

Resource 1: Christchurch Bay – location and management overview

Christchurch Bay is located on the south coast of England. As the map below shows, the bay extends from Hengistbury Head in the west to Hurst Spit in the east. This stretch of coastline is heavily developed. The town of Christchurch (population 31,000¹) with its associated harbour and extensive beaches is a thriving port and seaside resort. To the east, much of the coastal frontage has been developed, for example, at Highcliffe, Barton on Sea and Milford on Sea.

Christchurch Bay is managed in the west by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council, and in the east by New Forest District Council (NFDC). The Christchurch Bay & Harbour Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Strategy is a plan for sustainable management of the coast for the next 100 years for which Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) is the lead authority. Following a consultation process, the strategy will commence in 2024.

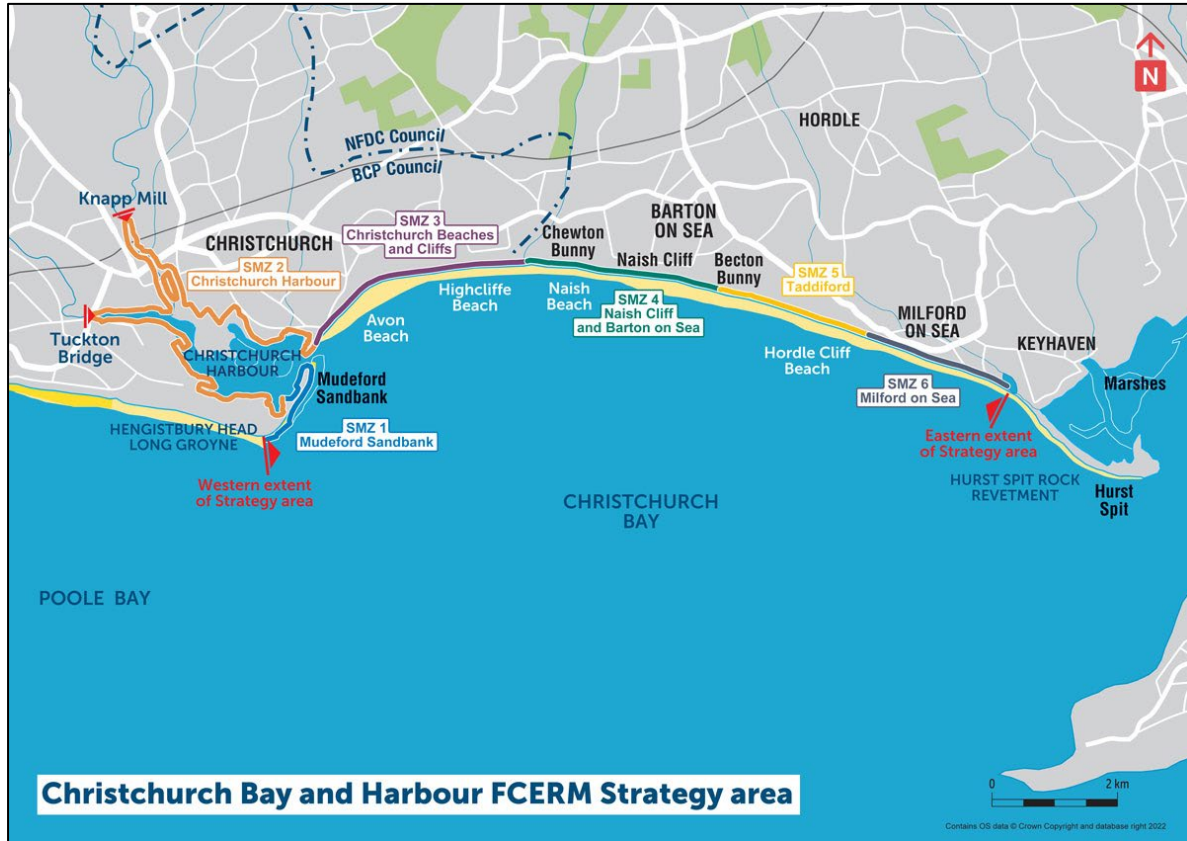


¹ Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch,_Dorset.

Produced in collaboration with Geography Southwest (<https://www.geographysouthwest.co.uk/>) and the project partners.

Christchurch Bay & Harbour Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy A-Level Resource Pack (May 2023)

The map below shows that Christchurch Bay has been divided into six Shoreline Management Zones (SMZ) each with its own distinct coastal characteristics and planning challenges. BCP Council has worked with a wide range of professional organisations to develop strategic options for managing this important stretch of coastline to address the challenges associated with climate change.



(Source: BCP Council; https://twobays.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SMZ_overview1-6-1200.jpg)

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