

## 5 Policy statements

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section contains a series of statements and maps presenting the policy, and the implications for individual locations. These are to provide local detail to support the SMP-wide Plan presented in Section 4, and consider locally-specific issues and objectives. Consequently, these statements must be read in conjunction with those and in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications as reported therein.

### 5.2 CONTENT

Each Policy Statement contains the following:

**Location reference** This provides the general name used for reference to each policy unit and a number identifier which is sequential along the shoreline from north to south.

**Summary of the Plan recommendations and justification** This is a statement summarising the Plan and describing the rationale behind it. These focus upon the long-term Plan but also note any different short-term requirements.

**Policies to implement the Plan** This describes the policies and activities that will be undertaken in the short, medium, and long-term to implement the Plan. In this respect, ‘from present day’ is broadly representative of the next 20 years, “Medium-term” 20 to 50 years, and “Long-term” 50 to 100 plus years. These timescales should not be taken as definitive, however, but should instead be considered as phases in the management of a location.

**Predicted implications of the Plan for this location** This Table summarises the consequences *at this location only* resulting from the policies. These are categorised as “Property & Land Use”, “Nature Conservation”, “Landscape”, “Historic Environment” and “Amenity & Recreational Use” (which are being used nationally for the SMPs). The implications have been assessed for the situation by years 2025, 2055 and 2105, again to provide a nationally consistent picture. *Broad estimates* of potential residential and commercial losses have been included.

#### 5.2.1 Policy units

Statements are provided for the following Policy Units:

<i>3b01 Kelling Hard to Sheringham</i>	<i>3b09 Mundesley to Bacton Gas Terminal</i>	<i>3b17 Great Yarmouth</i>
<i>3b02 Sheringham</i>	<i>3b10 Bacton Gas Terminal</i>	<i>3b18 Gorleston</i>
<i>3b03 Sheringham to Cromer</i>	<i>3b11 Bacton, Walcott and Ostend</i>	<i>3b19 Gorleston to Hopton</i>
<i>3b04 Cromer</i>	<i>3b12 Ostend to Eccles</i>	<i>3b20 Hopton</i>
<i>3b05 Cromer to Overstrand</i>	<i>3b13 Eccles to Winterton Beach Road</i>	<i>3b21 Hopton to Corton</i>
<i>3b06 Overstrand</i>	<i>3b14 Winterton to Scratby</i>	<i>3b22 Corton</i>
<i>3b07 Overstrand to Mundesley</i>	<i>3b15 California to Caister-on-Sea</i>	<i>3b23 Corton to Lowestoft</i>
<i>3b08 Mundesley</i>	<i>3b16 Caister-on-Sea</i>	<i>3b24 Lowestoft North (to Ness Point)</i>

<b>Location reference:</b>	<b>Eccles to Winterton Beach Road</b>
<b>Policy Unit reference:</b>	3b13

### **SUMMARY OF PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION**

#### **Plan:**

*The exposure of this coastline means that technically and economically it will become increasingly difficult to hold the present shoreline position in the longer term. Eventually (possibly beyond the timescale of this SMP), beaches will become impossible to retain in their current position, even with continual re-nourishment, as sea-level rise and coastal squeeze results in higher exposure of the shoreline defences. As the shoreline to the north continues to erode this will also become a more prominent area and increasingly reduce any sediment, from coastal erosion, reaching areas to the south. If the shoreline is held beyond a certain time it is possible that it could never recover to reform as a natural system to feed these areas. This could accelerate erosion and compromise both defence and natural habitats to the south.*

*A more sustainable defended position will therefore be a retreated formal defence line, which may allow a natural beach to form along the seaward edge of this area and sediment movement to take place, feeding dunes and beaches to the south. This would result in the loss of properties and farmland in the floodplain, as well as a dramatic change in shoreline and hinterland characteristics. There is potential for considerable nature conservation and biodiversity opportunities to be realised, but with losses of currently designated sites and potential impacts on habitats further inland. Therefore, such dramatic changes require more detailed investigation and in the short to medium-term the present defences are to be maintained whilst the retired line option is investigated. This will be done through a number of studies, which will need to determine the viability, approach, timing, consequences, and any measures that would need to be put in place to manage risk. Such studies should generate recommendations regarding mitigation for the displacement of people and the loss of property and assets.*

#### **Policies to implement Plan:**

**From present day:** Due to the considerable assets at risk and the uncertainty of how the coastline could evolve, the policy from the present day is to **hold the present line of defence**. This policy is likely to involve maintenance of existing seawalls and reef structures, replacing groynes as necessary and continuing to re-nourish beaches with dredged sand. This policy will provide an appropriate standard of protection to all assets behind the present defence line, and, with the recharge, a beach will be maintained as well as a supply of sediment to downdrift areas.

However, this approach will become more difficult over time and may not be economically or technically sustainable in the long-term (see below). It is therefore recommended that detailed studies be undertaken immediately, whilst maintaining defences, to fully explore the implications of the alternatives that might be considered in the future, and the mechanisms required to enable and manage any change.

One possible variation to this policy is at the very southern end of the frontage (south of Bramble Hill), where the seawall currently sits within the dunes. Here it is proposed that, should the seawall become exposed (which is currently

considered unlikely in the short-term), it is not maintained and the alternative of a flood embankment would be considered on the landward edge of the dunes to prevent flooding. This approach would not increase the risk of flooding to any land or property, but would allow the dunes to function with the beach, and therefore offer better natural defence as well as better natural habitat.

*This approach is not considered detrimental to the long-term Plan for the SMP as it includes continued provision of new sediment into the beach system and does not exacerbate problems elsewhere in the short-term.*

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**Medium-term:** No change in policy from **hold the line** (with possible variation at Bramble Hill, as discussed above), but recommendation for continued studies to assess sustainability of this policy and to investigate possible managed realignment options.

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**Long-term:** In the long-term the Plan for this area is to adopt a retired line of defence further inland, i.e. through a **managed realignment** policy, once defence of the present line becomes technically or economically unsustainable. Precisely when continuing to defend along the present line will become unsustainable is, however, uncertain at the present time, so a **hold the line** policy will remain the policy until further analysis concludes otherwise. This timing depends upon at least five factors: (i) the length of time over which there remains an economic case for defending the present line, rather than a retired line; (ii) the impact that holding the line has upon shorelines to the north and south (and the technical capability to mitigate this through measures elsewhere), (iii) the ability of the held shoreline to recover and reform as a natural beach, (iv) greater understanding of the evolution of natural habitats and thus environmental costs and benefits, and (v) the ability to put in place measures to mitigate displacement and losses. All of these factors should be the subject of prior investigation and no final decision should be taken before completion of these detailed studies.

The appropriate extent of any set back defence line is equally undetermined at the present time. Three possible options for retired lines of defence have been provisionally explored. It should be recognised that all three options allow management of the extent and timing of inundation rather than uncontrolled flooding (which would occur under a no active intervention policy). These options, each probably taking the form of earth embankments, are (a) defences immediately (approx 0.5km) behind the existing defence line; (c) maximising use of high ground with potential for local defences to various communities; (b) defences somewhere between these two.

Under all three options there will be substantial loss of land and property, which is currently protected by the existing defences, but potentially significant environmental benefits, but with the loss of designated sites, and better natural defence to adjacent shorelines. It is thought likely that this shoreline will form as a low beach berm along most, if not all, of the frontage, with the area beyond having the potential to develop into new natural habitats, for example tidal lagoons, mudflats and saltmarsh. However, further studies are necessary

to confirm this. Line (a) has the advantage of offering most protection to assets within the floodplain, but the disadvantage of simply deferring the problem and recreating the same problems for future generations as the shoreline retreats further. The option of greatest retreat (c) has the disadvantage of greatest loss of land and property, but potentially achieves the highest benefits in terms of biodiversity. It also requires substantially less defence than other options. Line (b) would not have the disadvantages of (a) and would protect more farmland than (c), but with a much higher construction cost.

Should the detailed studies establish that the present hold the line policy is sustainable for up to 100 years, then it is probable that this period would instead become one of transition; building retired defence lines and beginning to implement the long-term strategy of adopting one of these options.

**Location reference:** *Eccles to Winterton Beach Road*

**Policy Unit reference:** 3b13

**PREDICTED IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION**

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Property &amp; Land Use</b>	<b>Nature Conservation</b>	<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Historic Environment</b>	<b>Amenity &amp; Recreational Use</b>
<b>By 2025</b>	No loss of property or land behind the existing defences.	No loss of dunes behind seawall and beach maintained through recharge.	No change from present.	No loss of sites behind the existing defences.	Beach present (with recharge) Car parking facilities maintained. Sea Palling IRB station maintained. No change to facilities behind existing defences.
<b>By 2055</b>	No loss of property or land behind the existing defences.	No loss of dunes behind seawall and beach maintained through recharge.	No change from present.	No loss of sites behind the existing defences.	Beach present (with recharge) Car parking facilities maintained. Sea Palling IRB station maintained. No change to facilities behind existing defences.
<b>By 2105<sup>1</sup></b>	No loss of property or land behind the existing defences.	No loss of dunes behind seawall and beach maintained through recharge (although increased rates and frequency of recharge likely).	No change from present.	No loss of sites behind the existing defences.	Beach present (with recharge), but may become more difficult to maintain. Car parking facilities maintained. Sea Palling IRB station maintained. No change to facilities behind existing defences.
<b>By 2105<sup>2</sup></b>	Option a) Loss of up to circa 170 properties and approximately 180 hectares of agricultural land.	Net loss in dune volume.	Possible enhancement of landscape quality.	Loss of/ damage to heritage sites, including Waxham Barn, windmills and Grade II and II* properties.	Change in beach location/ characteristics. Car parking facilities lost.

	Associated infrastructure lost. Loss of section of B1159 road.				Sea Palling IRB station lost. Loss of facilities.
	Option b) Loss of up to circa 640 properties and approximately 1600 hectares of agricultural land.  Associated infrastructure lost. Loss of section of B1159 road.	Naturally-functioning system with possible large biodiversity gain but wider impact on Broadland habitats.  Net loss in frontal dune volume.	Possible enhancement of landscape quality.	Loss of/ damage to heritage sites, including Waxham Barn, windmills and Grade II and II* properties.	Change in beach location/ characteristics.  Car parking facilities lost.  Sea Palling IRB station lost.  Loss of facilities.
	Option c) Loss of up to circa 1020 properties and approximately 5200 hectares of agricultural land.  Associated infrastructure lost. Loss of large section of B1159 road.	Naturally-functioning system with possible large biodiversity gain but wider impact on Broadland habitats – greater than option b).  Net loss in frontal dune volume.	Possible enhancement of landscape quality.	Loss of/ damage to heritage sites, including Waxham Barn, windmills and Grade II and II* properties.	Change in beach location/ characteristics.  Car parking facilities lost.  Sea Palling IRB station lost.  Loss of facilities.

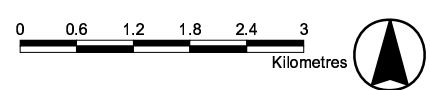
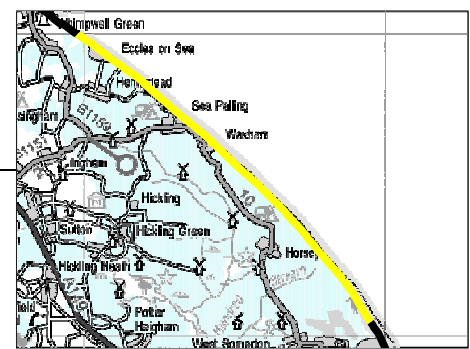
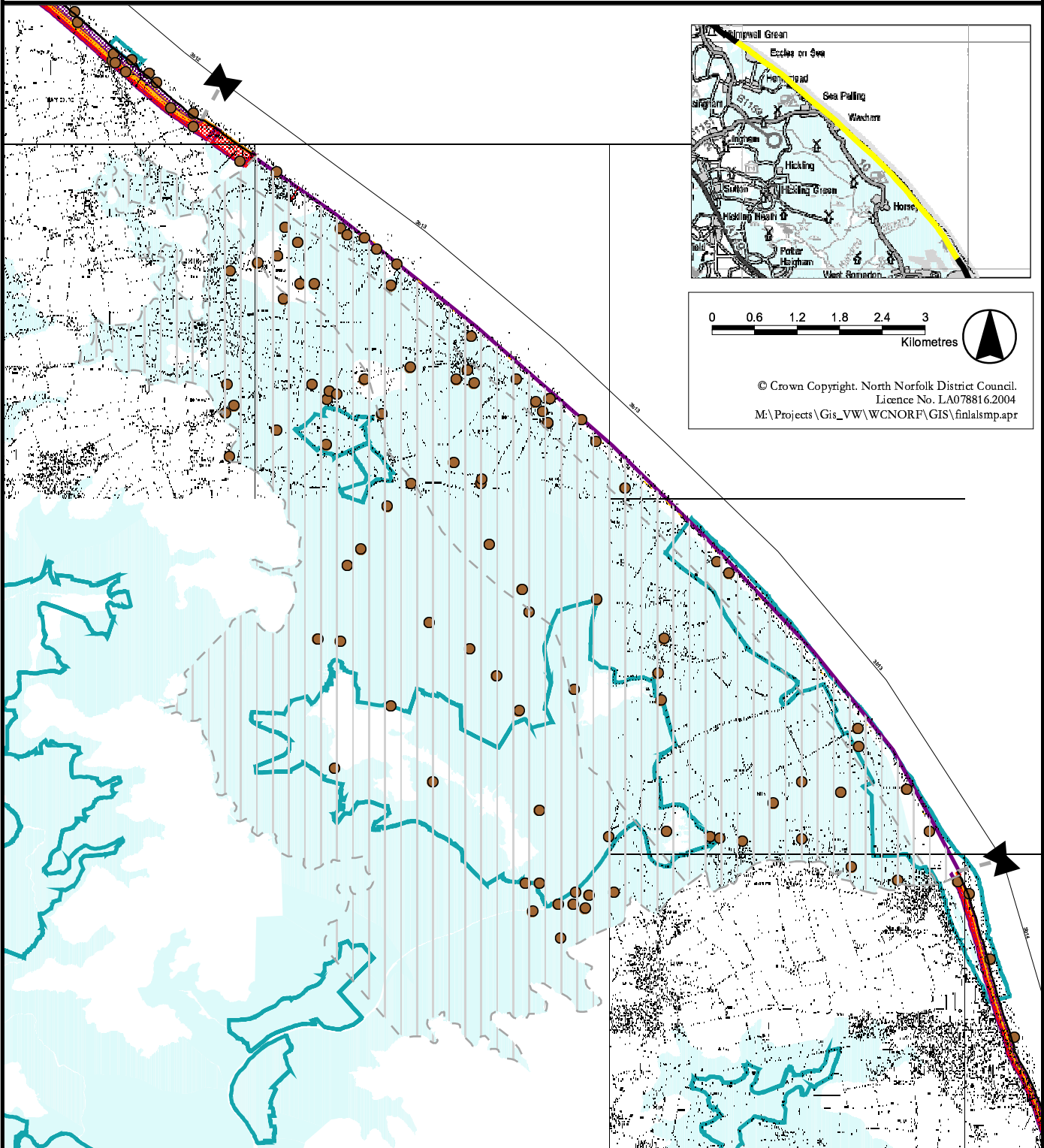
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1 – Existing defences maintained up to 2105.

2 – Retired line of defence implemented by 2105.

# Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan

## Policy Unit 3b13: Eccles to Winterton Beach Road



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### POLICY (FOR FULL DETAILS SEE RELEVANT POLICY STATEMENT)

Present Day	Medium-Term	Long-Term:
Hold the line through maintaining existing defences, whilst studies are on-going	Hold the line through maintaining existing defences, whilst studies are on-going	Hold the line, with a view to retreat to a setback position through managed realignment, once this is no longer sustainable

- Potential long-term realignment options (examples only)
- ▨ Maximum long-term realignment
- ▬ Policy Unit boundary

#### Environmental/Cultural Heritage

- National Nature Conservation Designation
- International and National Nature Conservation Designation
- Important Heritage Sites
- 2003 Indicative Floodplain © Environment Agency