

Government Funding

The maximum funding available from the Government via the Environment Agency (EA) for Pakefield is approximately £492k which is only available if we have a fully funded scheme. The cost of a rock scheme (depending on length) is currently between £4-11 million. Coastal Partnership East (CPE) have explored alternative funding options but there are currently not enough wider government outcomes in this location to seek funds from any other government departments. There are 36 properties at risk in Pakefield over the next 100 years. For reference, the Cromer and Mundesley schemes protected over 700 properties at risk for £25 million funding to be awarded.

Private Scheme

The Pakefield Community Interest Company (CIC) are exploring funding opportunities to assist the development of a private scheme. Whilst the EA and CPE are willing to support a private scheme, it would need to be progressed through East Suffolk Council's (ESC) statutory planning routes; require permissions and consents from statutory governing bodies; and be in accordance with government Shoreline Management Plan policies. CPE will support the community with coastal management advice. Resource such as engineering support will be based on a percentage of scheme funding being in place and ESC member approval.

Public Safety

CPE are currently working on updating incident response procedures and producing an emergency plan for Pakefield which will include trigger points for coastal management actions such as notifying property owners of risk. Our key priority is keeping people safe.

Monitoring

In 2022, a £1.2 million temporary rock revetment was placed at Pakefield to buy time to explore options and help the community to adapt. The rock was designed to offer approximately five years' protection, but this advantage has been lost due to extreme weather and the ongoing Northern advancement of Benacre Ness. Winter 2023/24 saw an unprecedented amount of named storms resulting in several years' worth of erosion in just one season. With a lack of funding available for defences we are now managing an eroding coastline. This means we will continue to regularly monitor the area with our drone and LiDAR technology and make onsite inspections. The monitoring reports are available at <https://www.coasteast.org.uk/locations>

Support For Residents

CPE and ESC's Housing Needs team are looking ahead to help residents prepare for the longer-term changes on the coast. Part of our emergency planning process is to understand whether there is likely to be any housing needs should there be a significant erosion event. CPE have recently supported ESC's Housing Needs team to meet front row residents at Arbor Lane and complete housing needs assessments as the more information we have in advance the better we can support people if required.

Support For Residents continued

We are also exploring how we can use funding from the Resilient Coasts project to deliver practical and financial support outside of defence options. The Resilient Coasts project is one 25 successful pilot projects chosen for the Government's Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP) which is part of the Government's national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England. See [Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme](#) for full information.

CPE is actively working on the opportunities that can be developed through this programme during 2024 for Pakefield. We will be engaging with the community as these options are developed and approved.

Funding Support

With limited national and local funding options available to Pakefield and other coastal communities facing erosion we are progressing a new economic approach study, funded by the Resilient Coasts project, to establish the real value of our coast to communities, visitors, business and the nation to see if we can demonstrate value to attract investors. We also continue to lobby nationally for changes to the funding calculator through national policy change groups with links to Parliament.