

4 Policy statements

4.1 Introduction

The policy statements in this section outline the policies for each policy development zone (PDZ). They are illustrated by the policy maps and accompanied by additional information that was used to appraise, select and confirm these policies. There is one policy statement for each management unit, consisting of the following elements:

Overall summary of the plan and description of the plan in the three epochs

This is a description in text of the plan and policies. The text starts with the overall intent for the Management Unit. It then describes the different policies throughout the Unit, and summarises their impacts (both positive and negative).

Summary table of the policies per PDZ

This is a table that summarises the policy per PDZ for all three epochs. It lists the policy label (HtL, MR, AtL or NAI) and explains what this means locally. The text box on the next page explains how the four policy labels have been applied to the various intents of management that the SMP proposes.

Description of changes compared to present shoreline management

This highlights where this SMP is proposing changes from the current management. For the open coast frontages, the first SMP produced in 1996 is used as the reference. For the estuaries, which were not included in the first SMP, the reference is the existing management. Although Flood Risk Management Strategies have been undertaken for the Essex estuaries only the Roach and Crouch Estuary Strategy contained fully appraised management policies. Information from all the estuary studies has been included in the development of the SMP.

The main aim of the Shoreline Management Plan is to develop an ‘intent of management’ for the shoreline that achieves the best possible and achievable balance of all the values and features around the shoreline for the coming 100 years. This intent of management constitutes the actual plan. For all SMPs nationally, the plan for each section of shoreline is then translated into one of four policy labels (see also section 1.1):

- **Hold the line (HtL)** – means holding the defence line where it is now. The SMP does not determine an intended standard of protection for defences: this needs more detailed study beyond the SMP, in strategy studies or asset management plans. However, for some frontages the SMP can indicate an intent to maintain or upgrade the standard of protection. This is explained further in the next paragraph.
- **Advance the line (AtL)** – means building new defences seaward of the existing defence line.
- **Managed realignment (MR)** – means allowing or enabling the shoreline to move, with associated management to control or limit the effect on land use and environment. This can take various forms, all characterised by managing change, either technically, for land use or for the environment. For the Essex and South Suffolk SMP, two distinct types of Managed Realignment are relevant, see below.
- **No active intervention (NAI)** – no further investment in coastal defences or operations.

Even though the SMP does not determine an intended standard of protection, there are frontages where the broad scale analysis of the SMP gives sufficient confidence about the benefits and costs to state an intent to maintain or upgrade the standard of protection, including taking into account impacts of climate change. For clarity, we have added a + sign to the policy labels for these frontages. Note that for the other frontages, it may also be possible to maintain or even upgrade the standard of protection, but this will require more detailed study beyond the SMP.

This can be the case for any policy that contains defences, i.e. HtL, AtL or MR, as follows:

Policy label	Intent of management
HtL+	Maintain or upgrade the standard of protection, including
AtL+	taking into account impacts of climate change
MR+	

There can be various types of managed realignment, and this is also the case for the Essex and South Suffolk SMP. This is explained for each PDZ in the intent of management but, to prevent any confusion, this SMP uses policy labels that identify various sub-types of the managed realignment policy, as follows:

Policy label	Intent of management
MR1	Allow local and limited intervention to limit the risks of erosion, as long as negative impacts are minimised. This may involve small scale works.
MR2	Breach of the frontline defence after building any necessary new landward defence line and counterwalls to limit flooding to adjacent areas.

Overview of effects related to the principles

The results of the policy appraisal process are illustrated in the policy statements by tables. A symbol was assigned to each of the principles as shown in Table 4-1.











Below that are the criteria that were used for the appraisal. The cells of the tables were then shaded in green, amber or red to visualise how the plan performs against the criteria and principles. The colours have the following meaning:

- green: the plan has a positive effect on the principle
- amber: the plan has a neutral effect on the principle
- red: the plan has a negative effect on the principle
- grey: the principle does not apply to the PDZ (for example, the infrastructure symbol is grey for PDZs where there are no roads or utilities that can be affected by policies of the SMP).

Appendix E describes the full process of appraisal, and provides the baseline data used to derive the scoring.

Policy maps

Each policy statement contains a set of four policy maps to illustrate the plan: the present day situation and a map for each epoch.

	To balance flood and erosion management with the assets and benefits that it protects.
	To seek opportunities for managing the shoreline through natural coastal processes and take full account of longshore and cross-shore impacts.
	To provide time and information for communities, individuals and partner organisations to adapt to any anticipated coastal change.
	To support communities and sustainable development for the people living around the Essex and South Suffolk shoreline by managing the risk to community activities and infrastructure.
	To support and promote the social and economic values of the Essex and South Suffolk coast to wider society.
	To support conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity.
	To support protection and promotion of the historic environment and its value for the heritage, culture and economy of the area.
	To support and enhance people's enjoyment of the coast by maintaining and enhancing access.
	To develop policies appropriate to the diverse character of the Essex and South Suffolk coast and its dynamic interaction of land and sea.
	To contribute to maintaining and enhancing the evolving character of the coastal landscape.

Decreasing fulfilment of criteria ↓	Description	Associated colour and scores
	Good performance of the policy against the criterion	9 - 7
	Average performance of the policy against the criterion	6 - 4
	Poor performance of the policy against the criterion	3 - 1

Table 4-1 Key to appraisal tables

4.3 Management Unit B – Hamford Water

Summary of the Plan: Recommendations and Justification

The overall intent of management for Hamford Water is to sustain and support the viability of communities, tourism and commercial activities while creating new intertidal habitats and focusing flood risk management on frontages where it is most needed. The policy to achieve this intent is to maintain flood defence to the majority of the defended land, including all dwellings and key infrastructure at risk of flooding, whilst also allowing coastal and estuarine processes to act in a less constrained manner by realigning defences that are under pressure.

The frontages where the existing flood defences will continue to be held at their current alignment are south Dovercourt, Oakley Creek and Titchmarsh Marina. The defences at south Dovercourt protect an old refuse tip. The SMP's Action Plan includes a study to determine how to deal with this contamination, for input into the next SMP review.

However, at Little Oakley, Horsey Island, Devereux Farm and Walton Channel (PDZs B2, B3a, B4a and B5) the defences are under pressure from coastal change and a landward realignment will create a more sustainable situation by reducing the pressure from the channels on the defences and moving towards a more natural estuary with increase of tidal prism and intertidal area. Realignments can have a socio-economic benefit for navigation, sailing clubs and local marinas; there are examples where increased flow helps to sustain navigation channels. All dwellings and infrastructure will remain protected, including the sewage treatment works at Walton; this would require moving some of the defences to a more sustainable sheltered position, possibly in the form of counterwalls. The potential realignments would come at the expense of some Grade 2, 3 and 4 agricultural land. They will also affect partly designated freshwater habitats on Horsey Island and at Walton Channel, but they will also create new intertidal habitats. They will have some impact on heritage assets, particularly on Horsey Island, which will require mitigation by design and recording as part of implementation of the Plan. The footpaths on top of the sea banks to be breached, particularly at Little Oakley, will need to be sustained, for example through re-routing. The impact of the potential realignments on tourism and recreation (including sailing) is difficult to quantify, and realignments can have both positive and negative impacts. This impact will be taken into account during project appraisal and scheme development, which will be carried out with full stakeholder involvement before any works start.

At the entrance of the Walton channel, along Stone Point and Stone Marsh, foreshore recharge took place during the 1990s as significant sands and shingles were available from the Felixstowe port expansion and capital dredging. The intent of management for this section of the frontage is to continue dialogue and

explore the possibility of using sands and shingles from dredging activities for foreshore recharge. However it is understood that sediment availability from those activities may be limited.

The realignment for Devereux Farm (PDZ B4a) is proposed for epoch 1 and part of this site is already under construction. Realignment is proposed for epoch 2 (possibly epoch 1) for Little Oakley (PDZ B2), and epoch 3 for Horsey Island (PDZ B3a), and Walton Channel (PDZ B5).

Little Oakley is currently planned as a realignment site for habitat compensation for the Bathside Bay Project (Port of Harwich). The realignment that the SMP proposes for Little Oakley (PDZ B2) includes the Bathside Bay compensation plus additional area. This is illustrated in the Policy Maps. The realignment that the SMP proposes for Devereux Farm (PDZ B4a) is the same that is currently being developed within the Regional Habitats Creation Programme for the Devereux Farm project.

For south Dovercourt (B1) and Walton Channel (B5), the SMP's broad scale economic analysis supports an intent to maintain or upgrade the standard of protection, including taking into account impacts of climate change. For all the other defended frontages, detailed analysis beyond the SMP is needed to determine the appropriate standard of protection.

The cliffs at the Naze are the only frontage in this Unit that presently has a No Active Intervention policy. The intent of management is to continue this approach as much as possible, to sustain the geographical interest of the fresh cliff face and the supply of sediment along the shoreline. Therefore the policy for the northern stretch (PDZ B6a) remains No active intervention. However, at the southern extent of the cliffs (PDZ B6b) the intent is to protect the southern end of the cliff which will extend the life of the Naze Tower and its historic interest while sustaining and supporting the geological interest. This is in line with the Crag Walk Project and the Naze Heritage Project that are being developed and actioned by the Naze Protection Society (NPS) in partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Tendring District Council (TDC) in a shared aim to celebrate, promote and preserve the Naze. All small scale local interventions would require permission or consents. And this is when any geological, environmental and social issues or impacts would be considered and addressed.

Summary of Specific Policies

Policy Development Zone		Policy Plan			
		Now - 2025	2025 - 2055	2055 - 2105	Explanation
B1	South Dovercourt	HtL+	HtL+	HtL+	The current line will be held throughout all epochs. The standard of protection will be maintained or upgraded.
B2	Little Oakley	HtL	MR2	HtL	Hutchisons Ports is proposing a managed realignment scheme for Epoch 1 for the central area of B2 secured for the Bathside Bay development to meet their compensatory habitat needs. Potential to expand this site would be considered with willing local landowners into the rest of B2. If Bathside bay does not go ahead MR in this PDZ would be considered in Epoch 2. Managed realignment would be by breach of the existing defence while continuing flood defence to the dwellings, communities, roads and infrastructure south of Dovercourt and to the sewage works.
B3	Oakley Creek to Kirby-le-Soken	HtL	HtL	HtL	The current line will be held throughout all epochs.
B3a	Horsey Island	HtL	HtL	MR2	The current line will be held throughout the two epochs. Managed realignment by breach of the existing defence while continuing flood defence to the south west half of the island to take place in epoch 3.

Policy Development Zone		Policy Plan			
		Now - 2025	2025 - 2055	2055 - 2105	Explanation
B4a	Kirby-le-Soken to Coles Creek	MR2	HtL	HtL	Managed realignment by breach of the existing defence while continuing flood defence to Kirby-le-Soken.
B4b	Coles Creek to the Martello Tower	HtL	HtL	HtL	The current line will be held throughout all epochs.
B5	Walton Channel	HtL+	HtL+	MR2+	The current line will be held throughout the two epochs. Managed realignment by breach of the existing defence while continuing flood defence to all dwellings, the sewage works and the caravan park. The standard of protection will be maintained or upgraded.
B6a	Naze Cliffs north	NAI	NAI	NAI	The shoreline will be allowed to develop naturally.
B6b	Naze Cliffs south	MR1	MR1	MR1	The erosion process will be slowed down and managed.

Key:

HtL – Hold the Line

MR1 – Managed Realignment - Allow local and limited intervention

MR2 – Managed Realignment - Breach of frontline defence after building landward defence

NAI – No Active Intervention

Where a “+” is added to the policy label, this means that the Standard of protection will be maintained or upgraded











Changes from Present Management

Change from existing policies will take place in the currently defended PDZs where Managed Realignment is proposed. This would be in epoch 1 for Devereux Farm (PDZ B4a), epoch 2 (possibly epoch 1) for Little Oakley (PDZ B2), and epoch 3 for Horsey Island (PDZ B3a), and Walton Channel (PDZ B5).

The limited intervention approach for the southern end of Naze Cliffs is consistent with the existing policy.

Policy Appraisal Results (key and explanation: see Table 4-1 on page 95)

Policy Development Zone	Policy																											
		Policies appropriate to the diverse nature of Essex and South Suffolk	Flood and erosion risk to people and property	Future opportunities	Use of natural processes	Positive and negative impact on other frontages	Cross-shore impact on near-shore activities	Time available for adaptation for communities, individuals and partner organisations	Infrastructure	Socio-economic activities	Public services	Communities	Deprived communities	Impact on socio-economic features of regional, national or international significance	Designated habitats and species	Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets	Designated geological sites	Maintaining the evolving nature of the coastal landscape	Designated Heritage Assets	Significant undesignated heritage assets	Quality of Preservation	Archaeological Potential	Historic Landscape	Expected Scale of Mitigation	Impact on access to and along the coast			
B. Hamford Water																												
B1 (South Dovercourt)	HtL	8	9	9	5	5		9	9	9	9	9	9	9	5			8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9			
B2 (Little Oakley)	MR2				9	7		8		1					9	9					2	2	2	2	2	2	8	
B3 (Oakley Creek to Kirby-le-Soken)	HtL		9	9	8	8	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	5	5				9	9	9	9	9	9	9	
B3a (Horsey Island)	MR2				9	5		8		1						5	5					2	1	1	1	1	1	8
B4a (Kirby-le-Soken to the Martello Tower)*	MR2		Not appraised because the policy has been determined outside the SMP (in Regional Habitats Creation Programme)																									

Policy Development Zone	Policy																										
		Policies appropriate to the diverse nature of Essex and South Suffolk Essex	Flood and erosion risk to people and property	Future opportunities	Use of natural processes	Positive and negative impact on other frontages	Cross-shore impact on near-shore activities	Time available for adaptation for communities, individuals and partner organisations	Infrastructure	Socio-economic activities	Public services	Communities	Deprived communities	Impact on socio-economic features of regional, national or international significance	Designated habitats and species	Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets	Designated geological sites	Maintaining the evolving nature of the coastal landscape	Designated Heritage Assets	Significant undesignated heritage assets	Quality of Preservation	Archaeological Potential	Historic Landscape	Expected Scale of Mitigation	Impact on access to and along the coast		
B4b (Kirby-le-Soken to the Martello Tower)	HTL	8	9	9	8	8	5	9	9	9	9	9	9	5	5		8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9		
B5 (Walton Channel)	MR2				9	7		8		1					5	5				3	2	2	2	2	2	8	
B6a (Naze Cliffs)	NAI					9	9	9							9	9		9			2	3	2	2	3		
B6b (Naze Cliffs)	MR1					6	6		9		9					5		5	7		8	8	8	8	8	4	7

Policy maps

Figure 4-5 Management Unit B, Present Day

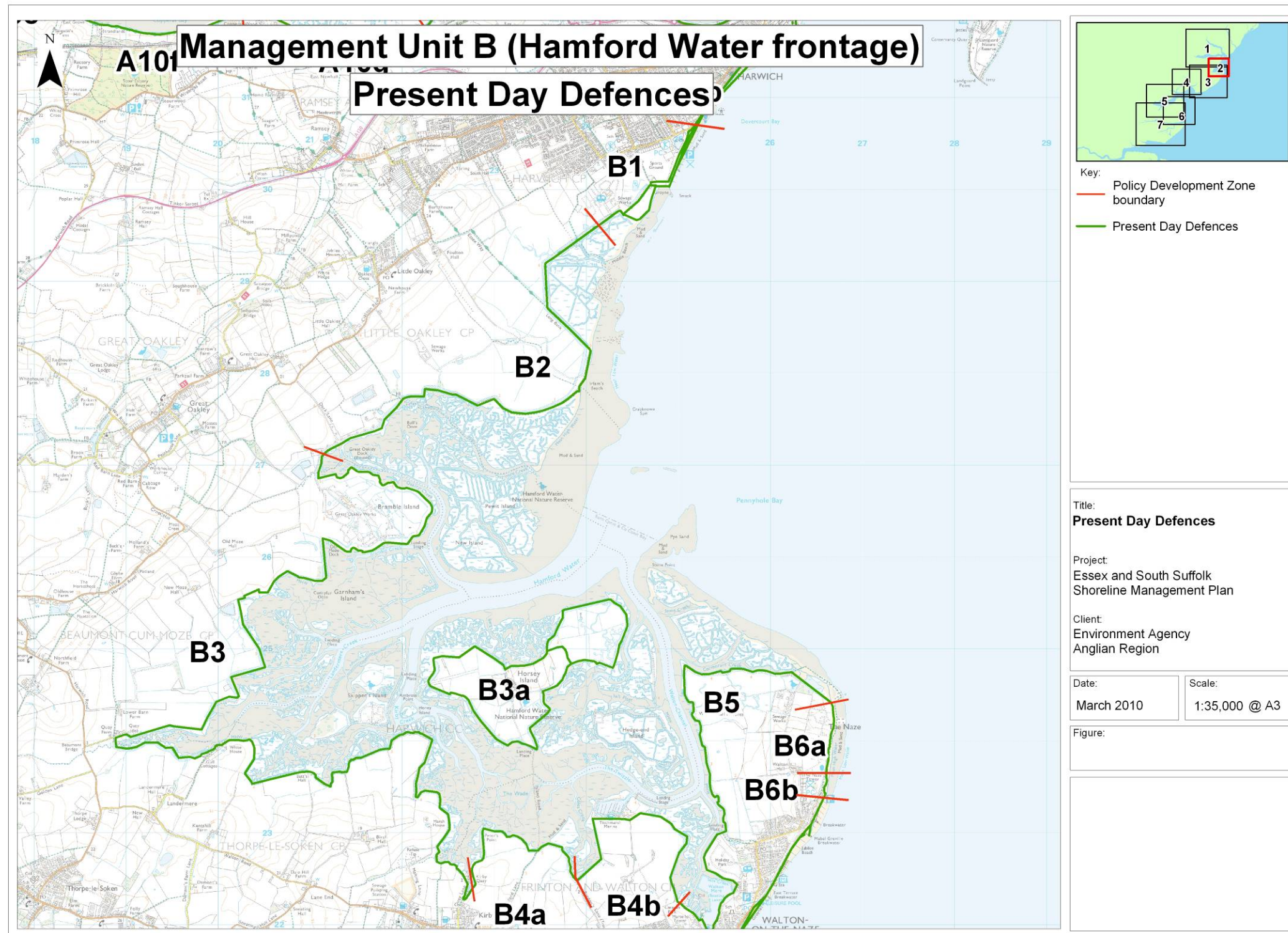


Figure 4-6 Management Unit B, epoch 1

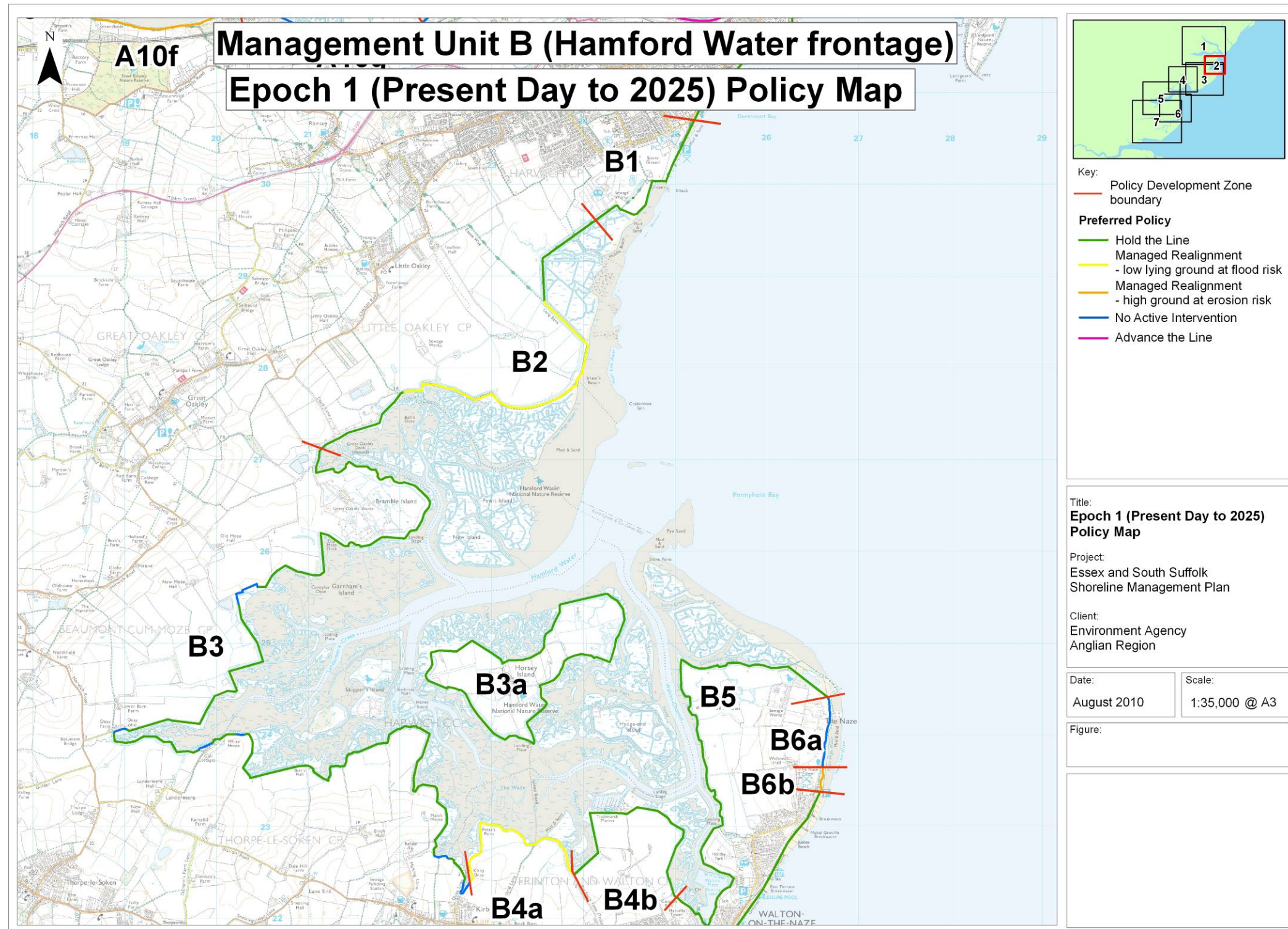


Figure 4-7 Management Unit B, epoch 2

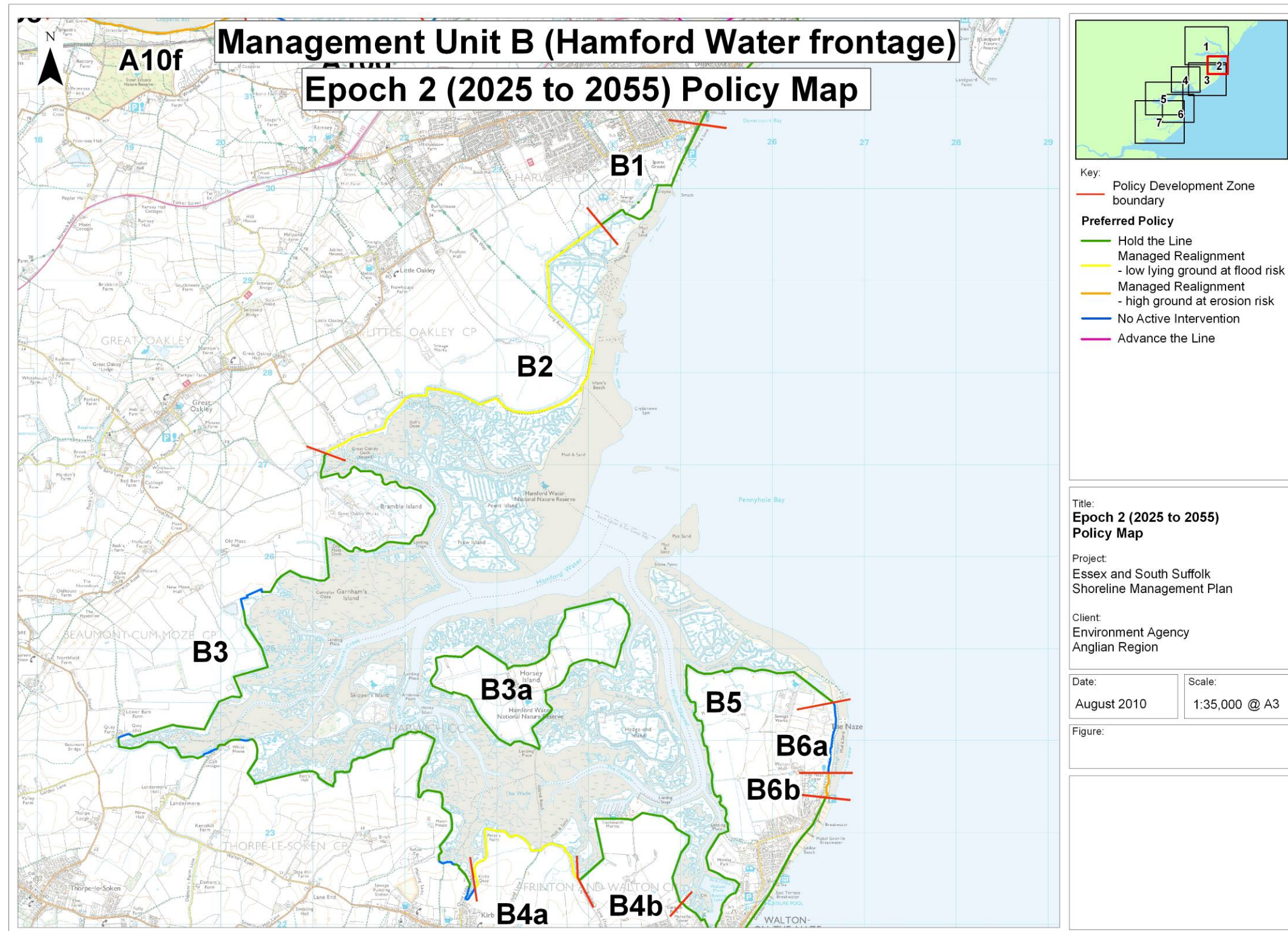


Figure 4-8 Management Unit B, epoch 3

