

Hunstanton Coastal Defence Summer 2025 Repairs FAQs

A series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been produced by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk regarding upcoming repair works scheduled to take place to the Hunstanton coastal defences.

These FAQs are being distributed to local stakeholders, businesses and traders located on and directly behind the coastal defences to provide information regarding what works are being undertaken.

Why are the Borough Council completing repairs to the coastal defences?

The Borough Council is a 'Coastal Protection Authority' under the Coastal Protection Act (1949) for the Hunstanton Town coastal defences. This means we have a duty to carry out coastal protection works, including maintenance and repairs to the existing defences, to help manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion.

Each year we complete a visual inspection of the coastal defences which follows national guidelines set by the Environment Agency. This inspection helps to identify any repairs required to maintain the standard of protection which the coastal defences provide. This year's inspection identified several areas of routine maintenance alongside repairs to areas which sustained damage during the winter storm season.

What maintenance and repair works will be undertaken?

This year's asset inspection identified a total of 63 repairs required to different aspects of the concrete defences. This will include:

- 11 concrete patch repairs to the seawall
- 11 concrete patch repairs to the promenade
- 1 concrete patch repair to the wave-wall
- 1 asphalt repair to the promenade
- 11 concrete repairs to beach access steps
- 2 concrete patch repairs to slipways
- Replacement of sealant for 4 joints on the promenade and wave-wall
- Replacement of mortar joints in 22 locations along the blockwork seawall

Each year we also undertake a health and safety inspection of the groynes. This year's inspection identified some works required to the timber groynes including:

- Cutting the tops of stakes with pointed ends flat
- Securing loose groyne elements with additional bolts and fixings

The photographs below show some examples of repairs which will be completed:



Concrete repair to promenade



Concrete repair to blockwork seawall



Concrete repair to seawall



Concrete repair to beach access step

Where will the repairs be undertaken?

The map below shows where the repairs will be undertaken.



When will the repair works begin and how long will they last?

The repair works will take three and a half weeks to complete, commencing on the Monday 2nd June 2025 and completing by the Wednesday 25th June 2025. Works will be undertaken Monday to Friday only.

Repair works are being undertaken in June as weather conditions are more favourable for repair curing compared with colder months. Equally, completing works in June ensures that essential repairs are completed before the storm season begins again at the end of September.

Who will be undertaking the repairs?

These works will be undertaken by Southbay Civil Engineering Ltd who have previously undertaken successful repair packages to the Hunstanton coastal defences in 2023 and 2024.

How much will the repairs cost and how are they funded?

These repairs will cost £80,016.58 and are being fully funded by the Borough Council.

Will access to the promenade or beach be restricted while repairs are undertaken?

No – Access to the promenade and beach will be maintained throughout the duration of the works.

At times, some temporary restrictions (barriers) and plywood covers will be placed around a repair location while works are undertaken to ensure the safety of the operatives undertaking repairs and members of the public. These will remain in place around a repair until any materials (e.g. concrete) have cured. All barriers will be accompanied by appropriate safety signage.

In addition, occasional movement of plant on the promenade will be required. A strict speed limit of 5mph will be followed, alongside use of a banksman to guide vehicle movements and members of the public.

Will access to businesses on the promenade and behind the wave-return wall be impacted?

Access to all businesses located on the promenade and behind the wave-return wall will be maintained throughout the duration of the works.



Will a work compound be established?

Yes – For the duration of the works, a fenced off compound (including welfare cabin, materials and equipment) will be set up on the North Promenade car park (What 3 Words: [engraving.banks.abolish](#)). Appropriate signage will be placed on the fencing around the compound to notify members of the public of the repair works taking place.

Why are you only undertaking health and safety works to the timber groynes?

In 2021, the Borough Council in partnership with the Environment Agency commissioned an external consultant to undertake an assessment of the effectiveness of the groyne field between Hunstanton and Heacham.

For Hunstanton, this confirmed that coastal processes have changed meaning Hunstanton no longer receives a fresh supply of beach material via longshore drift (where sediment is moved parallel to the coast) from North Norfolk. This has been caused by a large sandbank to develop offshore from Holme and Old Hunstanton which is blocking fresh sediment from reaching Hunstanton. The dominant coastal process in Hunstanton is now 'cross-shore sediment movement' which is where beach material is moved up and down the beach by incoming and outgoing tides.

Groynes are designed to trap beach sediment moved by longshore drift. Groynes cannot trap or retain beach material moved by cross-shore movement, which is now the dominant process in Hunstanton.

The report concluded that due to changes in coastal processes, the groynes in Hunstanton are in-effective as fresh material moved via longshore drift which groynes are designed to trap is no longer occurring. It also concluded there is limited benefit in further repair or modification of the groynes, other than from a health and safety perspective, as this would not improve beach material retention due to the absence of fresh supply via longshore drift.

You can find out more about this report on our website here:

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/988/coastal_trend_reports

Will the repair works be noisy?

At times, power tools will be required for cutting and breaking out repair locations. When this is required, appropriate warning signage will be displayed around the working area, and works will take place for short durations to ensure the safety of both operatives and members of the public.

What measures are being put in place to protect the environment while the repair works are being undertaken?

Regard for the environment is of great importance when completing repair works on and near the marine environment. Prior to commencing the repair works, the Contractor will produce a detailed methodology and risk assessment for the works which will be provided to Natural England for agreement.

Will other repairs be completed this year?

We continually monitor the condition of the coastal defences. If further defects are identified which require repair before the winter storm season begins at the end of September, then further repairs could be required. Currently we have no plans for further repair works in the autumn, however we will update you if this changes.



Who is responsible for the Hunstanton Coastal Defences?

The Borough Council owns and maintains the Hunstanton Town coastal defences from the power boat ramp (What 3 Words: '[Sourcing.Reason.Likes](#)') to where the defences end at the Hunstanton Cliffs (What 3 Words: '[Blatantly.Amounting.Give](#)').

How to find out further information

If you have any queries relating to these works, please visit our website https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/1088/current_coastal_works or email floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk