

# Thorpeness Monthly Monitoring Report



**Date & Time of Survey:** March 26, 2021 4:10 PM

**Time of Low Tide:** 15:00

**Height of Low Tide (m ODN):** -0.5

**Inspector:** lucy.goodman\_CoastalPE

Monthly inspection of the frontage between Thorpeness Village and Ness. The purpose is to check signage, flag any hazards relating to public safety, inspect condition and exposure of defences and monitor geomorphological changes. This report is used to inform Coastal Management decision making and will be shared with the community. For best access, inspections should be done at low tide with due regard to the weather and sea state.

**Current & Antecedent Metocean Conditions:** Fresh SW winds gusting 40mph currently due to persist over weekend. Recent benign and typically wintery conditions prior. Since last inspection the wind direction has been more often southerly than northerly.

## Southern undefended frontage

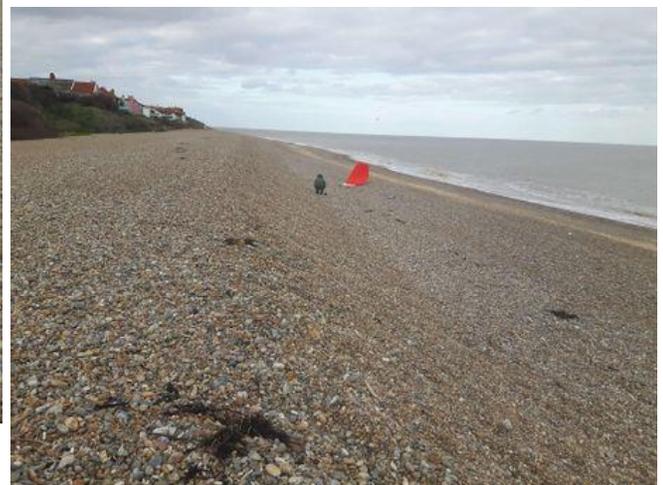
Intertidal Beach volume change: Moderately Lower

Supratidal Beach volume change: Moderate Decrease

Comments on the geomorphological change over the southern UNDEFENDED frontage:

Steeper intertidal beach looks stripped of gravel. Sandy patches and beach cusps present. Embayment deepening between tress and Aldeburgh. Largest gravel berm is >2m high. Smaller berms preceding it to seaward. Akin to Aldeburgh frontage but with less volume of gravel. Berm diminishes in front of the Headlands in to a series of gravel ripples. Much larger beach cusps appear on shoreline towards the northern frontage. Foreshore wider and lower gradient in front of Headlands but supratidal beach width is narrower.

Images of the southern UNDEFENDED frontage:





### **(Central) Defended Frontage**

Intertidal Beach volume change: Moderately Lower

Supratidal Beach volume change: Moderate Decrease. The supratidal beach appears narrower, as it does further south in front of the Headlands.

Comments on the geomorphological change over the DEFENDED frontage: Gravel berms x3 rolling landward. Largest berm in line with North end avenue property fences. These garden fences are constraining the natural beach processes. The highest section of the gravel berm >2m and the scoured face is steep/vertical at gabion abutment. This seaward face of the berm partially exposes some phase 1 geobags. The foreshore in front of the 'pocket beach' is wider and slightly flatter than further south. The beach cusps are larger and more sinuous than further south. The slight change of geomorphology reflects changes in the beach's aspect, composition, and human interventions in this area of the beach.

Images of the DEFENDED frontage:



### **Gabion condition**

Comments on Gabion condition: Almost entire length of gabions now failing. upper most layer adjoining to gardens remain in tact. loss of fill is ubiquitous.

Images of the gabions:



### **Phase 1 Geobag condition**

Comments on Phase 1 Geobag condition: some exposure of the upper-most, seaward facing bags in the 'pocket beach'- see photo below. All phase 1 bags appear to be in-tact, without holes or loss of fill. The defensive line still has integrity and has not been undermined, as the Phase 2 defence has.

Images of Phase 1 Geobags:



### **Phase 2 Geobag condition**

Comments on Phase 2 Geobag condition: loss of many bags indicated by widespread green geotextile exposure.

Images of Phase 2 Geobags:



### Signage condition

Signage condition:

Comments on signage: The sign missing at the northern end of the gabions has now been reinstalled. Most signs on the gabions are still visible and functioning. Most signs are missing from around the defence termination due to complete failure of gabions under Red House and crumpled mesh. The area is not recognizable but not at all appealing to would-be climbers. All other signs further north to the Ness and around the cliff top/coastal path access are fine. Debris remains at their base and the SCC laminated paper diversion sign is still attached. (I will take action to remove next inspection as it serves no purpose).

Images of signs:



## Hazards

Comments on Hazards: Gabion mesh has many sharps protruding the beach surface. There are also numerous wooden stakes protruding from beach level, beneath the Red House. The wall at the seaward end of the Red House's garden is at risk of imminent failure. The wall could topple or fall but is likely to slide on to gabions below. Many walkers continue to cross the section despite clear warning signs and are therefore at some risk if squeezed towards the defences by the wave run up. Lots of geotextile bags are strewn over the intertidal area - many are flailing but not floating in the water. There is no beach between defences and shoreline around the defence termination, so walkers must pick their way through and over the damaged defences. Continuing north (Ogilvie land), there are fence posts, metal scaffolding poles and service pipes that either overhang or hang down from the receding cliffs.

Images of Hazards:





**Northern UNDEFENDED Frontage:**

Intertidal Beach volume change north of defence termination: Moderately Higher  
Supratidal Beach volume change north of defence termination: No change

Geomorphological change north of defence termination: Cliff top recession, Cliff toe recession, overhanging cliffs, Some beach recovery, Active cliff erosion, Debris exposed.

Comments on the geomorphological change north of defence termination: concrete pill box is mostly covered indicating some intertidal beach material, gravel, has returned since last inspection. The supratidal beach level looks reasonably good as it has been fed by fallen cliff material. The sea water level and waves have not reached the cliff toe to undermine it. Despite this, the cliffs are in an obvious state of continued recession. The Red Houses chalet on cliff top is fully visible as the cliff edge approaches it. The embayment between the Red House and the Ness is well established. Looking in the nearshore zone around the Ness, the muddy brown discoloration of the water is larger than usual. This sub-surface, sand repository has no doubt accumulated during the recent bout of strong southerly winds. This sediment has been trafficked from further south but remains in the system and returnable.

Images of the Northern UNDEFENDED Frontage:





**Inspection Follow-up:** Geobags in front of country club and Headlands to remove. Sign to be reattached to post at north end of gabions. Continue to monitor weather and cliff stability, with particular regard to the Red House and surrounding area. Discuss R&M requirements with CPE team and replacement of sign north of defence termination.