

Policy Unit 5A04 Cakeham to Ella Nore Lane

Summary description of Policy Unit

The section of the frontage between Ella Nore Lane and East Head is within the Chichester Harbour AONB. Residential settlements, commercial facilities and heritage assets of West Wittering and Cakeham, along with areas important for recreation, are within the tidal floodplain. Grade 3 agricultural hinterland is present. The majority of the frontage is included within inter-tidal and transitional freshwater habitats of International, European and national nature conservation importance and provides important roost sites for waders and waterfowl and supports nearby and adjacent SPA/Ramsar sites. Analysis of shoreline erosion (see Appendix C5) indicates the rate and scale of coastal processes are less within the harbours than on the open coast. This Policy Unit has been defined and assessed in the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy, which determined an Adaptive Management policy for the frontage.

Final policy options		SMP1 Ref n/a
Epoch 1 From Present Day (up to 2025)	Epoch 2 Medium Term (2025 to 2055)	Epoch 3 Long Term (2055 to 2105)
Adaptive Management	Adaptive Management	Adaptive Management

Summary of rationale behind final policy options

The policy of Adaptive Management is not an SMP policy, but has been taken from the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy for the East Head frontage. It is locally a politically acceptable policy term after almost a decade of discussions and consultation and is only applied to this site.

Adaptive Management promotes flexible decision making through the implementation of a Management Plan. An Adaptive Management approach is designed to address the uncertainties and work with the coastal processes to provide a proactive management approach. A suite of potential management options and possible actions will be applied as required. A key element of this approach will be the monitoring regime to understand how it is responding combined with beach management activities to manage the specific risks. As understanding of the system improves and as the coastline achieves an alignment more in line with natural processes it is likely that decreasing levels of intervention will be required.

Adaptive management practices will become increasingly important for the future of this unit, not only to conserve its environmental, amenity and socio-economic values but also to manage the effects of coastal process on the wider harbour which is designated as environmentally important for a number of national and international features and is also an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The East Head peninsula, along with the area within Chichester Harbour itself, is included within a suite of European nature conservation designations, therefore, the adaptive management approaches will need to be implemented sensitively and take account of detailed environmental assessments and studies. Ongoing coastal

monitoring, defence maintenance and recycling activities will be required to maintain the integrity of the system at East Head spit and to maintain safe navigation within harbour. To manage the flood risk to West Wittering Village new flood defences will also need to be constructed. This policy and management options have been assessed as the preferred option through the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy.

Due to the environmental designations within Chichester Harbour, continued maintenance of defence structures will result however, in the continued 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

Private landowners have stated their intentions to maintain the current defences at West Wittering and thus removing the potential opportunity for localised intertidal habitat creation in the long-term.

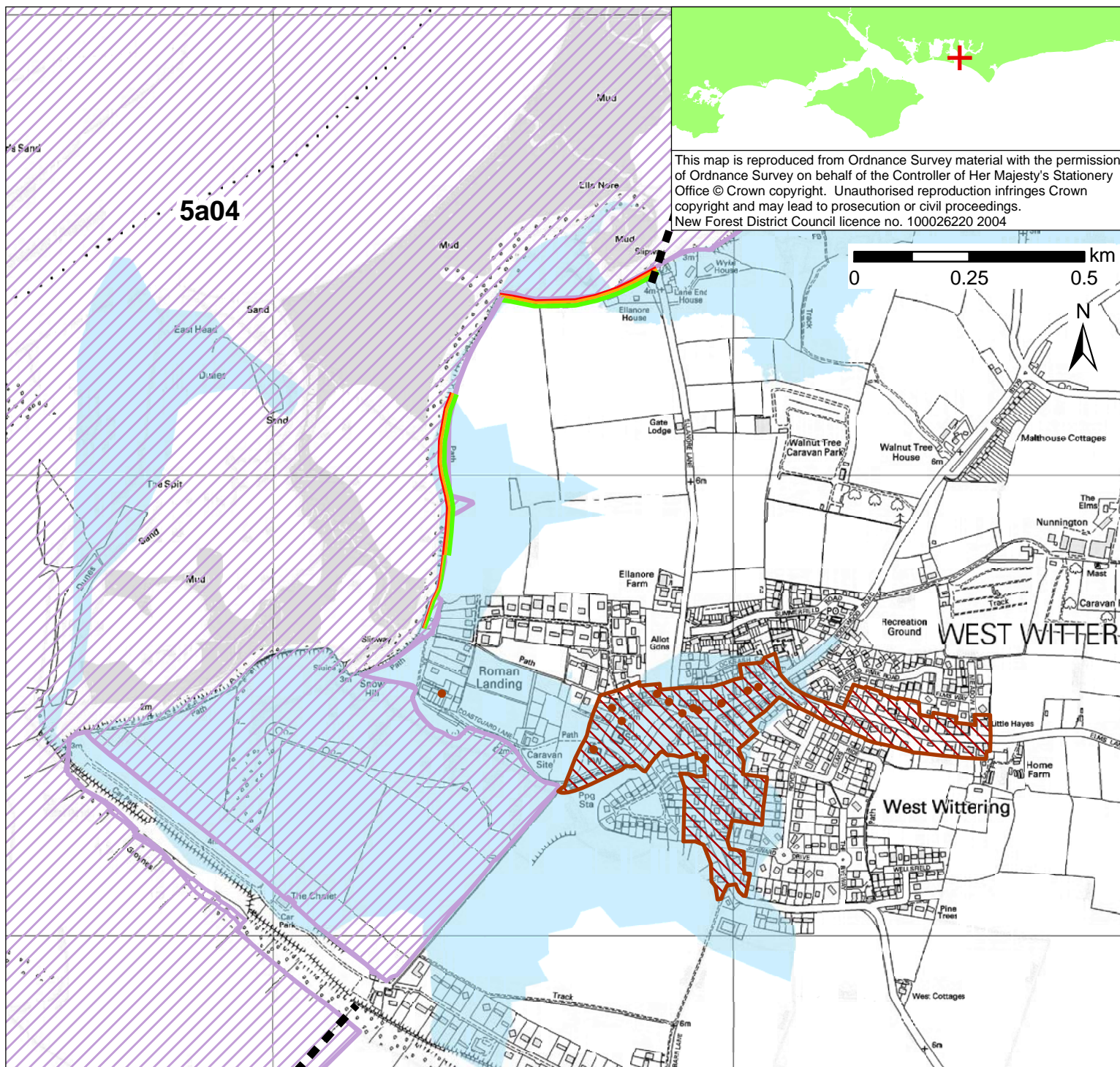
An Information Note for landowners, planners and developers on privately owned coastal defences and coastal planning issues has been produced.

Funding

It is unlikely that central government funding would be secured for adaptive management but likely for flood bunds at West Wittering, as determined through the approved Pagham to East Head Coastal Defence Strategy. 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)

Emsworth to East Head Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
Solent-wide network of high tide roost site study



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POLICY

From Present Day (up to 2025):	Medium-Term (2025 to 2055):	Long-Term (2055 to 2105):
Adaptive Management	Adaptive Management	Adaptive Management

- 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