



## Hunstanton Coastal Defence Emergency Works FAQs

A series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) have been produced by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk following a large void developing beneath the Hunstanton Coastal Defences resulting in a subsequent collapse of part of the asphalt surfaced promenade.

These FAQs are being distributed to local stakeholders, businesses and traders located on and behind the coastal defences to provide information regarding what has occurred and upcoming emergency works to fix the void.

### What has happened?

Between the evening of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and morning of Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026, high tides and strong winds caused around 20cm to 30cm of beach material to be eroded. This resulted in tidal action forming a void under the promenade deck and resulted in partial collapse of an asphalt area of promenade.



Hole in asphalt

Approx  
dimensions of  
void  
underneath



View of void beneath promenade

Further investigations identified that a large void had developed beneath the promenade.

Current estimates of its size are 4m wide, 3.5m deep and 15m long.



### Why did the promenade collapse?

High tides combined with strong winds resulted in further erosion of beach material at the base of the Hunstanton Coastal Defences. This resulted in a further 20-30cm of beach material erosion leading to the base of the seawall becoming exposed.

This meant waves were able to travel beneath the base of the seawall and washout internal fill material leading to a void developing. This void resulted in a lack of structural support to the promenade deck above, leading to its collapse and a hole at the surface forming.

### What emergency works are being completed?

Firstly, gaps in the blockwork and concrete pad edges will be sealed to prevent any concrete mix from seeping out from behind the fill area and on to the beach. A section of trench sheet pile will then be installed at the base of the seawall directly in front of the void area.

Additional access holes will be cored into the top of the concrete promenade pad to allow concrete to be poured in. The concrete will be poured in 0.5m to 1m depth layers to allow it to settle and cure between pours. The access holes will then be sealed once the fill has been completed.

### Who will be undertaking the emergency repair work?

These works will be undertaken by Southbay Civil Engineering Ltd who have previously undertaken successful repair packages to the Hunstanton Coastal Defences in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

### How long will the emergency repair work take?

It is currently estimated that the emergency works will take a minimum of two weeks to complete, however this may need to be extended if additional works are required (e.g. the void is larger than anticipated, requiring more concrete to fill the void).

Work will take place during daylight hours and when tidal windows allow access to the beach.

Work will start on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026.

We will keep you updated as works progress.

### Will the promenade remain closed while works are taking place?

Yes – the current 140m cordon for both pedestrian and vehicles around the void will remain in place while these works are undertaken. Please do not enter the area of promenade which is closed and use alternative routes to access the remainder of the promenade and beach.

This cordon will remain in place until emergency works are completed.



### Will a work compound be established?

Yes – for the duration of these works, a fenced off compound, including welfare cabin, skip, concrete mixers, and a concrete pump will be set up at the northern end of the South Prom Car Park. Appropriate signage will be placed on the fencing around the compound to notify members of the public of the works taking place.

### Will the emergency works be noisy?

At times, plant will be required to push trench sheet piles into the beach material at the base of the seawall. In addition, a concrete truck and pump will be present on the South Prom Car Park to fill the void. 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.



### Will these Emergency Works impact or replace the Capital Works Project?

No, these emergency works are intended to maintain the existing flood defence. The aim is still to move ahead with the capital rebuild of the Hunstanton Coastal Defences as previously announced, details of which can be found here [https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/1237/hunstanton\\_coastal\\_defence\\_capital\\_works](https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/385/coastal/1237/hunstanton_coastal_defence_capital_works)

### 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 these emergency works on and near the marine environment.

The Borough Council and Southbay Civil Engineering have been engaging with Natural England through the planning process for these emergency works to ensure that appropriate mitigation is in place prior to commencement of works.

The Borough Council has also contacted the Marine Maritime Organisation regarding the works, and they will not require a Marine Licence and are classified as an Exempted Activity.

The Borough Council has also contacted the RSBP regarding the work and any impact on migratory birds. RSBP have confirmed no impact to migratory birds.

### How to find out further information

The Borough Council will keep you updated as these works progress. Updates will also be posted on the Borough Council's social media channels.

If you have any other queries relating to these works, please contact [floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk)