



## **Hunstanton Concrete Groyne Removal FAQs**

A series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been produced by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk regarding upcoming works to fully remove concrete groynes 6, 7, 8 and 9 located along the Hunstanton sea defence frontage. These FAQs are being distributed to local stakeholders, businesses and traders located on and behind the sea defences to provide information regarding what works will be undertaken.

### **What works will be taking place?**

Storm Darragh resulted in deterioration of the condition of concrete groynes 6, 7, 8 and 9, including some areas of partial collapse. As these groynes are in-effective due to changes in coastal processes alongside the deterioration in their condition, the decision has been made to fully remove these groynes, and once removed they will not be reinstated.

We have appointed Southbay Civil Engineering to undertake these removal works which will begin on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Works are expected to take 5 days to complete.

The below map shows the location of concrete groynes 6, 7, 8 and 9.



### **Will access to the beach be restricted while works are undertaken?**

To ensure the safety of the public and contractors while undertaking these works, some temporary fencing and signage will be established around areas of the concrete groynes where works are being undertaken. This will not restrict access to other areas of the beach where works are not being undertaken.

To facilitate removal, periodic movements of plant on the beach to a compound on the North Promenade car park will be required. A strict speed limit of 5mph will be followed alongside use of a banksman to guide vehicle movements and members of the public.



### Why are these concrete groynes being removed?

In 2021, the Borough Council in partnership with 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 coast) 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. 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 changes in coastal processes, the groynes between Hunstanton and Heacham are ineffective as fresh beach material moved via longshore drift which groynes are designed to trap is no longer occurring. It also concluded 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 the absence of fresh beach material supply via longshore drift.

As the groynes are in-effective due to changes in coastal processes alongside deterioration in the condition of concrete groynes 6-9, the decision has been made to fully remove these groynes.

If you would like to find out more, please visit the Borough Council website here: [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/988/coastal\\_trend\\_reports](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/988/coastal_trend_reports)

### **Further information:**

If you have any queries relating to these works, please visit our website <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/currentcoastalworks> or contact [floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk)