

Thorpeness Monthly Monitoring Report

Date & Time of Survey: Feb 25, 2022; 09.30

Time of Low Tide: 11.00

Height of Low Tide (m ODN): -0.3 m

Inspector: Keith Roper

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 and Antecedent Metocean Conditions:

The increased high tide levels noted in late January also characterised several of the spring tides of early February. On 16th February, Storm Dudley crossed the UK bringing strong, but mainly off-shore, winds. Around this time and immediately following, there were a number of moderately increased spring high tide levels. Storm Eunice of 18th February brought very strong winds to the UK and resulted in a red Met Office warning for southeast England. For the strongest winds, the direction at Thorpeness was south westerly, veering westerly. High tide levels were not significantly increased at this time. A third named storm, Franklin, introduced further unsettled conditions during 21st February and high tide levels were again increased. Winds at this time were strong north westerly and seas were characterised by swell waves from the north. Since the previous inspection there have been no significant periods of onshore winds and the mainly unsettled conditions have contrasted with those mostly typical of early 2022. During this latest inspection winds were fresh north westerly, seas slight with rolling moderate swell from south easterly direction.

Southern undefended Frontage

Intertidal Beach volume change: No change

Supratidal Beach volume change: Moderate decrease

Comments on the geomorphological change over the southern UNDEFENDED frontage:

The upper beach berm remains narrowed, similar to previous, with some loss and steepening of seaward face. Sinuous foreshore alignment has developed with shingle rich deposits around, and just above, the mean high water mark.

Images of the southern UNDEFENDED frontage:



(Central) Defended Frontage

Intertidal Beach volume change: Moderate increase

Supratidal Beach volume change: Moderate increase

Comments on the geomorphological change over the DEFENDED frontage:

There has been recovery of beach levels, particularly to the south side of the temporary rock structure and extending to the northern parts of the Phase 1 defences. The shingle rich berm to the north side of the rocks has persisted. The sinuous foreshore alignment continues from the southern frontage.

Images of the Central Defended frontage:





Gabion condition

Comments on Gabion condition:

Southern end similar to previous with some protection likely from recent beach accretion. The worst damaged remaining northern gabions are currently substantially buried. The imported aggregate material was not visible and is assumed buried.

Images of the gabions:





Phase 1 Geobag condition

Comments on Phase 1 Geobag condition: Almost entirely buried with recent shingle deposits above the mean high water mark at the north end, below the main upper beach berm.

Images of Phase 1 Geobags:



Phase 2 Geobag condition

Comments on Phase 2 Geobag condition:

Remains are partially exposed at southern and northern ends of Phase 2 but improved inter tidal beach levels have covered many of those seen during the previous inspection.

Images of Phase 2 Geobags:



Signage condition

Signage condition: Satisfactory

Comments on signage: Signage in place and satisfactory except for a small minority on the remaining gabions

Images of signs:







Hazards/Debris

Comments on Hazards/Debris:

Loose gabion wire remains on the upper beach berm to the southern end of Phase 2 defences and on the northern undefended frontages. Beach accretion on the south side of the emergency rock has covered exposed wires and stakes noted previously. There are currently vertical and overhanging cliffs below Red House and immediately north, with some bases undercut where exposed by a comparatively low beach.

Images of Hazards/Debris: Examples recorded on inspection below.





Northern UNDEFENDED Frontage:

Intertidal Beach volume, north of defence termination: Moderate increase

Supratidal Beach volume, north of defence termination: Moderate increase

Comments on the geomorphological change, north of defence termination:

A noticeable recovery of beaches and the supratidal material has been disturbed and pushed landward, meeting cliff bases and affording them some protection in the south. This is not the case in the extreme south, just north of the failed defences, where cliffs have been undercut causing falls. The gradient of the front face slope of the upper berm remains shallow and now more closely matches the overall beach profile.

Images of the Northern UNDEFENDED Frontage:



