

LOCAL SEA DEFENCES

WOLFERTON CREEK TO SOUTH HUNSTANTON

ANNUAL UPDATE 2021/2022

FUNDING FOR 2021/22 BEACH RECYCLING

Annual beach recycling of the shingle ridge and beach between Snettisham and Heacham, which helps protect people and property from tidal flooding, commenced on the 7th of February 2022. This involved:

- 507 loads of beach material being moved (excluding material that was moved up from the lower beach using dozers); and
- 7098 cubic meters of sand and shingle being moved

Beach recycling is funded by Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) alongside partnership funding contributions from the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (inc. beach huts), the East Wash Coastal Management Community Interest Company (CIC) and Anglian Water. The financial contributions for this year's works were as follows:

Source	Amount
Government Grant in Aid (GiA)	£52,198.42
Anglian Water	£20,000.00
CIC	£24,218.31
Borough Council	£5,000.00
Beach Hut Charge	£1,365.00
Surplus Funds	£25,627.66
Total provisional cost	£128,409.39

Provisional costs of this year's beach recycling are £128,409.39.

A surplus from the previous financial year of £46,963.82 was carried forward into this year's programme. Some additional costs were incurred for environmental monitoring, which must be completed every five years, and extending the amount of time equipment was on site by one week due to storm impact. These additional costs were taken from the surplus, meaning the amount being carried forward into the next financial year is £21,336.16.

The amount of beach material available at Snettisham Scalp for annual beach recycling remains viable and stable. This is a significant factor in determining when a 'mini beach recharge' will be required as it demonstrates material is remaining in the area and not being lost offshore. Whilst the amount of material available remains stable at Snettisham Scalp and on the beach for recycling to take place, a mini beach recharge is not necessary.

It is also worth noting that the 2020-21 survey data found this year observed the largest overall increase in beach volume since monitoring began in 1992. This data also indicates we have gained material at Snettisham Scalp and on the beach itself, while material has been lost from the shingle ridge at the top of the beach. The shingle ridge is a flood defence, and as explained above, there was a suitable amount of material available to recycle and repair any damage or loss of material from the ridge during the works completed this year.



BEACH RECYCLING

Each year between February and March, a contractor on behalf of the Environment Agency moves shingle from Snettisham Scalp to the shingle ridge and beach

between Snettisham and Heacham. This work is funded by a combination of central government and local partnership funding. By doing this, damaged areas are repaired and re-profiled helping to maintain the defence.

BEACH RECHARGE

Beach recharge is completed when there is no longer enough material locally available (e.g. from Snettisham Scalp) to complete annual beach recycling works. Typically, this would involve importing material from offshore and pumping it onshore onto the beach. Alternative options for delivery, such as land-based delivery of beach material, could also be considered. Previous beach recharges have been completed in 1990/91 and 2005/06.

It was originally anticipated a 'mini-beach recharge' would be required in 2022/23. However, due to the sufficient amount of material currently available at Snettisham Scalp for beach recycling and beach material remaining on the Heacham beaches, this has been delayed. The Environment Agency will continue to monitor the amount of sediment available for beach recycling and report back with a future date when a mini-recharge is likely to be required. Further works will also be required to determine the economic, environmental and social feasibility of a mini-recharge.

EAST WASH COASTAL MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (EWCM CIC)

The CIC was established to help provide partnership funding for a 15-year programme of beach recycling and beach recharge. The CIC is a registered company with directors from local businesses and landowners who would potentially be impacted by any changes to flood defences. These businesses and landowners make voluntary contributions to the CIC which is then forwarded on to the Environment Agency for annual beach recycling works as required.

Over the past five years the CIC have collected a significant amount of funding. As of February 2022 the CIC had a balance of £906,000. This reserve will contribute to future works such as a mini-recharge.

15 YEAR FUNDING PROGRAMME

We are now in year five of the 15-year funding programme to maintain the shingle ridge between Snettisham and Heacham. The system of partnership funding from private donations, the CIC, the Borough Council (inc. beach huts) and Anglian Water has remained strong over the period. We remain optimistic that the current system of government GiA funding and partnership funding contributions will raise sufficient funds to complete annual beach recycling and a future mini-recharge going forward.

FUTURE FUNDING

While the current funding programme ensures annual beach recycling continues, we need to plan ahead for a future mini-beach recharge, which is likely to cost around £2.4 million.

The Water Industry Regulator, OFWAT, confirmed that Anglian Water will continue to contribute funds over the next five years. This includes a budget of £316,000 for local sea defence works up to 2024/2025, with allocations made for both recycling and recharge of the shingle ridge.

The CIC continues to set aside any surplus funds each year which can be used towards a mini-recharge.

The Environment Agency would lead a grant application for central government GiA funding. The level of grant allocated for beach recycling is currently around 41% of total costs. The grant level for a mini-recharge will be dependent on the application made, though it is anticipated this is likely to be at a similar level. The Environment Agency have already allocated £300,000 from the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) for the eventual mini-recharge.

The Borough Council will consider a contribution to the eventual mini-recharge once the grant level has been determined and any shortfall, if any, is known.

You can make a voluntary donation to the works on our website here: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/175/local_sea_defences_funding

WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

You can keep up to date on how the WECMS strategy is being implemented by reviewing the information on our web page found here: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water_management_and_flooding/176/wash_east_coastal_management_strategy

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN REFRESH

The Environment Agency began leading a review of the two Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) in our area in 2020:

- SMP 4 > The Wash (covering the shoreline from Gibraltar Point to Old Hunstanton); and
- SMP 5 > North Norfolk (covering the shoreline from Old Hunstanton to Kelling Hard)

A review of these SMPs concluded that no major changes to the current policies are required. Work is ongoing to launch a new website where SMP and SMP Refresh documents can be found. This is expected to be completed in early 2023.

COASTAL MONITORING

The Anglian Coastal Monitoring Group held its last virtual meeting on the 9th December 2021. Since then a written update has been circulated covering the following topics:

Topographic surveys: Winter 2021/22 data collection has been completed. Summer 2021 data is now available on the Channel Coastal Observatory (CCO) website.

Aerial LiDAR: Winter 2021/22 data collection completed and processing of data underway.

Aerial Photography: Winter 2021 data collection has been completed and is available on the CCO website.

Habitat Monitoring: Data collection is scheduled to begin in mid-April 2022.

4D Radar: A 4D radar trial was completed between Hunstanton and Heacham between August-December 2021. Report is currently in draft and being reviewed and will be shared later in the year.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18th May 2022.

HUNSTANTON COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Borough Council has drawn up and adopted a Coastal Management Plan for the Hunstanton Cliffs (known as Unit A) and the Hunstanton seafront and coastal defences (known as Unit B). This plan outlines a strategy of activities to be undertaken to manage flood and coastal erosion risk over the next 100 years.

This area of work has been impacted by staff being re-deployed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, essential repairs to the promenade, seawall, rear-wave wall, floodgates and groynes have continued over the past financial year as required.

The final HCMP and appendices can be found on our website: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water-management-and-flooding/631/hunstanton-coastal-management-plan



Before



After

Repair completed to the blockwork seawall

HUNSTANTON CLIFF MONITORING

For the Hunstanton Cliffs, focus has been on continuing an annual and post-storm (if required) programme of terrestrial LiDAR monitoring, which was recommended by the Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan. The purpose of this is to validate predicted erosion rates and confirm when future management will likely be required.

A baseline report was produced in 2019 by the British Geological Survey (BGS) on behalf of the Borough Council, reviewing previous LiDAR data from 2010, 2012, 2017 and 2019. Since then, a 4-year scheme, funded by RFCC local levy and the Borough Council, has been established to complete an annual survey and an associated report of findings. The first annual report was completed in 2020-21 and found:

- There has been no acceleration in cliff erosion since the last survey completed in 2019.

- The amount of erosion occurring is as expected from previous reports and monitoring at 3cm per year with intermittent blockfall events occurring.

- No changes to policy (e.g. SMP or HCMP) are required.

The annual report for 2020-21 can be found on our website: west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20098/water-management-and-flooding/851/hunstanton-cliffs-monitoring

Data collection for the annual 2022/23 report was completed by the Anglian Coastal Monitoring Programme in early April 2022. We are currently awaiting to receive this data and expect the annual report to be published in the summer.