

Pakefield Monthly Monitoring Report

Date & Time of survey: December 30, 2024 12:59

Time of Low Tide: 14:45

Height of Low Tide (m ODN): -0.6

Reason for Inspection: Scheduled



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

December has seen periods of unsettled conditions. Notably, Storm Darragh was named over the weekend of the 7th and 8th bringing strong north to northeasterly winds and generating large waves. A number of high tide levels were increased during the early part of the month, and Flood Alerts were issued by the Environment Agency EA for the Lowestoft area. Cliffs and dunes were reached by seas where beaches are narrow, resulting in relatively minor impacts. Later Spring high tide levels, around the middle of the month, were increased by only modest amounts however, the lead up to Christmas saw further periods of unsettled conditions, and a number of high tide levels were increased appreciably. More EA Flood Alerts were issued and cliff bases to the north and south side of the rock were affected. The Arbor Lane beach access steps were reached by seas, and dune faces to the north were eroded. Conditions over the period between Christmas and new year were much more settled.

The periods of unsettled weather brought further precipitation, following that seen during November.

On this latest inspection winds were moderate to fresh SW – seas were moderate, becoming slight towards low tide.

The beach north of Arbor Lane

Extension of beach cliffing alongshore: Significant northward extension

Landward recession of beach cliff: Significant landward recession

Change in gradient of beach cliff face: Slightly steeper (wave action at toe)

Maximum height of beach cliff (m): 2

Beach photos:





Beach photos looking South: Unavailable

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

Image of exposed timber groyne:



General impression of beach volume: Overall reduced

Images of beach north of Arbor Lane:



Comments on change in beach geomorphology: There was significant reworking of beach material during the periods of unsettled conditions and increased high tide levels. On inspection, there had been subsequent recovery around the Mean High Water Mark MHW and the lower foreshore. Dune faces have been eroded causing undermining and exposure of some equipment etc, with the areas of this type of erosion extending further northward.

Cliff Top Property

Changes to cliffs supporting property north of rock armour: Some areas of cliff toe recession and undermining; 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 cliffs supporting property south of rock armour: Some areas of cliff toe recession and undermining; 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 cliffs supporting properties both North & South of rock armour : December conditions disturbed the cliff base to the north and south sides of the rock in places and caused some localised falls. Above the south end of the rock the clifftop fence and concrete base, remain exposed. Further south along the clifftop, the line of operational caravans has been set back as part of the recent work of building demolition. The beach level behind the concrete walling has been reduced since the last inspection. Remaining concrete caravan bases to the seaward side of The Cliffs access road have been removed, and a new fence has been erected.

Photos of cliffs supporting property:





Rock Armour

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

Beach levels surrounding rock armour: Negligible change

Exposure of geotextile: Negligible change

Hazards/debris within structure: Negligible change

Stability of cliff behind rock armour: As previous, no obvious or significant change apparent behind the main body of the 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 & legible - Monitor

Comments on signage: One damaged sign has been replaced on rock

Photos of signage and any issues:





Southern Pakefield beach & cliffs

General impression of beach volume: Recent recovery around MHW and lower foreshore – consistent with beaches to north.

Photos of southern beach:



Comments on change to southern beach: As noted above.

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: Some continuing gradual change in places by processes described previously. December sea conditions reached more exposed cliff bases creating some additional instability and localized falls. Southern cliffs continue to be afforded greater protection by widening beaches.

Benacre Ness

Changes to beach geomorphology: Beach widening processes described previously continuing.

Comments on change at Benacre Ness: Further outflow onto the beach from near the Pontins access. Areas of surface water on The Ness feature appear to have receded from an earlier maximum, but remain extensive .

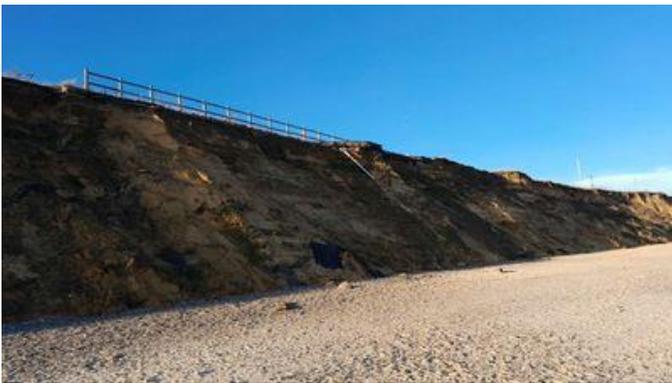
Photos of Pontins frontage and Benacre Ness:



Hazards and Debris

Photos of hazard/debris:







Comments on hazard/debris: Timber groynes hazards have been removed and additional safety signage installed.

Kessingland Cliff top structure

Changes in cliff stability: No obvious change apparent from beach

