

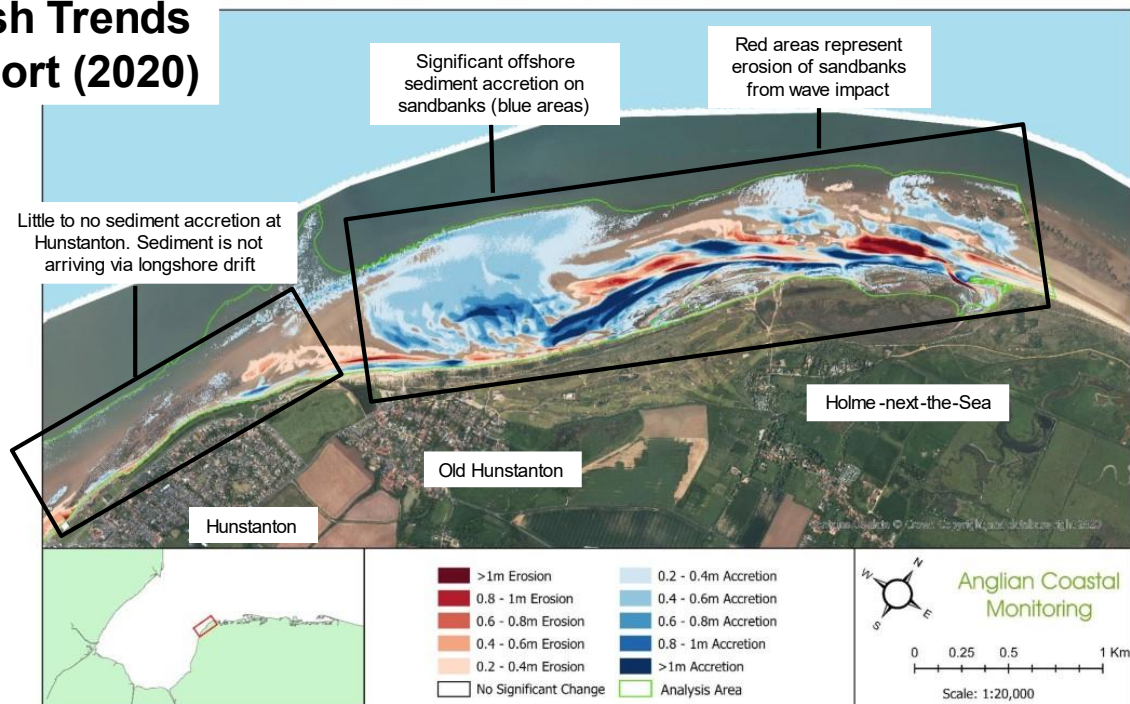
Hunstanton Concrete Groyne Removal Works

Background:

In 2021, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the Environment Agency commissioned an external consultant to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of the concrete and timber groyne fields located between Hunstanton and Heacham.

For Hunstanton, this confirmed that coastal processes have changed, meaning Hunstanton no longer receives a fresh supply of beach material via longshore drift (where sediment is moved parallel to the coastline) from North Norfolk. This has been caused by a large sandbank developing offshore from Holme-next-the-Sea and Old Hunstanton which is blocking fresh sediment from reaching Hunstanton.

Wash Trends Report (2020)



The dominant coastal process in Hunstanton is now 'cross shore sediment movement' which is where beach material is moved up and down the beach by incoming and outgoing tides.

Groynes are designed to trap beach sediment which is moved via longshore drift. Groynes cannot trap or retain beach material which is moved via cross-shore movement, which is now the dominant process in Hunstanton.

The report concluded that due to these changes in coastal processes, the groynes between Hunstanton and Heacham are ineffective as fresh beach material movement via longshore drift, which groynes are designed to trap, is no longer occurring. It also concluded that there is limited benefit in further repair or modification of the groynes other than for health and safety purposes as this would not improve beach material retention due to an absence of fresh beach material supply via longshore drift.

You can find out more about this on the Borough Council website here: https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/988/coastal_trend_reports

Current Management of Groynes:

The Borough Council undertake regular health and safety inspections of all 9 concrete groynes and 10 timber groynes located along the Hunstanton frontage. Outcomes of these inspections inform whether any health and safety remedial works are required to make the groynes safe.

A recent health and safety inspection of the concrete groynes identified that some health and safety removal works were required to concrete groynes 7, 8 and 9. This involved removing some of the horizontal concrete planks from these groynes. Once removed, these planks will not be reinstated. The Borough Council appointed Southbay Civil Engineering to undertake these health and safety removal works, which were completed between Monday 21st October and Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

The Borough Council will continue to undertake regular inspections of all concrete and timber groynes, completing remedial health and safety works when identified.

Below are some examples of the works before and after completion.

Concrete Groyne 7



Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Concrete Groyne 8



Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Concrete Groyne 9

Bay 7 from landward end- September 2024



Bay 8 from landward end- September 2024



Bay 9 from landward end- September 2024



Bay 7 from landward end- October 2024



Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Bay 8 from landward end- October 2024



Top two horizontal concrete planks removed

Bay 9 from landward end- October 2024



Top two horizontal concrete planks removed