

NORTH SOLENT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND POOLE AND CHRISTCHURCH BAYS SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform Members of the policies from the final North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan.
- 1.2. To recommend that Members adopt both the final plans and policies, subject to these plans obtaining Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) consent from the Secretary of State.

2. What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

- 2.1. Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are an important component of the Defra strategic framework for the future management of coastal erosion and tidal flood risks to people, the developed and natural environments and require economic, environmental and technical assessments to demonstrate the viability of any proposed policy. They are developed in accordance with Defra guidance and need to comply with legal requirements and obligations.
- 2.2. An SMP is a non-statutory document that aims:
 - to evaluate, at a high strategic level, the known coastal flooding and erosion risks to people, property and the built and natural environment, coastal processes and the consequences of climate change over the next 100 years
 - to present a policy framework to address these risks to people and the developed, historic and natural environment in a technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and economically sustainable manner
 - to develop coastal defence policies of management intent for each section of coast over 3 epochs: present day (0-20 years); medium-term (20-50 years); long-term (50-100 years)
- 2.3. Due to the current legislative and funding arrangements, climate change and environmental considerations, it may not be possible to protect, or continue to defend land or property from flooding or erosion.
- 2.4. A key purpose of the SMP process is to inform the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) of the potential national future flood and coastal defence requirements and estimated costs.
- 2.5. Individual lengths of coastline have been defined based on natural sediment movements and coastal processes, and the assets and features potentially at risk of tidal flooding and/or erosion within the coastal zone, rather than administrative boundaries. These are termed Policy Units. A single policy has been applied per epoch per Policy Unit.

2.6. The SMP policies as defined by Defra are:

Policy	Definition
Hold the Line (HTL)	Defra definition - Maintain or upgrade standard of protection provided by defences. This policy should cover those situations where work or operations are carried out in front of the existing defences (such as beach recharge, rebuilding the toe of a structure, building offshore breakwaters, etc.) to improve or maintain the standard of protection provided by the existing defence line. This policy also involves operations to the back of existing defences (such as building secondary floodwalls) where they form an essential part of maintaining the current coastal defence system. A policy of HTL does not mean that public funding is secured or guaranteed. Nor should it be assumed that it is safe to develop behind existing defences or additional defences are promoted.
Advance the Line (ATL)	Defra definition - Construct new defences seaward of existing defences. Use of this policy should be limited to those policy units where significant land reclamation is considered
Managed Realignment (MR)	Defra definition - Allowing the shoreline to move backwards or forwards, with management to control or limit movement (such as reducing erosion or building new defences on the landward side of the original defences). A policy of MR does not mean that public funding is secured or guaranteed.
No Active Intervention (NAI)	Defra definition - Not to invest in providing or maintaining defences A policy of NAI does not prevent the continued maintenance of existing defences to enable continued use of existing structures while they are structurally sound
Note: All the policies above will need to be supported by monitoring and take account of existing health and safety legislation.	

2.7. Coastal Local Authorities that have developed and adopted an SMP are eligible for applying for Flood and Coastal Defence Grant in Aid funding from Defra, through the Environment Agency, for subsequent Strategy studies and/or Schemes.

2.8. Elected Member representatives from each of the authorities have been involved throughout the development of the SMPs and have been consulted at various stages to comment and approve specific outputs, such as tidal flood risk and erosion risk maps and analysis.

2.9. Stakeholder involvement in the preparation of the second round of SMPs is of key importance. Workshops with Planners and Development Control, Archaeologists and Heritage Officers, Key Stakeholders, Landowners, Environmental and Ecological Officers have been held and various issues and concerns have been raised and discussed, and considered in the various assessments.

- 2.10. Other studies will follow the SMP to investigate and assess how the SMP's policies can be sustainably implemented. Individual schemes may then be proposed. Site specific implications need to be determined through continued engagement and working with landowners and coastal communities.
- 2.11. The Client Steering Groups of the SMPs are a partnership of local, regional and national authorities and agencies that have various responsibilities and powers for managing the coast; these are listed below:-

North Solent SMP	Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest District Council (Lead Authority) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bournemouth Borough Council (Lead Authority)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Valley Borough Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poole Borough Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christchurch Borough Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastleigh Borough Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest District Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winchester City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purbeck District Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fareham Borough Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poole Harbour Commissioners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gosport Borough Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Trust
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portsmouth City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Havant Borough Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset County Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester District Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency (Southern Region; Solent & South Downs Area) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency (South West and Southern Regions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire County Council 	neighbouring SMP Groups: North Solent SMP Durlston to Rame Head SMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Sussex County Council 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest National Park Authority 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Harbour Conservancy 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural England 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • neighbouring SMP Groups: Hurst Spit to Durlston Head SMP 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beachy Head to Selsey Bill SMP • Isle of Wight SMP 	

3. North Solent SMP

- 3.1. The North Solent SMP is the first revision to the Western Solent and Southampton Water SMP and the East Solent and Harbours SMP, completed in 1998 and 1997, respectively. The coastline covered by this Plan (approx 400km) extends from Selsey Bill, in the east, to Hurst Spit, in the west, and includes Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours.
- 3.2. Compared to other SMPs being developed around the UK, the North Solent SMP is unique in that:
- over 60% of the shoreline is privately owned and the majority has privately maintained defences
 - approximately 80% of the shoreline is defended with structures and/or beach management activities
 - approximately 80% of shoreline has a European or International nature conservation designation as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and or Ramsar sites (most of these sites are also designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under UK legislation)

- the majority of the existing defences have national, European and international nature conservation designated site(s) landward and/or seaward of the line of defence
 - the majority of the North Solent is developed with residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural development
- 3.3 Due to these factors and the final policy options that have been determined following public consultation, there is a significant requirement for compensatory habitats to be created to offset losses or damage to the International and European nature conservation designated sites, or non-designated sites which support these designated sites, such as high tide roosting or feeding areas for waders and wildfowl.
- 3.4 Compensatory habitat is required, under the Species & Habitat Regulations (revised 2010), when International and European Designated Sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA), and also Ramsar Sites) are damaged or experience loss due to flood and coastal erosion risk management works or the continued maintenance of defences causes a loss of habitats under rising sea levels, termed coastal squeeze. Coastal squeeze is the term used when coastal habitats are prevented from migrating landwards under rising sea levels by fixed defences, i.e. these habitats are being squeezed and eroded.
- 3.5 The North Solent SMP has been a key contributor to the development of the Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP), which is coordinated by the Environment Agency on behalf of and in partnership with all operating authorities.

4. Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP

- 4.1. The Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP is the first revision of the original SMP of the same frontage produced in 1999. The coastline covered by this Plan (approx 190km) extends between Durlston Head in the west and Hurst Spit to the east, and includes Poole and Christchurch Harbours.

5. Final SMP policies

- 5.1. The final SMP documents and appendices, including the Policy Statements, have been reviewed by the Quality Review Group (QRG), a national level group of experts from the Environment Agency, Local Authorities, Consultants and Natural England responsible for reviewing and approving second generation Shoreline Management Plans in England.

5.2. North Solent SMP

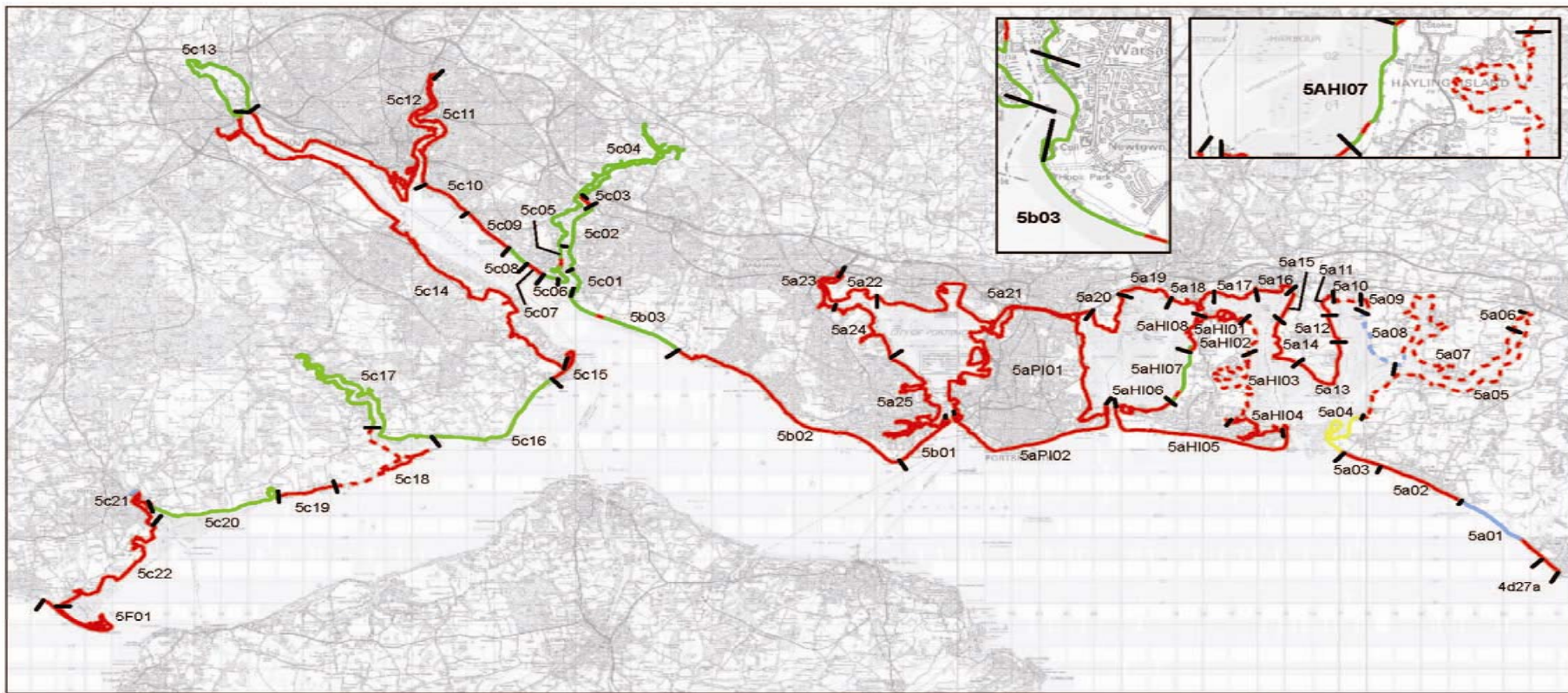
- 5.2.1 Table 1 presents a comparison of final North Solent SMP policies and policies proposed for consultation. A number of policies have been changed as a result of the consultation process. Many comments have been received and all seriously considered. Following assessment of implications, some policies remain unaltered. Figure 1 presents the final policy options for epoch 1, 0 to 20 years. The final policy options for epoch 2, 20 to 50 years are presented in Figure 2 and those for epoch 3, 50 to 100 years are presented in Figure 3.
- 5.2.2. Annex 1 details the rationale for the final policy options for the NFDC frontage from the North Solent SMP.

- 5.2.3. The final North Solent SMP documents and appendices, including the Policy Statements, and the summary booklet will be available in hard copy and via the website www.northsolentsmp.co.uk
- 5.2.4. An Information note for landowners and planners on privately owned coastal defences has been produced to address concerns raised through the North Solent SMP development process and public consultation, which summarises key information relating to the SMP and the planning process, SMP policies and coastal planning issues.

Policy Unit Reference	Start of Unit	End of Unit	Policies Proposed for Consultation			Final Policies		
			Epoch 1	Epoch 2	Epoch 3	Epoch 1	Epoch 2	Epoch 3
			0-20yrs	20-50yrs	50-100yrs	0-20yrs	20-50yrs	50-100yrs
5C14	Redbridge	Calshot Spit	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL
5C15	Calshot Spit		HTL	HTL	NAI	HTL	HTL	NAI
5C16	Calshot Spit	Inchmery	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI
						Does not prevent continued maintenance of privately owned defences		
5C17	Inchmery	Salternshill	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI
						Does not prevent continued maintenance of privately owned defences		
5C18	Salternshill	Park Shore	HTL	HTL*	MR	HTL (NPFA)	HTL (NPFA)	HTL (NPFA)
5C18	Salternshill	Park Shore	(* further detailed studies required for management of defences)			HTL (NPFA)	HTL (NPFA)	HTL (NPFA)
						(No public funding available for maintenance of privately owned defences)		
5C19	Park Shore	Sowley	HTL	HTL	HTL*	HTL	HTL	HTL*
			(* further detailed studies required for management of defences)			* further detailed studies required for management of defences		
5C20	Sowley	Elmer's Court	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI	NAI
						Does not prevent continued maintenance of privately owned defences		
5C21	Elmer's Court	Lymington Yacht Haven	HTL	HTL	HTL (Regulated Tidal Exchange Lymington Reedbeds)	HTL (Regulated Tidal Exchange Lymington Reedbeds)	HTL	HTL
5C22	Lymington Yacht Haven	Saltgrass Lane	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL
5F01	Hurst Spit	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL	HTL

Table 1. Comparison of final North Solent SMP and policies proposed for consultation

Policy Key: HTL = Hold the Line ; MR = Managed Realignment ; NAI = No Active Intervention ; NPFA = No Public Funding Available



POLICIES		POLICY UNIT BOUNDARIES	
HOLD THE LINE	HOLD THE LINE (No Public Funding Available)	POLICY UNIT BOUNDARY	
MANAGED REALIGNMENT	MANAGED REALIGNMENT (No Public Funding Available)		
NO ACTIVE INTERVENTION			
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT			

Private landowners have certain rights to protect their property and to continue to maintain existing defences. These rights apply and remain regardless of the SMP policy.



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Figure 1. Final policies for the North Solent SMP area for epoch 1, 0-20 years

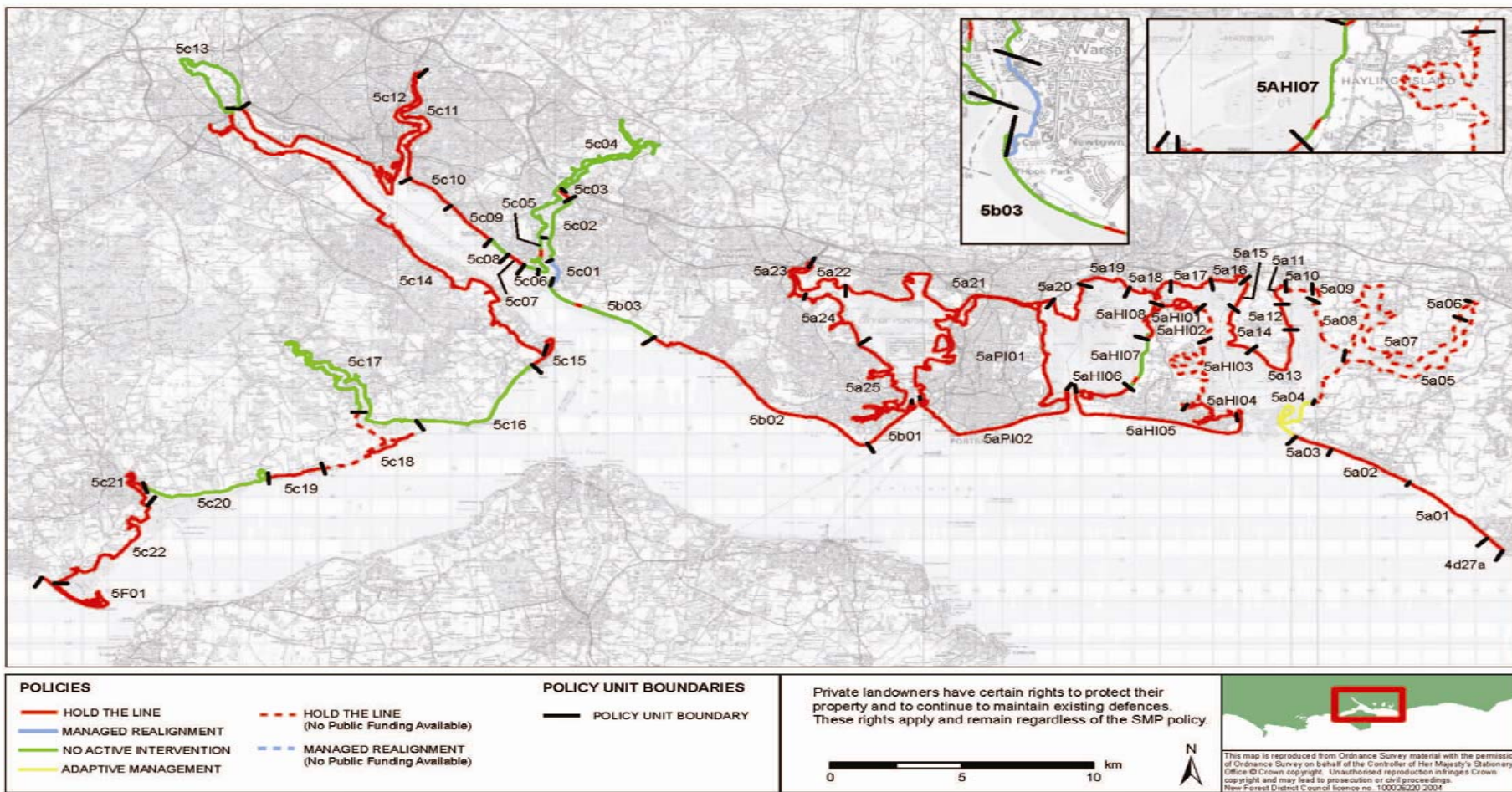


Figure 2. Final policies for the North Solent SMP area for epoch 2, 20-50 years

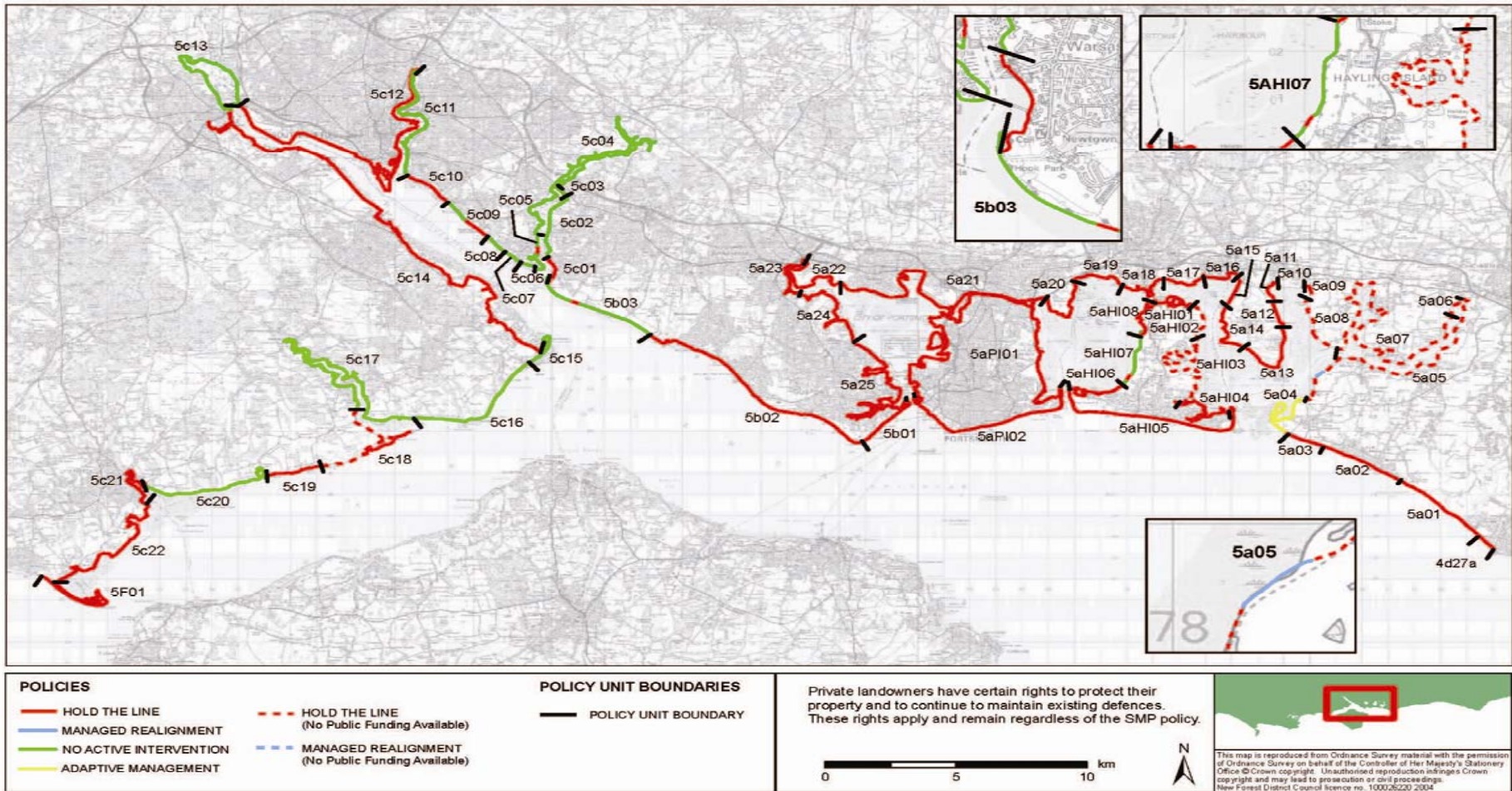


Figure 3. Final policies for the North Solent SMP area for epoch 3, 50-100 years

5.3. Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP

5.3.1 Table 2 presents a comparison of final Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP policies. Figure 4 presents the final policy options with Figure 5 detailing the policies for the NFDC frontage.

5.3.2 Annex 2 details the rationale for the final policy options for the NFDC frontage from the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP.

5.3.3 The final Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP documents and appendices, including the Policy Statements, will be available in hard copy and via the website www.twobays.net

Policy Unit		Final Policies		
		Epoch 1	Epoch 2	Epoch 3
		0-20yrs	20-50yrs	50-100yrs
CBY.A.1	Hurst Spit	HTL	HTL	HTL
CBY.A.2	Milford seafront	HTL	MR	MR
CBY.A.3	Rook Cliff	HTL	HTL	HTL
CBY.A.4	Cliff Road	MR	MR	MR
CBY.B.1	Hordle Cliff to Barton	NAI	NAI	NAI
CBY.B.2	Barton-on-Sea Marine Drive East	MR	MR	MR
CBY.B.3	Barton-on-Sea Marine Drive and Marine Drive West	MR	MR	MR
CBY.B.4	Naish Cliff	MR	MR	MR
Key HTL = Hold the Line ; MR = Managed Realignment ; NAI = No Active Intervention				

Table 2. Comparison of final Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP and policies proposed for consultation

Poole & Christchurch SMP Policy Summary Map

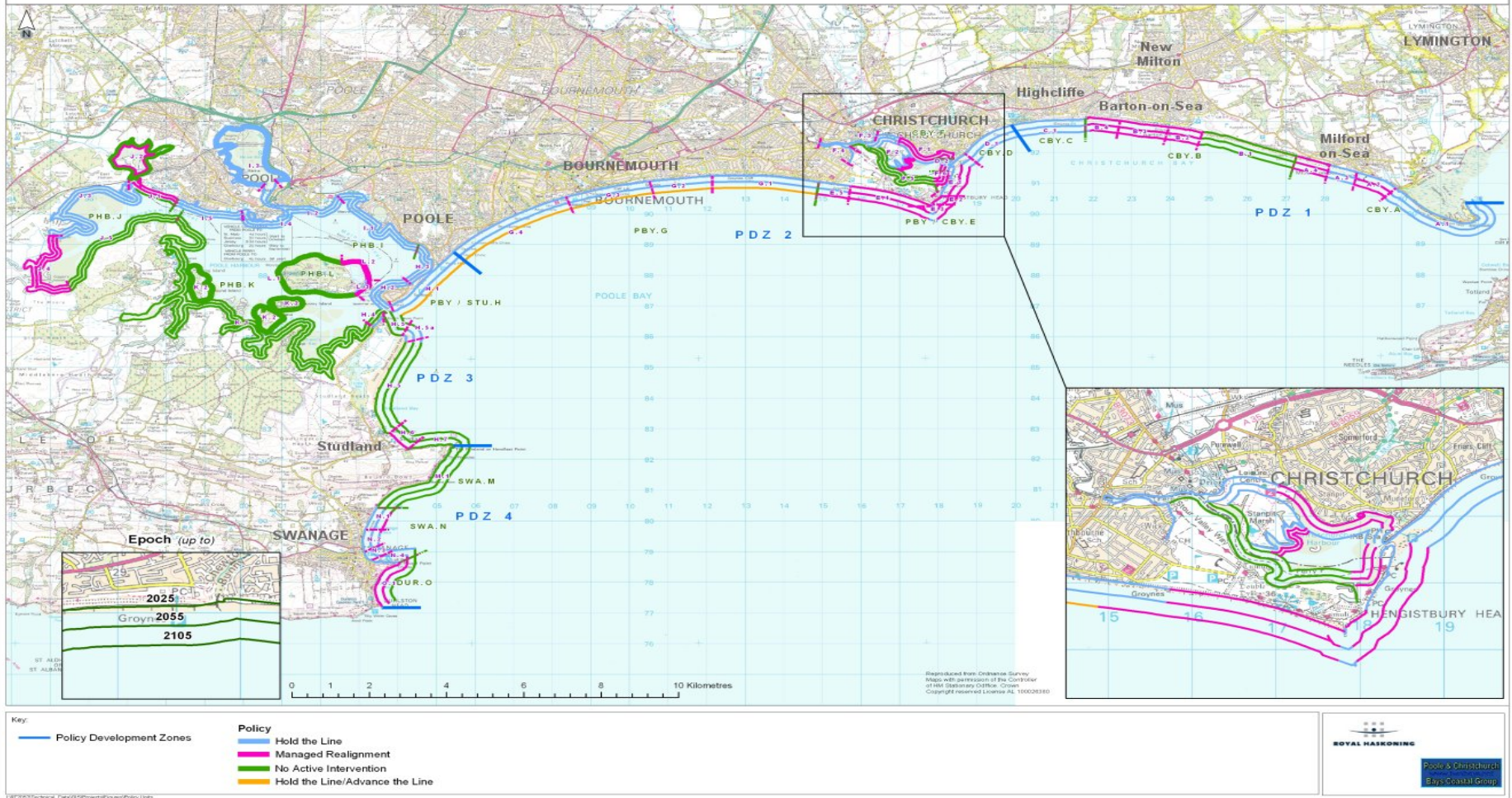


Figure 4. Final policies for the Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP area

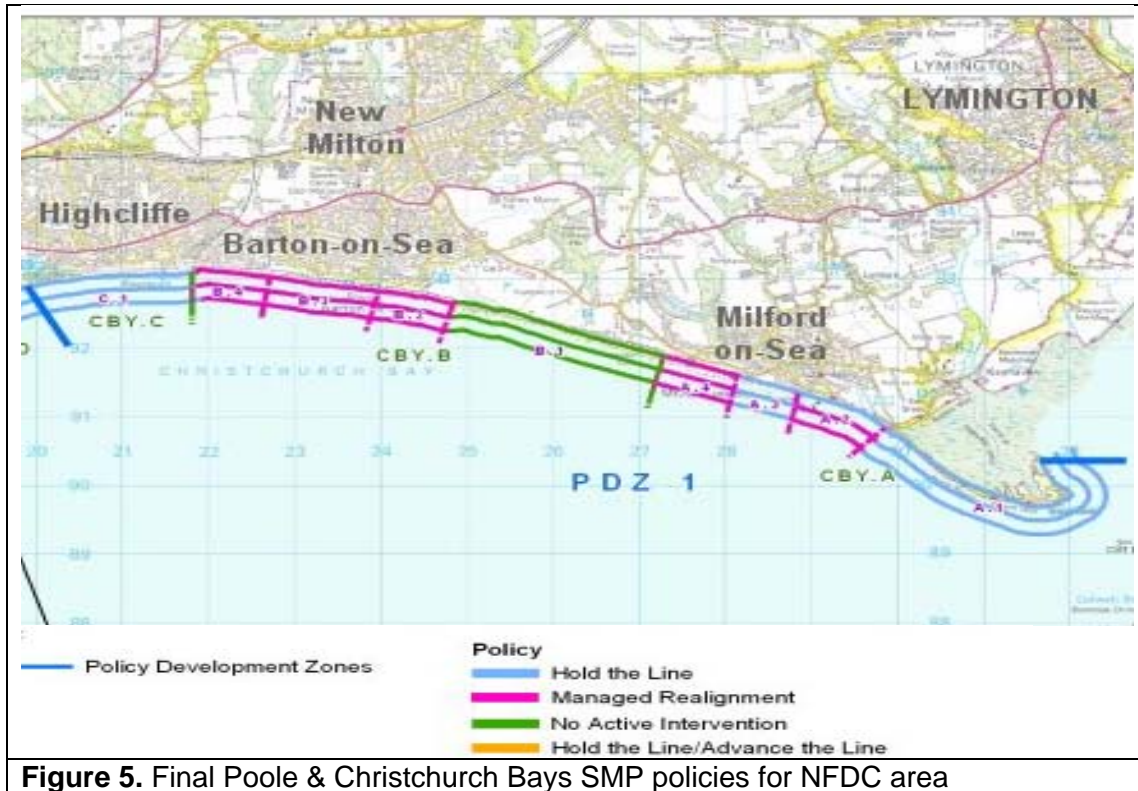


Figure 5. Final Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP policies for NFDC area

6. Action Plan

6.1. The implications, delivery and monitoring of the actions identified in the SMP Action Plans are of key importance for Officers and Elected Members due to:-

- the significance of many of the actions for determining SMP policies and emerging or draft Coastal Defence Strategy study management approaches at a number of sites
- the linkages with current and future Medium Term Plan (MTP) submissions
- the requirements to identify future resource implications for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategies, other studies and management of defences and sites
- the importance of working in partnership(s) to deliver the necessary actions in a cost-effective and timely manner
- the need to continue and improve relationships with landowners and stakeholders for effective and sustainable management of all flood and coastal defences, which will directly inform the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategies and other studies.

6.2. The Action Plans are intended to be a living document to be updated by the SMP's Client Steering Group members and through the Coastal Groups.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There is a government expectation that the SMPs will be adopted by each of the operating authorities. Failure to do so is likely to result in withdrawal of Flood Defence Grant in Aid for Coast Protection schemes.

7.2. In accordance with NFDC's current Coastal Strategy Policy, capital works will only be progressed when the Council is in receipt of Flood and Coastal Defence Grant In Aid.

- 7.3. Compensation Habitat requirements will be financed and secured through the Regional Habitat Creation Programme.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1. Both SMPs fully consider environmental implications at all stages of policy development; the process includes an Appropriate Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Water Framework Directive Assessment.
- 8.2. In order to satisfy the Species and Habitat Regulations (2010), there is a legal requirement to offset losses or damage to European nature conservation designated sites that are likely to be caused by the final SMP and its policies by recreating these habitats in more sustainable locations. These are termed compensation habitats. Regional Habitat Creation programmes (RHCP) are Government's (Defra) recommended vehicle for securing sites and delivering strategic habitat compensation in advance of engineering works that cause damage. The RHCPs are coordinated and funded through the Environment Agency, but as a direct result of this SMP, have been broadened and developed in partnership with Local Authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency and private landowners to ensure that habitat creation sites are secured and developed as efficiently as possible to enable timely delivery of flood and coastal erosion risk management projects for the benefit of all parties.
- 8.3. The North Solent SMP's Appropriate Assessment has identified predicted compensatory habitat requirements for the North Solent SMP region over the 100 year assessment period. A total of 657 ha has been identified and passed on to the RHCP for securing and delivery. The RHCP site at Medmerry, near Selsey, will provide the majority of the compensation required to offset saltmarsh and mudflat losses in epoch 1 of the SMP.
- 8.4. The Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP's Appropriate Assessment has identified predicted compensatory habitat requirements for the SMP study area over the 100 year assessment period. A total of 495 ha has been identified, however, this is all to the west of the study area around Poole Harbour, the Dorset Heathlands and Studland.
- 8.5. Currently there are no NFDC-owned landholdings that have been identified as potential habitat creation sites.
- 8.6. Final Defra approval for both SMPs is subject to obtaining Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) consent from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This is required as the Appropriate Assessment on the final Plan has concluded that it is not possible to determine that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the sites designated as Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites is the term for the network of European nature conservation designated sites.

9. Crime & Disorder and Equality & Diversity Implications

9.1. None arising directly from this report.

10. Environment Review Panel Comments

10.1 Following a detailed discussion the Environment Review Panel fully support the adoption of the North Solent and Poole & Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plans and Policies.

11. Portfolio Holder Comments

11.1 The Environment Portfolio Holder fully supports the adoption of both the Shoreline Management Plans as recommended below.

12. Recommendations

12.1 That the Council be recommended to agree that the final North Solent Shoreline Management Plan and policies and the Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan and policies should be adopted, subject to obtaining Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) from the Secretary of State in respect of each; and

12.2 That Officers liaise with Members and the relevant authorities and organisations to continue to work in partnership to ensure the actions in the Action Plans are monitored and delivered in a cost-effective and timely manner and inform emerging and future studies and schemes.

For Further Information Please Contact:

Andrew Colenutt
Project Manager for the North Solent SMP and NFDC Coastal Projects Officer
E-mail andrew.colenutt@nfdc.gov.uk
Tel (023) 8028 5818
www.northsolentsmp.co.uk

Steve Cook
Assistant Engineer
Poole & Christchurch Bays SMP
E-mail steve.cook@nfdc.gov.uk
Tel (023) 8028 5648

Background Papers:

Published documents

Rationale behind final policy options for the NFDC frontage from the North Solent SMP

The frontage between **Redbridge and Calshot (Policy Unit 5C14)** is largely defended from flooding by privately owned industrial frontages. The extent of residual tidal flood risk is significant for the Lower Test valley, Marchwood, and Fawley areas. Maintaining and upgrading flood defences will provide significant benefits to the local and regional economy, residential, commercial and industrial areas. The rates of shoreline erosion are relatively low within Southampton Water. These residual flood risks, and those associated with non-maintenance or failure of defences have been highlighted during consultations, but site specific implications need to be determined through more detailed studies and continued engagement and working with landowners, MOD and coastal communities.

For **Calshot Spit (Policy Unit 5C15)** the policy intention in the short to medium-term is to maintain the relatively stable but low-lying shingle spit. There are internationally and nationally important recreational, amenity and safety facilities, such as Calshot Activities Centre, Life Boat Station, and Port navigation operational assets and heritage assets that are dependent on the single access road to these facilities. The spit is currently vulnerable and regularly affected by coastal flooding (e.g. storm or tidal surges combined with high spring tides) and it is anticipated that the risk of breaching and loss of safe access to these facilities will increase in the medium to long-term. Analysis of sediment transport and Defra sea level rise allowances indicate that the spit would be breached even if the existing coastal erosion defences were maintained. Maintaining defences and monitoring the impacts of sea level rise will allow facilities to be utilised, and SMP policies can be reviewed accordingly in the future. An NAI policy for 50-100 years indicates that it will become technically unfeasible or sustainable to continue to defend, and the spit will become increasingly vulnerable; the need to relocate facilities and assets in the long-term will become increasingly likely. Coastal monitoring and adaptation options will determine the long-term management for the facilities and assets on the spit.

Historically the flood and coastal defences on the privately owned and largely undeveloped shoreline between **Calshot and Inchmery (Policy Unit 5C16)** have been maintained by the landowners. The policy intention is to allow the undefended and unmanaged shoreline to continue to naturally evolve; this does not prevent continued maintenance of private defences. This approach will continue to provide landscape and amenity benefits within the National Park Area. Coastal change on this frontage will continue to allow the County Council-managed Lepe Country Park to provide an important amenity and recreation area with access to the coast, which is limited within the Western Solent. Increased rates of shoreline erosion on the eastern cliffed shore of the Beaulieu River and within Stanswood Bay will provide a source of mixed sand and shingle to the foreshore. An increase in sediment transport rates may result in wider and higher beach levels and reduce the breach potential to barrier beaches and resulting vulnerability of inundation low-lying land, such as Stansore Point and Stanswood Valley. Alternative sources of public funding may be available to the County Council for adaptive management of the Country Park's recreational amenities, and the Highways Agency for maintenance of Lepe Road. Existing privately owned defences may be maintained through certain permissive development rights of private landowners irrespective of the SMP policy and as is currently the case; no public funding would be available for continued maintenance of defences by private owners.

The majority of the privately owned **Beaulieu River shoreline (Policy Unit 5C17)** is undefended although there are some individual property level defences. The policy intention is to allow the undefended and unmanaged shoreline to continue to naturally evolve. Existing privately owned defences may be maintained through certain permissive development rights of private landowners irrespective of the SMP policy. The natural

topography of the river valley largely confines the extent of the tidal floodplain, but it may be necessary for further property-level defences to be implemented at the small numbers of individual properties and heritage sites as the flood risk increases over the longer-term. Whilst relatively low, the rates of erosion and sediment transport within the Beaulieu River and West Solent are likely to increase under rising sea levels. Increased rates of shoreline erosion on the eastern cliffed shore of the Beaulieu River mouth will provide a source of mixed sand and shingle to the foreshore, improving toe protection to the soft sediment cliffs at Inchmery.

The final policy options for the frontage between **Salternshill and Park Shore (Policy Unit 5C18)** reflect landowner's intentions for future management of their defences to continue to maintain the privately owned and maintained defence line as they have done so historically and is currently the case; thus removing the potential opportunity for intertidal habitat creation at Beaulieu. Maintenance of the current defence line will provide protection to an extensive area of agricultural land and associated outbuildings, individual and small groupings of residential properties and environmentally important and designated habitats, such as coastal grazing marsh, that are located within the extensive tidal floodplain. The grazing marshes and agricultural hinterland also provide an important habitat function as they are important components of the Solent-wide network of high tide roost and feeding sites for wildfowl and wading birds, which support the European and national nature conservation designations applicable to West Solent and Beaulieu River mouth area. This function would continue to be provided if defences maintained. However, it is the policy intention that the undefended and unmanaged shoreline within this frontage, such as Gull Island, remains undefended. Property level flood defences may be appropriate where flood risk will increase in the longer-term.

The final policy options for **Park Shore to Sowley (Policy Unit 5C19)** reflect landowner's intentions for future management of their defences to continue to maintain their defences. This approach would provide flood protection to residential properties, designated coastal grazing marsh and agricultural hinterland. Managed realignment opportunities in the medium to long term are likely to be required however, as the increasing risk of flooding from both the Solent and the Beaulieu River and the possible implications of the management practices undertaken in neighbouring frontages, may require additional defences to protect properties further to the west at Park Shore. Existing privately owned defences may be maintained through certain permissive development rights of private landowners irrespective of the SMP policy.

The policy intention for frontage between **Sowley and Elmer's Court (Policy Unit 5C20)** is to allow the largely undefended and unmanaged shoreline, to continue to be undefended and naturally evolve, which will continue to provide landscape benefits within the New Forest National Park area. Whilst relatively low, the rates of erosion and sediment transport within the West Solent are likely to increase under rising sea levels, particularly as the saltmarshes within Lymington River estuary continue to erode and provide a decreasing level of natural protection to the shoreline. The tidal flood risk to properties along this privately owned shoreline is constrained due to the naturally rising hinterland, both now and over the next 100 years, but it may be necessary for further property-level defences to be implemented at the small numbers of individual properties and heritage sites as the flood risk increases over the longer-term. Increased rates of shoreline erosion of the privately owned shoreline will provide a source of mixed sand and shingle to the foreshore and increase rates and volumes of sediment transport to the low-lying barrier beaches to the east, which will improve protection to the environmentally important areas vulnerable to coastal flooding in adjacent frontages, such as Sowley Spit. Maintenance of existing defences is unlikely to prevent further loss or damage to woodland adjacent or close to the shoreline due to rising ground and sea water levels. Existing privately owned defences may be maintained through certain permissive development rights of private landowners irrespective of the SMP policy.

For the frontage between **Elmer's Court and Lymington Yacht Haven (Policy Unit 5C21)** the key policy driver for continued maintenance of the line of defence in the Lymington River is to provide flood protection to significant numbers of residential properties, industrial and commercial assets, transport links and infrastructure within Lymington's developed frontage. Marinas, cross-Solent ferry terminal and other waterside developments will also benefit from continued maintenance. The extent of the tidal floodplain is relatively restricted on the east bank of the river due to the topography; however, on the west bank it is much more extensive. The intention of the regulated tidal exchange option for the Lymington reedbed site, through modifications to the tidal sluice gate operations is to allow the freshwater, reedbed and inter-tidal habitats to migrate upstream in the longer term and to improve standards of protection to properties upstream. Management of flood defences on the banks of the Lymington River will need to be continued and implemented but should consider implications of other harbour protection measures that are proposed in the short to long-term. The proposed harbour breakwaters, in the mouth of the estuary, aim to reduce the wave heights within the inner harbour area and reduce the impacts of storm surges entering the river, thereby minimising flood risk from overtopping of flood defences. Despite these measures and upgrades to flood defences, the residual risk of flooding to Lymington from extreme storm surges coincident with increased fluvial flows and surface water run off events would remain. Alternative techniques for stabilising saltmarsh margins, making beneficial use of dredged sediments and retaining fine grained sediments could be trialled and implemented, which could provide economic, environmental and societal benefits and extend the natural flood defence function of the saltmarshes, resulting in lower rates of saltmarsh and shoreline erosion.

The key policy drivers to maintain the current EA maintained line of defence between the **Yacht Haven and Saltgrass Lane (Policy Unit 5C22)** are to provide protection to an extensive area that covers undeveloped and agricultural land, as well as centres of residential, commercial and heritage assets and a former landfill site. The area landward of the seawall is an Internationally, European and nationally designated site for its coastal grazing marsh, brackish lagoons and freshwater habitats and internationally important numbers of wildfowl and wading birds and provides a key refuge site within the Solent-wide network of high tide roost sites. The nature reserve and seawall provide important coastal access to and along the Solent, which is limited within the Western Solent. It is also an important amenity and open space for the local communities. Further detailed studies are required to determine the potential opportunities for localised habitat creation or environmental enhancement at Saltgrass Lane and Avon Water, which need to consider a range of options, such as regulated tidal exchange, changes in land use and management and setback defences. Maintenance and improvements to defences is unlikely to provide long term protection to the former landfill site and the saline and brackish lagoons immediately landward of the seawall, due to rising ground and sea water levels. A detailed assessment that addresses the socio-economic and environmental implications will be required, to determine the management option for the former landfill site in the medium to long term.

For **Hurst Spit (Policy Unit 5F01)**, the defence management intention is continued maintenance through beach recycling and replenishment, as detailed through the existing Beach Management Plan. This will include dredging the accreting beach material from the tip of the North Point and recycling it back onto the main body of the spit, and maintenance of rock structures as appropriate. The exact alignment of the spit is not fixed and may alter in response to changes in coastal process and wave climate conditions. With continued maintenance, Hurst Spit will continue to provide substantial flood protection benefits to the centres of Keyhaven, Pennington, Lymington and Beaulieu, and Lee-on-the-Solent. The spit is a locally/regionally important amenity site and has nationally important heritage features. The continued management of Hurst Spit also provides considerable environmental and amenity benefits that contribute to the local and regional economy.

Annex 2 Rationale behind final policy options for the NFDC frontage from the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP

Hurst Spit and Milford-on-Sea (Policy CBYA.1 to CBYA.4), At Hurst Spit the defence management intention is continued maintenance through beach recycling and replenishment, as detailed through the existing Beach Management Plan. This will include dredging the accreting beach material from the tip of the North Point and recycling it back onto the main body of the spit, and maintenance of rock structures as appropriate. The exact alignment of the spit is not fixed and may alter in response to changes in coastal process and wave climate conditions. With continued maintenance, Hurst Spit will continue to provide substantial flood protection benefits to the centres of Keyhaven, Pennington, Lymington and Beaulieu, and Lee-on-the-Solent. The spit is a locally/regionally important amenity site and has nationally important heritage features. The continued management of Hurst Spit also provides considerable environmental and amenity benefits that contribute to the local and regional economy.

The underlying intent of the plan for this area is to maintain the core values of Milford-on-Sea but in such a way as to provide continuity with the management of Hurst Spit and allowing some increased exposure of the designated geology, while maintaining control of the development of the shoreline. Management of the Spit would be controlled by holding the line at Hurst Castle and through maintaining the eastern end of the rock revetment and the groyne. Although the spit beyond the Castle would be allowed to develop naturally, the intent would be to recycle material from that section back on to the central section of the spit. As such this Hurst Spit section is defined as one policy unit.

At present there is increasing pressure on the main sea frontage to the town. The intent here would be to manage the frontage through control of erosion in front of the White House and through retaining a beach in front of the old sea wall. This would require drawing the natural alignment forward, potentially through the use of offshore structures. It is recognised that this approach may not meet funding requirements and that such an approach would, therefore, need to identify collaborative funding streams. As a default, should collaborative funding not be put in place, it may be necessary to consider realigning the defence line backwards to create the space to maintain a sustainable defence and area of beach.

The intent is to maintain defence through to Rook Cliff, but focussing defence at key locations. This creates an opportunity for a more sustainable defence and allows some further erosion of the cliff face. This would be in a controlled manner. To the west of Rook Cliff, through holding the line at the apex of the cliff and thereby protecting the closest point of the road, the intent would be to allow controlled erosion of the cliff line. The intent would be to maintain the coastal road at least over the next 50 years. Through monitoring erosion rates and sea level rise, decisions would be deferred as to the degree of further control that might be required and sustainable in managing this western frontage. At present it is considered that during the final epoch, there may be a need to realign the road and that over the final epoch there may be some loss of properties along this section of the frontage. The intent behind this is to allow development of a more substantial beach area, providing protection to the realigned road and properties further back from the cliff line.

Hordle Cliff to Chewton Bunny (Policy CBYB.1 to CBYB.4) The intent of the plan is to develop a long term readjustment of defence approach to the area. Protecting the eastern sea front development of Barton-on-Sea from erosion, while maintaining the important open space of the cliff and coastal slope. Works would be undertaken to improve stability of the coastal slope but accepting further loss due to cliff crest recession, particularly over the steep crest cliff.

Allow gradual failure of the defences to the western end of the town allowing adaption to loss of property and progressive loss of the holiday park (Naish Cliff). The intent would be to maintain a degree of control through adaption of existing defences and drainage so as to reduce the rate of loss of assets and to provide some transition between Naish Cliff and the defended section to the east. This might be supported by limited recharge to the frontage but the intent would not be to provide long term defence to Naish Cliff.

To develop a transitional approach to management between the eastern frontage of Barton-on-Sea and Barton Cliffs to the east but with the intention not to extend defence further east but to allow natural erosion and recession of the coastline through to Hordle Cliff.