

Pakefield Monthly Monitoring Report

Date and time of survey: May 29, 2024 06:46

Inspector Name: Keith Roper

Time of Low Tide: 08:00

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:

Spring high tide levels of the early part of May were increased by only relatively small amounts and the month has not seen sustained or significant periods of onshore winds. On inspection conditions were cloudy and cool, with an offshore breeze. Seas were moderate.



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: Negligible change

Maximum height of beach cliff (m): 2

Beach photos looking north:



Beach photos below taken further north than usual inspection area showing new timber exposure – seaward of Nightingale Road: (Slight increase in beach level)



Beach photos looking south:



Change in beach level relative to exposed timber groyne opposite Grand Avenue: Negligible change
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 lower foreshore retains its characteristic relatively steep gradient. There has been reworking of material and a shingle berm has been formed, approximately at the high water mark. Less change to the upper beach and no significant change to dune face.

Cliff Top Property

Changes to cliffs supporting property north of rock armour: Slumped material on cliff face; denuding and loss of vegetation; cliff-face steepening and overhanging; scree at base of cliff

Changes to cliffs supporting property 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 on risk to cliff-top assets: Five caravans were located seaward side of The Cliffs. The vertical cliff face at the south end of rock persists, and there have been obvious recent falls. Near here, topsoil material continues to slip on the seaward face projection. The vegetated cliff face near the north end of the rock appears to have features which may indicate movement of the face.

Photos of cliffs supporting property:



Rock Armour

Displacement of rock from structure: Yes - Some - Monitor

Packing of rock: Loosely packed or voids: Monitor

Cross-sectional profile: Satisfactory

Beach levels surrounding rock armour: Relatively high

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

Settlement, movement, undermining of structure: Yes - Some - Monitor

Exposure of geotextile: Yes - Some - Monitor

Hazards/debris within structure: Yes - Some - Monitor

Stability of cliff behind rock armour: No obvious change apparent from the beach behind the main rock body. Issues at the north and south ends of the rock are as noted elsewhere in the report.

Asset condition grade: 2 Good; minor defects that do not reduce overall performance

Photos of rock armour:



Comments on condition of, or risk posed by rock armour: Impression is of ongoing gradual settlement although the current relatively healthy beach levels are probably beneficial. The displaced rock and cave like opening at the south end were reported previously. Note also the additional void (right side of above photo).

Signage

Signage in place, intact and fixings secure? Yes – those considered necessary under ESC management

Adequacy of signage: The view is that the signage and information provided is adequate

Provision of tidal information: Up to date and legible

Comments on signage: The sign at the seaward end of Arbor Lane is possibly becoming obscured by vegetation. Photo of signage at Pontins beach access shows an abandoned shopping trolley.

Photos of signage and any issues:



Southern Pakefield beach and cliffs

General impression of beach volume: Moderately Higher

Photos of southern beach:



Comments on change to southern beach: Recent conditions have not impacted beach levels and the shingle berm noted above continues south.

Changes to southern cliffs: Slumped material on cliff face; denuding and loss of vegetation; establishment of vegetation in some areas; 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: South of Pakefield Caravan Park there was evidence of a more stable angle of repose in places and vegetation establishing. Upper cliff faces however remained vertical, with falls having occurred. Below the former rifle range there are particularly steep cliff faces and material is very dry with tendency to fall. Masonry walling is visible here on the cliff top (last of photos above).

Benacre Ness

Changes to beach geomorphology: Impression is of progression north of widening beaches.

Comments on change at Benacre Ness: Surface water discharge at Pontins beach access is tending to run south onto the main Ness feature as it progresses north. RSPB information signage has been installed, presumably for the bird nesting season.

Photos of Pontins frontage and Benacre Ness:



Hazards and Debris

Type of hazard/debris: As noted previously and as photos and comments below

Photos of hazard/debris:





Comments on hazard/debris: Beach access steps at Arbor Lane are becoming overgrown.

Kessingland Cliff top structure

Changes in cliff stability: No obvious change apparent from beach

Photo of cliff top structure:



Comments on cliff top structure: Nothing to add to previous.