

Policy Unit 5F01 Hurst Spit		
Summary description of Policy Unit		
<p>The shingle barrier spit is maintained by the Local Authority on behalf of private owners, English Heritage and the County Council. There are no residential properties on the spit but this feature does provide significant flood defence and coastal protection to the extensive low-lying hinterland throughout the West Solent that comprises of residential properties, industrial, heritage and commercial assets, amenity land and facilities and agricultural land, from widespread tidal flooding. The spit and inter-tidal habitats in the lee of the spit are within the New Forest National Park and a Wildlife Trust Reserve. Keyhaven village has a small commercial fishing fleet, boat yards and sailing clubs. The spit provides important coastal access, which is limited within the West Solent. There are inter-tidal and vegetated shingle habitats of International, European and national nature conservation importance. These and areas within the nearby hinterland provide very important high tide roost sites and support the adjacent and nearby SPA/Ramsar sites. Heritage assets include Hurst Castle, Hurst Spit Lighthouse, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, historic and listed buildings, and maritime features. The spit is a popular and important recreational and amenity attraction and is part of the Solent Way.</p>		
Final policy options		SMP1 Ref CBY7 Hold the Line LYM1, 2 No Active Intervention
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	Hold the Line
Summary of rationale behind final policy options		
<p>The key policy driver for the continued maintenance of Hurst Spit is the strategic importance of the feature and the substantial benefits it affords throughout the Western Solent. The ongoing management of Hurst Spit, through beach recycling and replenishment operations, as detailed through the existing Beach Management Plan, and maintenance of rock structures as appropriate, is necessary to reduce the risk of breaching and subsequent tidal flooding to substantial numbers of residential properties, commercial, industrial assets and facilities, in Keyhaven, Lymington, transport and associated infrastructure, along with the agricultural hinterland, within the Western Solent frontage. The heritage features on the spit will also benefit from continued management of the spit.</p> <p>The internationally important inter-tidal habitats in the lee of the spit, and immediately landward of existing defences throughout the western Solent, would continue to benefit from the shelter afforded by the spit but would still be vulnerable to rising sea levels. The spit, along with Hurst Castle, is a popular heritage and recreation site and marks the western end of the coastline within the New Forest National Park. Coastal monitoring will be key to the successful management of this frontage.</p> <p>The coastal processes acting within Christchurch Bay and on Hurst Spit and in the</p>		

Western Solent have been considered when assessing the policy and management implications for the continuation of management of the spit. These factors in conjunction with the policy drivers and benefits and the policy recommendations for frontages within Christchurch Bay as determined through the Poole and Christchurch Bay SMP have been appraised when defining the policy unit boundaries for Hurst Spit. The spit forms the boundary with the neighbouring Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan which details how the coastline to the west of here will be managed.

Due to the environmental designations within Western Solent 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

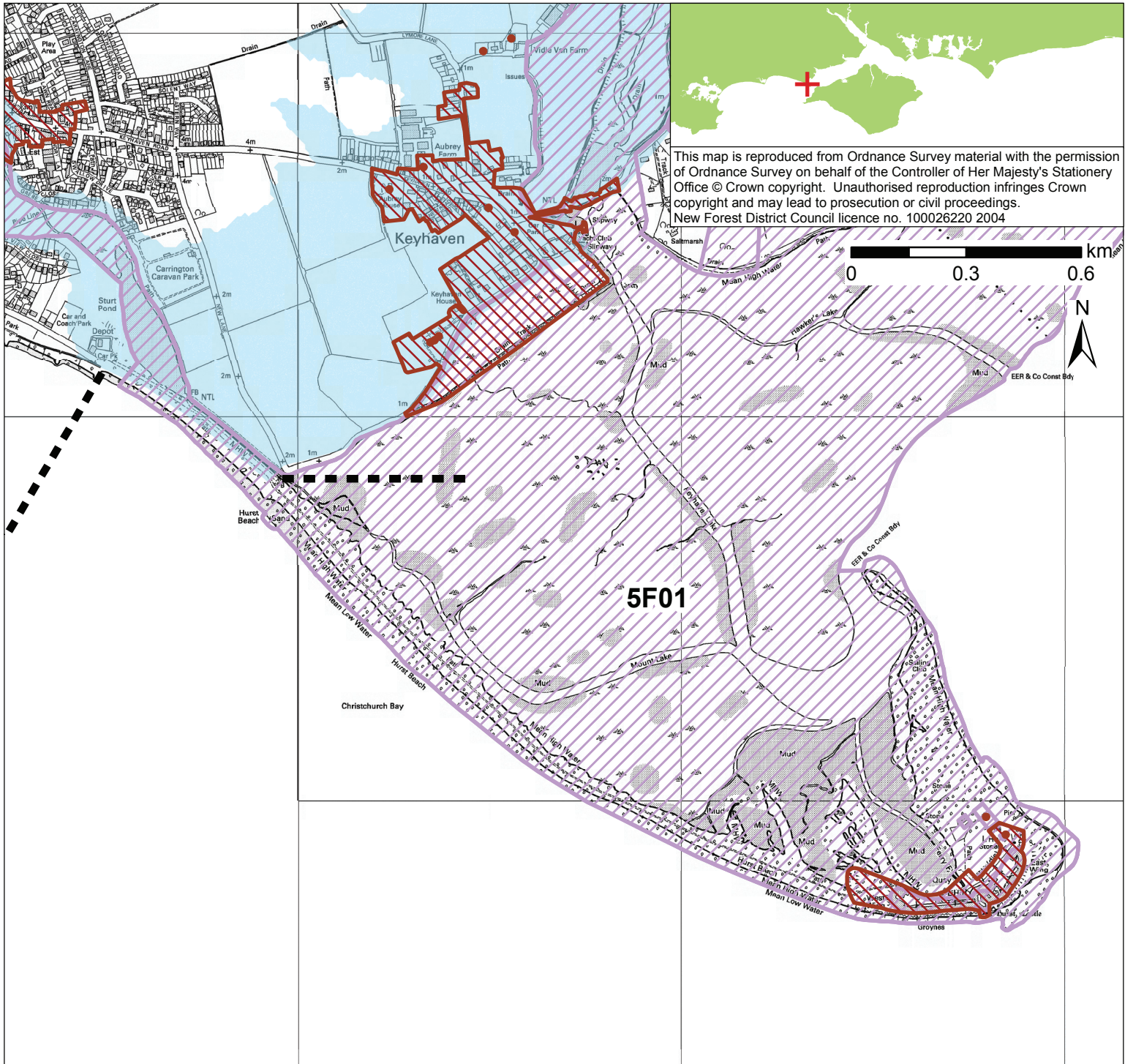
None.

Funding

Central government funding is likely to be secured for ongoing maintenance works to the shingle spit, in line with the current Beach Management Plan. North Point would be allowed to develop naturally, while continuing to provide a source of shingle for recycling, along with continued maintenance of the rock structures.

Further Studies (identified in Action Plan)

Conclusion of the Western Solent Coastal Defence Strategy
Solent-wide network of high tide roost site study



POLICY

From Present Day (up to 2025):	Medium-Term (2025 to 2055):	Long-Term (2055 to 2105):
Hold the Line	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
- 2115 Indicative Floodplain (1 in 200 year) provided from PUSH