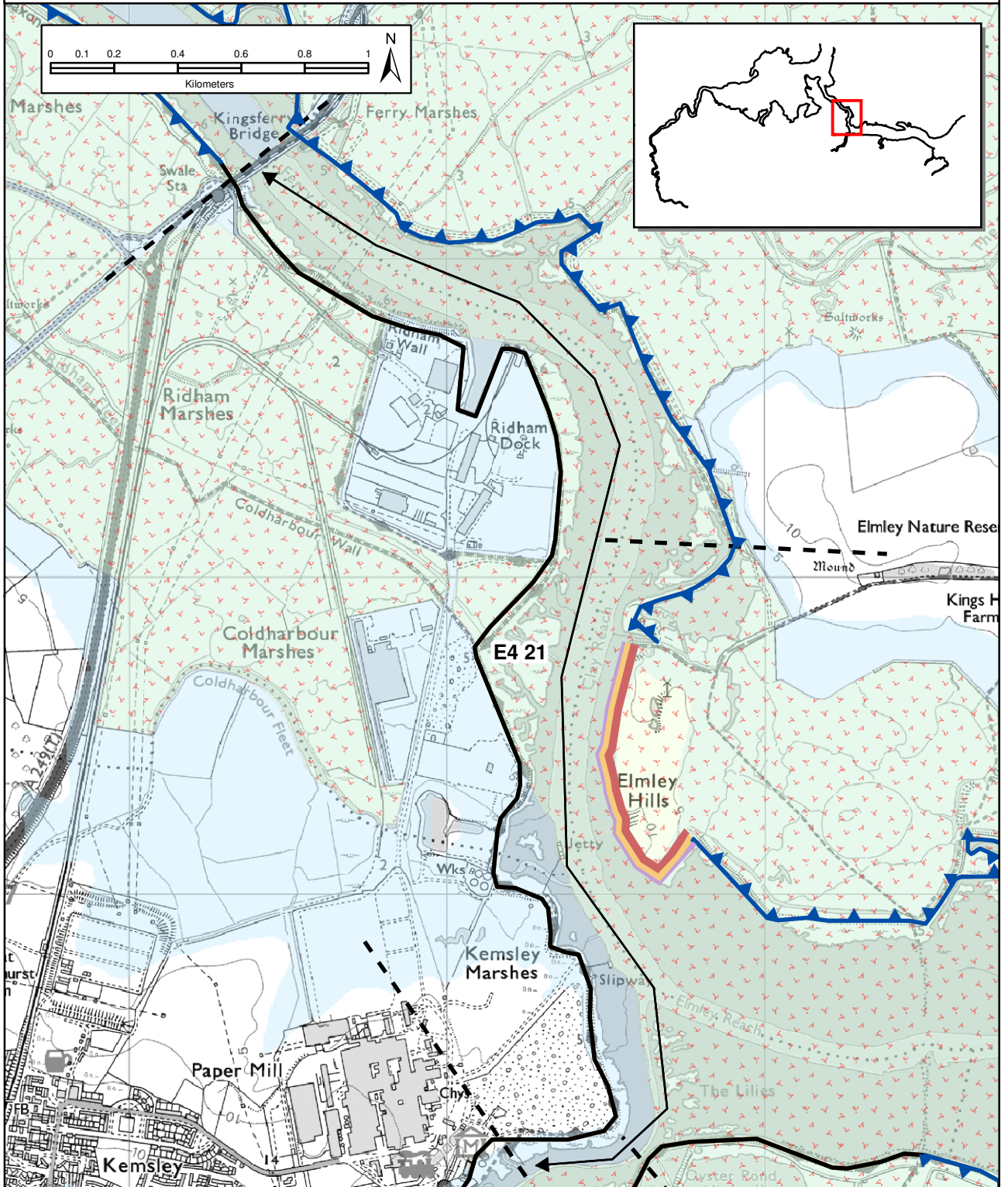





Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan


Policy Unit E4 21: Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek




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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Location reference:	Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek
Policy Unit reference:	E4 21

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The Kingsferry Bridge and rail link to the Isle of Sheppey border the frontage to the north. Regionally important industrial, commercial and dock developments and associated infrastructure are located along the remaining low lying frontage. Substantial developments have been proposed at Ridham Dock and Kemsley Fields. Coastal grazing marsh on the flood plain and fronting intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh areas are of national and international ecological importance. The Saxon Shore Way follows the shoreline along the majority of this frontage.

The long term plan is to minimise flood risk and protect developments, as well as the backing hinterland and its ecological assets. 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 therefore 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 Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek is to continue to **hold the line** and protect the built and environmental assets and backing hinterland. This will be achieved by continuing to maintain the existing defences, which are composed of rock revetments.

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

Medium-term: The medium term policy is to continue to **hold the line**. This will be achieved by maintaining and, at some point during this epoch, upgrading the defence structures to protect the built and freshwater environmental assets from sea level rise.

In locations where the estuary is particularly wide (e.g. towards the mouth of Milton Creek), continued vertical saltmarsh accretion is expected as sediment supply is assumed to meet demand within the estuary over this epoch. Sea level rise may however, result in coastal squeeze and consequently increased potential for intertidal erosion in constrained channel locations.

Long-term: The significant built assets along this frontage dictate that the long-term policy

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Location reference: Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek

Policy Unit reference: E4 21

is to **hold the line**. To accomplish this and to keep pace with sea level rise defences will need to be maintained and upgraded.

Accretion should continue in wide channel areas. However, the potential for intertidal erosion will be exacerbated with sea level rise in confined sections.

Location reference: *Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek*

Policy Unit reference: *E4 21*

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 loss of internationally designated coastal grazing marsh or intertidal areas (BAP habitats). Potential coastal squeeze/ accelerated erosion in the Swale 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.	No loss of recreational facilities. Footpaths – Saxon Shore Way will remain.
20-50 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.	Potential effect on internationally designated intertidal habitat and nationally important (BAP) habitat due to coastal squeeze in confined channel locations. Continued accretion elsewhere. No loss of internationally designated coastal grazing marsh and nationally important (BAP) habitat. Potential coastal squeeze/	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.	No loss of recreational facilities. Footpaths – Saxon Shore Way will remain.

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Location reference: *Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek*

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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)
				<p>accelerated erosion in the Swale 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>50-100 years</p>	<p>Undertake engineering works to hold the defence line.</p>	<p>Defences will continue to provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets, infrastructure and agricultural land during this period.</p>	<p>Designated landscape of the industrial area maintained but with increased defences. Larger defences may affect landscape character.</p>	<p>Effect on internationally designated intertidal habitat and nationally important (BAP) habitat due to coastal squeeze in confined channel locations, continued accretion elsewhere.</p> <p>No loss of internationally designated coastal grazing marsh and nationally important (BAP) habitat.</p> <p>Potential coastal squeeze/ accelerated erosion in the Swale Estuary, with associated failure of WFD objective 2, “no changes that will cause failure to meet surface</p>	<p>Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.</p>	<p>No loss of recreational facilities.</p> <p>Footpaths – Saxon Shore Way will remain.</p>

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Location reference: *Kingsferry Bridge to Milton Creek*

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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)
				water “good” ecological status or potential (where potential relates to HMWB or AWB) or result in a deterioration of surface water ecological status/potentials”.		

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.