

Policy Unit 5A01 Selsey West Beach to Bracklesham**Summary description of Policy Unit**

Within the extensive tidal floodplain, dominated by grade 1, 2 and 3 agricultural hinterland are small communities or individual residential properties. Surrounding farmland provides important roost sites for waders and waterfowl and supports nearby and adjacent SPA/Ramsar sites. There are also a number of Listed Buildings, Monuments and other archaeological features in the floodplain, along with a protected wreck offshore, and maritime features in the inter-tidal or near shore zone. Bracklesham Bay is designated as a geological SSSI and RSBP nature reserve. Offshore is the Bracklesham Balls Marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance (offshore of Selsey Bill is the Mixon Hole Marine Site of Nature Conservation Importance). Commercial properties and facilities located nearer towards Selsey including a substantial caravan park with associated recreational facilities. This Policy Unit has been defined and assessed in the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy.

Final policy optionsSMP1 Ref
CPU3 Hold the Line

Epoch 1 From Present Day (up to 2025)	Epoch 2 Medium Term (2025 to 2055)	Epoch 3 Long Term (2055 to 2105)
Managed Realignment (Localised HTL at Medmerry Cliffs)	Hold the Line	Hold the Line

Summary of rationale behind final policy options

For the detail regarding the policy and management approaches for this frontage please refer to the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy.

With rising sea levels, holding the line with the shingle bank is economically and technically unsustainable with increasing risk of breaches and flooding. The key policy drivers for the managed realignment of defences along the Medmerry frontage are in order to improve the standard of flood protection to residential and commercial properties located within the agriculturally rich tidal floodplain, which will require new setback flood defences to be constructed landwards of the present shingle ridge and will allow the creation of valuable inter-tidal habitats as compensation for habitat losses caused by maintenance of flood defences elsewhere in the Solent region. The barrier beach will need to be maintained until the new defences are functional and the realignment can be implemented. The new defences will be maintained on the setback defence line over the next 100 years.

The Strategy also states the potential future construction of privately funded coastal defences in front of Selsey's caravan park and a localised publicly-funded works to maintain and upgrade the defence line for the Medmerry Cliffs frontage. Future plans for the RSPB reserve at Bracklesham are inextricably linked to the wider plans for realignment at Medmerry. Medmerry is one of the Regional Habitat Creation Programme sites which will be delivering compensation habitats for

losses identified in the North Solent SMP area and the RSPB are in the process of drawing up an agreement with the EA for management of the site.

Due to the complexity within the North Solent SMP area with regards to terrestrial, freshwater and inter-tidal habitats which are either designated or support SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites, sites that have suitable topography for compensatory habitat creation are generally already designated SPA and Ramsar. This results in a challenge when adapting to climate change and rolling back habitats as there will be an adverse effect on seaward habitats if defences are held or an adverse effect on landward habitats if defences are re-aligned. The Medmerry area that has been identified for habitat creation is however, not covered by nature conservation designations or functions as feeding or roosting sites to support the nearby designated areas within Pagham, Chichester or Langstone harbours.

The detail regarding habitat losses and gains associated with policy options at this site and for the SMP as a whole are detailed in the Appropriate Assessment

Policy changes through Public Consultation

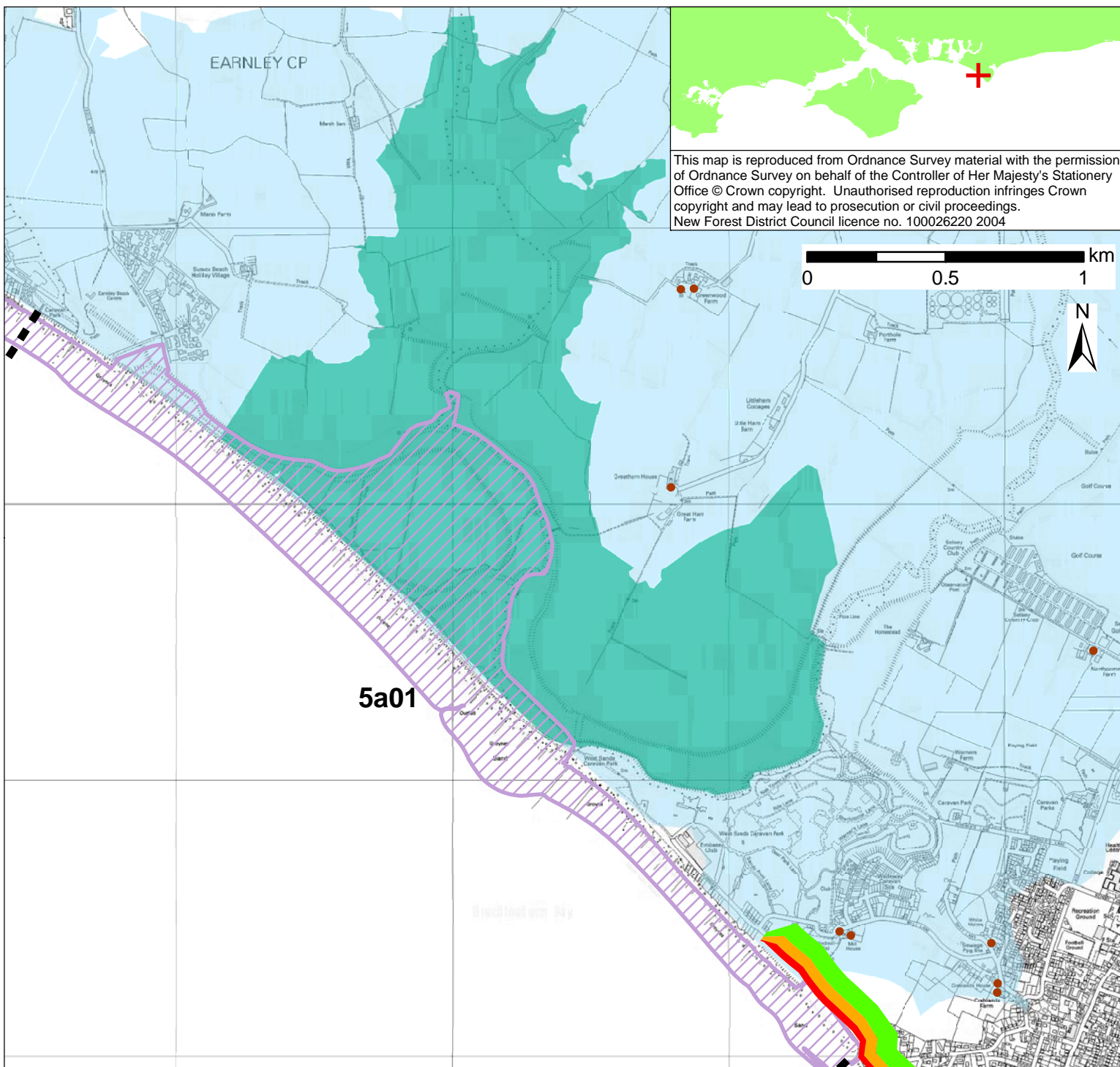
During consultation the requirement for localised maintenance of the defence line for the Medmerry Cliffs frontage was reiterated and the policy option has been amended to clarify this requirement.

Funding

It is likely that central government funding could be secured for identified managed realignment works and at Medmerry Cliffs, as determined through the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy.

Further Studies (identified in Action Plan)

None



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. New Forest District Council licence no. 100026220 2004

5a01

POLICY

From Present Day (up to 2025):	Medium-Term (2025 to 2055):	Long-Term (2055 to 2105):
Managed Realignment (Localised hold the line at Medmerry Cliffs. Location of secondary defences to be determined)	Hold the Line	Hold the Line

- Indicative erosion zone up to 2025
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2055
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2105
- Policy Unit Boundary
- International / National Designations
- Important Heritage Sites
- 2108 Flood Risk Area (1 in 200 year) © Environment Agency
- Potential Area Considered for Managed Realignment