

Pakefield Monthly Monitoring Report

Date and Time of survey: August 28, 2024 10:41

Inspector Name: Keith Roper

Time of Low Tide: 11:00

Height of Low Tide (m ODN): -0.4

Reason for Inspection: Scheduled



Comment on weather or water level events that may have impacted coastal change:

In the main, August has seen typical, mainly dry, summer seasonal conditions. However, Storm Lilian, the twelfth storm of this season, was named by the Met Office on 22nd August and brought an unsettled period of weather. Winds were strong at times (mainly south or south-westerly) and generated relatively large waves for the time of year. There was associated rainfall, but amounts were less than those seen further north in the UK. 23rd August saw the peak of a period of notable spring tides, although the highest tide level at Lowestoft was recorded on 21st. Winds were not onshore at that time and flood alerts were not issued by the Environment Agency for the Lowestoft area. During the August inspection, conditions were very warm with a light southeasterly breeze, and seas were slight.

The beach north of Arbor Lane

Extension of beach cliffing alongshore: Negligible change

Landward recession of beach cliff: Negligible change

Change in gradient of beach cliff face: Slightly flatter (trampling)

Maximum height of beach cliff (m): 2

Beach photos looking north:



Beach photos looking south:



Change in beach level relative to exposed timber groyne opposite Grand Avenue: Slight increase (below mean high water)

Photo of exposed timber groyne:



General impression of beach volume: No Change

Photos of beach north of Arbor Lane:



Comments on change in beach geomorphology: The shingle berm noted previously near the high-water mark, has been dispersed, possibly during the higher tide levels and wave action noted above. There was a slight improvement in the lower foreshore level and therefore a reduction in its characteristically steep gradient.

Cliffs

Changes to soft unconsolidated sand cliffs north of rock armour: Slumped material on cliff face; denuding and loss of vegetation; scree at base of cliff; fallen vegetation at base of cliff.

Changes to soft unconsolidated sand cliffs south of rock armour: Slumped material on cliff face; denuding and loss of vegetation; cliff-face steepening and overhanging; scree at base of cliff; fallen vegetation at base of cliff.

Comments: Recorded conditions would indicate it was unlikely that the cliffs were reached by seas in August, and there was no evidence seen to suggest otherwise. The loss of fine dry material continues however, from the steep cliff face behind the south end of the rock, leaving an overhanging (probably unstable) upper topsoil layer. It appeared that seas had reached further landward, toward the cliffs, through the gap in the concrete walling sections. North of the rock, where the cliff face was undermined and steepened by seas last winter, the process of loss of dry material is also apparent. Extensive vegetation growth continues to obscure much of the cliff face in this area. As previously there were two caravans seaward of The Cliffs access road (photo below).

Photos of soft unconsolidated sand cliffs:



Rock Armour

Packing of rock: Overall satisfactory

Cross-sectional profile: Satisfactory

Beach levels surrounding rock armour: Average

Beach access around the rock armour: Dry access available past rock armour around time of low tide

Stability of cliff behind rock armour: No obvious change apparent behind the main rock structure, as viewed from the beach (note vegetation growth obscures part of the cliff face).

Asset condition grade: 2 Good; rock armour condition satisfactory; no change in protection

Photos of rock armour:





Signage

Signage in place, intact and fixings secure? Yes

Adequacy of signage: Signage and information provided is adequate.

Provision of tidal information: Both sets of tide tables were updated during the inspection

Comments on signage: Suffolk County Council have placed information near the seaward end of Arbor Lane (timber post as photo below) confirming that public footpaths have been closed for a further year until August 2025.

Photos of signage:



Southern Pakefield beach and cliffs

General impression of beach volume: Little overall change

Photos of southern beach:



Comments on change to southern beach: As for northern beaches, the shingle berm noted previously has been dispersed and there has been a slight increase in the lower foreshore levels.

Changes to southern cliffs: Slumped material on cliff face; denuding and loss of vegetation; cliff-face steepening and overhanging; scree at base of cliff; fallen vegetation at base of cliff.

Photos of southern cliffs:





Comments on cliff change and any risk posed: As noted above, there was no evidence cliffs had been reached by seas during the previous month. Loss of dry and poorly consolidated material from cliff faces continues in places.

Benacre Ness

Changes to beach geomorphology: Increased establishment of vegetation, and accumulations of wind-blown sand establishing raised beach areas.

Comments on change at Benacre Ness: Trend for widening beach appears to be continuing. No evidence of surface water discharge from adjacent the Pontins beach access and very little standing water remaining visible on The Ness.

Photos of Pontins frontage and Benacre Ness:



Kessingland Cliff top structure

Changes in cliff stability: No obvious change apparent from beach

Photo of cliff top structure:



Comments on cliff top structure: None