

Strategy Overview



HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON
STRATEGY

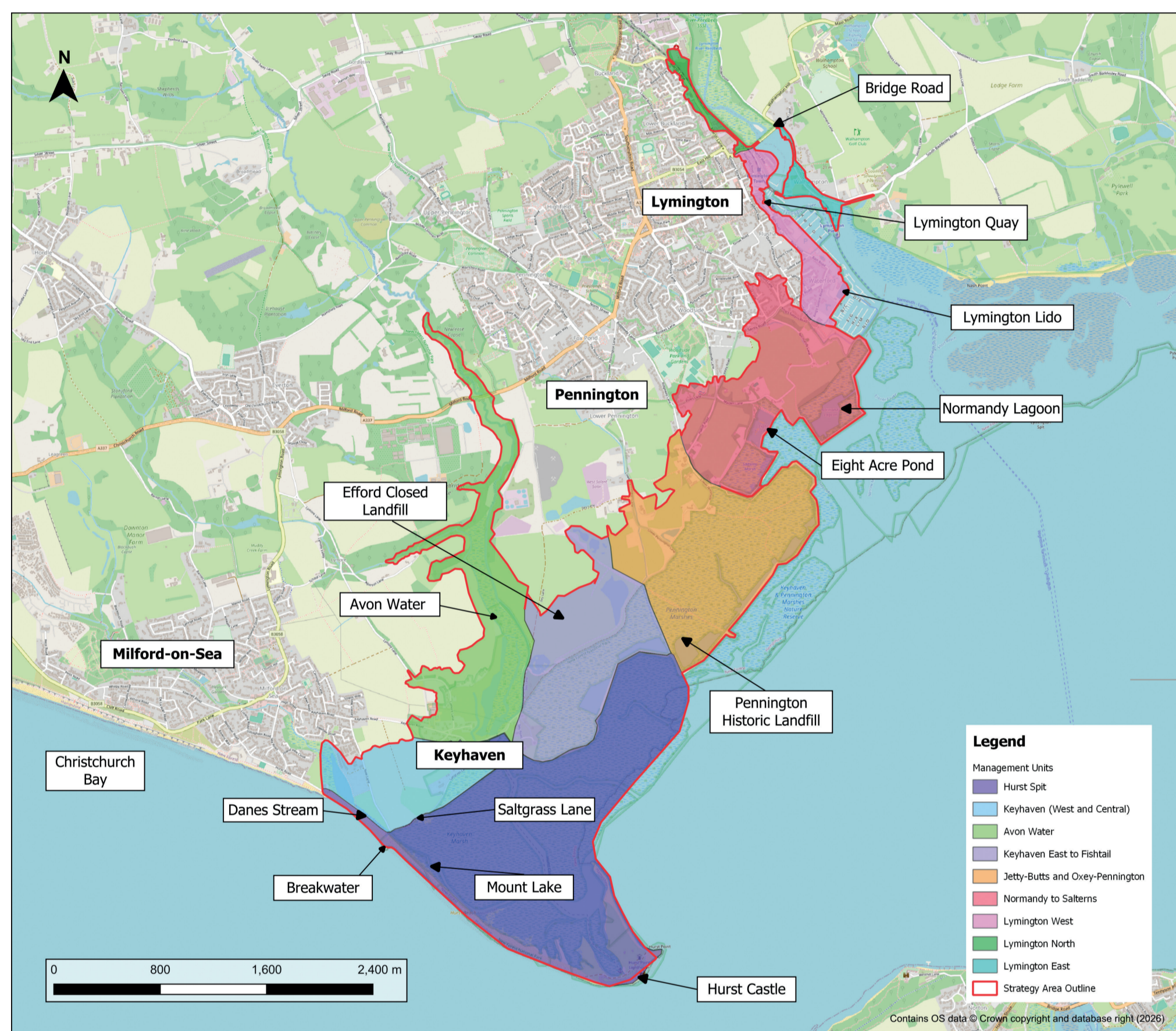
The Hurst Spit to Lymington Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy is exploring a sustainable future for the 15km coastal frontage between Hurst Spit and the town of Lymington over the next 100 years.

Communities living along our coastlines and rivers are increasingly at risk from climate change, rising sea levels and heavier rainfall, with impacts also affecting local wildlife. It is not possible to keep maintaining the coastline as it is now, in the face of these pressures.

This exhibition presents the Draft Strategy's preferred approach based on the needs of local residents, the environment, and businesses to adapt to these challenges to build a more resilient community for future generations.

It has been developed by the Environment Agency in partnership with New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council, Natural England and with expert technical input from JBA Consulting.

Map of Strategy Area and Management Units



Strategy Vision

A sustainable future for the Hurst Spit to Lymington area for the next 100 years: enabling communities, the environment, wildlife, heritage, recreation, tourism, and business to adapt to climate change and sea level rise.

The Strategy focused on five key objectives to help achieve the vision

- Managing flood risk to people, property and infrastructure
- Protect and enhance the natural environment and promote natural processes
- Promote options that reduce carbon emissions
- Propose options that are achievable and affordable in the short/medium term
- Promote options that align with other local plans

Keeping it Flexible

An Adaptation Pathway approach has been adopted for the Strategy. This means that a broad direction of travel is set without overcommitting to a specific way forward in light of considerable uncertainty in the future. If circumstances change, for example if understanding on climate change evolves, a sea wall deteriorates quicker or if funding availability increases then plans can be adjusted accordingly.

This approach helps keep plans flexible whilst still working towards the Strategy's objectives. Success will depend on ongoing monitoring to understand what is happening on the ground and if a different way forward is required. The Preferred Pathway for the different Management Units are presented on boards 6-12.



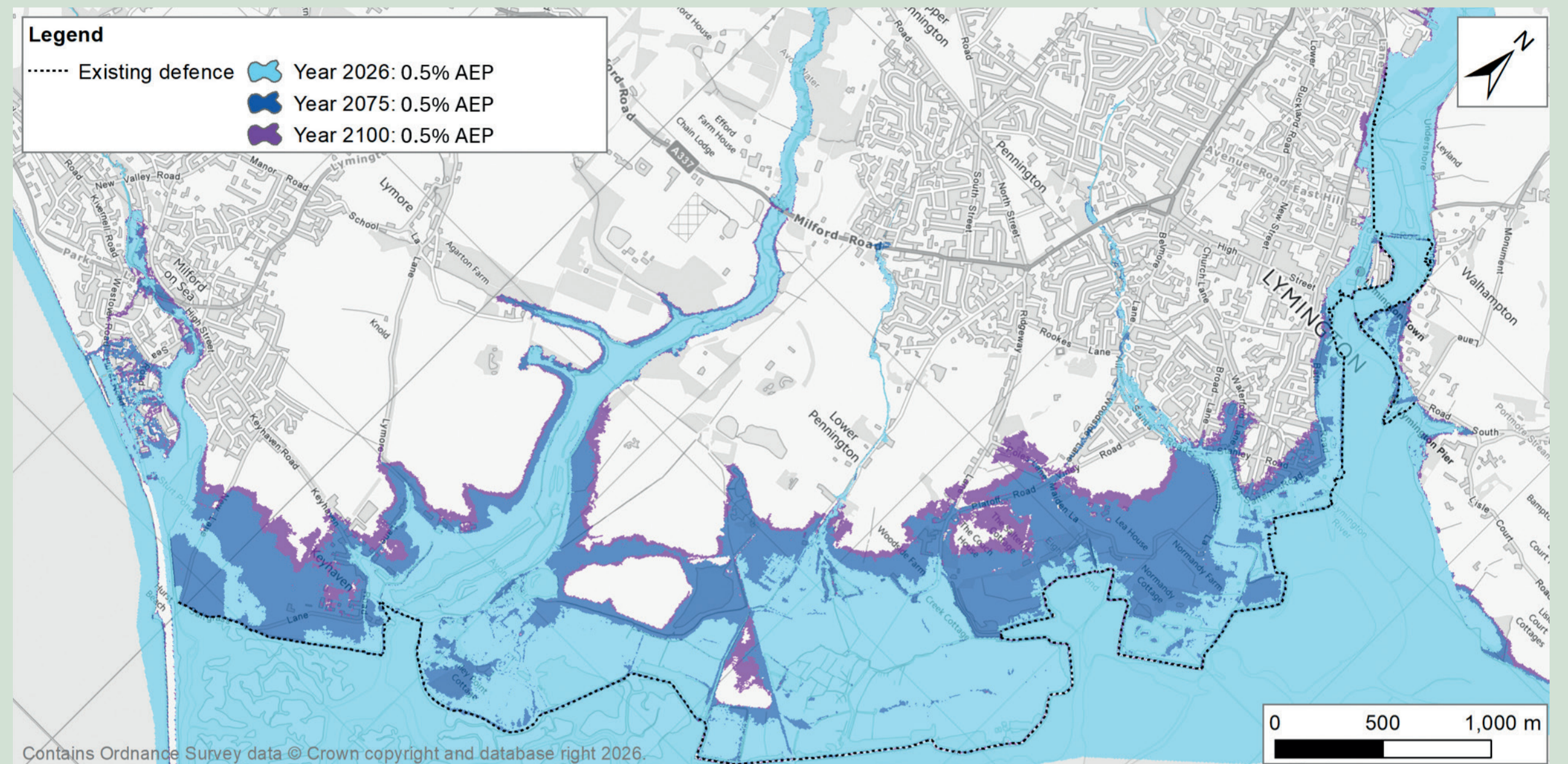
Why is the Strategy needed?

The Strategy is needed to address several challenges that this coastline will face over the next 100 years, largely driven by climate change.

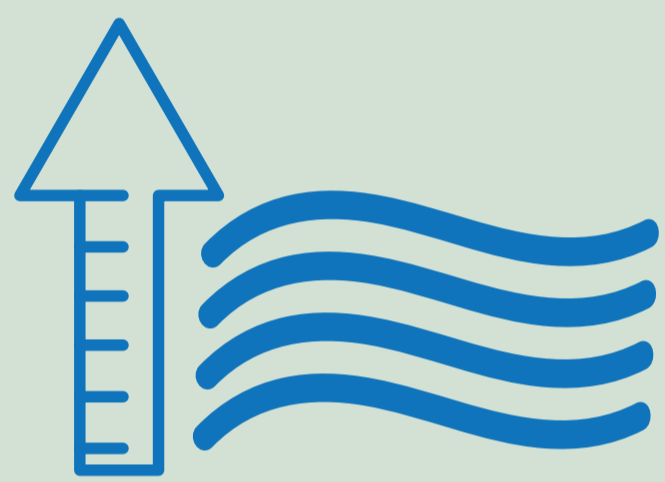
Future Flood Risk

Higher sea levels and more frequent, intense storms will place increasing pressure on existing defences, weakening their condition and leading to more frequent flooding due to overtopping.

The map shows the flood extent now and in the future for a storm event that has a 0.5% chance of occurring in any given year. This is known as Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP).

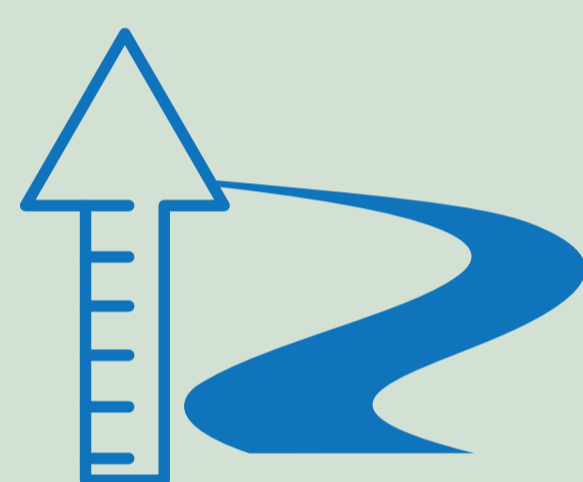


Future flood risk map



Since 1901, sea level around the UK has risen by approximately 19.5cm. By 2120, it is predicted to increase by >1m

Reference: State of UK Climate in 2025, International Journal of Climatology, Royal Meteorological Society



River flows are expected to increase by 35% - 50% by 2080

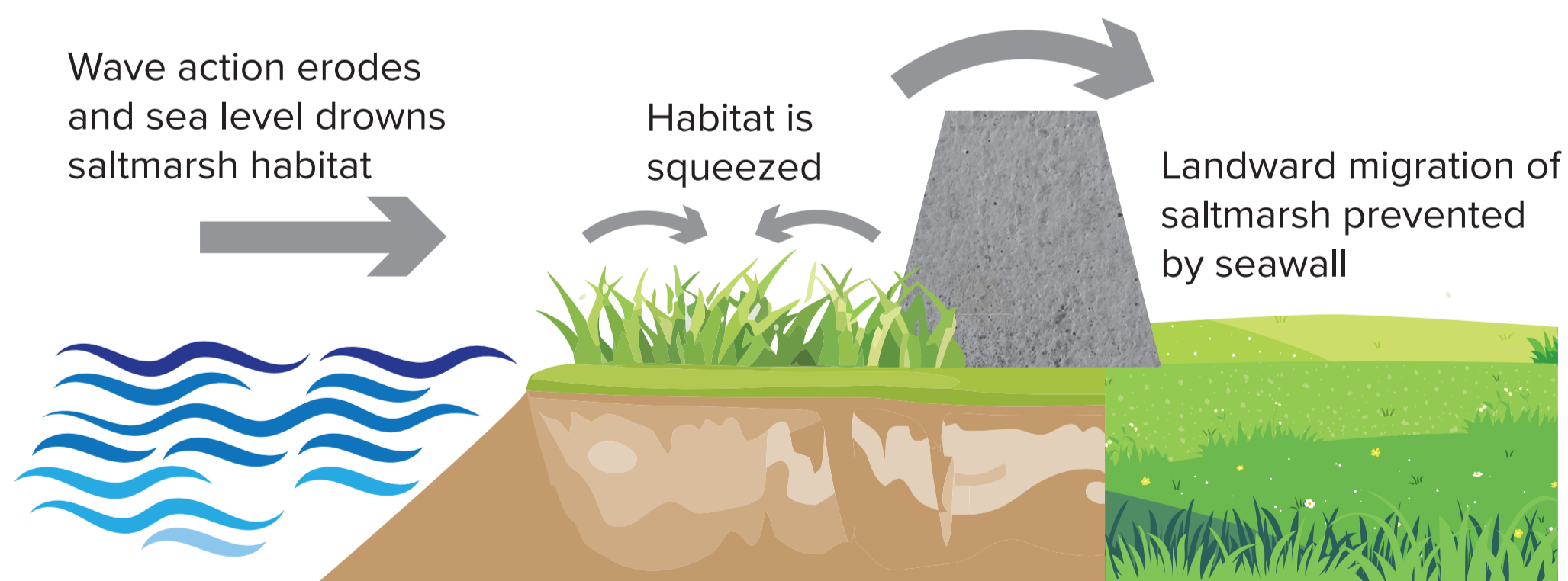
Reference: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs 2026



Present day - 35 homes are at flood risk. By 2120 - 363 homes and 156 businesses will be at flood risk

Reference: JBA Consulting

Coastal Squeeze



Habitats

The environment will change as important saltmarsh and mudflats on the seaward side of the defences are lost through coastal squeeze due to rising sea levels drowning and eroding the habitats (see image to the left).

Waves overtopping and failure of sea defences will lead to catastrophic loss of habitats such as saline lagoons and coastal grazing marsh.

As these habitats change, the wildlife that depends on them will be affected, and many species may move elsewhere to find food and shelter.

Wider Environment

Doing nothing would also see the following impacts:

Loss of safe access to existing coastal path routes

Erosion of historic landfill at Pennington

Unmanaged loss of heritage features e.g. old saltern industry relics

Sudden landscape change

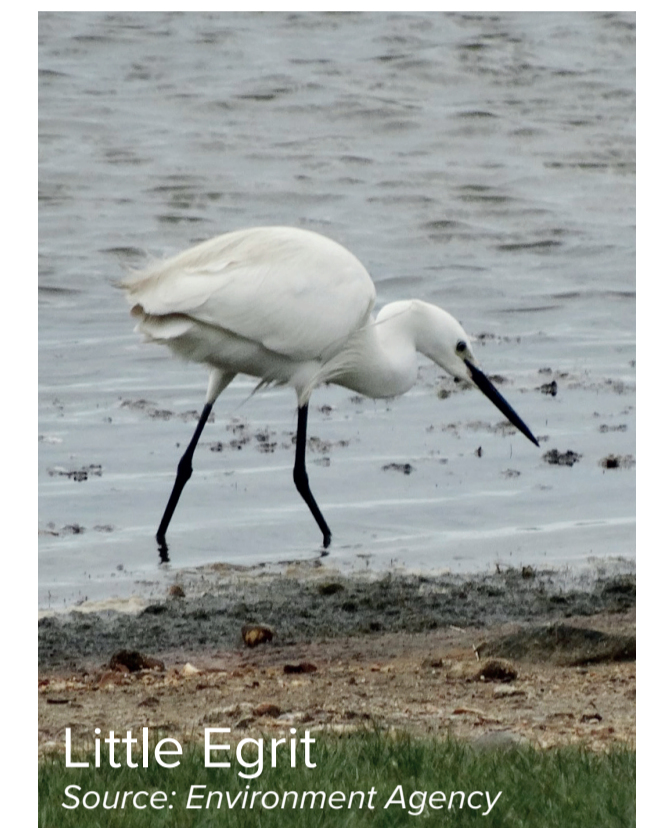
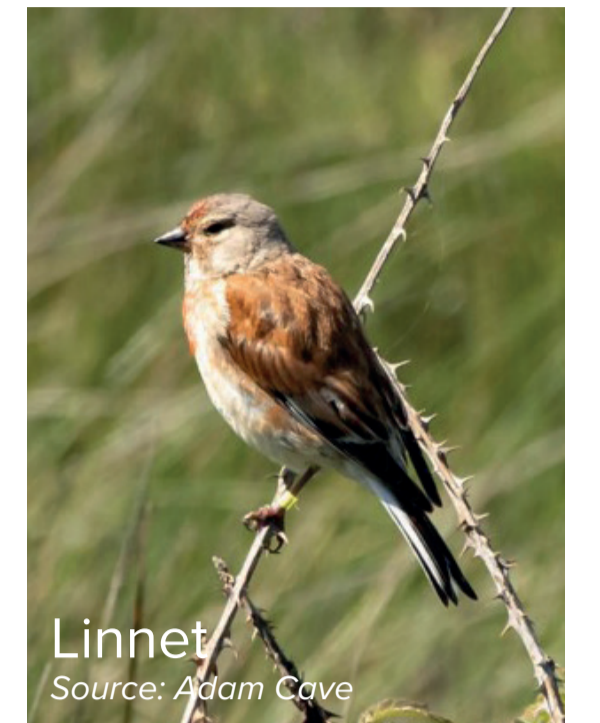
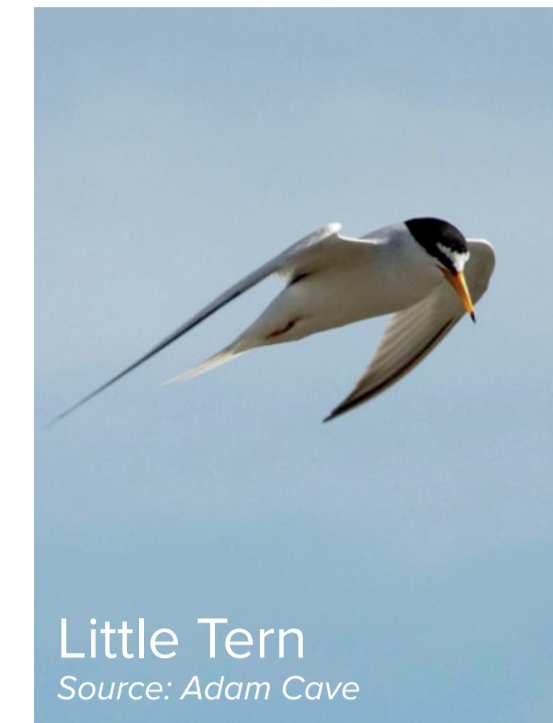
What makes the environment so important?

The coastline here is a unique environment, known for its natural beauty and diverse habitats. The mudflats, saltmarsh and wetlands support large numbers of breeding and wintering birds, along with many other species. Much of the area is legally protected through nature conservation designations including:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Ramsar (wetlands)

The legal protection of the habitats has been a key consideration for the Strategy's proposals to ensure impacts are assessed fully and suitable mitigation and monitoring is in place going forward. Where a proposal impacts on a designated habitat there is a requirement to offset through recreating the habitat elsewhere, ideally within the Strategy area.

The coastline has a rich history, including former salt-making sites and Hurst Castle, a scheduled ancient monument on Hurst Spit. There is also many hidden archaeological features especially from the old saltern works which the Strategy has helped to identify through drone surveys, site walkovers and historical research.



How has the environment been assessed?

Three key assessments have been undertaken to review the potential impacts and opportunities helping to shape the Preferred Pathways.



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Identifies and evaluates impacts on the wider environment including heritage, landscape and human health.



Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Checks whether there will be any adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which wildlife sites are designated.



Water Environment Regulations (WER)

Examines how the proposals could affect local rivers, streams, groundwater and coastal waterbodies.

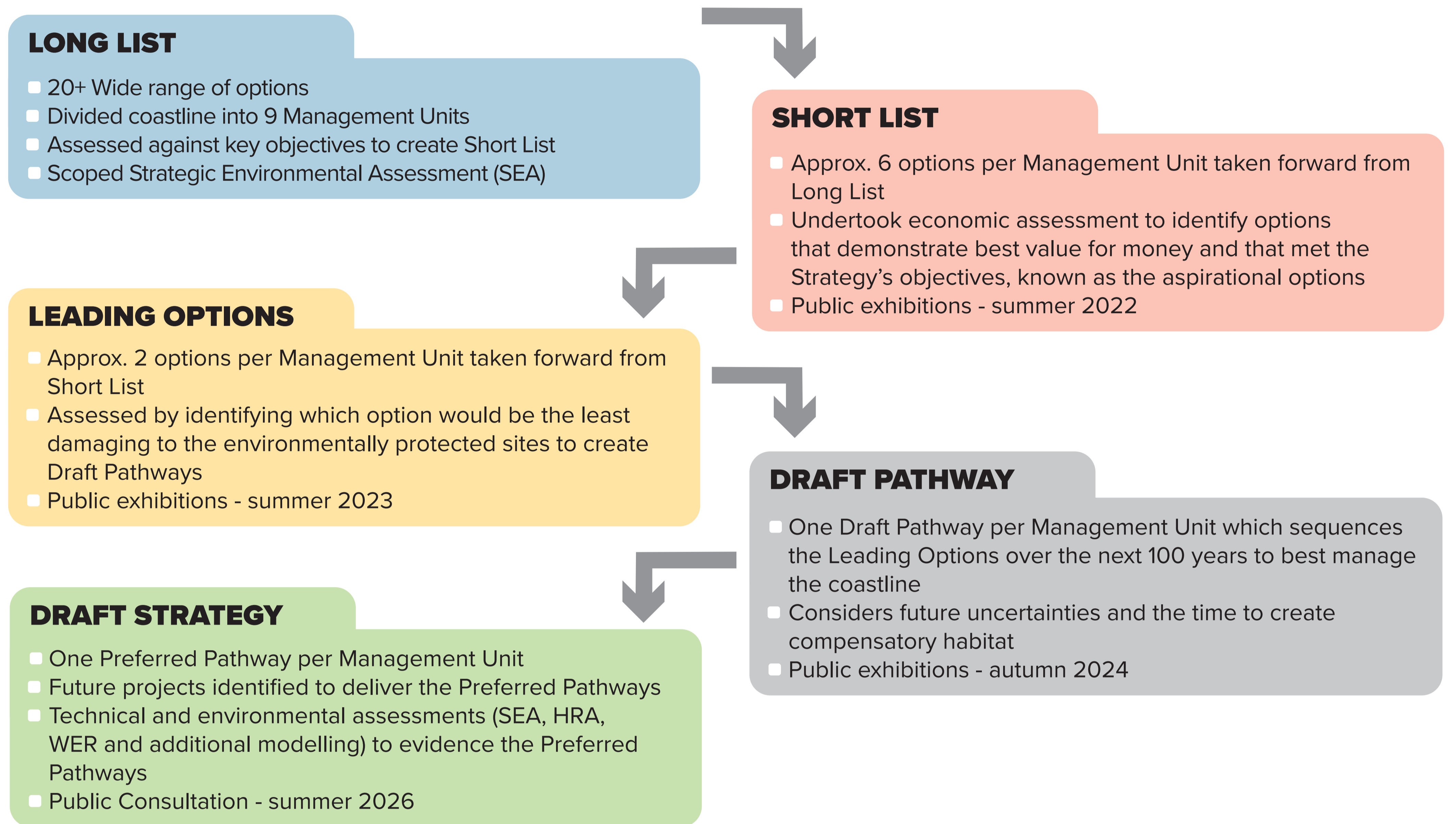
The reports from these assessments are available on the Strategy website or by scanning the QR code.



Development of the Strategy

Developed over many years and informed by detailed assessments, the Strategy presented today represents the options that best balance the various considerations.

Here is a summary of the process taken to determine the Preferred Pathways:



High Level Options

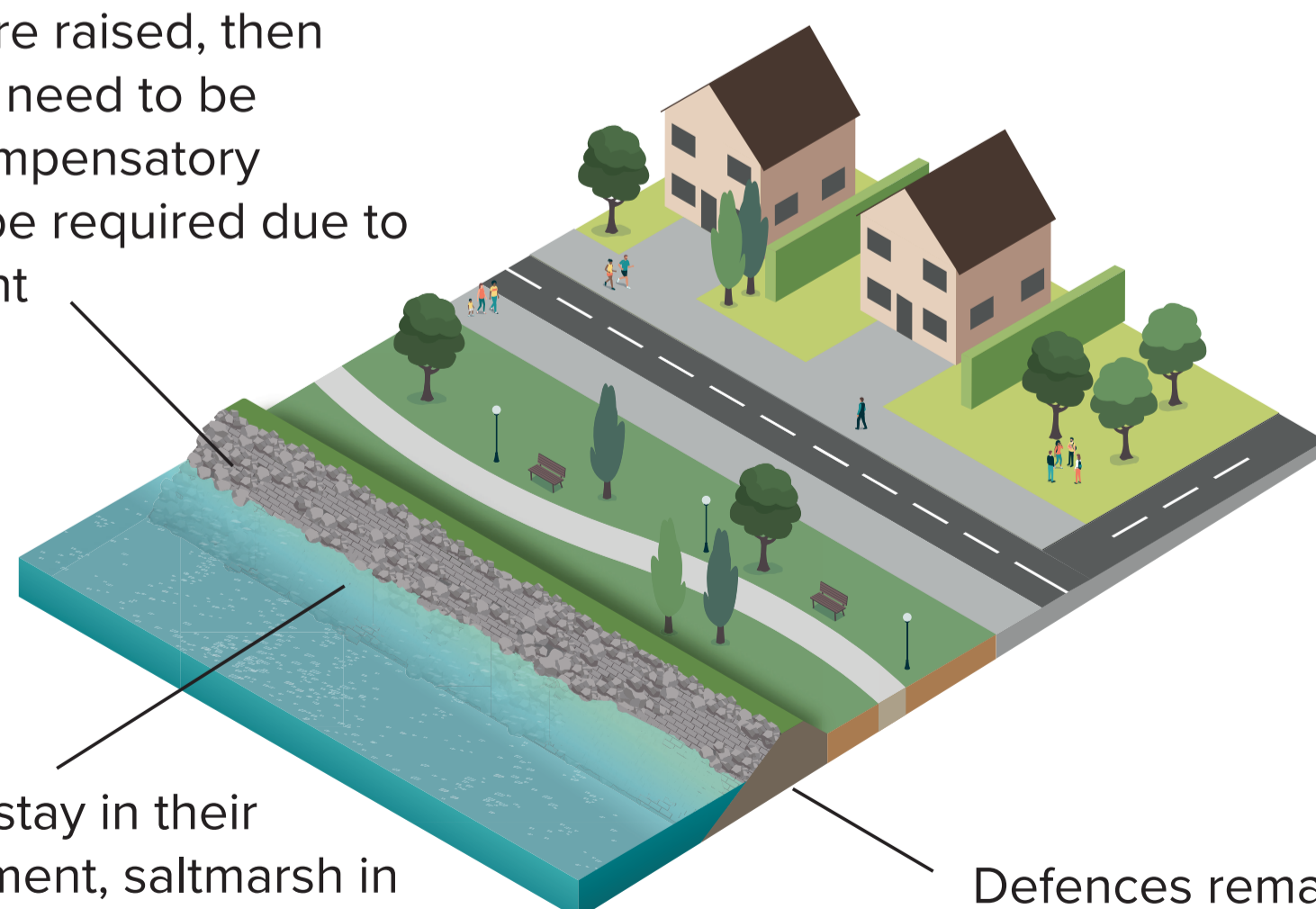
The Preferred Pathways include proposals based on two key principles of coastal management: **Hold the Line** and **Managed Realignment**. Hold the Line involves keeping the existing alignment of the defences with the option of building them higher in the future. Managed Realignment involves building new defences further inland and breaching existing defences in a controlled manner. This helps make space for intertidal habitats to adapt with sea level rise.

HOLD THE LINE

Benefits of Hold the Line

- Flood risk benefits
- Use of existing defences
- Familiar landscape
- Preservation of historic features
- Maintain existing land use

If defences are raised, then they will also need to be widened. Compensatory habitat may be required due to encroachment



As defences stay in their current alignment, saltmarsh in front will be lost as it is unable to migrate landward with sea levels rising

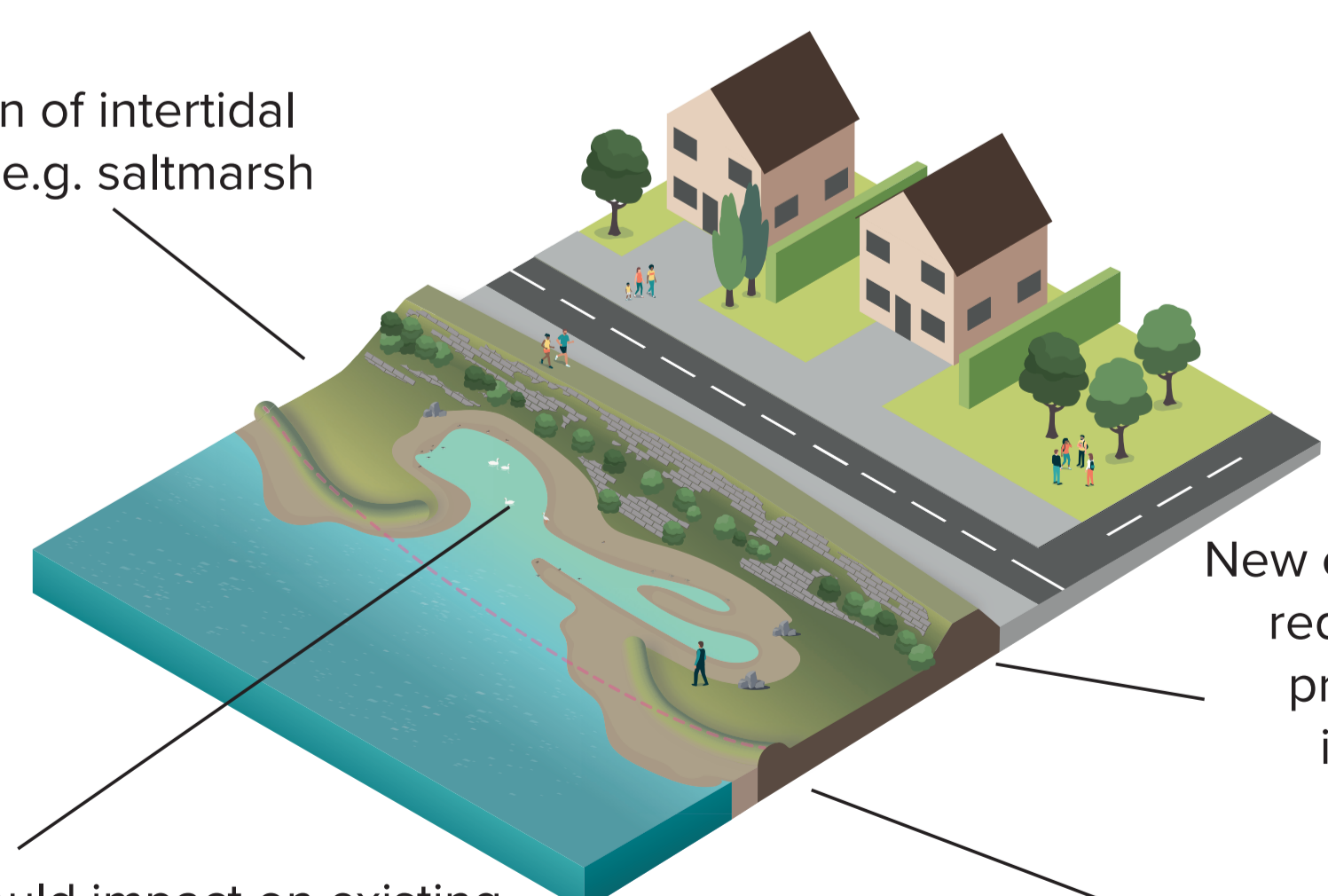
Defences remain in the same alignment but are strengthened and raised over time

MANAGED REALIGNMENT

Benefits of Managed Realignment

- Allows creation of new habitats
- New feeding and roosting areas for birds
- Works with natural coastal processes
- Flood risk benefits
- New habitats can absorb carbon from atmosphere

Creation of intertidal habitat e.g. saltmarsh



This could impact on existing designated sites, therefore compensation for these impacts / losses are likely to be required

New embankment reducing risk to properties and infrastructure

Previous defence line

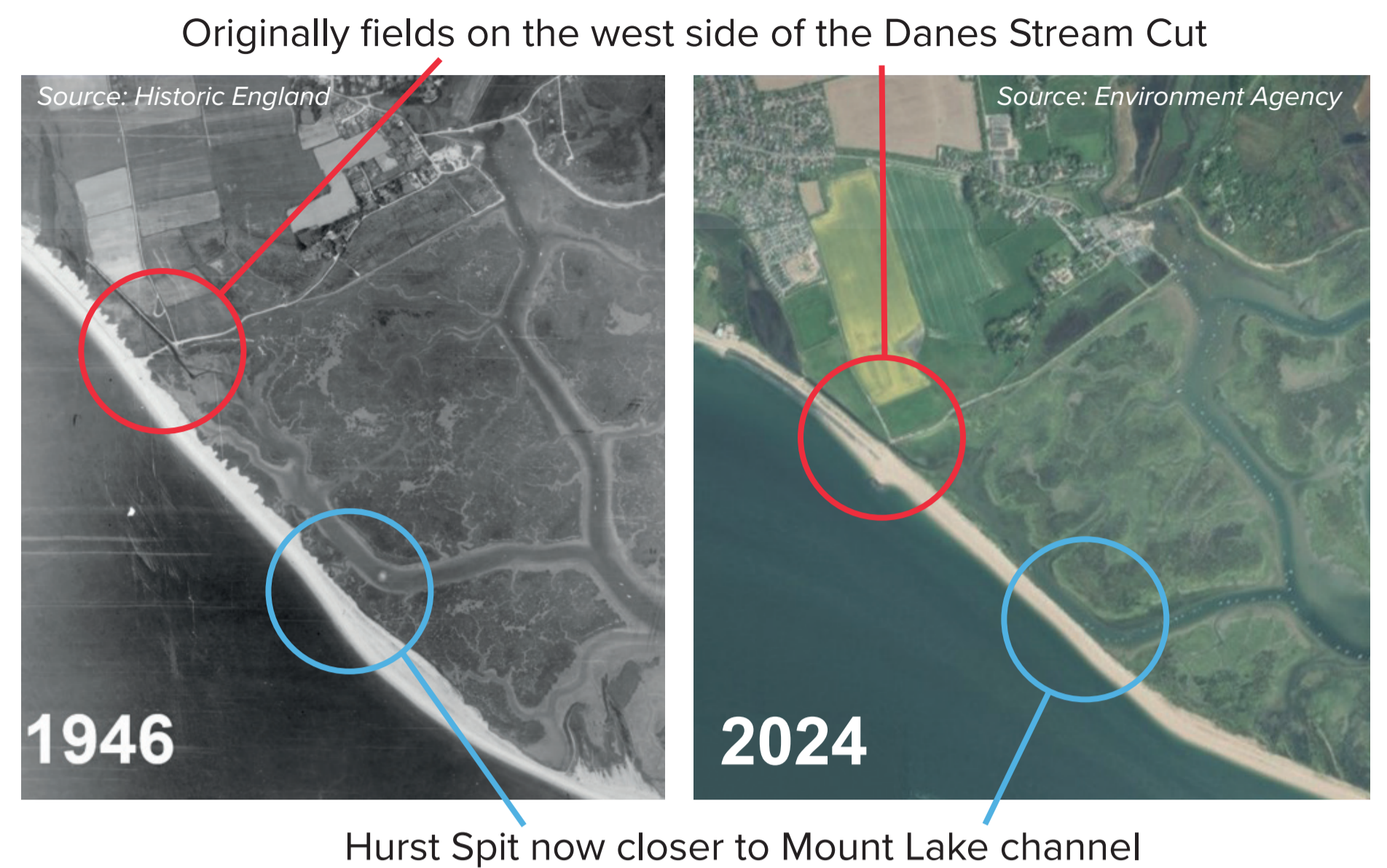
Hurst Spit - Past, Present and Future



Hurst Spit is a long, narrow shingle beach that formed naturally over 7,000 years ago. It is constantly changing, as waves and tides move the shingle.

During storm impacts, a natural process called ‘barrier rollback’ can push the Spit inland - sometimes by hundreds of metres. The large scale works in 1996 and ongoing beach management by NFDC has helped stabilise it.

However, with rising sea levels, environmental pressures, and challenges around funding, the continued long-term management of Hurst Spit needs to be considered.



Originally fields on the west side of the Danes Stream Cut

Source: Historic England

Source: Environment Agency

1946

2024

Hurst Spit now closer to Mount Lake channel

What would happen if management to Hurst Spit was reduced?

Hurst Spit post the storm in 1989 which shows it lower, wider and more gently sloping than the current shape today.



Source: New Forest District Council

An independent panel of experts predicted Hurst Spit would:

- Short term continue to erode and become narrower
- Have more waves washing over the top during storms
- In time become lower, wider and more gently sloped
- Rollback towards the north-east
- A permanent breach is **unlikely** in the short term

Eventually, it would settle into a more natural shape, continuing to change gradually in response to waves, tides and sea levels. However, the exact evolution is uncertain, and continued careful monitoring of the Spit will be required.



QR Code to the report

If management was reduced over time, how would it affect flood risk?

- Waves immediately behind Hurst Spit would be higher
- Higher waves would be localised around Keyhaven reducing towards Pennington
- These impacts can be managed by improving existing defences at Keyhaven

A lower Spit would continue to reduce wave energy compared to the waves experienced out in Christchurch Bay.



Saltmarsh behind Hurst Spit

Source: Environment Agency

How will this affect habitats and species?

There is strong evidence that habitats and species thrive when natural processes are allowed to operate. A more natural form of Hurst Spit would further support valuable vegetated shingle and saltmarsh habitats, and provide safer nesting areas for important coastal birds.

How will this affect sailing and navigation?

Wind, wave, and tidal conditions are changing due to climate change. During storms, higher waves are expected behind Hurst Spit, meaning moorings directly behind will not be viable in the long term.

What does this mean for access?

Access along Hurst Spit, including the route to Hurst Castle, may change over time. Sites such as St Michael’s Mount in Cornwall already plan access around tides using both pedestrian and boat routes. As coastlines change, people need to adapt how they access and engage with the natural environment, taking into account future challenges.

What is the proposal?

Short-term: Hold the Form - Maintain - Maintains existing form of Hurst Spit.

Why? Allows new defences to be built at Keyhaven, including consideration of the realignment of Danes Stream, in order to reduce flood risk to properties. Maintains access to Hurst Castle and allows time for English Heritage to plan for the future management of the castle.

Medium Term: Rollback Reactive Management - Reduce active management so that the Spit can naturally rollback. Opportunity remains to move shingle around post storm events as and when required.

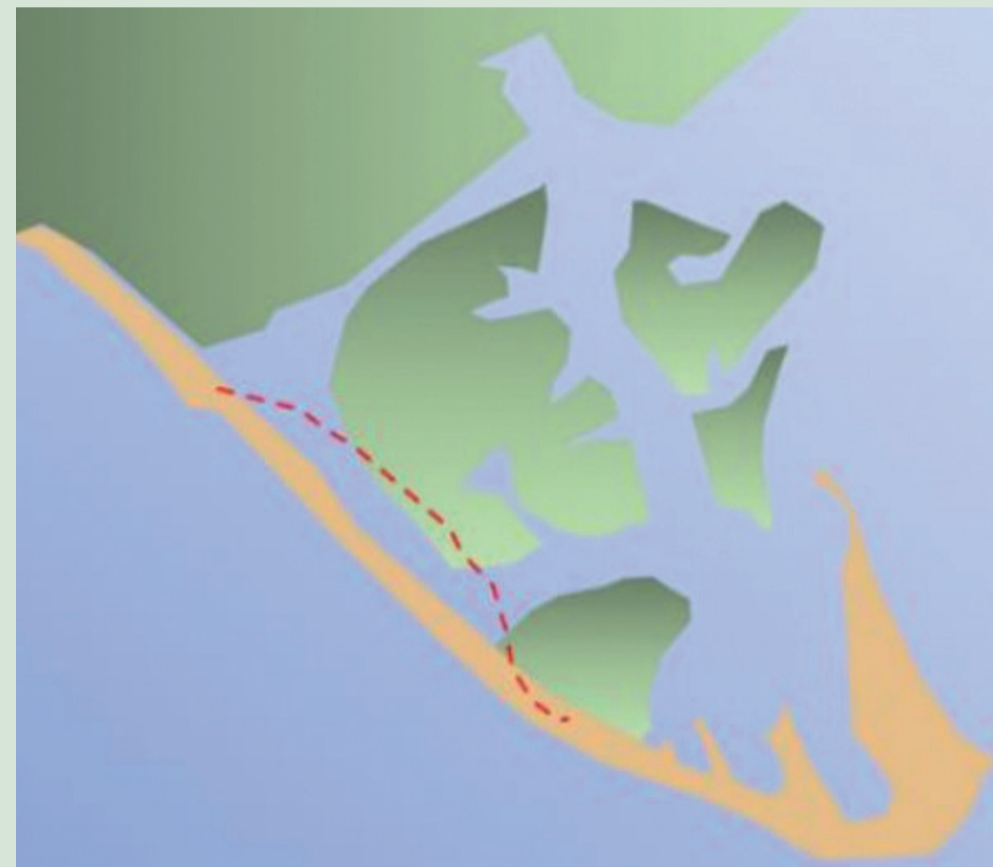
Long Term: Rollback Minimal Intervention - Once a new form has established, management would be withdrawn. The new form would respond dynamically to coastal processes.

Why? To allow natural processes to dictate evolution of the Spit and support the designated habitats and species, with the knowlege that defences are in place to better protect properties from coastal flooding.

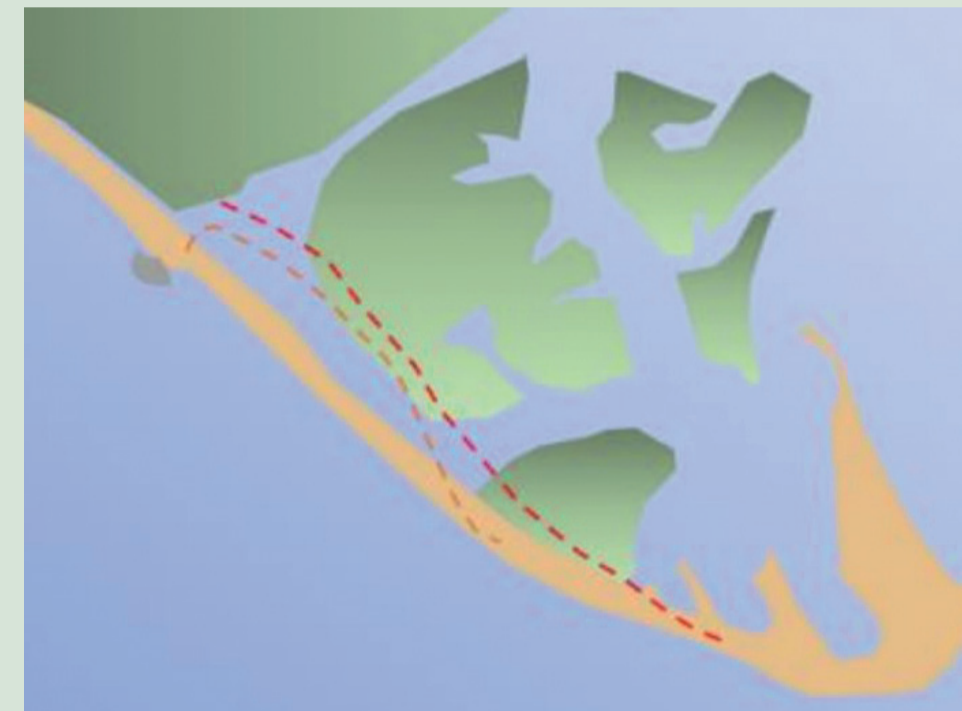
Changes over time



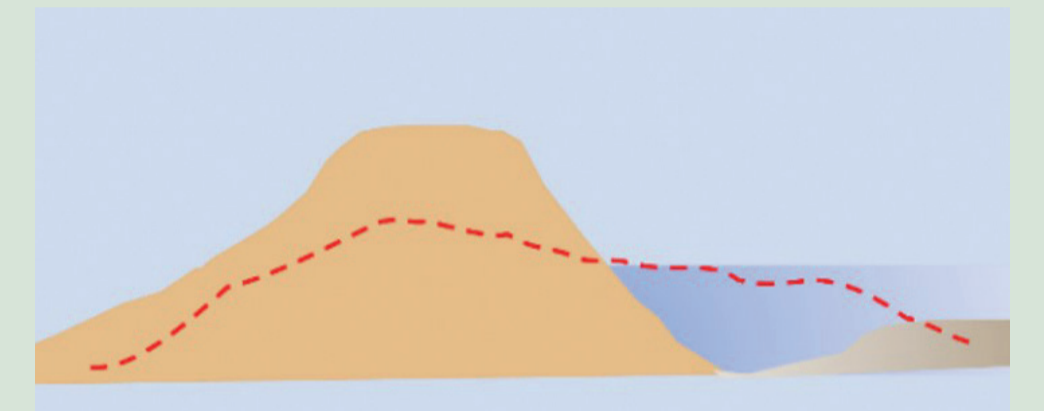
Initially Hurst Spit will be maintained. Access will likely remain as per present day.



On completion of works at Keyhaven, active management will be withdrawn. The Spit is expected to rollback (red dotted line) becoming lower and wider as it was historically before the 1996/7 stabilisation project undertaken by New Forest District Council.



Once a new form has established, all management would be withdrawn fully. Due to dynamic coastal processes the Spit will likely continue migrating north - eastwards (red dotted lines).







The Spit is likely to be lower and wider than its current shape as indicated by the red dotted line. Overwashing will occur impacting access which could last days, weeks, months or years.

Projects to be delivered

Hold the Form - Maintain 0 - 10 / 20 Years







Project: Hurst Spit Beach Management & Recharge

-  Adding or moving shingle on Hurst Spit, to maintain the current form
-  £8.4 million + £585k future maintenance
- 
 - Reduces chance of overwashing
 - No change in wave conditions directly behind Hurst Spit
 - No change in existing access to Hurst Castle
 - Continues to protect saltmarsh behind Hurst Spit
- 
 - Conditions potentially less suitable for vegetated shingle habitat

Rollback - Reactive Management 10 / 20 - 50 Years







Project: Hurst Spit Reactive Recharge

-  Occasional adding or moving shingle to maintain a continuous Spit
-  £3.6 million
- 
 - Maintenance costs reduced
 - Natural form and processes begin to be restored
 - Supportive environment for nesting birds and vegetated shingle
- 
 - Potential loss of moorings in Keyhaven
 - Access along Hurst Spit could be reduced post storms
 - Potential increase in wave heights immediately behind Hurst Spit

Rollback - Minimal Intervention 50 - 100 Years



No project, natural processes taking place

-  No maintenance - allowing Hurst Spit to respond naturally to waves and tides
-  £0 (excluding monitoring costs)
- 
 - A full return to natural processes
 - Supportive environment for nesting birds and vegetated shingle
 - No maintenance means reduced cost and carbon usage
- 
 - Intermittent access to Hurst Castle and Spit dependent on conditions
 - Increase in wave heights immediately behind Hurst Spit
 - Loss of moorings in Keyhaven

Keyhaven (West & Central)

What is the proposal?

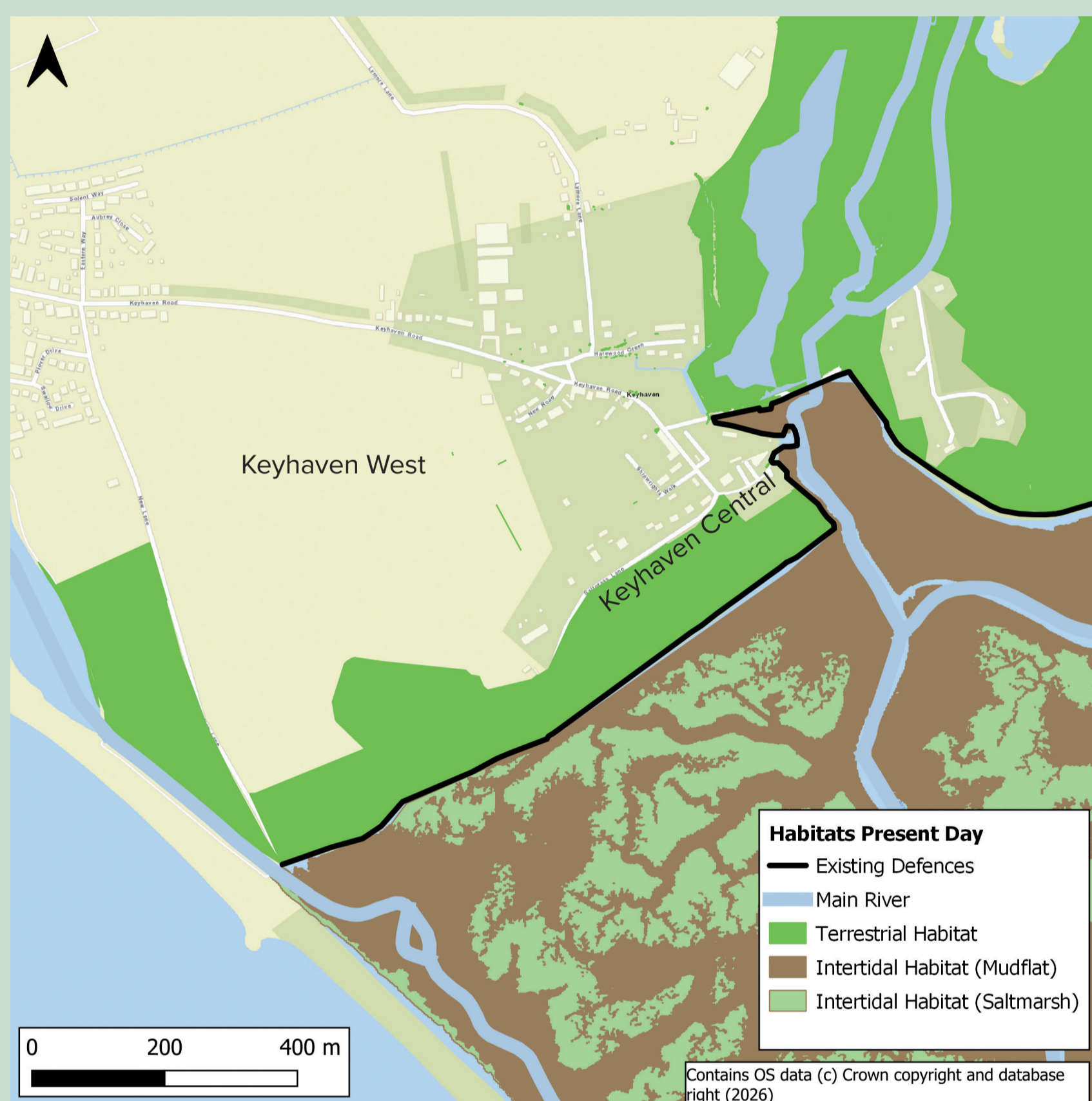
Keyhaven West: Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation - Building new sea defences further inland and creating space for new saltmarsh and mudflats.

Why? This will help create new wildlife rich coastal habitats and prevent existing habitats from being squeezed up against current sea defences, leading to their eventual loss.

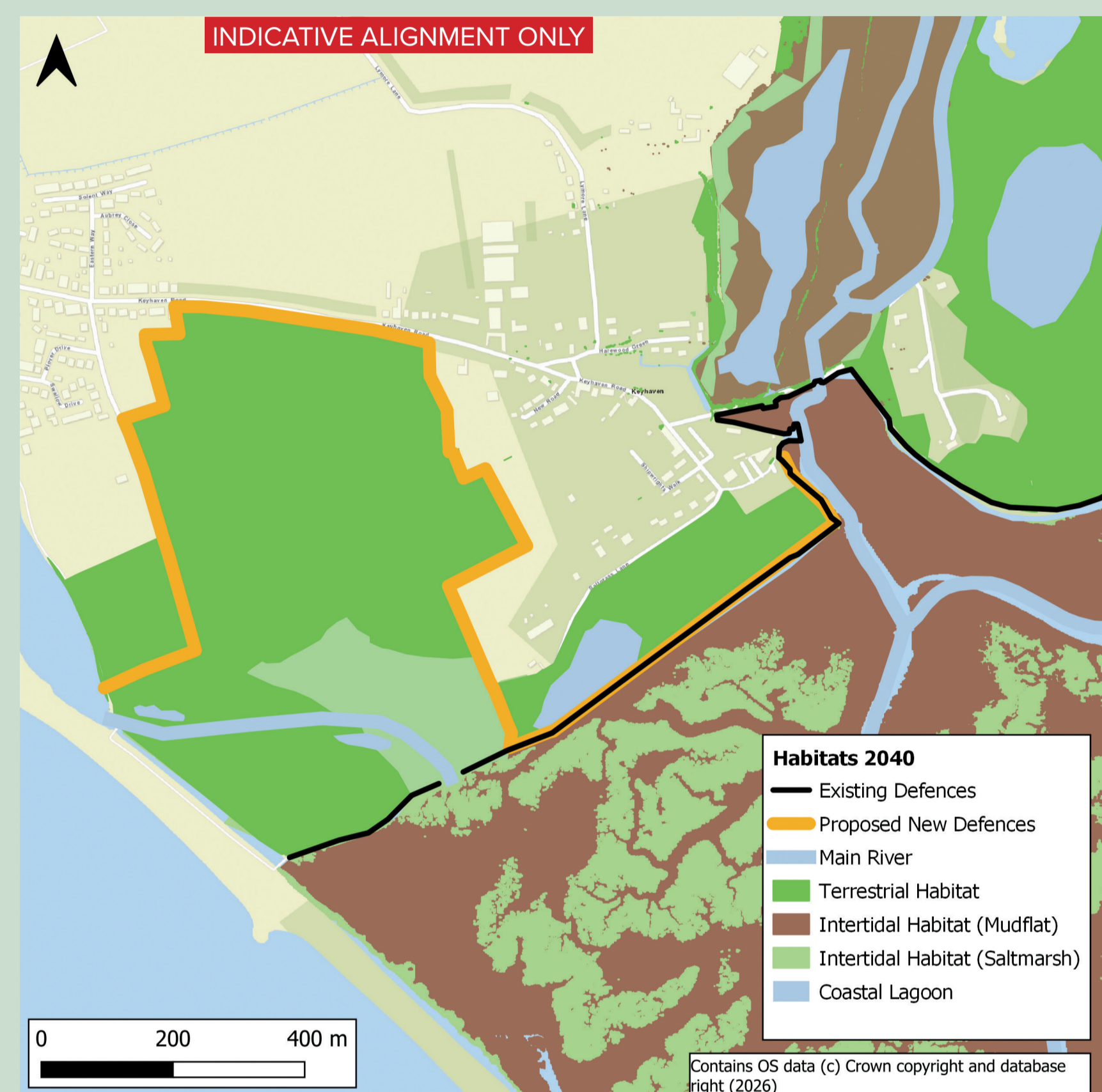
Keyhaven Central: Hold the Line - Sustain - Keeps the existing sea defences in their current position and builds them up over time.

Why? This approach best protects nearby properties and offers an opportunity to improve the existing habitats behind the embankment.

Existing defences and habitat location



Proposed new defences and habitat in 2040



Projects to be delivered

Existing Management and Maintenance

0 - 3 Years

- Annual inspections and reactive maintenance as required to existing defences
- Dependent on maintenance required
- Preserves the current height and condition of existing defences
- No increase to height of defences, flood risk remains
- Coastal squeeze ongoing

Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation (Keyhaven West)

3 - 100 Years

Project: Keyhaven Habitat Creation and Adaptation Scheme (Keyhaven West)

- Construction of new inland flood defences, consideration of realignment at Danes Stream and breach of existing defence at Saltgrass Lane. Consider additional protection from erosion to the breakwater
- £23.3 million + £1 million maintenance
- Contributes to better protection of 25 homes and 9 businesses over remaining duration of the Strategy
- Creates new mudflat and saltmarsh habitat
- New wetland habitat supporting wildlife and storing carbon
- Impacts to existing grassland habitat from frequent saltwater flooding as a result of controlled breach in defence

Hold the Line - Sustain (Keyhaven Central) 3 - 100 Years

Project: Keyhaven Habitat Creation and Adaptation Scheme

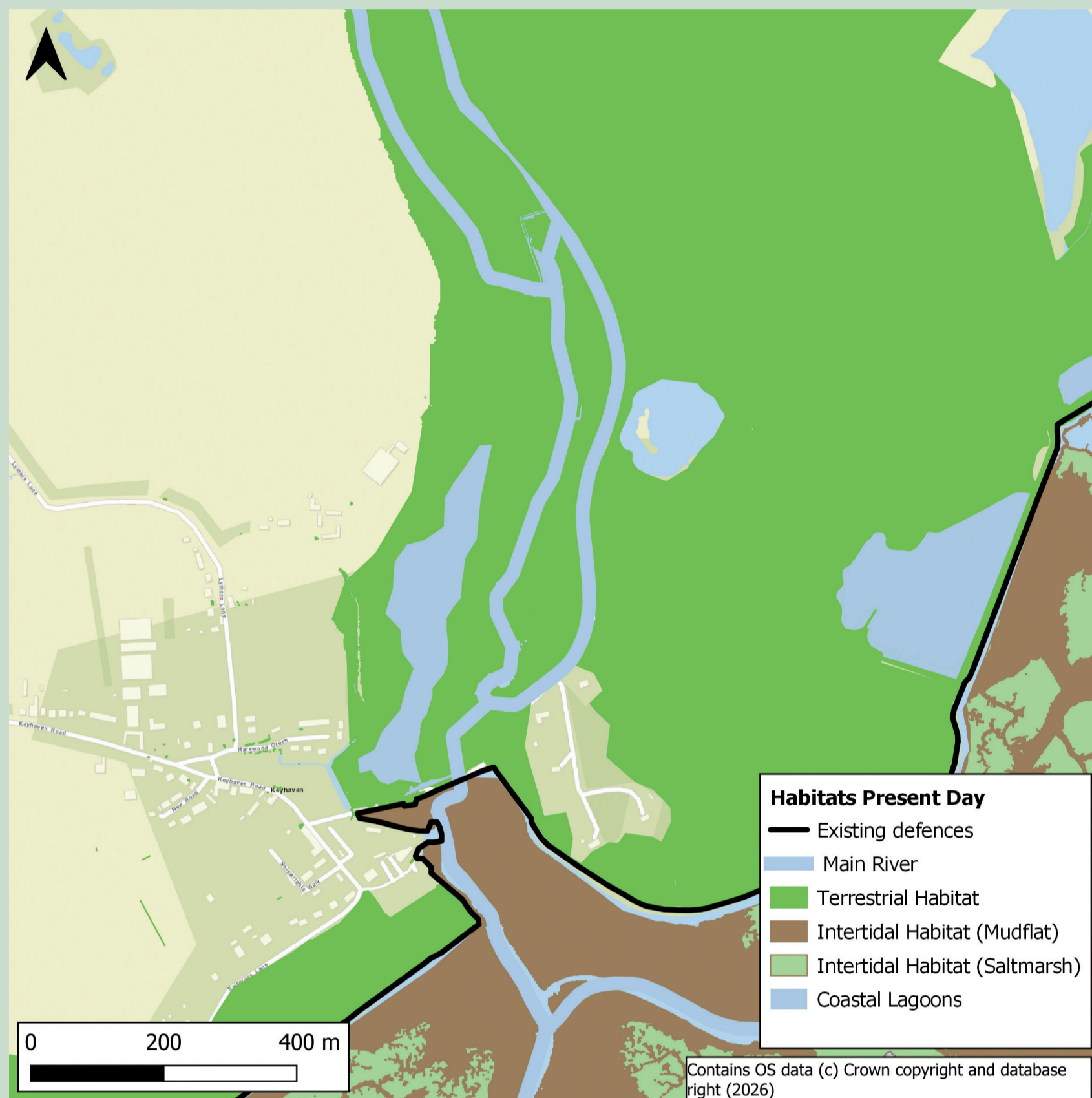
- Raise existing embankments over time and improve habitats behind defences
- £14.8 million + £2.8 million maintenance
- Contributes to better protection of 25 homes and 9 businesses over remaining duration of the Strategy
- Enhanced terrestrial habitat and potential delivery of a saline lagoon
- Loss of saltmarsh caused by coastal squeeze and rising sea levels

What is the proposal?

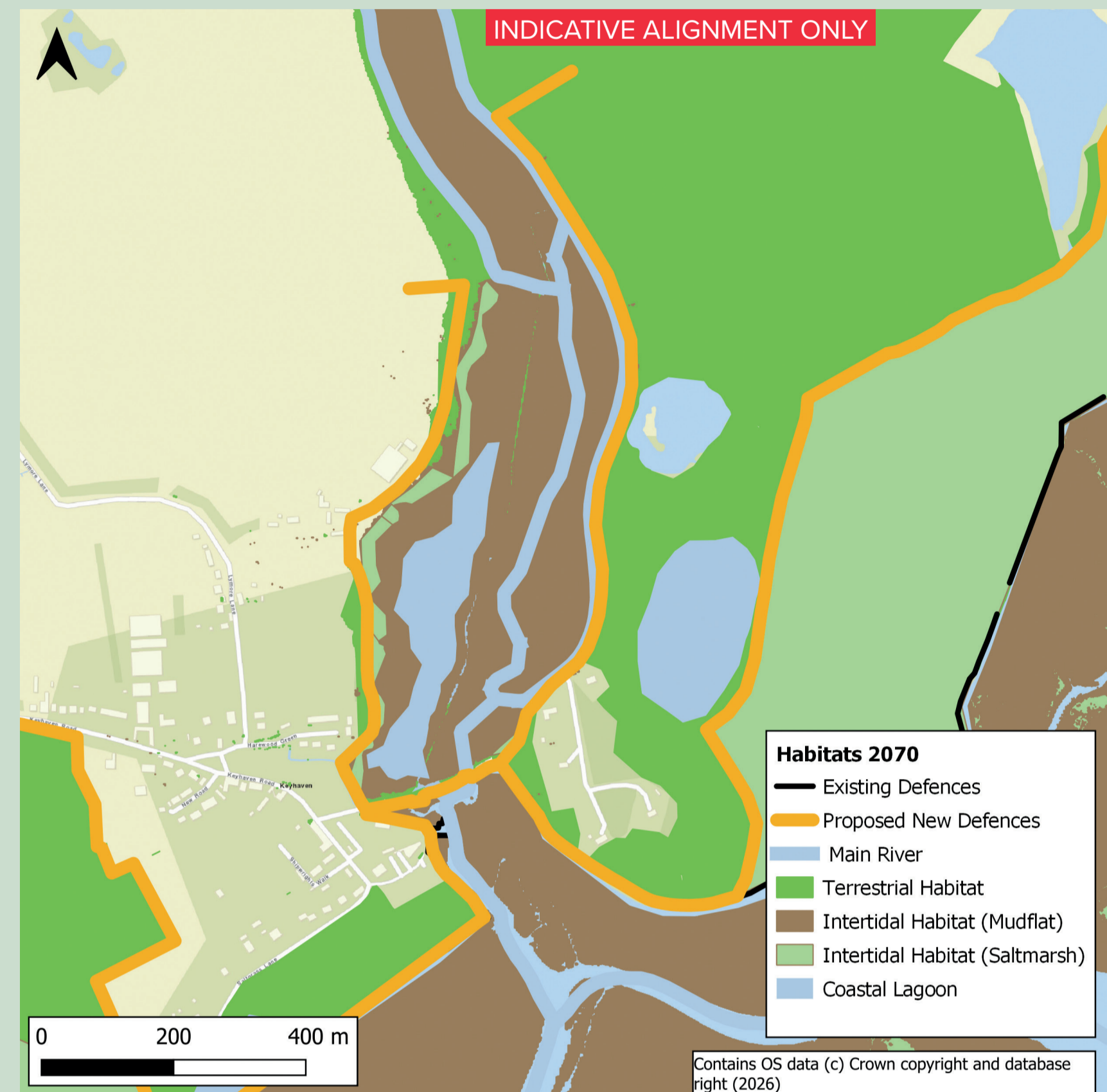
New Flood Defences and Upgrade - Building new defences on both sides of the Avon Water and existing walls strengthened and raised. Includes removal of sluices at the opening of Avon Water.

Why? Construction of new flood defences will reduce the flood risk to Keyhaven and the removal of the sluices will create a more naturally functioning estuary.

Existing defences and habitat location



Proposed new defences and habitat in 2070



Projects to be delivered

Existing Management and Maintenance

0 - 9 Years



- 🔍 Annual inspections and reactive maintenance as required to existing defences
- £ Dependent on maintenance required
- ✓ Preserves the current height and condition of existing defences
- ⚠️ No increase to height of defences, flood risk remains
- Coastal squeeze ongoing

Compensatory Habitat Delivery

9 - 16 Years



Project: Reedbed Habitat Creation Project

- 🔍 Creation of reedbed habitat to compensate for losses due to future removal of sluices in Avon Water (location to be confirmed)
- £ £9 million
- ✓
 - New reedbed habitat
 - Nesting area for birds and other species
 - Reedbeds have ability to absorb and store carbon
- ⚠️ Flood risk to Keyhaven remains, increasing with the impacts of climate change

New Flood Defences - Upgrade

16 - 100 Years



Project: Avon Water Habitat Creation and Flood Alleviation Scheme

- 🔍 Construction of new flood defences on the east and west bank of Avon Water, upgrade existing defences and removal of sluices
- £ £16.4 million + £200k maintenance
- ✓
 - 73 homes and 1 business better protected over remaining duration of the Strategy
 - Restores natural estuarine processes
 - Reduces impacts of coastal squeeze
 - Creates new mudflat and saltmarsh habitat
- ⚠️ Impacts existing reedbed and freshwater habitat

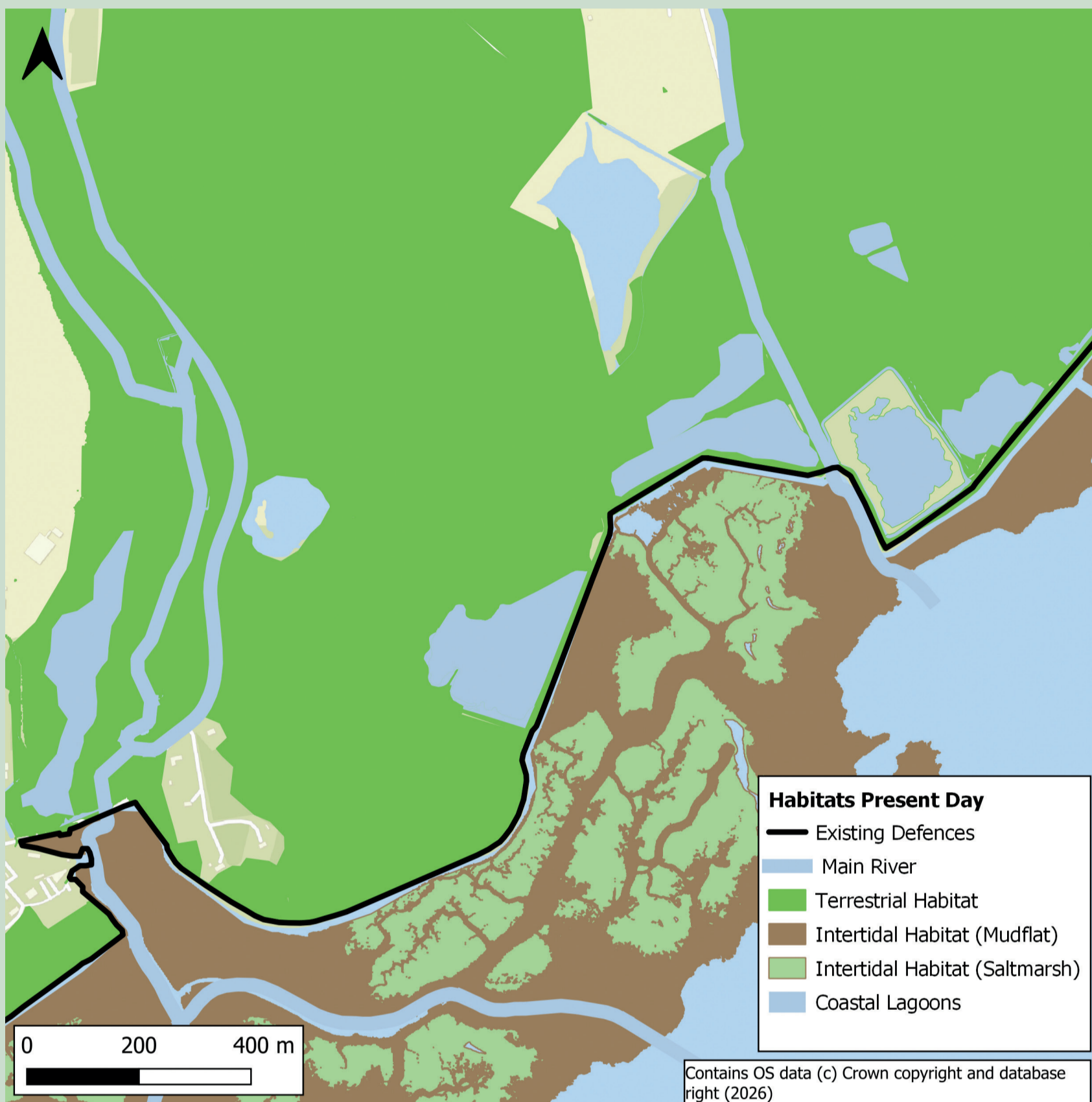
Keyhaven East to Fishtail

What is the proposal?

Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation - Building new sea defences further inland and creating space for new saltmarsh and mudflats. Defences at Iley Point will remain and be built higher to manage future flood risk.

Why? This will help create new wildlife rich coastal habitats and prevent existing habitats from being squeezed up against current sea defences, leading to their eventual loss.

Existing defences and habitat distribution



Proposed new defences and habitat in 2070







Projects to be delivered

Existing Management and Maintenance

0 - 14 Years



-  Annual inspections and reactive maintenance as required to existing defences
-  Dependent on maintenance required
- 
 - Preserves the current height and condition of existing defences
 - No increase to height of defences, flood risk remains
-  Coastal squeeze ongoing

Opportunity





The feasibility of using **'Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediment (BUDS)'** to restore saltmarsh in front of existing defences, will be reviewed and explored at this stage.

Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation

14 - 100 Years



Project: Keyhaven East to Normandy Lagoon Habitat Creation and Flood Alleviation Scheme

-  Construction of new inland flood defences, breach existing embankments to create a variety of habitats. Additional material will need to be imported to raise land levels to support habitat creation. Existing defences at Iley Point built up
-  £52.2 million + £2 million maintenance
- 
 - 4 homes better protected over remaining duration of the Strategy
 - Creates new saline lagoons and saltmarsh habitat
 - Protects remaining coastal grazing marsh habitat behind the new flood defences
 - Opportunity to create islands from old defences for bird nesting and roosting
-  Existing saline lagoons and coastal grazing marsh will be flooded following controlled breach of defences

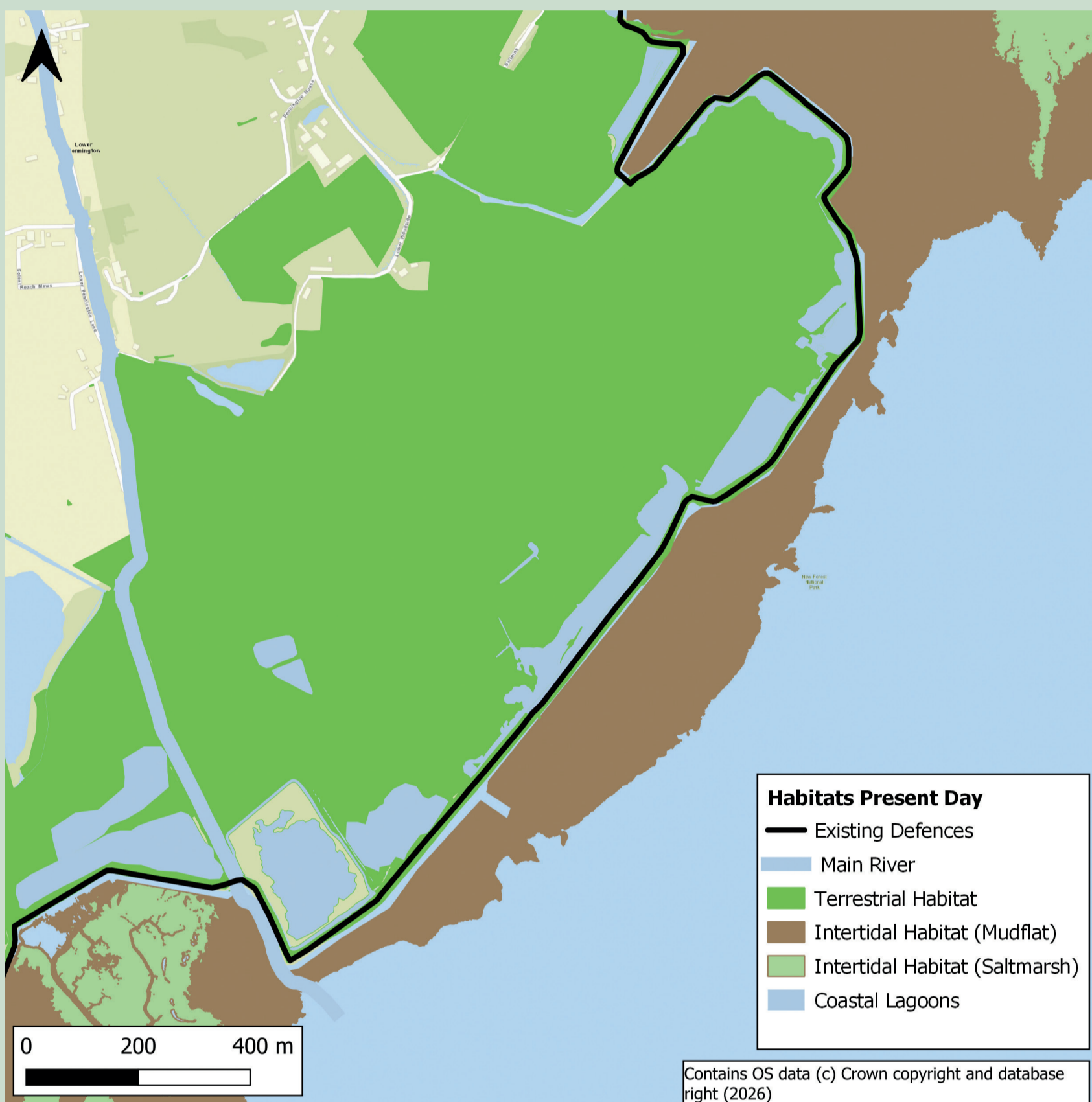
Jetty-Butts and Oxey-Pennington

What is the proposal?

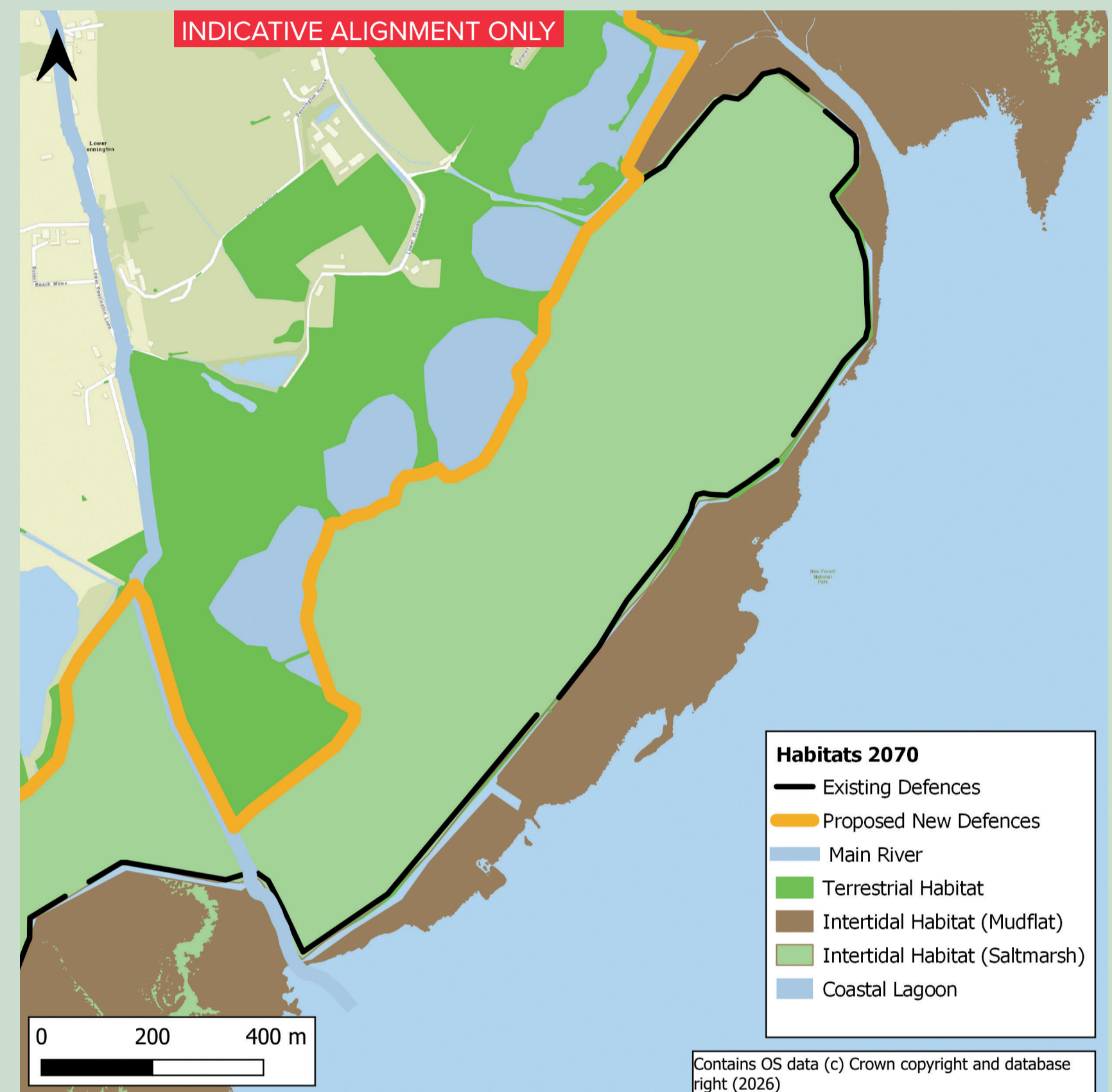
Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation - Building new sea defences further inland and creating space for new saltmarsh and mudflats.

Why? This will help create new wildlife rich coastal habitats and prevent existing habitats from being squeezed up against current sea defences, leading to their eventual loss.

Existing defences and habitat distribution



Proposed new defences and habitat in 2070



Projects to be delivered

Existing Management & Maintenance

0 - 14 Years



- Annual inspections and reactive maintenance as required to existing defences
- Dependent on maintenance required
- Preserves the current height and condition of existing defences
- No increase to height of defences, flood risk remains
- Coastal squeeze ongoing

Opportunity

The feasibility of using **'Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediment (BUDS)'** to restore saltmarsh in front of existing defences, will be reviewed and explored at this stage.

Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation

14 - 100 Years



Project: Keyhaven East to Normandy Lagoon Habitat Creation and Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Construction of new inland flood defences, breach existing embankments to create a variety of habitats. Additional material will need to be imported to raise land levels to support habitat creation
- £62.1 million + £2.3 million maintenance
- 22 homes and 11 businesses better protected over remaining duration of the Strategy
- Creates new saline lagoons and saltmarsh habitat
- Protects remaining coastal grazing marsh habitat behind the new flood defences
- Opportunity to create islands from old defences for bird nesting and roosting
- Existing saline lagoons and coastal grazing marsh will be flooded following controlled breach of defences

Normandy to Salterns

What is the proposal?

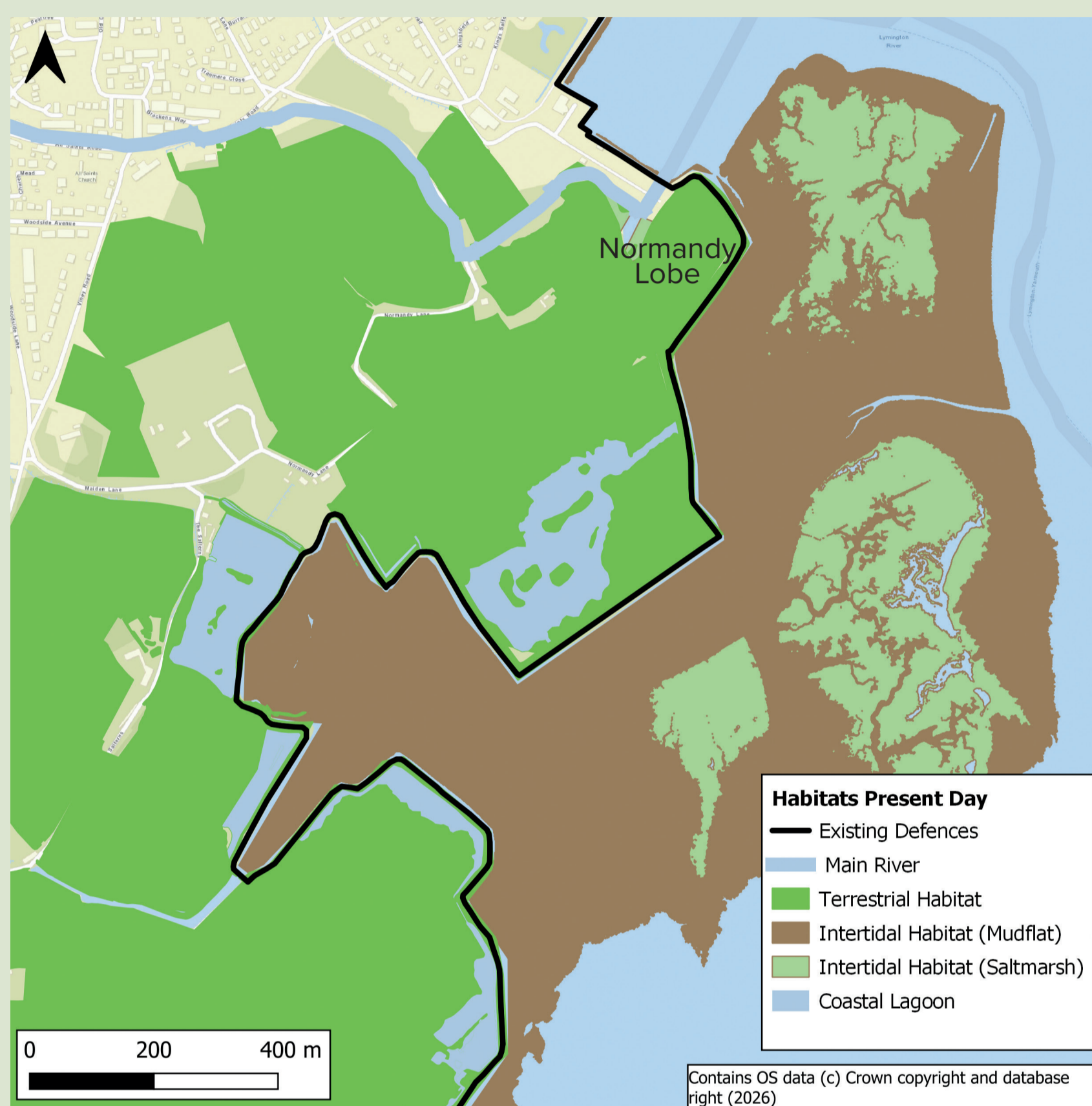
Hold the Line - Sustain - For the majority of the coastline here the existing defences will be strengthened and raised over time.

Why? This approach best protects the high conservation value of Normandy Lagoon.

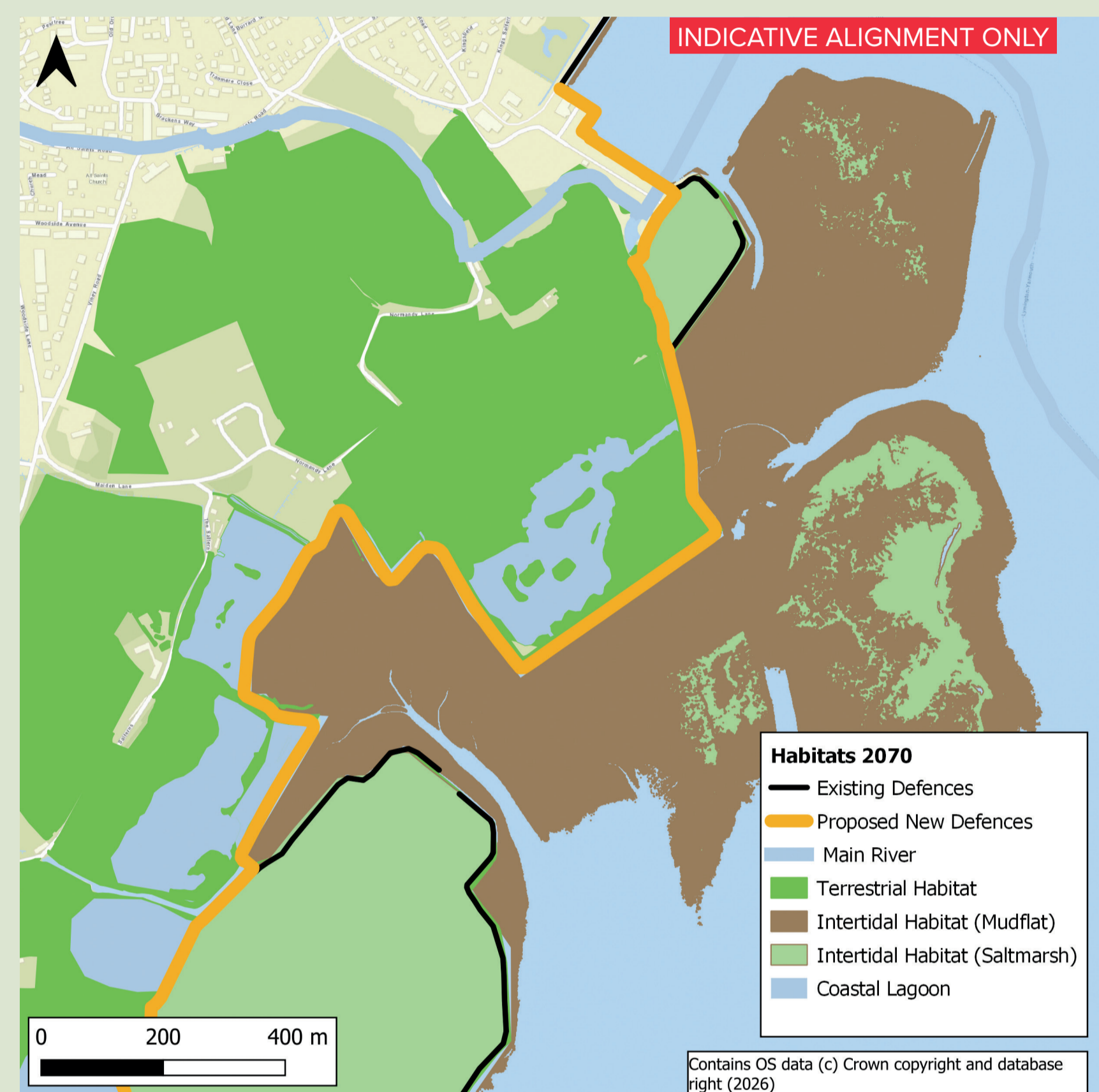
Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation - Only applies to Normandy Lobe, a small section of land south of Lymington Yacht Haven. Here, new sea defences will be built further inland creating space for new saltmarsh and mudflats.

Why? To create new wildlife rich coastal habitats.

Existing defences and habitat location



Proposed new defences and habitat in 2070



Projects to be delivered

Existing Management and Maintenance

0 - 14 Years

- Annual inspections and reactive maintenance as required to existing defences
- Dependent on maintenance required
- Preserves the current height and condition of existing defences
- No increase to height of defences, flood risk remains
- Coastal squeeze ongoing

Opportunity

The feasibility of using 'Beneficial Use of Dredged Sediment (BUDS)' to restore saltmarsh in front of existing defences, will be reviewed and explored at this stage.

Managed Realignment with Saltmarsh Creation (Normandy Lobe)

14 - 100 Years

Project: Keyhaven East to Normandy Lagoon Habitat Creation and Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Construction of new inland flood defences, breach of existing embankments to create saltmarsh. Additional material will need to be imported to raise land levels to support habitat creation
- £37.8 million + £3.2 million maintenance (joint cost with project below)
- Contributes to better protection of 76 homes and 10 businesses over remaining duration of the Strategy
- Creates saline lagoons and saltmarsh habitat
- Loss of inland habitat due to controlled breaching of the existing defence

Hold the Line - Sustain (remaining areas)

14 - 100 Years

Project: Keyhaven East to Normandy Lagoon Habitat Creation and Flood Alleviation Scheme

- Raising height of existing embankments over time between Moses Dock and Normandy Lobe including at Normandy Lagoon and Eight Acre Pond
- £37.8 million + £3.2 million maintenance (joint cost with project above)
- Contributes to better protection of 76 homes and 10 businesses over remaining duration of the Strategy
- Habitat of significant value behind existing defences protected
- Loss of saltmarsh in front of the defence caused by coastal squeeze and rising sea levels

Lymington West, North and East

What is the proposal?

Hold the Line - Maintain - Existing defences remain as they are with work undertaken to ensure they are fully functional for as long as possible.

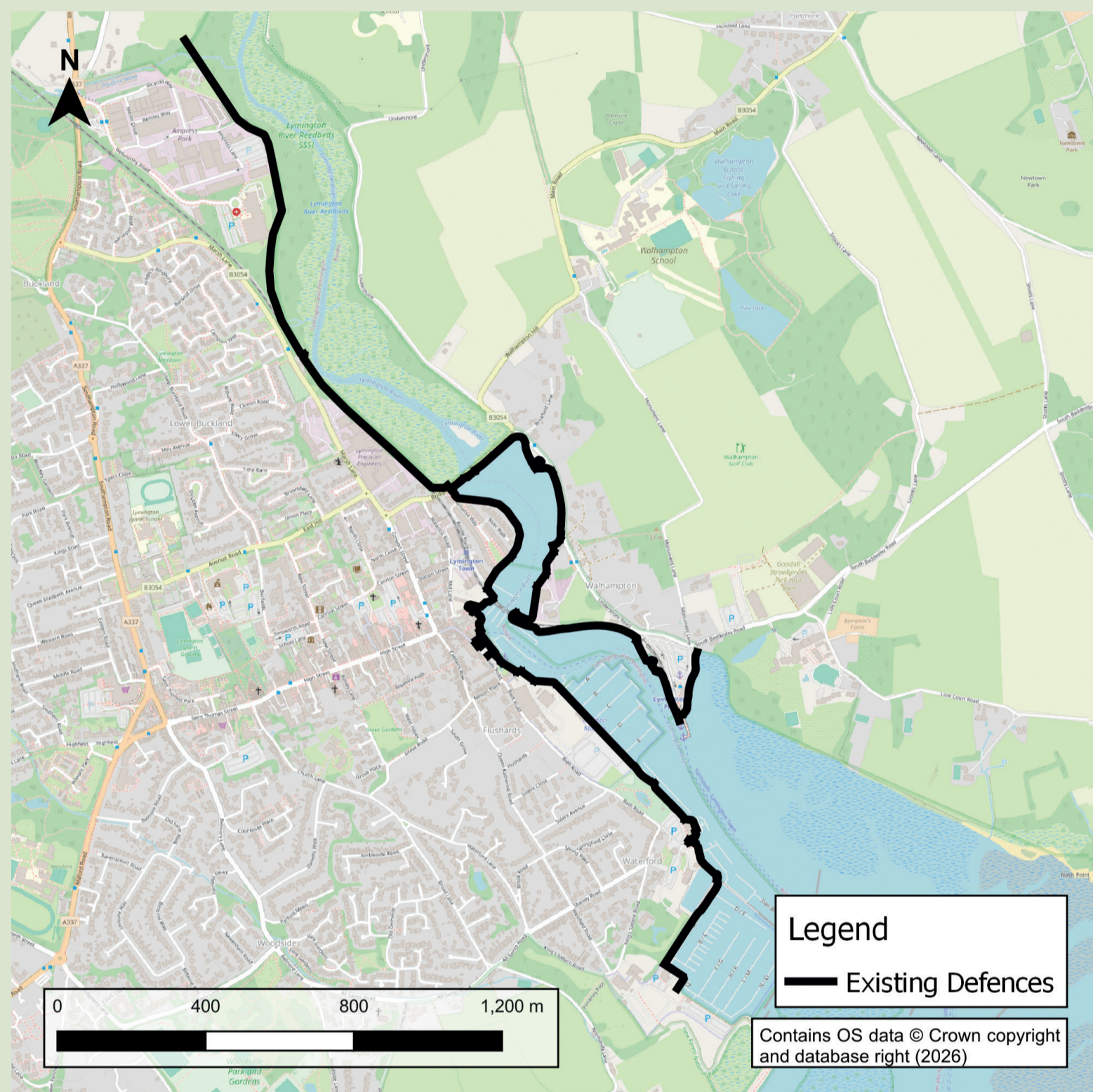
Why? Defences will be maintained initially to extend their life, whilst funding is secured for future works.

Hold the Line - Sustain - In the future new raised and strengthened defences will be built.

Why? This approach best protects properties and businesses long term with the impacts of rising sea levels, while maximising viability and affordability.

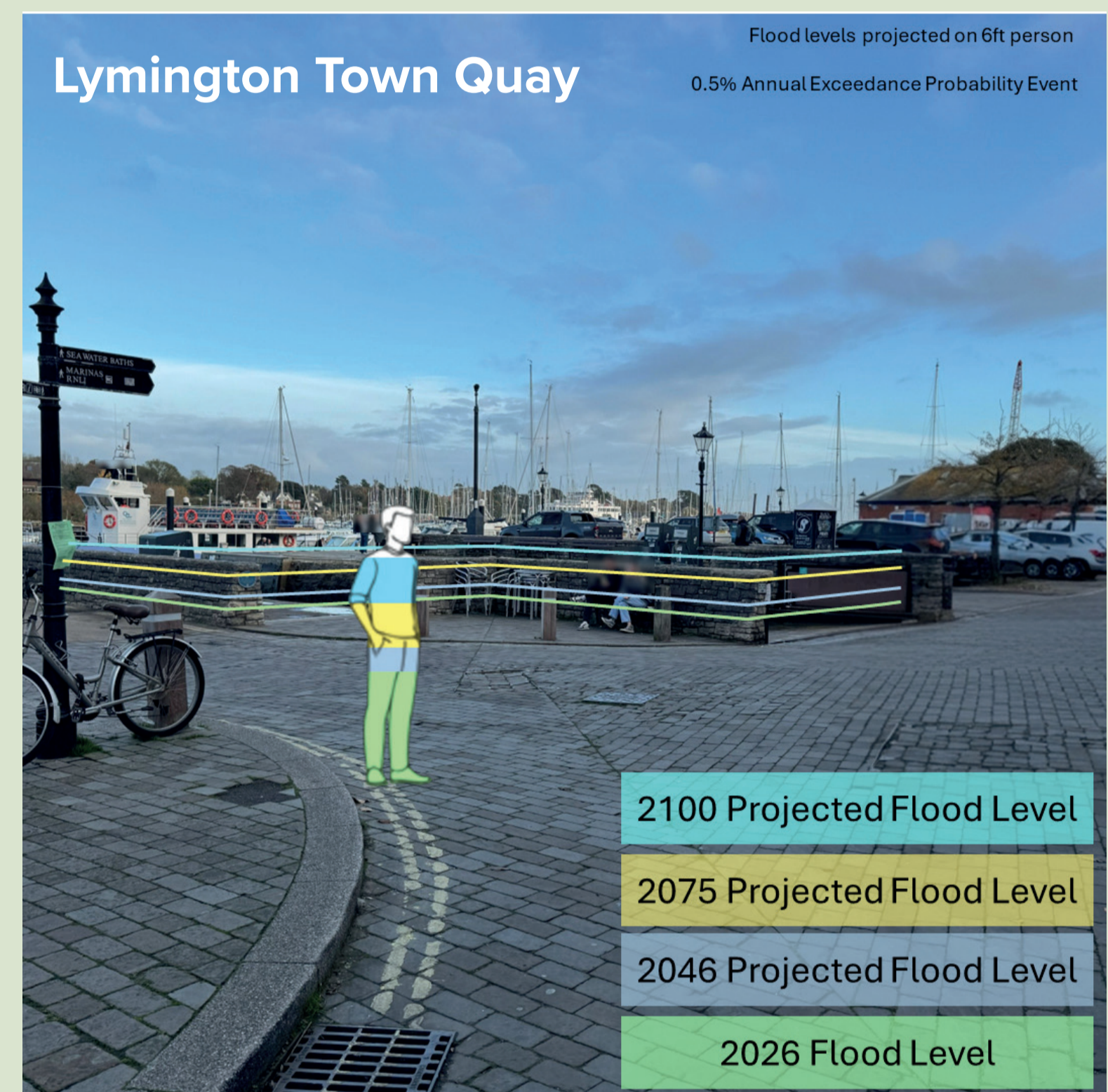
Long term consideration will also be given to how the tidal gates at Bridge Road are operated, and opportunities explored to restore Lymington River to a more natural estuarine environment.

Existing defences



Present day defences will be retained with no proposed change. The key difference in the future will be the height of the walls to accommodate future sea levels. Options will be considered at project stage on how best to maintain views over the Lymington River with the required higher defences.

Future flood levels







Projected flood levels present day and in future years for a storm event with a 0.5% likelihood of happening in any given year. For reference the Valentine's Day storm in 2014 was considered to have a 2% likelihood.

Projects to be delivered

Existing Management and Maintenance

0 - 7 Years







-  Annual inspections and reactive maintenance as required to existing defences
-  Dependent on maintenance required
-  Preserves the current height and condition of existing defences
-  No increase to height of defences, flood risk remains
- Coastal squeeze ongoing

Hold the Line - Maintain

7 - 35 Years



Projects: Lymington Flood Defence Refurbishment (Stage 1 - 2032-2038) Lymington Flood Defence Refurbishment (Stage 2 - 2052-2058)

-  Reactive works to improve the condition and extend the life of existing defences. Phased works based on the condition of the defences
-  £23.1 million + £1.2 million maintenance
-  Condition improved to reduce risk of large scale defence failure
-  No increase to height of defences, flooding risk remains
- Coastal squeeze ongoing

Hold the Line - Sustain

35 - 100 Years



Project: Lymington Flood Alleviation Scheme

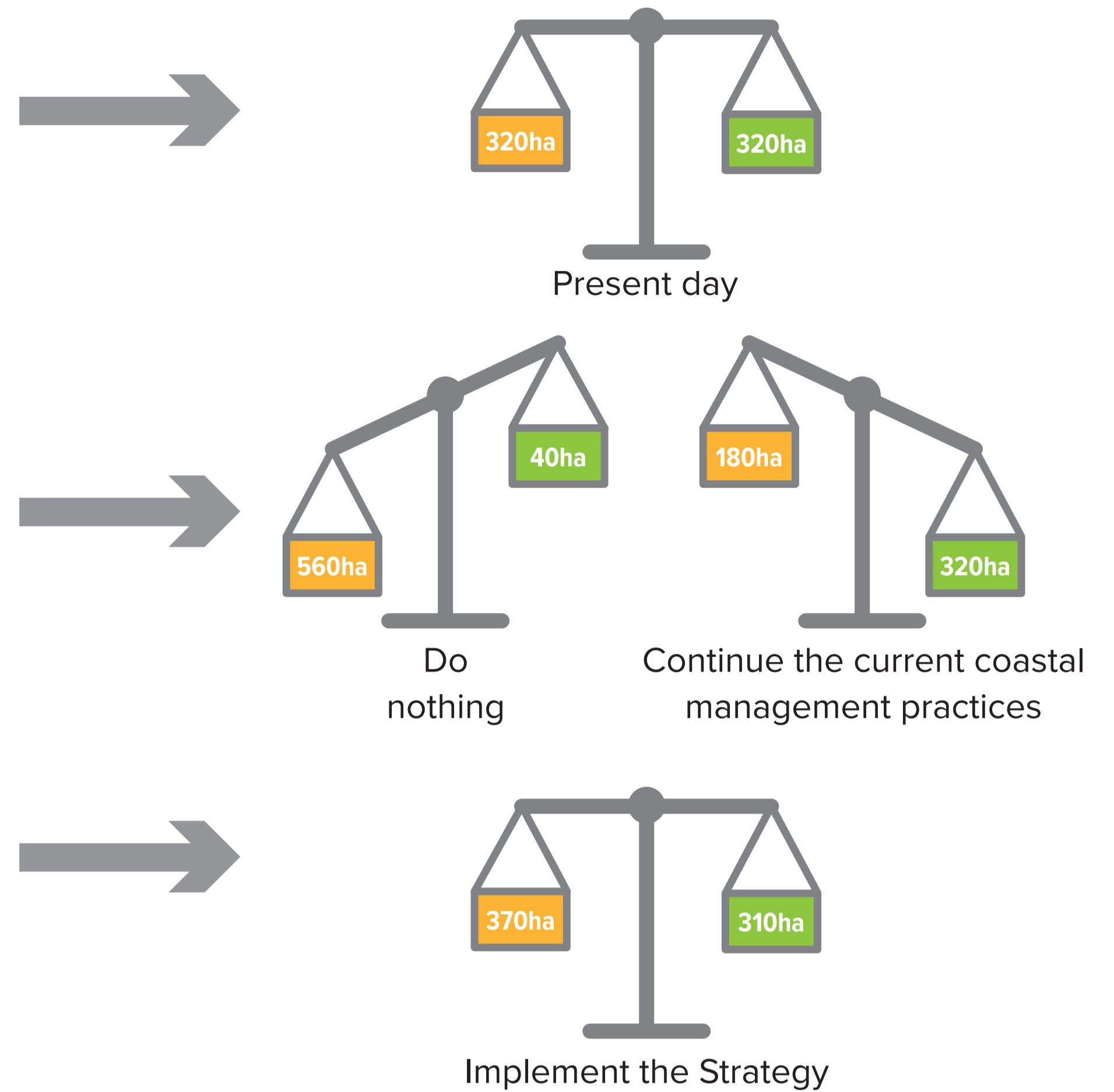
-  New higher flood defences along Lymington River. Review operation of Bridge Road tidal gates.
-  £79 million + £5.6 million maintenance
-  162 homes and 124 businesses better protected over remaining duration of the Strategy
- More naturally functioning estuary if tidal gates removed
-  Potential impacts to views of the estuary
- Continued coastal squeeze in the estuary

Finding a balance

Protecting the balance of habitats in the Strategy area is essential for the future. The scales (right) show how much **saltmarsh, mudflats, coastal grazing marsh, reedbeds and saline lagoons** currently exist. This balance supports diverse wildlife.

If no action is taken and defences fail, the landward habitats would unintentionally be lost. Continuing current management would protect these habitats but cause losses to habitats in front of the defences.

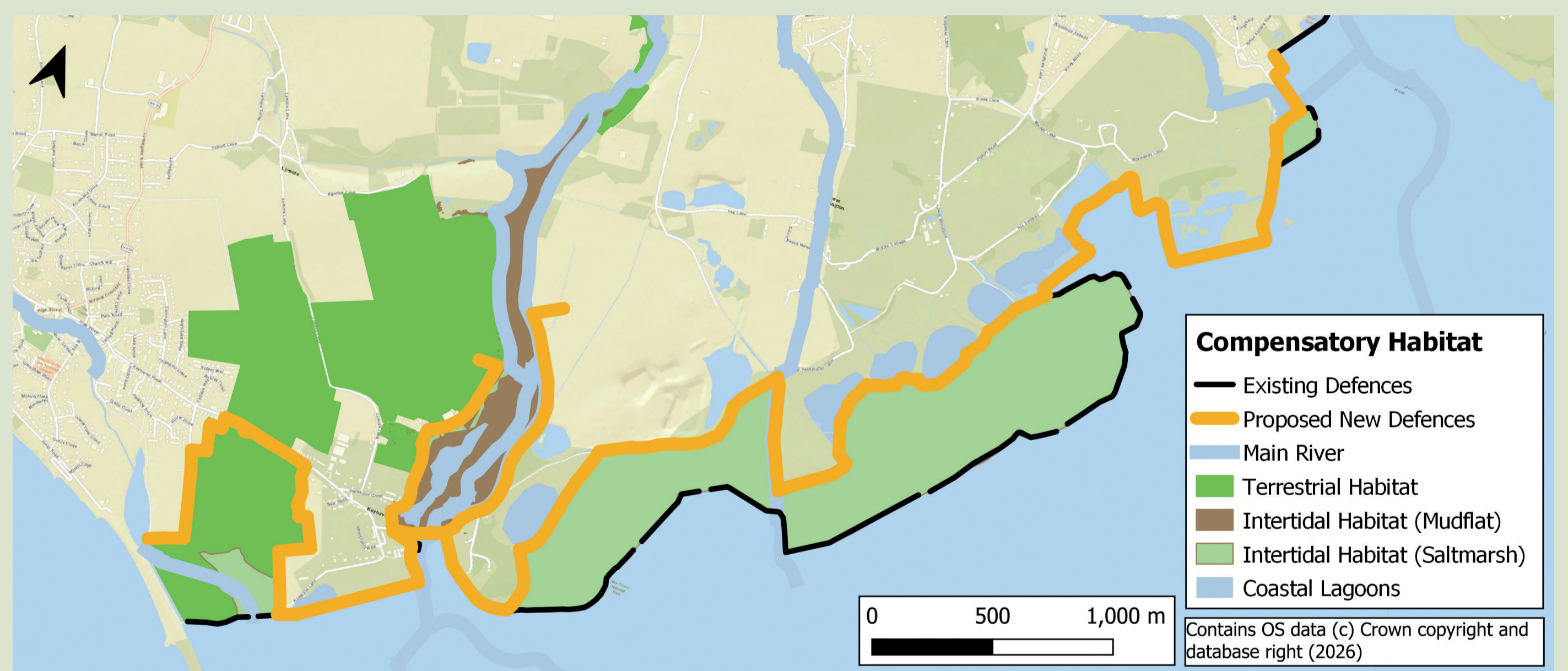
The Strategy provides a better approach by actively managing change, offsetting losses, and creating new habitat opportunities, helping to protect the diverse environments and species that make this area unique.



Without the Strategy, the balance is lost, but with the Strategy there is an opportunity to secure a resilient, diverse natural landscape for the future.

Location of proposed compensatory habitat

Where the Strategy proposals negatively impact existing habitats, new habitat will need to be created to compensate for this impact. Assessments have identified where new habitat can be created (see map). During project delivery the locations will be reviewed to determine whether they are still suitable, and engagement will take place with landowners.



Using dredged sediment to restore saltmarsh

Dredged sediment can be used beneficially to restore eroded or low-lying saltmarsh by raising ground levels to allow plants to re-establish. Restored saltmarsh can help reduce wave energy impacting flood defences and provide important benefits for wildlife.

Where possible, opportunities to restore saltmarsh in front of existing defences should be encouraged. While there are current challenges to deliver at scale, this approach will be explored in the future as part of the adaptive approach of the Strategy.

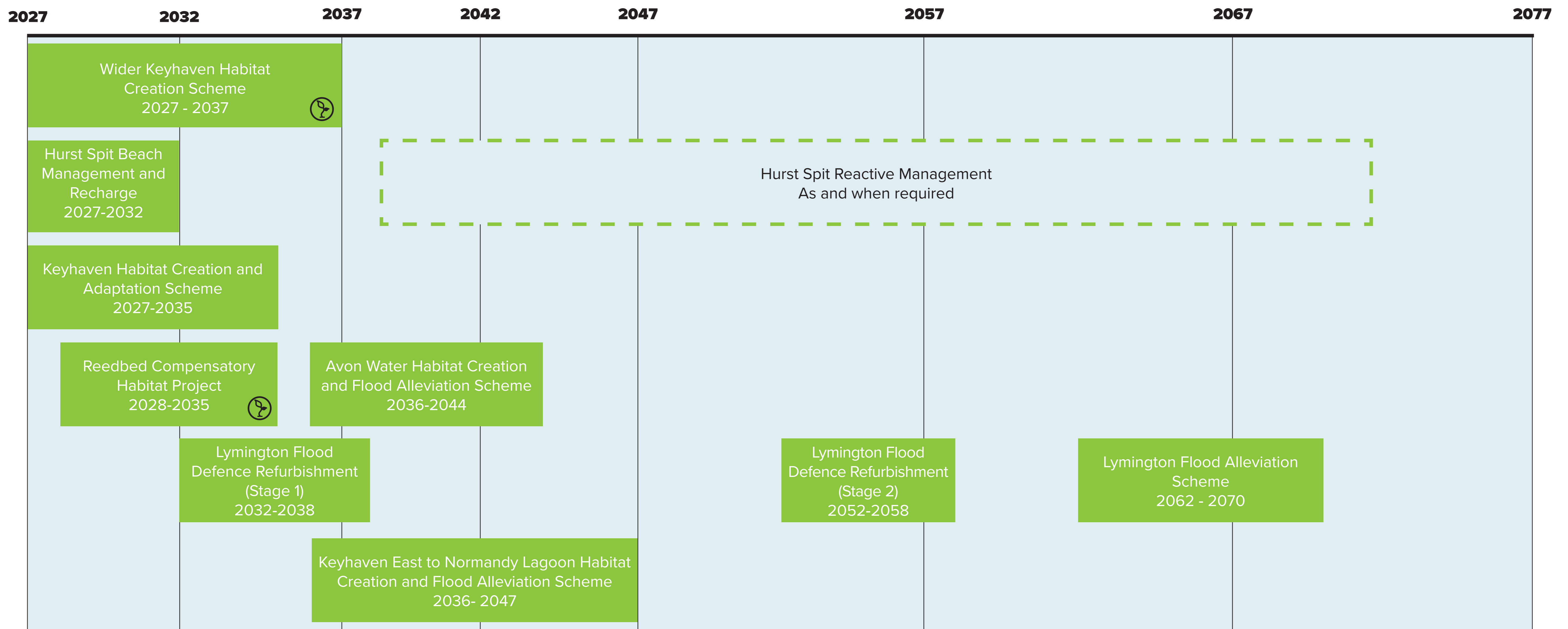



View of sediment dredged from Lymington Harbour and placed on Boiler Marsh in 2024 and then a year later showing good coverage of annual samphire and sea blite. Project funded by the Environment Agency, delivered by Lymington Harbour Commissioners and Land & Water Services Ltd with ABPmer.

When will the projects be delivered?

The timing of when each project will be delivered depends on certain ‘Triggers’ being reached. These ‘Triggers’ will be monitored regularly to help inform when projects can begin, for example, funding becoming available, defence condition worsening, or when a related project has been delivered.

The timeline below shows our best estimate of when each project is likely to be delivered. Project timelines are shown for design and construction but not maintenance as this will be determined at design stage. **All this is dependant on Strategy sign off and funding being available.**



This  indicates habitat compensation projects which enable other projects to take place. The two key projects for habitat compensation will be ‘Wider Keyhaven Habitat Creation Scheme’ which offsets impacts caused by managed realignment between Keyhaven East and Normandy Lagoon; and the ‘Reedbed Compensatory Habitat Project’ for impacts on reedbeds following removal of the sluices at Avon Water and managed realignment at Normandy Lobe.

Funding and Next Steps



HURST SPIT TO LYMINGTON
STRATEGY



The current total cost of delivering the full Strategy over 100 years including maintenance is £412 million. The costs will evolve as project designs are refined.

The proposals help us identify and prioritise the funding required and over what timeframe. Multiple national and local sources of funding will need to be considered. Contributions from non-government sources will be key in the delivery of the projects.

What if funding cannot be found?

If funding cannot be secured, projects will be delayed until funding can be found. It could also mean projects are not delivered, or alternative less beneficial options need to be considered.

If 'Hold the Line' is cheaper, why is this not being considered?

The Strategy considers the legal obligations linked to the designated habitats. Holding the line in many frontages does not meet these obligations. Also, despite being potentially cheaper, maintenance or replacement of existing defences for flood risk purposes cannot be economically justified.

How will funding be found?

The Environment Agency and partners have already begun exploring ways to secure funding. One of the priorities is to set up an **Investment Management Group**, made up of local parties who have an interest and / or connections in helping to source funding.

Next Steps



The aim is to have the final Strategy signed off and formally adopted by **Spring 2027**

Feedback

Thank you for attending, we welcome your feedback on the proposals exhibited.

Please fill out the questionnaire or scan QR code to complete online. The deadline for feedback is **25 September 2026**.

Thank you

The Strategy Team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the time to engage, challenge and support the development of the Draft Strategy and for your continued interest as the projects are progressed.

Change is happening with or without this Strategy

The Strategy is an opportunity to help manage that change to protect, strengthen and enhance the environment and build resilience in this area for future generations.