



Hunstanton Coastal Defence Repairs – FAQs

A series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been produced by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk regarding upcoming repair works scheduled to take place to the Hunstanton coastal defences. These FAQs are being distributed to local stakeholders and businesses / traders located on and behind the coastal defences to provide information regarding what works will be undertaken.

Why are the Borough Council completing repairs to the coastal defences?

The Borough is a 'Coastal Protection Authority' under the Coastal Protection Act (1949) for the Hunstanton Town coastal defences. This means we have a duty to carry out coastal protection works, including maintenance and repairs to the existing defences, in order to manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.

Each year we complete a visual inspection of the coastal defences which follows national guidelines set by the Environment Agency. This inspection helps to identify any repairs required to maintain the standard of protection which the coastal defences provide. This year's inspection identified several areas of routine maintenance alongside repairs to areas which sustained damage during the winter storm season.

What maintenance and repair works will be undertaken?

This year's asset inspection identified a total of 97 repairs required to different aspects of the concrete coastal defences. This will include:

- Replacement of sealant for 56 joints on the wave-return wall
- Replacement of sealant for 14 joints on the promenade and slipways
- Replacement of 6 mortar joints on the seawall
- 3 concrete patch repairs to the promenade
- 5 concrete patch repairs to the seawall
- 5 concrete patch repairs to slipways
- 5 concrete patch repairs to the wave-return wall
- 2 concrete repairs to beach access steps

Each year we also undertake a health and safety inspection of the coastal defences and groynes. This year's inspection identified a number of works required to the timber groynes including:

- Cutting the tops of stakes with pointed ends flat
- Securing loose groyne elements with additional fixings

The below photographs show some examples of repairs which will be completed:



Sealant replacement to wave-return wall



Concrete repair to seawall

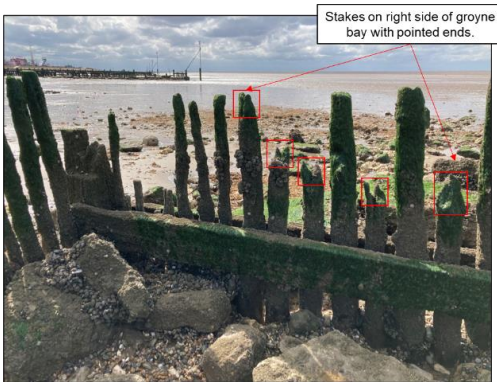


Concrete repair to promenade

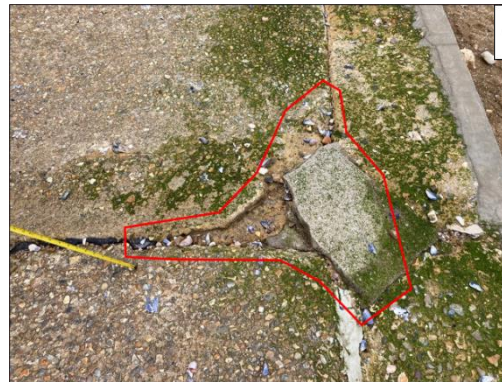


Concrete repair to seawall

The below photographs show some examples of repairs which will be completed:



H&S cutting pointed ends of timber groyne elements flat.



Concrete repair to slipway



H&S cutting pointed edges of timber groyne element flat.

Where will the repairs be undertaken?

The below map shows where repairs shall be undertaken.



When will the repair works begin and how long will they last?

The repair works shall take a total of 15 working days to complete, commencing on 24th June 2024 and be completing by 12th July 2024.

Repair works are being undertaken between June and July as weather conditions are more favourable for repair curing compared with colder months. Equally completing works in June and July ensures essential repairs are completed before the storm season begins at the end of September.

Who will be undertaking the repairs?

This repair package shall be undertaken by Southbay Civil Engineering Ltd who have previously undertaken successful repair packages to the coastal defences in spring and autumn 2023.

How much will the repairs cost and how are they funded?

These repair works shall cost £60,083.60 and shall be fully funded by the Borough Council.



Will access to the promenade or beach be restricted while repairs are undertaken?

No – Access to the promenade and beach will be maintained throughout the duration of the works.

At times, some temporary barriers and/or plywood covered will be placed around the perimeter of repair locations while works are undertaken to ensure the safety of members of the public.

Will access to businesses on the promenade and behind the wave-return wall be impacted?

Access to all businesses located on the promenade and behind the wave-return wall shall be maintained throughout the duration of the works.

Will a works compound be established?

Yes – For the duration of the works, a fenced off compound (including welfare cabin, storage of materials, plant) will be set up on the North Promenade (What 3 Words location: '[love.bonds.fearfully](#)'). Appropriate signage shall be placed on the fencing around the compound to notify members of the public of the repair works ongoing.

Why are you only undertaking health and safety repairs to the groynes?

In 2021, the Borough Council and the Environment Agency commissioned an external consultant (Jacobs) to review the effectiveness of the groyne field between Hunstanton and Heacham.

For Hunstanton, this report concluded that the effectiveness of the concrete and timber groynes is poor due to sediment transportation via longshore drift, which groynes are designed to capture, no longer being active at Hunstanton due to a change in coastal processes which has occurred.

As a result, the concrete and timber groynes in Hunstanton will only be maintained from a health and safety perspective going forward. The groynes will not be refurbished or modified as this would not improve beach sediment retention due to a lack of fresh material arriving to the coast by longshore drift which groynes are designed to capture.

You can find out more about this report on our website here:

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/988/coastal_trend_reports

Will the repair works be noisy?

At times power tools will be required for cutting and breaking out of concrete repair locations. When this is required, appropriate warning signage will be displayed around the working area, and works will take place for short durations to ensure the safety of both operatives and members of the public.

What measures are being put in place to protect the environment during the repair works?

Regard for the environment is of great importance when completing any repair works in the marine environment. Prior to commencing the repair works, the Contractor shall produce a detailed methodology and risk assessment for the works which will be provided to Natural England for agreement.

Who is responsible for the Hunstanton Coastal Defences?

The Borough Council owns and maintains the Hunstanton Town coastal defences from the Power Boat Ramp (What 3 Words: '[sourcing.reason.likes](#)') to where the defences end at the Hunstanton Cliffs (What 3 Words: '[ethic.decreased.undertook](#)').



Will other repair works be completed this year?

We continually monitor the condition of the coastal defences. If further defects are identified which require repair before the winter storm season, then further repairs could be required. Currently we have no plans for repair works in the autumn, however we shall update you if this changes.

Further information?

You can find more information about the works we undertake along the coast on our website here:

<https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/homepage/385/coastal>

If you have any other queries related to the scheduled works, please contact

floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk