

Thorpeness Community Update

20th February 2026

Current Situation

Short Term Measures

East Suffolk Council has received outline designs for private works forward of Johnnygate. These works will be managed by East Suffolk Council and privately funded to ensure management of public health and safety.

The works are a temporary, short term, solution consisting of rock bags. These works are being undertaken as urgent works under the Coastal Protection Act. This arrangement reflects standard practices for local authorities under the Coastal Protection Act nationwide.

East Suffolk Council will take legal ownership of and manage the rock bags. This also allows us to implement a monitoring programme to ensure there are no wider impacts and will include trigger points for removal if any significant affects are observed.

Estimated Next Steps

- **Phase 1 works** – procured by Old Homes Road Ltd aiming to receive the first delivery of their rock bags from the beginning of next week and the placement of these will commence shortly after from No. 7 Headlands through to Tinkers End.
- **Phase 2 works** – Intention is to proceed directly from Phase 1 to Phase 2 completion. Completed phases would provide rock bags from no. 7 Headlands through to the Stella Maris frontage. Preparing Cabinet report for 3rd March.

General Updates

Suffolk County Council Highways are exploring a temporary diversion of the King Charles III England Coast Path and additional signage.

Signage and debris clearance

Wider scale debris clearance from Southwold-Aldeburgh scheduled for 23rd-27th February 2026.

The landowner has granted permission for residents to install signage on the private road. Resident requests for closure of Old Homes Road.

Weather

Weather has prevented the scheduled mid-week drone flight for monitoring. Completed Friday 20th February and new drone data will be uploaded once processed.

Thursday morning tides coupled with high winds (40mph) and significant wave action 2.5m across the coast likely to cause further erosion. Moving toward the weekend, weather, wind and wave heights improve.

