

Pakefield Monthly Monitoring Report

Date and Time of survey: September 25, 2024 07:38

Time of Low Tide: 09:25

Height of Low Tide (m ODN): -0.5

Reason for Inspection: Scheduled

Comment on weather or water level events that may have impacted coastal change: Prior to inspection, September has not seen especially significant conditions. There were periods of onshore winds but water levels and wave action have not brought about impactful change. This included the equinoctial spring high tides around the 20th of the month. During the inspection winds were light and variable, skies overcast, and seas 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 (accumulation or trampling)

Maximum height of beach cliff (m): 1.5

Beach photos looking north:



Beach photos looking south:



Change in beach level relative to exposed timber groyne opposite Grand Avenue: Slight increase

Photo of exposed timber groyne:



General impression of beach volume: Moderately Higher

Photos of beach north of Arbor Lane:



Comments on change in beach geomorphology: The foreshore retains its characteristic steepened gradient. Shingle rich material has been accreted above the mean high-water mark, re-establishing a berm.

Cliffs

Changes to soft unconsolidated sand cliffs north 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.

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

Comments:

Seas have not reached the cliff bases this past month prior to inspection, but losses from the cliff face of very dry material, and upper topsoil layers, remain ongoing. The east-west cliff top fencing above the south end of rock structure is likely to be undermined should recession of the cliff continue. The exposed cliff face immediately north of the rock also continues to see gradual losses through similar processes. The southernmost caravan was present seaward of The Cliffs access road.

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 around times of low tide

Stability of cliff behind rock armour: As previous, no obvious change apparent behind the main rock structure, as viewed from the beach (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

Provision of tidal information: Up to date and legible – Monitor.

Comments on signage: Information signage near the seaward end of Arbor Lane is visible.

Photos of signage:



Southern Pakefield beach and cliffs

General impression of beach volume: Moderately Higher

Photos of southern beach:





Comments on change to southern beach: Consistent with beaches to the north, a shingle rich berm has been created above mean high water mark.

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 last month, there has been another period where cliffs have not been reached by seas. Loss of dry and poorly consolidated material from cliff faces continues in places.

Benacre Ness

Changes to beach geomorphology: Impression is of a continuation of gradual beach widening.

Comments on change at Benacre Ness: Processes described previously appear likely to be continuing.

Photos of Pontins frontage and Benacre Ness:



Hazards and Debris

Photos of hazard/debris:



Comments on hazard/debris: East Suffolk Council Asset Management are aware of the damage to Arbor Lane steps and have planned in work to repair them. CPE will be addressing the hazard posed by the wooden groynes through the repairs and maintenance programme.

Kessingland Cliff top structure

Changes in cliff stability: No obvious change

Photo of cliff top structure:



Comments on cliff top structure: None