

Climping beach update

May 2023

The first part of the year saw impacts to the beach and car park areas at Climping. We saw lowering of the shingle bund and further erosion in the car parks from a combination of high spring tides, large waves and high winds. Since January, the landowner and Environment Agency have recycled over 5000 tonnes of shingle into the car parks which we have profiled to maximise flood protection. The shingle banks have also been pulled further landwards so this shingle is less likely to be washed back into the sea.

Much of the Western car park wall, including the supporting old WW2 tank traps, has now toppled onto the beach. These tank traps are serving a function by breaking up wave energy and providing some short-term protection from erosion. We have no plans to move these or other sections of wall from their current position.



Image one: Wall around western car park

The Environment Agency will be starting public safety works on the beach this month. This work will tidy up and remove timber groynes from the beach. These groynes are no longer collecting shingle or serving a flood risk function and are being removed as they are posing a public safety hazard. Their removal will not speed up erosion but will create a safer more natural beach environment.

Some of the concrete and rubble debris on the beach will be moved as part of these works. However, the concrete 'tank traps' or larger pieces of wall debris in front of the Western car park will remain. To the west of the car park there is a collection of rubble among the groynes that is helping to minimise local erosion to the east. We will be adding the concrete and rubble we collect to this hard point to help minimise erosion in the short term (see location map).

Our works will be sign-posted, but please take care to remain a safe distance away.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88



Map of Climping beach

We are considering whether to repurpose the rocks (see image two) that are against the old groynes to the east of the car parks and Bread Lane. These groynes are no longer keeping beach material and the rocks are no longer serving a purpose at this location. They could be used elsewhere, either at the hard point to the west of the car parks, at the groynes at Poole Place or on the Elmer beach frontage.



Image two: Large rocks at the head of the groynes east of the car park

We would welcome your views and feedback on how the rocks can be used.

Over recent years we have used our limited funds to remove unsafe and deteriorating structures and to move the beach shingle landward to maximise its flood protection and reduce the amount being washed away. This has reduced the area of land available for parking in the car parks. It is highly likely that the shingle will need to be moved further landward for it to continue to function to reduce flooding. Unfortunately, this will mean the on-street parking at the end of Climping Street and further space in the beach-front car parks being lost. It is difficult to say when as this will depend on sea and weather conditions.

Climping beach is owned in part by a private landowner, however most of the beach falls under Crown Estate ownership. Arun District Council lease the beach from the Crown Estate and the Environment Agency uses its permissive powers to maintain the beach to minimise flood risk in accordance with the [2015 Arun to Pagham Strategy](#) which was jointly produced in partnership with Arun District Council . This means that we have a discretion in how and when to exercise those powers. This strategy recommends 'do minimum'/patch and repair' maintenance to the defences, until they become uneconomic to continue to maintain or repair/reinstate.

Under Government rules for investment, there is not sufficient economic justification for major works to repair or replace the groynes in the future. We can only justify carrying on work here as long as the economic benefits exceed the costs; if the costs outweigh the calculated benefits, we will no longer be able to use our permissive powers to carry out any work on the beach or groynes.

Link to Strategy– as inserted above: <https://se-coastalgroup.org.uk/news/river-arun-to-pagham-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy/>

Please get in touch if you wish to discuss Climping Beach or the Environment Agency's planned works. Email us at: SSDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

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