# Policy Unit 5C09 Cliff House to Netley Castle

# **Summary description of Policy Unit**

This frontage is dominated by the heritage-rich Royal Victoria Country Park, managed by Hampshire County Council. This registered Parks and Garden site has primary access road, footpaths, and amenity open spaces close or adjacent to the eroding narrow beach although the tidal floodplain is restricted due to topography. It is a regionally important recreational and amenity site, and contains low numbers of residential properties and commercial assets. There are several historic and listed buildings, such as the Lodge for the Royal Victoria Hospital, and maritime features. There is also a mains sewer pipeline running through the Country Park, behind the seawall and within the beach. The defences are maintained by Hampshire County Council. There is a sediment transport divide within this frontage although the majority of the alongshore sediment transport appears to be from east to west, being fed by relatively low rates of erosion from the adjacent low cliffs. Inter-tidal habitats of International, European and national nature conservation importance, and inland areas provide high tide roost sites and support the adjacent and nearby SPA/Ramsar sites. This frontage has been assessed in the draft River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley and Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy, which has recommended a HTL policy for the first two epochs, reverting to NAI in the long-term.

Final policy option	ns	SMP1 Ref NET3 Managed Realignment NET2 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)	
Hold the Line	Hold the Line* (further detailed studies required for management of site)	No Active Intervention (Hold the Line for Netley Village)	

### Summary of rationale behind final policy options

The final policy options are taken from and consistent with the draft Itchen, Weston, Netley and River Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy.

The policy intention in the short to medium term is to maintain the current standard of defence to continue to provide protection to the residential centre of Netley village and local transport links and infrastructure and the high amenity and heritage value of the Royal Victoria Country Park, managed by Hampshire County Council, which is an important heritage, recreational and amenity site for a wide catchment of visitors.

In the long-term it may be uneconomical to continue to defend the entire coastline between Netley and the eastern boundary of the Country Park. Maintenance of the defence structures east of Netley without beach replenishment would result in the loss of the amenity beach and foreshore. The current policy intention is to not maintain the line of defence for the Country Park frontage and to consider allowing the coastline to evolve naturally. Any erosion resulting from the removal of existing defences would allow sediment feed into

The \* in epoch 2 indicates that the medium and long-term defence management approach for the Country Park and the long-term management and alignment of strategic service pipelines within the amenity beach will be determined through further detailed site-specific studies.

Adaptation options for the Country Park facilities will also need to be considered, and alternative funding sources may be required to undertake necessary works.

the system which would help to maintain healthy amenity beach levels and provide a natural form of defence to the residential properties here. To enable the sustainable management of Royal Victoria Country Park and the adjacent frontages some of the infrastructure behind the existing defences may need to be relocated. The policy intention is for the flood defences at Netley to continue to be maintained. Coastal monitoring will be key to the successful management of this frontage.

Due to the environmental designations within Southampton Water holding the defence line will continue to contribute towards the loss of European and national nature conservation designated habitats such as inter-tidal foreshore habitats, through coastal squeeze. These losses will need to be mitigated within the same designated area or compensated for elsewhere and delivered through the Regional Habitat Creation Programme. Opportunities for habitat mitigation and compensation have been detailed within the Appropriate Assessment of the final policies.

## Policy changes through Public Consultation

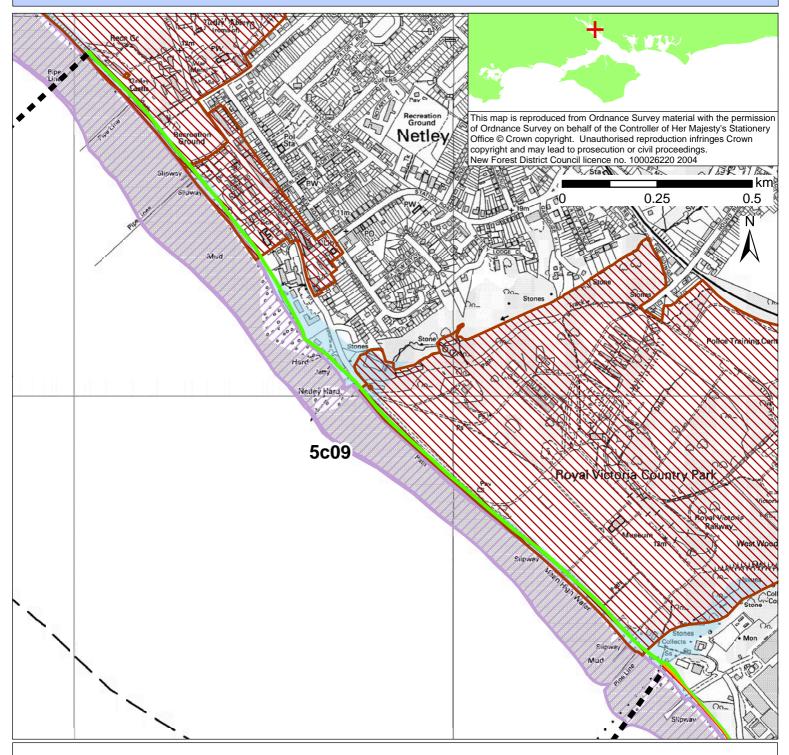
None. Public consultation on the draft Itchen, Weston, Netley and River Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy will confirm the final policy and management approach, which may require revisions to the final SMP policies

### **Funding**

It is uncertain whether central government funding would be secured for identified defence works. Alternative sources of public funding may be available to Local Authority or to the County Council for adaptive management of the Country Park's recreational amenities. As is currently the case, no public funding would be available for continued maintenance of defences by private owners.

## **Further Studies (identified in Action Plan)**

Conclusion and approval of Itchen, Weston, Netley and River Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy



## **POLICY**

From Present Day (up to 2025):	Medium-Term (2025 to 2055):	Long-Term (2055 to 2105):				
Hold the Line	Hold the Line*	No Active Intervention (Hold the Line for Netley Village)				
	(*Further detailed studies required for management of site)					

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

2115 Indicative Floodplain (1 in 200 year) provided from PUSH