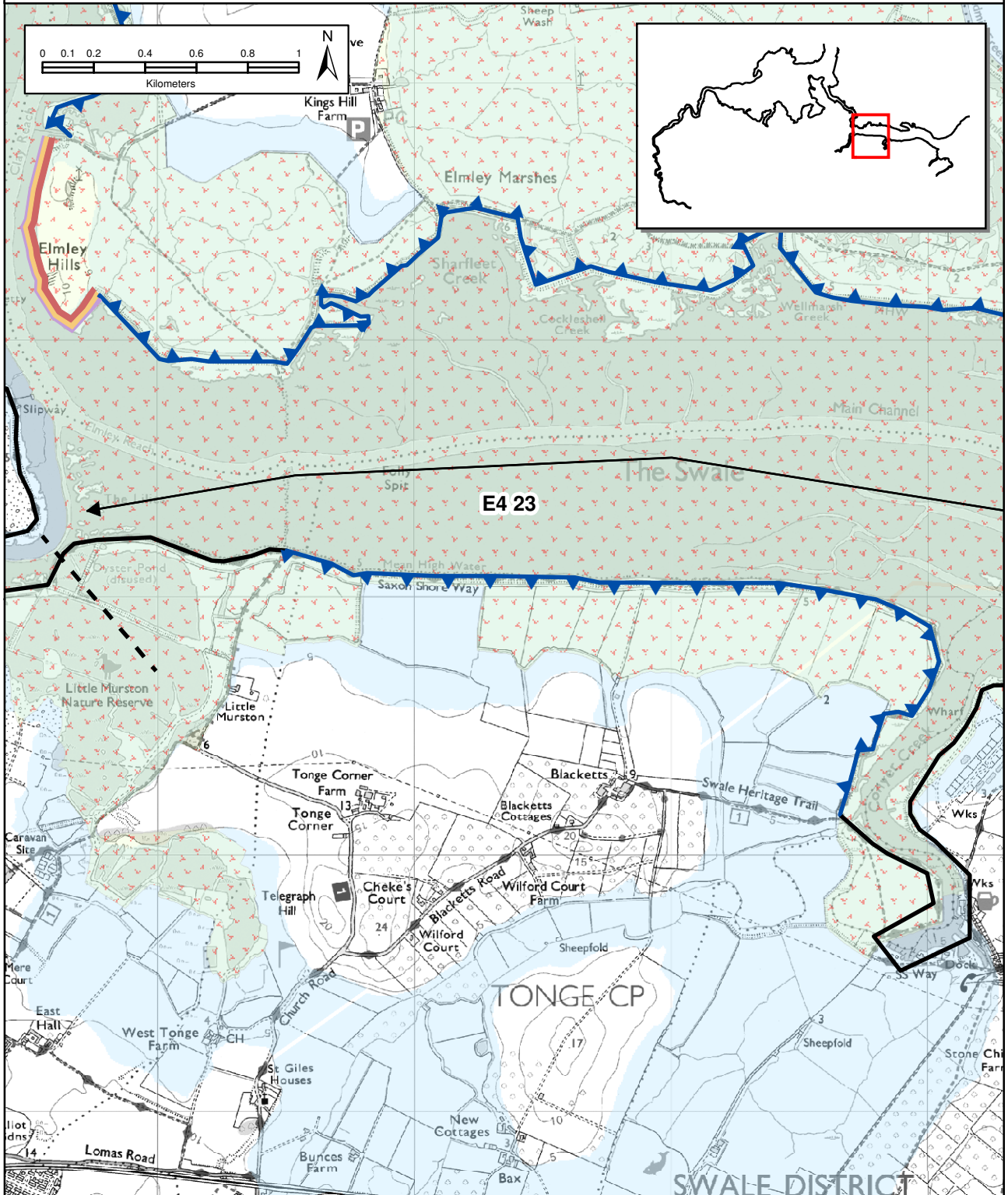





# Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan


## Policy Unit E4 23: Murston Pits to Faversham (part 1 of 3)







### Policy

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

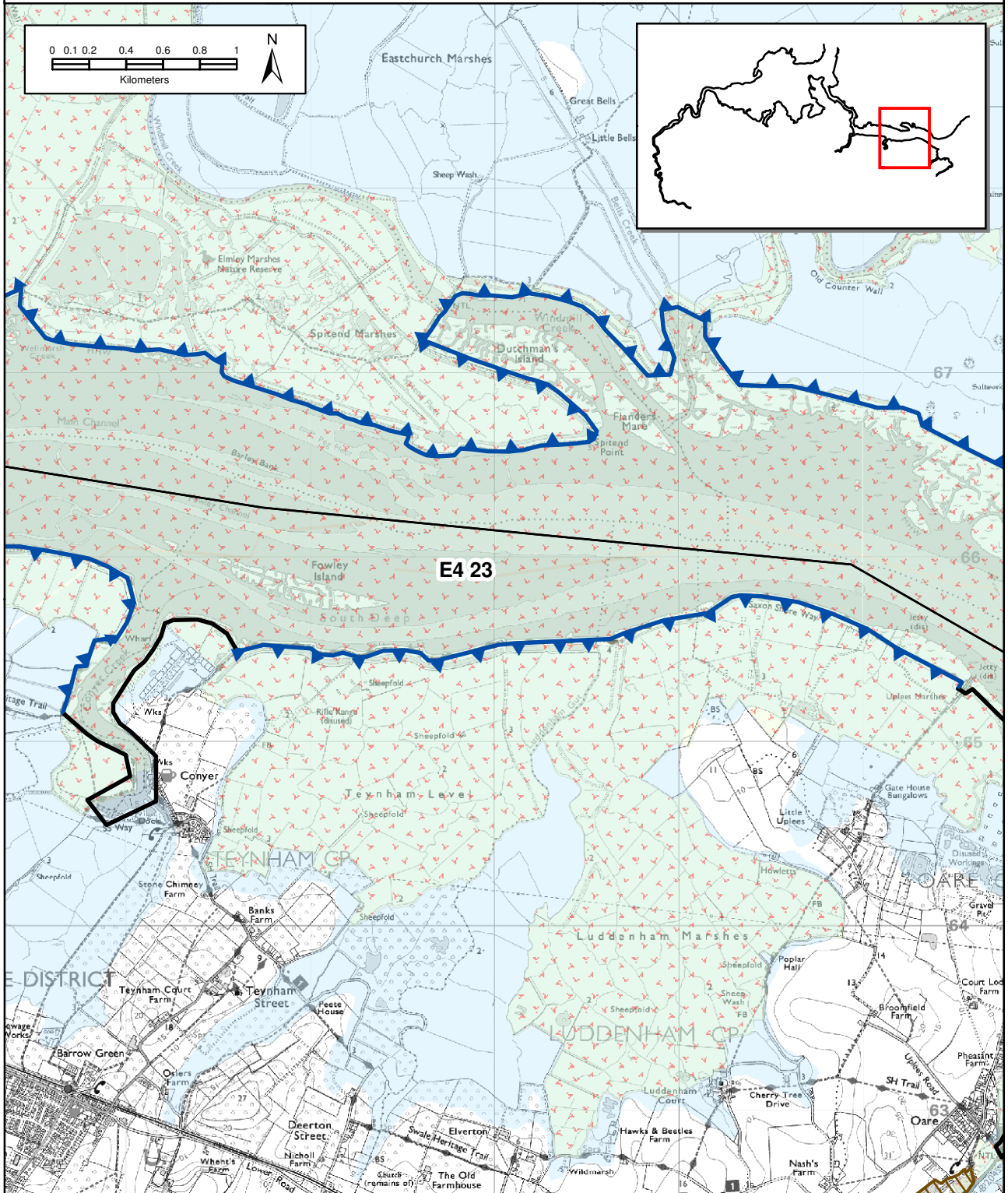
### Environmental/Cultural Heritage

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

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# Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan

## Policy Unit E4 23: Murston Pits to Faversham (Part 2 of 3)



### Policy

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

- Indicative erosion zone up to 2025
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2055
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2105
- Indicative realignment location\*
- Policy Unit Boundary
- Policy Unit Extent
- Current shoreline
- Hold the Line

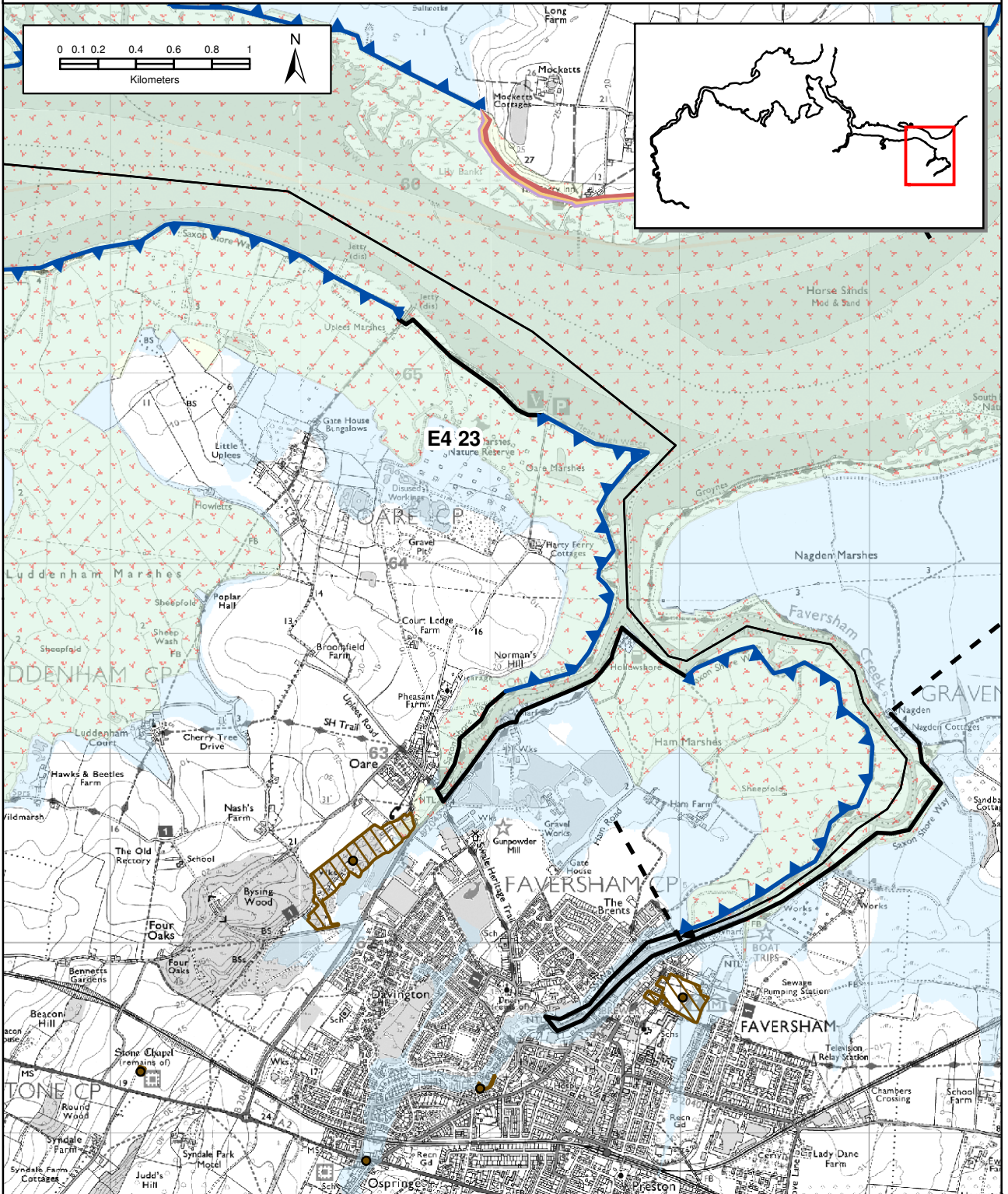
### Environmental/Cultural Heritage

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

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# Medway Estuary and Swale Shoreline Management Plan

## Policy Unit E4 23: Murston Pits to Faversham (Part 3 of 3)



### Policy

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

### 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:** Murston Pits to Faversham

**Policy Unit reference:** E4 23

### SUMMARY OF THE PLAN AND JUSTIFICATION

**Plan:**

*The Murston Pits to Faversham frontage extends along the southern shore of the Swale, and incorporates Conyer and Oare Creeks and the north west section of Faversham Creek. The frontage comprises a large expanse of floodplain which rises to high land in the south. A small number of properties are located on higher land, around the edge of the floodplain and in the communities of Conyer and Oare. The low-lying hinterland consists mainly of agricultural land and coastal grazing marsh, which like the intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh along the frontage, are nationally and internationally designated. The area is locally important for attracting visitors to the Saxon Shore Way which extends along the perimeter of the frontage, and to a number of nature reserves and bird watching sites located along the frontage. Conyer and Oare Creeks and the Gun Powder Works at Oare are of significant heritage importance whilst the whole frontage is of important landscape value.*

*In the short term the recommended plan is to protect the environmental assets and the low-lying floodplain, which includes properties, roads, agricultural land, freshwater habitats. The recommended long-term plan is to allow the coastline to realign to a more naturally functioning system, whilst continuing to provide flood defence to the large floodplain and the residential communities of Conyer and Oare. It is recognised that this section of shoreline provides an opportunity for environmental enhancements and habitat creation through a localised managed realignment policy and a more naturally functioning coastline.*

*No specific realignment positions have been identified for the SMP. The potential impact on internationally designated sites will be a limiting factor on realignment extents and therefore, 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 and any mitigation measures required for loss of designated habitat. Further studies also will be required to investigate associated affects on processes within the creeks.*

*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. This policy is considered to be sustainable in the long-term, on the basis that overall flood defence is maintained to protect the remaining floodplain and settlements.*

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

**Preferred policies to implement Plan:**

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*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:** Murston Pits to Faversham

**Policy Unit reference:** E4 23

**From present day:** The present day policy for Murston Pits to Faversham is to continue to **hold the line** by maintaining existing defences to provide protection to the large floodplain, properties, agricultural land and freshwater habitats. During this epoch, further detailed study would be required to ensure the viability and nature of shoreline response of a localised managed realignment policy along this frontage.

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**Medium-term:** The medium term policy changes to **managed realignment with localised hold the line**. There is a need to control the realignment of this shoreline to best manage estuarine geomorphology and the integrity of European wildlife sites. 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 involve maintaining and upgrading existing defences at Oare and Conyer, whilst constructing new realigned secondary defences at a set-back position elsewhere. Footpaths will need to be rerouted where defences are realigned.

No specific realignment position has been identified for the SMP. Large scale realignment is likely to result in significant increases in tidal prism, flow speeds and erosion in confined channel locations. However, intertidal areas are predicted to remain more stable with smaller scale realignment as sediment supply is expected to meet demand throughout this epoch in the Swale estuary. The exact nature of shoreline response and the managed realignment works to be implemented will require further detailed studies.

The shoreline will remain fixed in position to the east (Milton Creek) and west (Faversham Creek) in accordance with the policies for those adjacent Policy Units. As the shoreline realigns, intertidal habitat will develop in realigned areas. Loss of designated freshwater habitats will need to be managed in line with the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appendix J) and the Regional Habitat Creation Programme.

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**Long-term:** The long-term policy is to continue allowing the shoreline to realign in sections, under a policy of **managed realignment with localised hold the line**, to enable more flexible and sustainable flood and erosion risk management within the estuary. All defences will require periodic maintenance whilst existing defences around Oare and Conyer may require upgrading with sea level rise.

It is expected that created habitat in realigned areas will become well-established during this epoch and provide added protection to the hinterland.

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**Location reference:**        **Murston Pits to Faversham**

**Policy Unit reference:**    **E4 23**

However, coastal squeeze and erosion may become more prevalent in confined channel locations and exposed areas with sea level rise and increased storminess. A policy of managed realignment at Shell Ness to Sayes Court on the Isle of Sheppey may mean that the eastern section of this frontage will become more exposed to open coast conditions throughout this epoch.

**Location reference:** *Murston Pits to Faversham Creek*

**Policy Unit reference:** *E4 23*

### 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 designated habitats.  Compensatory habitat will need to be secured before any designated habitat is lost in epoch 2.  There is potential for impacts of groundwater extraction on groundwater levels in this policy unit – uncertainty regarding impacts at this stage.	Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	No loss of recreation features or residential properties.
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 provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets, infrastructure and some agricultural land.  Areas of land affected by managed realignment will become intertidal.	Designated landscape maintained. However, some features will change through realignment.	Effect on internationally designated freshwater habitat and nationally important (BAP) habitat dependant on MR extent.  Transition of habitats from freshwater to internationally and nationally important intertidal habitat in	Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.	No loss of recreation features or residential properties.  Re-routing of footpaths – Saxon Shore Way where MR is implemented.

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:** *Murston Pits to Faversham Creek*

**Policy Unit reference:** *E4 23*

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Management Activities</b>	<b>Material Assets, Infrastructure &amp; Land Use</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Natural Environment</b>	<b>Historic Environment</b>	<b>Population</b> (Amenity & Recreational Use and Human Health)
				<p>realigned areas.</p> <p>There is potential for impacts of groundwater extraction on groundwater levels in this policy unit – uncertainty regarding impacts at this stage.</p>		
<b>50-100 years</b>	<p>Undertake engineering works to defences to Hold the Line of sections of defences protecting key assets. Maintain secondary defences.</p>	<p>Defences will provide the appropriate standard of protection to built assets, infrastructure and some agricultural land.</p> <p>Areas of land affected by managed realignment will become intertidal.</p>	<p>Designated landscape maintained. Potential for a more 'natural' shoreline.</p>	<p>Establishment of brackish and saline habitats in realigned areas.</p> <p>There is potential for impacts of groundwater extraction on groundwater levels in this policy unit – uncertainty regarding impacts at this stage.</p>	<p>Potential loss of buried unknown heritage.</p>	<p>No loss of recreation features or residential properties.</p>

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*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.*