

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> |

Location reference: California to Caister-on-Sea

Policy Unit reference: 3b15

SUMMARY OF PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS AND JUSTIFICATION

Plan:

The shoreline here, together with that to the south, currently forms a small promontory, which is likely to become much more pronounced as sea levels rise and the adjacent shorelines to the north retreat. This could eventually have detrimental impacts on downdrift areas, due to interruption to alongshore transport and increasing losses to offshore, diminishing natural defence and natural habitats elsewhere. In the long-term this frontage would also become technically more difficult, and thus more expensive, to maintain. The long-term Plan is therefore to allow retreat of the coastline, to improve sediment feed to downdrift areas. However, failure to maintain this position in the short-term would lead to a set back in the shoreline and could create problems at Caister, where there are considerable properties at risk, as well as at California. Therefore, in the short-term existing defences will be maintained to continue to provide protection to this frontage. This will allow measures to be put in place to manage risk and mitigate the displacement of people, and the loss of property and assets.

Policies to implement Plan:

From present day: To continue to protect assets, the policy is to continue to **hold the line** through the maintenance of existing defences, i.e. the rock bund, rock groynes and concrete wall, until failure. The life time of these structures extends beyond this period; therefore existing assets will continue to be protected, although some erosion may occur directly behind the rock bund at California. This will involve maintenance costs, but it is not proposed that defences be replaced once they reach the end of their life.

This policy will not be detrimental to the long-term Plan due to the rapid shoreline response along this coastline once defences are no longer in place.

Medium-term: The long-term aim is to allow a naturally-functioning coast; therefore in the medium-term the policy is to no longer maintain the existing defences. The cost of maintaining defences is likely to increase over time, due to the increasing exposure, and their effectiveness will reduce over time. Once the defences fail, the cost of constructing new ones is unlikely to be economically viable and technically unsuitable in their current position. However, these defences are likely to still have an impact for most of this period, allowing measures to be put into place to manage the future risk. Retreat of the coast is expected to result in loss of cliff-top assets at California. Therefore the policy is to hold the line until existing defences fail then allow retreat through **managed realignment**.

Long-term: The long-term policy is to allow shoreline retreat through a policy of **managed realignment**; the existing defences may still have a residual effect and reduce erosion rates along this frontage. However, should these structures be found to be impeding the movement of adequate sediment volumes along the shoreline, then consideration might be given to their removal. This retreat will result in loss of cliff-top assets; therefore measures need to be in place to deal with risk

management and mitigation.

The above provides the local details in respect of the SMP-wide Plan; therefore the above must be read in the context of the wider-scale issues and policy implications, as presented in the preceding sections and Appendices to this Plan document.

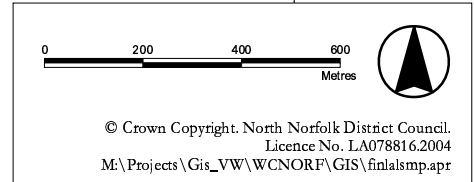
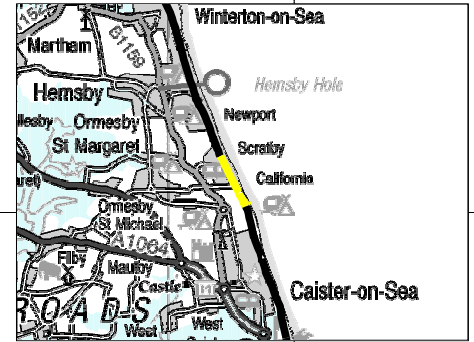
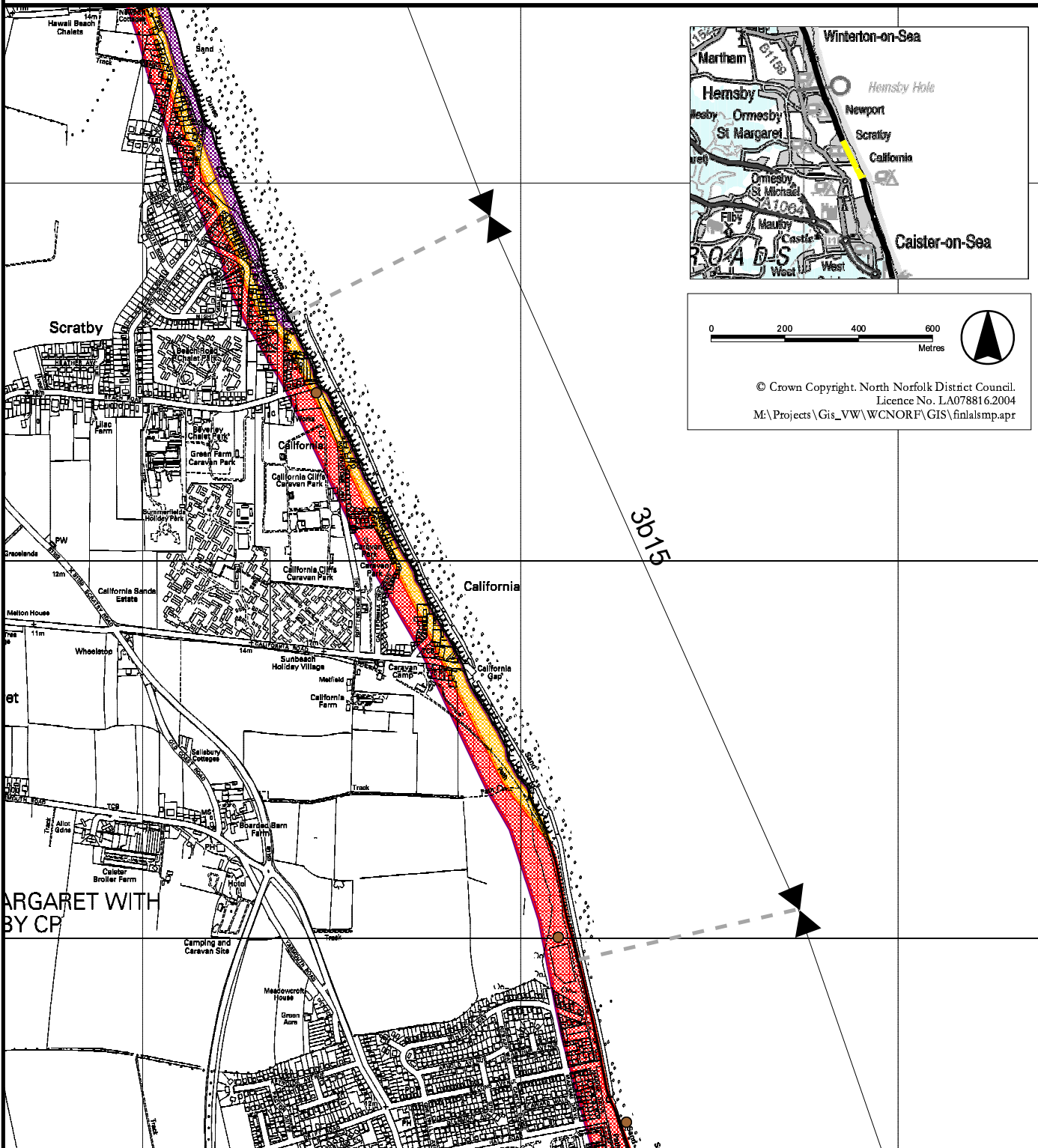
| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Location reference:</i> | California to Caister-on-Sea |
| <i>Policy Unit reference:</i> | <i>3b15</i> |

PREDICTED IMPLICATIONS OF THE PLAN FOR THIS LOCATION

| Time Period | Property & Land Use | Nature Conservation | Landscape | Historic Environment | Amenity & Recreational Use |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| By 2025 | Loss of less than 5 seafront properties. Low risk of damage to link road between Scratby and California. | Minimal loss of Caister Point CWS. | No landscape objectives identified. | No heritage objectives identified. | Beach present. Tourist facilities unlikely to be affected. |
| By 2055 | Cumulative loss of up to circa 70 seafront properties, including holiday accommodation and associated infrastructure. Loss of section of link road between Scratby and California. | Some loss of Caister Point CWS, but naturally-functioning coast promoted. | No landscape objectives identified. | No heritage objectives identified. | Beach present and access possible. Some loss of seafront tourist facilities. |
| By 2105 | Cumulative loss of between circa 70 and 130 seafront properties, including holiday accommodation and associated infrastructure. Loss of link road between Scratby and California. | Some further loss of Caister Point CWS, but naturally-functioning coast promoted. | No landscape objectives identified. | No heritage objectives identified. | Beach present and access possible. Further loss of seafront tourist facilities. |

Kelling to Lowestoft Ness Shoreline Management Plan

Policy Unit 3b15: California to Caister-on-Sea



POLICY (FOR FULL DETAILS SEE RELEVANT POLICY STATEMENT)

| From Present Day: | Medium-Term: | Long-Term: |
|---|---|---|
| Hold the line through maintaining existing defences | Hold the line through maintaining existing defences until failure, then managed realignment | Allow retreat through managed realignment |

- Indicative erosion zone up to 2025
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2055
- Indicative erosion zone up to 2105
- Policy Unit boundary
- National Nature Conservation Designation
- International and National Nature Conservation Designation
- Important Heritage Sites
- 2003 Indicative Floodplain © Environment Agency