze driven by rising sea levels rise and a predicted decrease in sediment supply in the Medway estuary.

Location reference:	***The Strand to West Motney Hill***
Policy Unit reference:	***E4 14***

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 for contamination of water resources under a managed realignment policy.	Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	Defences will continue to protect built assets. No loss of recreational assets
20-50 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.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard 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.	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. Creation of internationally and nationally important saltmarsh habitat.	Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	Re-routing of footpaths where MR is implemented and potential loss of land within the Country Park.

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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)
50-100 years	Undertake engineering works to defences to Hold the Line of sections of defences that protect key assets. Maintain secondary defence line.	Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets and infrastructure. Areas of land affected by managed realignment will become intertidal.	Designated estuary landscape will be maintained. Potential for visual enhancement with a more natural coastline as MR is established.	Potential affect on internationally designated intertidal habitats and nationally important (BAP) habitat with coastal squeeze, as sediment supply decreases in the estuary. Establishment of habitat in realigned areas.	Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	Potential further loss of land within the Country Park if defences realigned further.

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