

Thorpeness Community Update

20th March 2026

Urgent Works Update

- Phase 1 of the rock bag scheme has been completed, with Phase 2 due for completion on 20th March.
- Expected to offer protection for between two and five years, the rock bags aim to slow erosion and reduce the risk of flooding, through wave overtopping, to 24 homes.
- This will buy time to fully explore the risk and hold discussions with the community to ensure that there are plans in place should further erosion or overtopping from waves impact properties.
- Rapid erosion at the start of the year meant that additional properties in the Old Holmes area moved into a zone of concern. Under the provisions of the Coastal Protection Act 1949, a local authority can take short-term interventions to slow erosion if the situation is urgent to explore a new or emerging risk, such as the combined erosion and overtopping risk in the Old Holmes area.
- This does not guarantee a medium-term solution will follow. It does however allow us to establish the level of risk to inform next steps and use public funds responsibly to seek the best outcome possible for the maximum number of properties within the funding available.



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Coastal Management and Adaptation Team (CMAT) Update

- CMAT has been engaging with property owners at Coastguard Cottages, and Drake House regarding private works within property boundaries to slow erosion, under their permitted development rights, using a piling solution. The Council has been able to support private works commencing w/c 23rd March.
- The next priority of CMAT is to explore methods and costings for the removal of rock and geobags from the beach before the summer season.

Weather

Week Ahead

- Outlook- Mostly fine with moderate winds. Significant tidal and wave impacts unlikely.

Outlook for Friday to Sunday:

- Higher astronomical tides this week (move towards neap tides next week).
- Higher winds Saturday 21st from the NE/E. Potential for increased wave action.

Outlook for Next Week

- Winds moving round to South and West next week.
- Neap tides from Wednesday.
- Moving from fine to more unsettled weather later in the week.

Communications

- Next Community Forum will take place on 24th April from 5.30 pm to 7.30pm. The session will be chaired by MP Jenny Ridell Carpenter.
- Please send any communications to coastalmanagement@eastsoffolk.gov.uk – this inbox is monitored each day and will ensure your query reaches the appropriate member of the team.

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Erosion Data

Minimal cliff movement in the last week following a further period of relatively calm weather.
Build-up of shingle on the beach in front of the rock bags.

Thorpeness
March 2026 Cliff Line Difference (1 week)



There has been 1m of erosion at Tinkers End. The rest has experienced no erosion.



This project is funded by Defra as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Resilience Programmes which is managed by the Environment Agency.



The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

