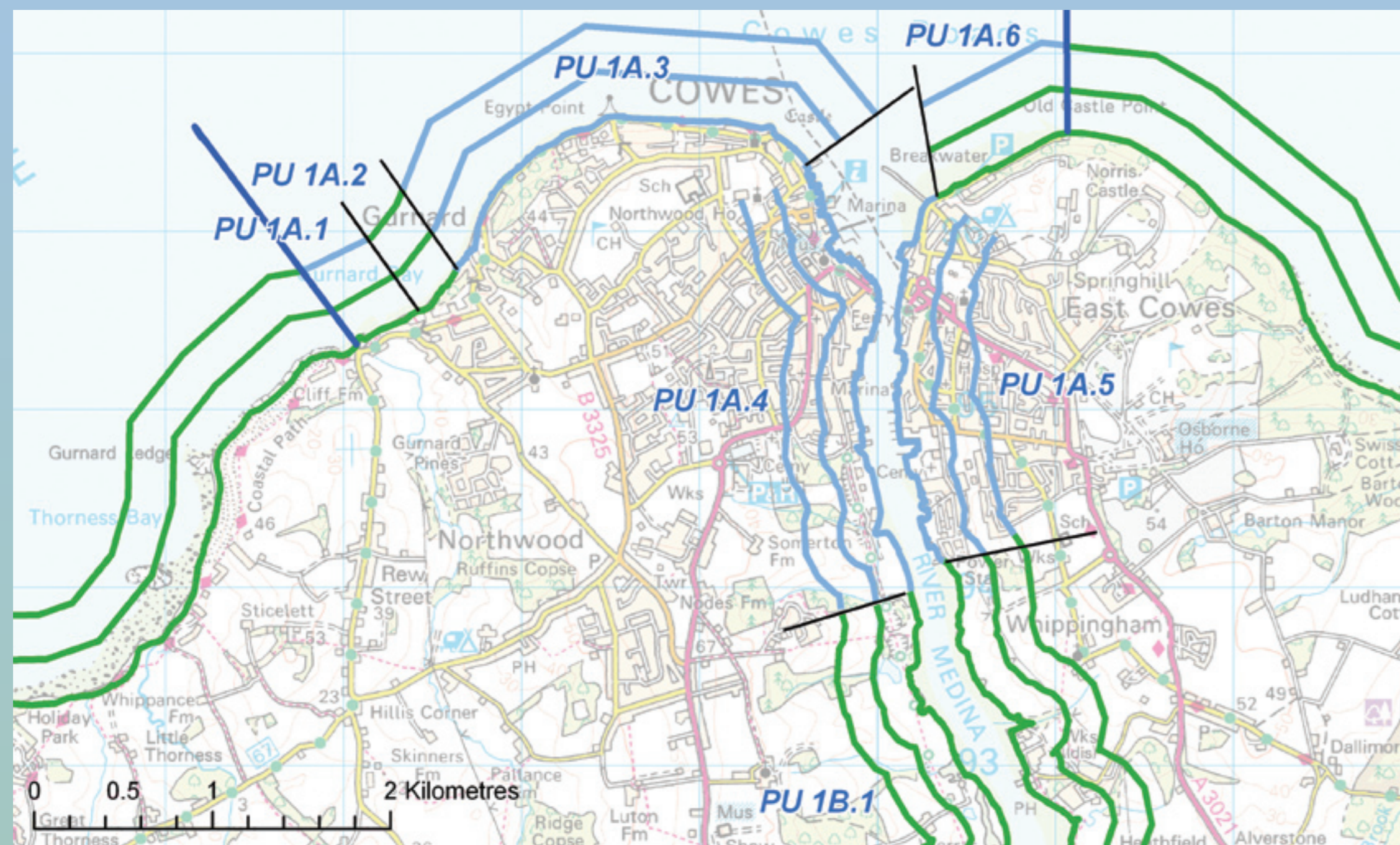


Cowes, East Cowes and Gurnard

Cowes and East Cowes waterfront



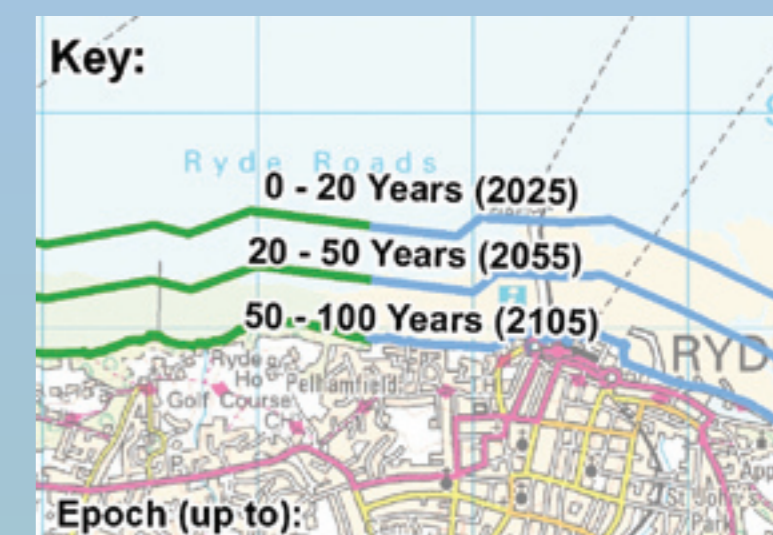
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Policy

- Hold the Line
- Advance the Line
- Managed Realignment
- No Active Intervention

NB. Lines show draft policy choices not defence structures

- Policy Unit eg. **PU 2A.1**
- Policy Development Zone (PDZ)



Shoreline Management Plan - Proposed Policies:

PDZ 1	Present day: Years 0 - 20	Medium-term: Years 20 - 50	Long-term: Years 50 - 100
1A.1 Gurnard Luck	Hold the Line: The intent of the plan at Gurnard Luck is to support the existing community in the short term whilst allowing medium to long term adaptation to coastal change. This area faces increasing risks of tidal and fluvial flooding and erosion. The SMP recognises the aspirations of the existing local community to maintain private defences and continue implementing adaptation techniques whilst it is practical to do so, including raising the level of their own properties. The intention is to transfer from a hold the line policy to a no active intervention policy in the medium term.	No Active Intervention: Moving to a policy of no active intervention reflects the increasing risks in the medium to long term and the need for increasing adaptation to flood risk and coastal change. Although the no active intervention policy cannot preclude maintenance of existing private defences, it is important to recognise that the frontage is unlikely to qualify for national funding of coastal defences and the clear intent of the shoreline management policy for the area is to highlight that this is a coastal area liable to significant change and the existing community will need to adapt, not continue to rely on defences in the long term.	
1A.2 Gurnard Cliff	No Active Intervention: The cliffs from Gurnard Luck to Gurnard are largely undefended and coastal retreat is expected to continue, providing some sediments to the shorelines to the east. There are some remains of some local defences and groyne structures reducing the rate of erosion. Reactivation of the coastal cliffs and slopes below Solent View Road properties may occur over 100 years. Attention is required to the transitions from defended to undefended coast to the west and east. The area is unlikely to qualify for national funding of coastal defences and adaptation to coastal change is required.		
1A.3 Gurnard to Cowes Parade	Hold the Line: From Gurnard to Cowes the low lying shoreline is backed by marginally-stable slopes and deep-seated coastal landslides, which underlie residential areas of the town and the popular seafront esplanade. Coastal defences are important in this area, as the zone of potential landslide reactivation is significantly larger than the area of assets at direct risk from coastal erosion. The current seawalls are effective in minimising the risk of slope failure by preventing erosion and undermining of the slopes, although high groundwater levels are also a factor. There is increasing risk of tidal flooding to areas of the seafront road and properties. The SMP recommends a policy of hold the line due to the scale of assets at risk from coastal slope failure and flooding. This policy would involve raising the level of defences as required with sea level rise. There are generally wide seafront esplanades fronted by seawalls, allowing space to raise the level of defences (with the exception of the short constrained frontage at the Royal Yacht Squadron). Increasing the level of defences will raise issues of access to the shoreline to access to adjacent properties.		
1A.4 & 1A.5 West Cowes & East Cowes	Hold the Line: The SMP recognises and supports the waterfront location which is essential to a successful and sustainable future for Cowes and East Cowes. However, areas of the town centres and communities are already affected by tidal flooding, and this risk will increase in future decades. The SMP recommends a policy of hold the line to maintain and raise the standard of the public and private defences lining the Cowes and East Cowes seafronts, to reduce tidal flooding. This will also maintain the navigable entrance channel of the Medina Estuary and support marine businesses. It is recognised that implementing the policy of hold the line will be difficult to achieve, due to the lack of space and the fragmented private defences lining waterfront properties, often providing waterfront access. A coordinated approach is required which delivers a reduction in future flood risk but also preserves the character of the area and the nature conservation interest of the Medina. The scale of the assets at risk - including residential and amenity developments, marine industries and commercial wharfs - and their importance to the local and Isle of Wight economies justifies further examination and the development of a detailed approach through a Coastal Defence Strategy. Although the proposed policy is hold the line, medium to long term adaptation of the town centres and communities should be encouraged, as risks will continue to increase as sea level rises and storm events occur.		
1A.6 East Cowes Outer Esplanade	Hold the Line: The section of East Cowes esplanade outside the Shrape breakwater provides popular waterfront access towards Old Castle Point. The sea wall is currently in good condition, expected to last 15 to 25 years, or longer with maintenance. The intention is to continue to maintain this seawall until the end of its effective life, recognising that there are not the assets at risk to justify replacement of this defence in the medium to long term, therefore transition to a policy of no active intervention is necessary.	No Active Intervention: As the coast begins to erode following loss of the seawall this will have impacts on the surrounding nature conservation interest and increase local sediment supply to the shore. This may have potential impacts on the mouth of the estuary as sediments drift to the east, although the source area is limited.	

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