

Thorpeness Monthly Monitoring Report

Date & Time of Survey: Feb 1, 2022, 15:00

Time of Low Tide: 16:40

Height of Low Tide (m ODN): -0.6m

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:

Through January there have been notable and persistent periods of anticyclonic, relatively calm conditions, with low rainfall levels. However, conditions immediately preceding this latest inspection produced strong north westerly winds, swell waves from a generally northerly direction, and a number of high tide levels increased by surges. There were also significantly increased tide levels on 4th and 5th January, and later on 19th and 20th January. On both these occasions seas were also characterised by swell waves from the north. There were only modest surge effects on tide levels in late December and there have not been significant periods of onshore winds since the previous inspection.

Southern undefended Frontage

Intertidal Beach volume change: Moderate decrease

Supratidal Beach volume change: Moderate decrease

Comments on the geomorphological change over the southern UNDEFENDED frontage:

Main upper beach berm has narrowed and the seaward face is characterised by an approximately 45 degree angled slope to the foreshore, which has lost previously established modest shingle berms. The top of the upper berm has been increased in height along seaward edge in some locations, for example near Tinkers End (probably the effects of significant wave action).

Images of the southern UNDEFENDED frontage:





(Central) Defended Frontage

Intertidal Beach volume change: Moderate decrease

Supratidal Beach volume change: Moderate decrease

Comments on the geomorphological change over the DEFENDED frontage:

There has been a loss of foreshore material and beach levels lowered adjacent the Phase 2 defences. The previously noted lower foreshore beach promontory near the new rock structure was no longer apparent on inspection. A ridge of shingle rich material has persisted on the north side of the rocks below No. 22.

Images of the Central Defended frontage:



Gabion condition

Comments on Gabion condition:

There has been more damage and deterioration to northern areas, probably due to reduced foreshore level, narrowed beach, and greater wave exposure during recent increased high tide levels. The supplementary aggregate added last year is now extensively dislodged and being dispersed on the foreshore.

Images of the gabions:





Phase 1 Geobag condition

Comments on Phase 1 Geobag condition: Buried
Images of Phase 1 Geobags: (upper shingle berm coverage)



Phase 2 Geobag condition

Comments on Phase 2 Geobag condition:

Lowered foreshore has exposed remains of bags and geotextile fabric with some lying just north of defences termination.

Images of Phase 2 Geobags:



Signage condition

Signage condition: Satisfactory

Comments on signage: Diversion and prohibitive signage in place, mostly legible, and displaying clear messages. Two of the many signs on gabions have been noted as requiring replacement.

Images of signs:





Hazards/Debris

Comments on Hazards/Debris:

Several small pieces of detached gabion wire and other minor debris lie in various locations along frontages – some are likely to have been collected by walkers in the area. Lowered beach levels have exposed more gabion basket remains and tops of timber stakes.

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





Northern UNDEFENDED Frontage:

Intertidal Beach volume, north of defence termination: Moderate decrease

Supratidal Beach volume, north of defence termination: Moderate decrease

Comments on the geomorphological change, north of defence termination:

Lower foreshore level has been reduced. Upper berm has been narrowed with the remaining material pushed landward maintaining a relatively high level near the cliff base, except below and north of Red House where the cliff base could be more vulnerable to seas. The northern upper berm is currently characterised by a shallow angled face sloping seaward.

Images of the Northern UNDEFENDED Frontage:



