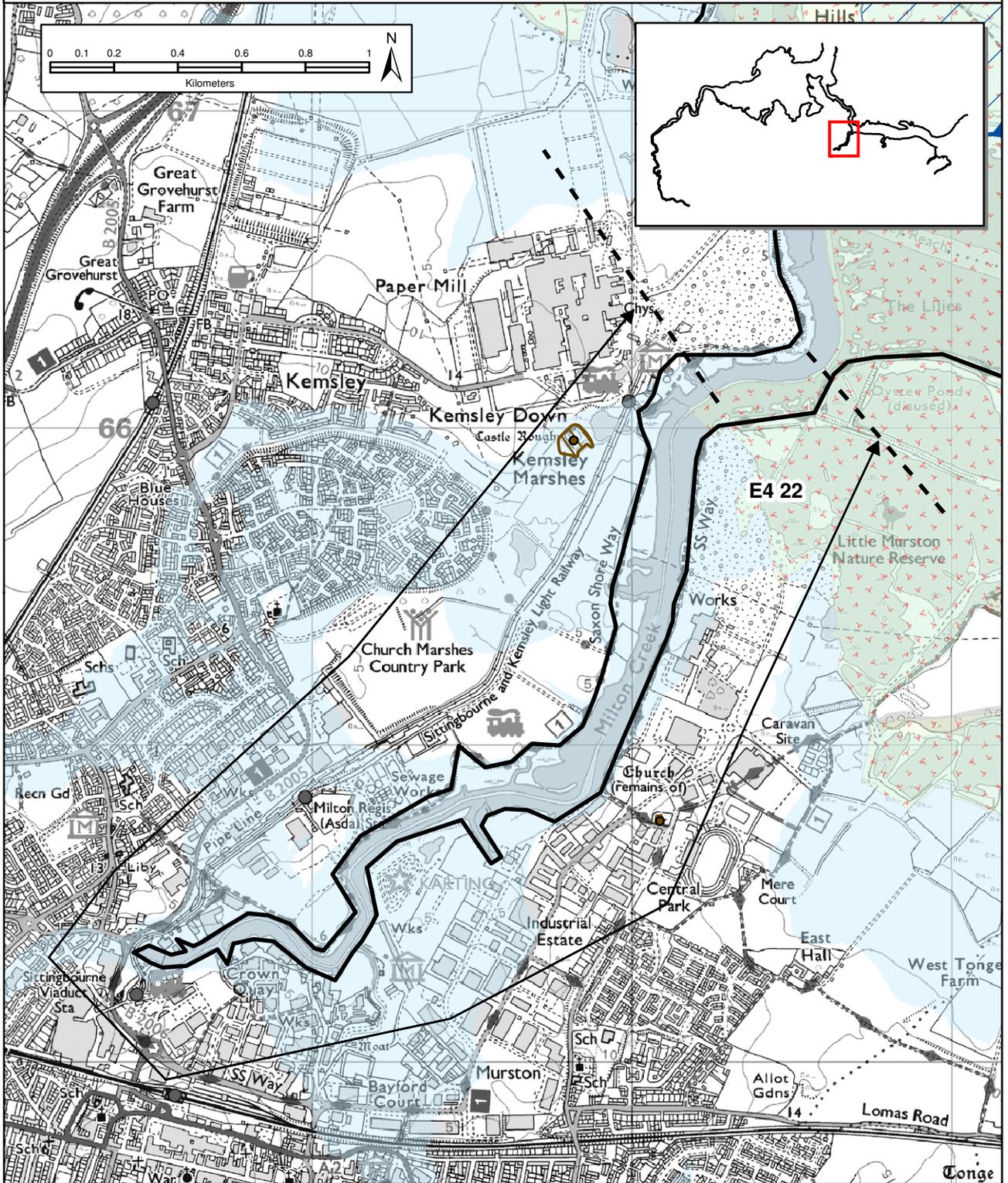


Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit E4 22: 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: Milton Creek

Policy Unit reference: E4 22

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

Milton Creek extends from the Swale, south towards Sittingbourne. The eastern bank comprises a number of regionally important commercial and industrial built assets, located close to the creek shoreline. The Saxon Shore Way traverses the western bank and part of the eastern bank of the Creek. The Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway is set back from the western bank and extends from Sittingbourne in the south to Kemsley in the north. Large residential and commercial areas are located on the creek's floodplain. Milton Creek is a local SNCI and the north eastern bank of the creek is internationally designated.

The long term plan is to continue protecting the developments including the residential, commercial and industrial assets. This recommendation is deemed technically and environmentally viable, for the duration of the Shoreline Management Plan.

At present, groundwater levels are affected by extraction at Milton Creek. Changes in future groundwater extraction may therefore affect groundwater levels and surface flooding. Further studies will therefore be required to consider the impact of such changes on the policy of hold the line.

Preferred policies to implement Plan:

From present day: The present day policy for Milton Creek is to continue to **hold the line** by maintaining and improving the existing defences to protect the significant assets contained within the town of Sittingbourne and along the creek itself, including assets that are important to the regional economy. This will be achieved by continuing to maintain the existing defences, which comprise rock revetments and embankments.

Intertidal areas are likely to be stable or accrete 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. This will protect the significant built assets from sea level rise.

Intertidal areas are predicted to remain stable as sediment supply within the Swale estuary is expected to meet demand throughout this epoch.

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: Milton Creek

Policy Unit reference: E4 22

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. Despite ongoing sea level rise, erosion rates along this frontage are expected to remain low, thus the general character of this frontage will not alter significantly.

Location reference: *Milton Creek*

Policy Unit reference: *E4 22*

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 saline lagoon (BAP habitats). There is potential for impacts of groundwater extraction on groundwater levels in this policy unit – uncertainty regarding impacts at this stage.	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.	No loss of residential or commercial properties or community 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.	No loss of internationally designated saline lagoon (BAP habitats). There is potential for impacts of groundwater extraction on groundwater levels in this policy unit – uncertainty regarding impacts at this stage.	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.	No loss of residential or commercial properties or community facilities. Footpaths – Saxon Shore Way will remain.
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	No loss of internationally designated saline lagoon (BAP habitats). There is potential for impacts of groundwater extraction on groundwater levels in this policy	Potential loss of unknown heritage buried in intertidal zone.	No loss of residential or commercial properties or community facilities. Footpaths – Saxon Shore Way will remain.

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.

			character.	unit – uncertainty regarding impacts at this stage.		
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