



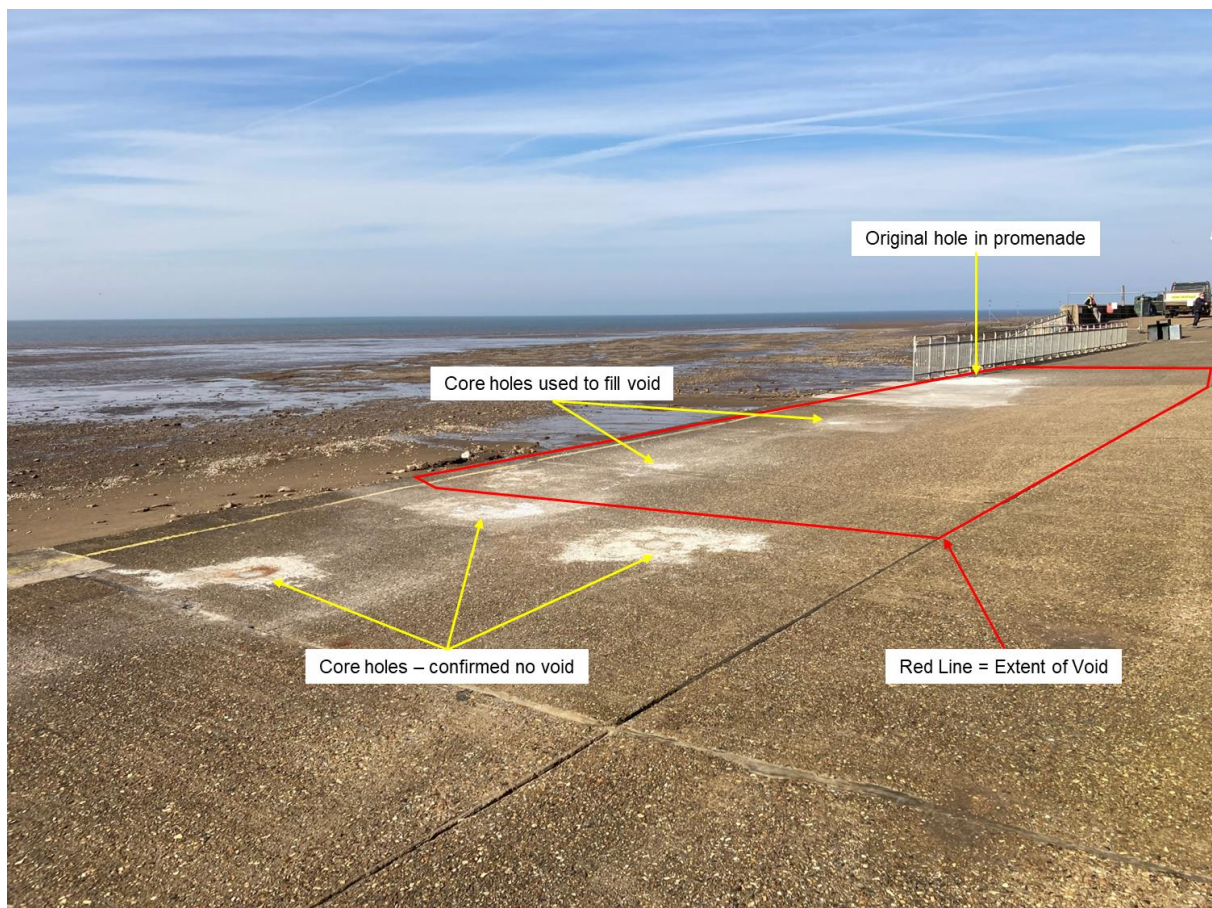
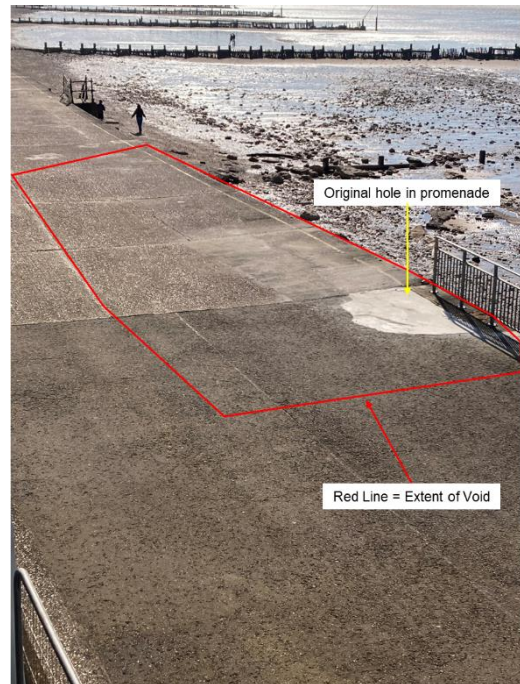
Hunstanton Coastal Defence Emergency Works FAQs

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 emergency repair works have been completed.

What has happened?

Between the evening of Wednesday 4th and morning of Thursday 5th 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 and resulted in partial collapse of an asphalt area of promenade.



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 20cm to 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 were completed?

Between Monday 2nd March and Tuesday 17th March, preparation works were completed to prepare the promenade and seawall for concrete pours to fill the void. This included: -

- Coring access holes in the promenade deck to confirm the extent of the void and to facilitate access for later concrete pours to fill the void.
- Filling any gaps in the joints of the blockwork and concrete seawall pads to prevent concrete mix from seeping out.
- Installation of steel trench piles at the base of the seawall directly in-front of the void to prevent concrete from seeping out beneath the wall onto the beach and prevent further wave undermining.



Between Wednesday 11th March and Monday 16th March pouring of concrete to fill the void took place.



How large was the void?

A total of 136.5 cubic metres of concrete was poured into the void. The final approximate size of the void was 26.5 metres in length, 3.5 metres deep (at its deepest point) and up to 4 metres wide.

When will the promenade re-open to foot traffic?

Following completion of emergency repair works, the promenade was re-opened to foot traffic on Friday 19th March 2026.

Can vehicles and kiosks return to the promenade?

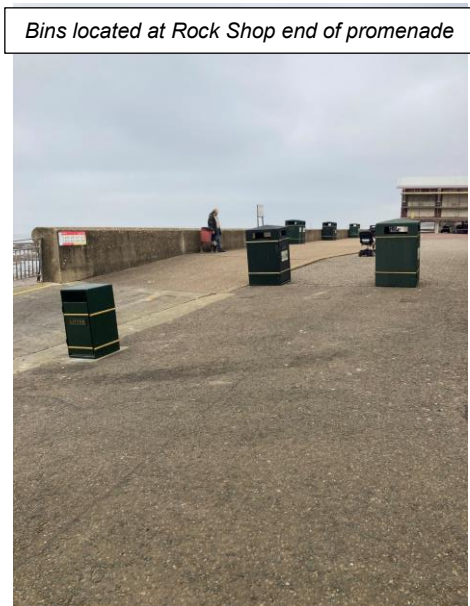
The promenade between the Oasis and Rock Shop Slipway currently remains closed to vehicle traffic and kiosks.

It will take 28 days for the large volume of concrete used to fill the void to fully cure and reach its maximum designed strength. Litter bins have been placed on the promenade to act as a barrier prevent vehicle access along this section of promenade during this period.

Bins located at Oasis end of promenade



Bins located at Rock Shop end of promenade



A structural engineer has been instructed to complete a review of the weight limit of the promenade between the Oasis and Rock Shop.

This review will consider the structural strength of the concrete used to fill the void, alongside outcomes of a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of the promenade completed in early February 2026. GPR surveys are used to indicate potential anomalies beneath the ground surface, such as voids. The last survey was completed in 2024 as part of the Geotechnical Investigations.

The outcomes of this assessment will determine whether any amendments to the current 10-tonne weight limit on the promenade between the Oasis and Rock Shop Slipway are required going forwards.

We will keep you updated on this assessment once outcomes are received and whether any amendments to the weight limit are required going forwards.

Any kiosks which are normally located on the promenade between the Oasis and Rock Shop Ramp have been offered alternative locations to trade while the concrete curing and the weight limit assessment takes place.

Will you be undertaking any further investigations and surveys?

As part of the capital works programme, we are planning to undertake window sampling (also known as core sampling) at regular intervals along all 1.5km of promenade deck between the Power Boat Ramp and where the defences end at the Hunstanton Cliffs. This sampling will confirm the structural condition of the concrete promenade, alongside the condition of fill material beneath.

We will keep you updated on this once we have a confirmed commencement date.

We will also continue to undertake structural stability monitoring of the coastal defences every three months which provides information on millimetric structural movement.

All of the above monitoring is feeding into the development of design options for the wider capital works programme.

Did removal of groynes cause beach erosion to occur?

We have previously published three reports regarding the change in coastal process that has led to significant beach erosion along the whole of the eastern side of the Wash, this is not just a Hunstanton issue. Details can be found here:

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

To summarise the reports, the groynes are too short and not tall enough to trap any beach material. The coastal process of longshore drift has stopped and replaced with cross shore movement. This has removed around 2m depth of beach material from the whole foreshore and 4 large sand banks have developed offshore from this material.

The removal of groynes is not responsible for reduced beach material. This is a natural process, and the reduced beach levels have resulted in groynes becoming dangerous and having to be removed. We will continue to carry out health and safety repairs only.

Will you be reinstating bin collection along the promenade?

Following the void opening and establishment of a cordon on the promenade, collection of waste from the litter bins was stopped due to the refuse collection vehicle being unable to access and egress the promenade. To prevent overflowing of waste, all bins along the promenade were temporarily sealed.

Alternative litter bins which are slightly smaller, but which can be emptied via hand collection rather than refuse vehicle collection have been purchased by the Borough Council and in the process of being installed along the promenade. All bins which are currently covered will then be removed once the replacement has been installed.

Additional large litter bins have been installed at the Rock Shop end of the promenade to make it as easy as possible for visitors to responsibly dispose of litter.

Following a detailed site assessment of litter bins between the Power Boat Ramp, at the southern end of the Promenade, and the Kit Kat Building were deemed as safe for emptying by a Refuse Collection Vehicle which does not exceed the 10 tonne maximum weight limit for that section, and Serco have resumed emptying these bins.

What happens next?

Following completion of the emergency works, the site compound has been demobilised and the northern end of South Prom Car Park re-opened. The cordon on the promenade has also been removed, and the promenade re-opened to foot traffic.

As the concrete used to fill the void will take a minimum of 28 days to reach its maximum designed strength, barriers to prevent vehicle movement on the promenade will remain in place for a minimum of 28 days while concrete cures.

During this time, a structural engineer will re-assess the weight limit of the promenade and a decision regarding vehicle movements going forward will be made. We will keep you updated on this.

Is work on the capital works project continuing?

Yes, work is continuing to progress on the capital works project.

The emergency repairs which were completed are intended to be temporary to prevent serious undermining and collapse of the coastal defences. A permanent solution will be incorporated within the capital works project.

You can out more about the capital works project on our website, where regular updates will be posted. <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/hunstantonprom>

How to find out further information

You can find further information on emergency repairs completed on the Borough Councils website here: <https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/currentcoastalworks>

If you have any other queries relating to these works, please contact us via email at floodandwatermanagement@west-norfolk.gov.uk at any time.