Coastal Change Transition Plan for the Community of Walcott

Enabling Walcott to thrive with coastal change

COASTWISE

NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Environment Agency

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Haskoning

Enhancing Society Together

The Walcott Community Coastal Change Transition Plan was developed as part of North Norfolk District Council's Coastwise project. Coastwise is funded by Defra as part of the £200 million Flood and Coastal Innovation Programmes which is managed by the Environment Agency. The programmes will drive innovation in flood and coastal resilience and adaptation to a changing climate.

This Community Coastal Change Transition Plan has been developed on behalf of the community of Walcott by Haskoning, in collaboration with Coastwise, and a team of partners:

The use of terminology: The complex and technical nature of coastal change and adaptation does require the use of terminology within this document. These terms have been highlighted in *italics* within the text, and their definitions can be found in the 'Explanation of Terminology' table in section 6.

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Preface

Coastal change has long shaped the shores of the UK. It is happening now and will continue, with climate change and sea-level rise increasing the pace and severity of coastal change. For places like Walcott in North Norfolk, where there are areas of soft coastline and low-lying land, the impact of this coastal change, and the consequences, are already visible.

In the recent past, response to coastal change has generally been reactive: building defences following major storms or moving away from the coastline when properties were at imminent risk of falling into the sea. While understandable, these actions were rarely part of a long-term plan and sometimes added further pressure on coastal communities and the environment. Today, our understanding has improved. *Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs)* now provide a strategic, long-term view of how our coast is likely to evolve and starts to set out the challenges ahead. *SMPs* can identify the need to help communities prepare for that future, but as high-level plans, rather than strategies or local action plans, they cannot deliver the practical steps needed to do this locally. For Walcott, the *SMP* sets out that the long-term Plan for this area is to allow shoreline retreat once present defences reach the end of their present effective life, but not before social mitigation measures are in place to support the community.

Adaptation may provide the opportunity for investment and shaping a new future for Walcott. However, it is recognised that adapting to change may bring disruption, affecting individuals and how the community functions. Some factors - such as national policy, climate change, or external funding - are outside local control. However, many meaningful choices can still be made at the community level. This *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* (The Plan) is designed to support those choices at Walcott. The Plan has been developed as part of NNDC's *Coastwise* project which is funded by the *Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP)*, a £200m Flood and coastal innovation program, managed by the Environment Agency.

The Plan explains why *adaptation* is needed and outlines the types of measures that may form part of Walcott's response, informed by community conversations. It introduces an *Action Plan* to guide the community from today's position toward an agreed future vision, one shaped through collaboration. Uncertainties remain, especially around timescales and the feasibility of some actions, though opportunities also exist. Many solutions can emerge from within the community itself, helping to build *resilience* and support one another through change. Some will involve or need to be delivered by other parties but can be influenced. It is the intention that this first iteration of Walcott's *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* will develop over time, become owned by the community of Walcott and be adopted by *North Norfolk District Council (NNDC).*

The Plan has two central aims: to increase awareness and readiness for change, and to give the community a stronger voice in decisions about the future of their village. It moves beyond simply managing risk, to identifying how Walcott can continue to thrive socially, economically, and culturally despite the realities of a changing coast. The Plan identifies potential relocation areas, immediate low-regret actions, and possible routes for the future. Specifically, the plan identifies:

- A range of short-term community initiatives, with *NNDC's* support, such as improving community awareness, making flood warning more effective and making homes flood resilient.
- In the meantime, a need for local and national government to work together to remove any obstacles, so that those who want to relocate away from risk posed by coastal change are able to do so, and suitable locations for relocation are made available.

Many people already recognise that without adaptation, homes, businesses, holiday parks and community facilities face growing risks. *Sandscaping* and seawall maintenance can help delay and locally reduce some impacts, but not forever. With support from *NNDC* and other partners, and through a planned approach, Walcott can become more resilient and hopefully thrive alongside coastal change.

What happens if Walcott does not prepare for and adapt to coastal change

Walcott is at risk of coastal flooding and erosion: if the beach disappears and the *seawall* fails, approximately 260 houses could be lost to erosion over the coming decades, of which nearly 100 could be lost within twenty years; and even with the *seawall* in place, approximately 80 houses are presently at risk of flooding through wave overtopping. This risk will only increase into the future, and the impacts worsen (see section 3). *Sandscaping*[1] was introduced in 2019, which has reduced the risks for the short term. Further *Sandscaping* projects may help for some time, but it is uncertain whether the Bacton Terminal Companies will invest in this, and if so, to what extent it will support the Villages. *NNDC* can and will sustain the *seawall* as long as it is possible and affordable, but not forever.

The Shoreline Management Plan[2] makes it clear that Walcott will need to adapt to coastal change – but there is a need for supporting mechanisms to enable the Community to do so, and currently a lack of a plan to make it happen.

In the absence of these supporting mechanisms and this plan, most of Walcott's at-risk homes, holiday parks, other businesses and community facilities will remain where they are. They will be exposed to an ever-increasing risk of flooding and *erosion*, as the beach reduces due to erosion (even if the erosion is delayed by a further *Sandscaping* project), as the *seawall* deteriorates, and as climate change causes higher sea levels and more extreme storms. Severe storms are expected to cause flooding as bad as, or worse than in 2013. Failure of the *seawall* will cause flooding and coastal erosion resulting in the loss of buildings and community facilities. Community members are already worried. The increase of these physical risks will have a growing impact on community wellbeing due to anxiety and loss of cohesion. There will also be wider social and economic impacts because of losing the beach and other community facilities.

Flooding at Walcott during the 2013 storm surge (North Norfolk District Council)

[1] *To find out more about the Sandscaping project, visit* ***https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/sandscaping*** *and see Section 2.1*
[2] *To find out more about the Shoreline Management Plan, visit* ***https://environment.data.gov.uk/shoreline-planning/unit/SMP6/6.11*** *and see Section 3.2.*

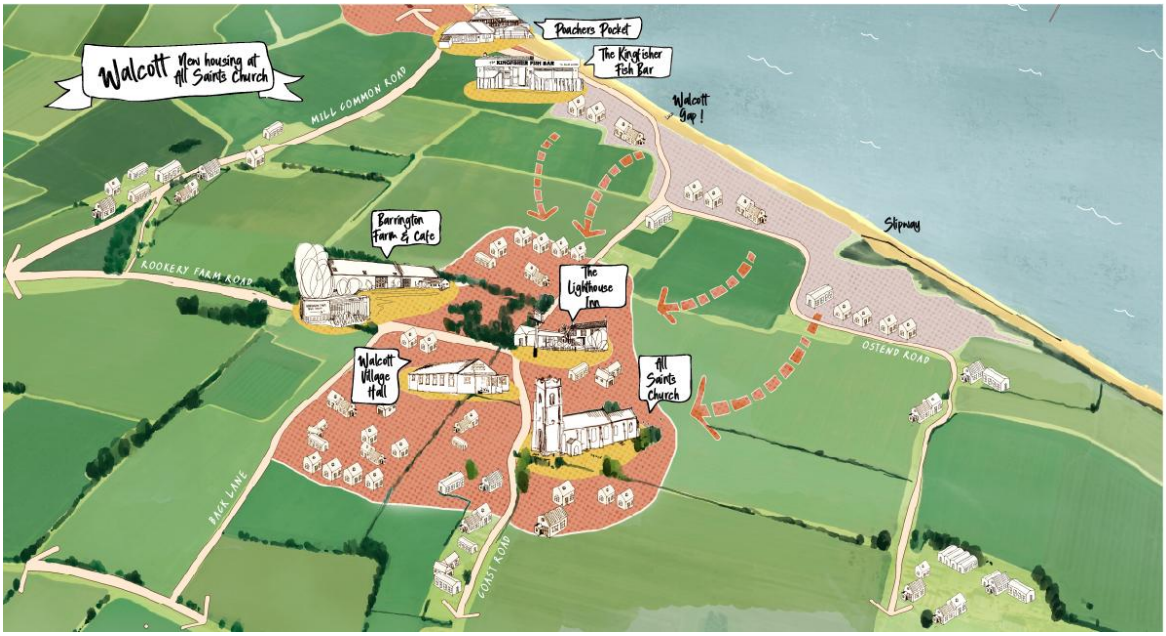
Vision – the future we choose for Walcott

In any *scenario*, whatever Walcott decides, sea level will rise. Over time the beach will reduce due to erosion, and exposure to waves and tides will eventually cause the *seawall* to fail. But if this *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* and its *Action Plan* are developed and implemented into the future, the community of Walcott - working with others - can become more *resilient*, and able to adapt to coastal change.

In the short term, this plan will mean that the community will have a better understanding of the risk so that it can consider and make decisions. It will have implemented *low-regret measures* so that even if flooding happens, the impacts are much smaller: higher-risk homes will have been improved so that they can withstand flooding; people will be warned and able to respond; and flood waters will drain away more quickly after a storm.

In the medium term, people and businesses (including holiday parks) at higher risk will be able to choose to move to a safer location, together with their local community if they wish. They will be supported financially through schemes developed and approved by national and local government, and there will be safe areas nearby allocated, approved and designed for those for whom the risks of coastal change and flooding have become unacceptable. The graphic below shows one possible illustration of what that could look like. The coast road will have been realigned to a safer inland location, potentially designed as a flood defence for these new developments.

Over time, Walcott will have become a village that has retained its coastal character, wellbeing and sense of identity, but with an acceptable level of risk from flooding and erosion when there is a storm.



A possible vision of Walcott with the community having moved to a safer area around All Saints Church over the coming decades (illustration: LDA Design)

1 Introduction

1.1 Why a Coastal Change Transition Plan for the Community of Walcott?

Most of Walcott is at high risk of coastal flooding and erosion, and this will only get worse into the future. It is happening now and will continue, with climate change and sea-level rise increasing the pace and severity of the impacts of coastal change. Further *Sandscaping* projects may reduce this risk for some time, but it is uncertain whether the Bacton Terminal Companies will invest in future *Sandscaping*, and to what extent it will support and protect Walcott. *NNDC* can and will sustain the *seawall* for some time, but not forever due to the age of the structure, cost of replacement when it fails and other considerations, as outlined in *Shoreline Management Plan* (*SMP*). It is clear from the SMP that Walcott will need to adapt to coastal change – but there is currently a lack of supporting mechanisms to help the people, holiday parks, other businesses and community of Walcott make this *transition*.

Box 1: What is this document for?
This *Coastal Change Transition Plan* for the community of Walcott explores what a resilient and thriving Walcott can look like, despite the predicted increase in flooding and erosion hazard over the coming decades. The Plan identifies what is needed to create that resilient future and contains an *Action Plan* that sets out what needs to be done, by national and local government, by the community of Walcott, individuals, and by other stakeholders.

This Community *Coastal Change Transition Plan* was developed as part of *NNDC*'s *Coastwise* project. *Coastwise* is funded by the *Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme*, established by UK Government in recognition of the challenges of communities like Walcott.

1.2 Approach for developing the plan

This first version of Walcott's *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* is based on the knowledge and views of those Walcott community members who took part, combined with the expertise and local knowledge of a team of coastal management practitioners from consultancy Haskoning and partners, and from NNDC's *Coastwise* team.

Walcott is part of a group of six communities that are the first in the UK to develop a *Coastal Change Transition Plan*. There is no existing template for these, and an important aim of *Coastwise* is to develop approaches that can be used locally and elsewhere in England, and to learn from the experience.

For Walcott, the chosen approach was to invest in reaching as many community members as possible in a short time, by having a Project Coordinator immersed within the community between September and December 2025 (sharing their time with Weybourne and Bacton). During that period, the Haskoning and *Coastwise* teams had many conversations with community members: informal meetings, scheduled appointments, an activity with Bacton Primary School's students and four walk-in events). The Haskoning and *Coastwise* teams

directly engaged with approximately 130 people in Walcott (approximately 20% of Walcott's population) and developed a thorough understanding of the knowledge, concerns, views and ideas of a significant cross-section of Walcott's community. The findings from these conversations were all recorded (respecting privacy in line with GDPR regulations) and were combined with the knowledge and evidence from the coastal management practitioners to form the basis for this Plan. The main topics raised by the community of Walcott are summarised in Box 2, below. Throughout the report, where relevant, the text refers back to the insights and views from the community that have shaped this Plan.

Box 2: Walcott community priorities to be able to adapt to coastal change

1. People in Walcott want to feel protected. Keeping the seawall, groynes and beach levels in good condition is seen as essential so the village can stay safe during storms.

2. Continue to strengthen the beach: *Sandscaping* has made a real difference, but the people of Walcott want continued investment in beach nourishment and stabilisation, so the village remains safe for as long as possible.

3. Residents want honest, timely information about how long current coastal defences will last, and what future change might look like so they can better understand whether any form of managed *relocation* might eventually be needed. Reducing uncertainty is a key priority for Walcott.

4. The Coast Road is a lifeline for the village. People want reassurance that it can be protected, raised or adapted so that homes, access routes and essential services remain safe.

Another key feature of the chosen approach is a strong focus on what it means spatially for Walcott to become resilient to coastal change. The local knowledge and expertise from the community and coastal management practitioners formed the basis for the development and appraisal of options for Walcott's future. Section 4 introduces these options, as part of the *Transition Plan*, and sets out what is needed to make decisions between these options, over time, and how to move on toward implementation. Alongside these longer-term options, the Plan also includes *low-regret initiatives* (see Box 3) that can improve *resilience* in the shorter term and can be taken forward by the community and others. Finally, the Plan contains actions on national and local government to remove obstacles and create mechanisms to enable and facilitate *transition*.

1.3 A living plan

It is the intention that Walcott's *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* will become owned by the community of Walcott and adopted by *NNDC*. This first version was produced by the consultant team, based on the community's and *Coastwise's* input. It is essential that the Plan is taken to the community of Walcott for their review and steer, enabling them to make any changes needed, so that this becomes their own Plan. In parallel, the Plan needs to be reviewed by *Coastwise* and *NNDC*, and a process toward Council adoption should be established, alongside the *Strategic Coastal Change Transition Plan* that *Coastwise* is developing for North

Norfolk District as a whole. It may be useful if the *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* takes the form, or becomes embedded within a Neighbourhood Plan (Action 5.1).

The Plan is intended as a living document, with regular reviews planned to ensure it remains useful and meaningful. The *Action Plan* in Section 5 is intended as an operational plan, and is provided in a separate Excel version to facilitate its use.

Box 3: What are low-regret initiatives?

Low-regret initiatives, or measures, are simple actions that improve *resilience* now and in the future, regardless of the future decisions or *scenarios*. These are positive actions, for which individuals and the community will have little regret, most likely improving resilience and wellbeing. This could include implementing property level flood resilience measures; or conducting flood-awareness activities within the community.

Box 4: Empowering local children at Bacton Primary School to explore, understand and share the story of Bacton and Walcott's evolving coast.

Engaging local children was identified early in the project as an essential part of raising awareness about coastal change in and near Walcott. Working closely with the Head of School and staff at Bacton Primary School, the Coastwise team created an age-appropriate programme that linked directly to curriculum areas such as geography, art, history and literacy, while supporting the school's "care connections" and citizenship themes.

An in-school workshop was held at Bacton Primary School, with years 5 and 6 students, on 11 November 2025. Pupils took part in hands-on activities using sand and water to understand erosion, beach change and the role of natural and man-made coastal defences. Working in small groups, they built simple coastline models, tested erosion barriers and recorded their observations in their workbooks. The practical activities, whilst messy, were fun and informative. The pupils showed great interest and made several very relevant observations.

Figure 1-1: Images of the Coastwise Bacton Primary School activity (Bacton Primary School)

Their feedback was very positive and insightful, and some of the key messages – such as 'The best way to maintain a healthy beach is, where it is possible, build far enough back so that the beach can grow and shrink with the force of waves and wind' and 'Sometimes we need to adapt where it is not possible to stop the effects of erosion' were understood.

Creative activities followed, including a supersized 'word finder' and producing poems or artwork inspired by coastal themes. The wordfinder introduced a competitive aspect – with pupils encouraged to shout each word the found. It was a noisy twenty minutes.

At the end of the afternoon, all of the pupils received a specially designed "Coastal Explorer" certificate. These were handed out by the Head of School.

After the event, and to ensure the whole school could participate, every child received a "Coastal Erosion Explorers Pack" from Coastwise to complete at home with parents and carers, extending learning and sparking wider community conversations. This graphically designed pack included a story and a number of fun activities, all themed towards Bacton, Walcott and the coastline.

2 Walcott: coastal risks and the community

Walcott is at significant risk of flooding and coastal erosion. The community of Walcott has living memory of the Great North Sea flood of 1953, when seafront properties and many lives were lost due to flooding along Norfolk's coast. The 1953 event resulted in the building of sea defences along the coast of England, but even with sea defences in place the coast continues to be vulnerable to hazards. Walcott's beaches have since been depleted due to *coastal squeeze*, causing ever more frequent wave overtopping of the sea wall. Storms since then, especially the December 2013 storm surge, also caused damage in the village (see photograph on page 4) and provides an important insight into the risks of flooding and *coastal erosion* at Walcott.

2.1 The 2013 storm surge at Walcott and Sandscaping

In early December 2013 a combination of low pressure and strong winds led to a significant storm surge which propagated southwards along the coast of eastern Scotland into England, which combined with the high spring tide resulted in significant coastal flooding. Water level measurements at Wells-next-the-Sea and Lowestoft recorded maximum water levels of 5.22 m and 3.26 m respectively, over 2 m higher than the normal high tide on that day.

Figure 2-1: Locations of flooding in Walcott (light blue line) and the embankment (red line) which prevented water entering the field system behind, routing water along the blue-dotted line.

During the December 2013 storm surge[3], Walcott experienced flooding from overtopping of the *seawall* for 12 hours after the event. Along the Coast Road, properties were damaged due to the force of the overtopping waves. At the holiday park, flood water ran down from St Helens Road and Helena Road. This water, however, could not enter the field system due to an earth bank running along the south of the caravan park; this trapped water around the Holiday Park, flooding the chalets, and up Helena Road, where it met the incoming water from the *seawall*, resulting in properties flooding to greater depths (as illustrated in Figure 2-1). The flood water also overwhelmed the field ditch system, resulting in water running down Mill Common Road, flooding a number of properties. Flooding of fields resulted in the loss of livestock.

In response to the 2013 storm, the Bacton Gas Terminal companies initiated a project to protect their installations. This then turned into the *Sandscaping* project: a joint project with *NNDC,* placing the equivalent of a Wembley Stadium full of sand (1.8 million cubic metres) onto the beaches at the Terminal and along the villages of Walcott and Bacton in the summer of 2019. This created an attractive beach, which has also protected Walcott and Bacton from wave overtopping since and has been reported to have reduced the community's anxiety about flooding. However, it was recognised that this would not be the solution forever - *Sandscaping*'s aim for the villages was to buy time for *adaptation*, in line with the *SMP* policy for the area (see Section 3.2).

2.2 Risk of erosion and flooding

Walcott is at risk of coastal flooding and erosion: if the beach disappears and the *seawall* fails, approximately 260 houses could be lost to erosion over the coming decades, of which nearly 100 could be lost within twenty years. Even with the *seawall* in place, approximately 80 houses are presently at risk of flooding through wave overtopping. Ostend, at the south-eastern end of Walcott, is on relatively high ground so its flood risk is limited, but it is not protected by the seawall from erosion.

Figure 2-2 is based on the Environment Agency's National Coastal Erosion Risk Map (NCERM, part of the SMP Explorer[4]), which provides an assessment of *coastal erosion* risk for England, including the coastline at Walcott. NCERM's predictions are based on historical erosion rates, adjusted to account for existing coastal defences, climate change and other relevant factors. The figure shows that the majority of Walcott is at risk of erosion over the coming decades, including large sections of the Coast Road, many of the holiday parks, and key community sites like the village hall.

The map shows predicted risk zones for *coastal erosion* in 2055 and 2105, but in practice it is impossible to predict precisely when the erosion will start and how quick it will develop. This depends on the future performance of the *seawall*, which is very uncertain and also strongly depends on the state of the beach, and whether there are further beach nourishments /

[3] *Details about 2013 storm surge at Walcott are documented in a report available from NNDC* ***https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/media/3092/bacton_and_walcott_flood_assessment_160324_final.pdf***
[4] *Visit* ***https://environment.data.gov.uk/shoreline-planning/unit/SMP6/6.11?ncerm-layers=ncerm-nfi-0-2055%2Cncerm-nfi-70-2055*** *to view this map in the SMP Explorer*

Sandscaping projects. Erosion could start at any time, if a very severe storm happens that is strong enough to remove the beach and destroy the *seawall*.

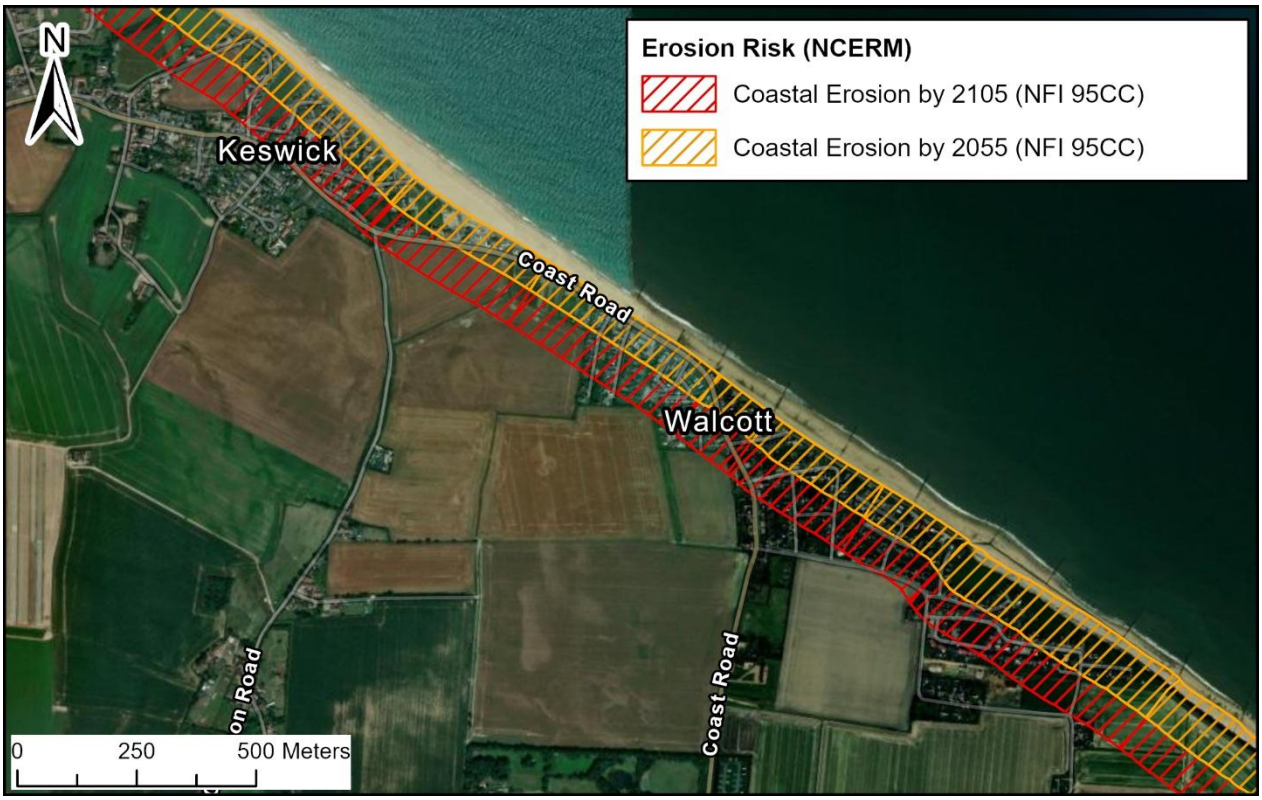
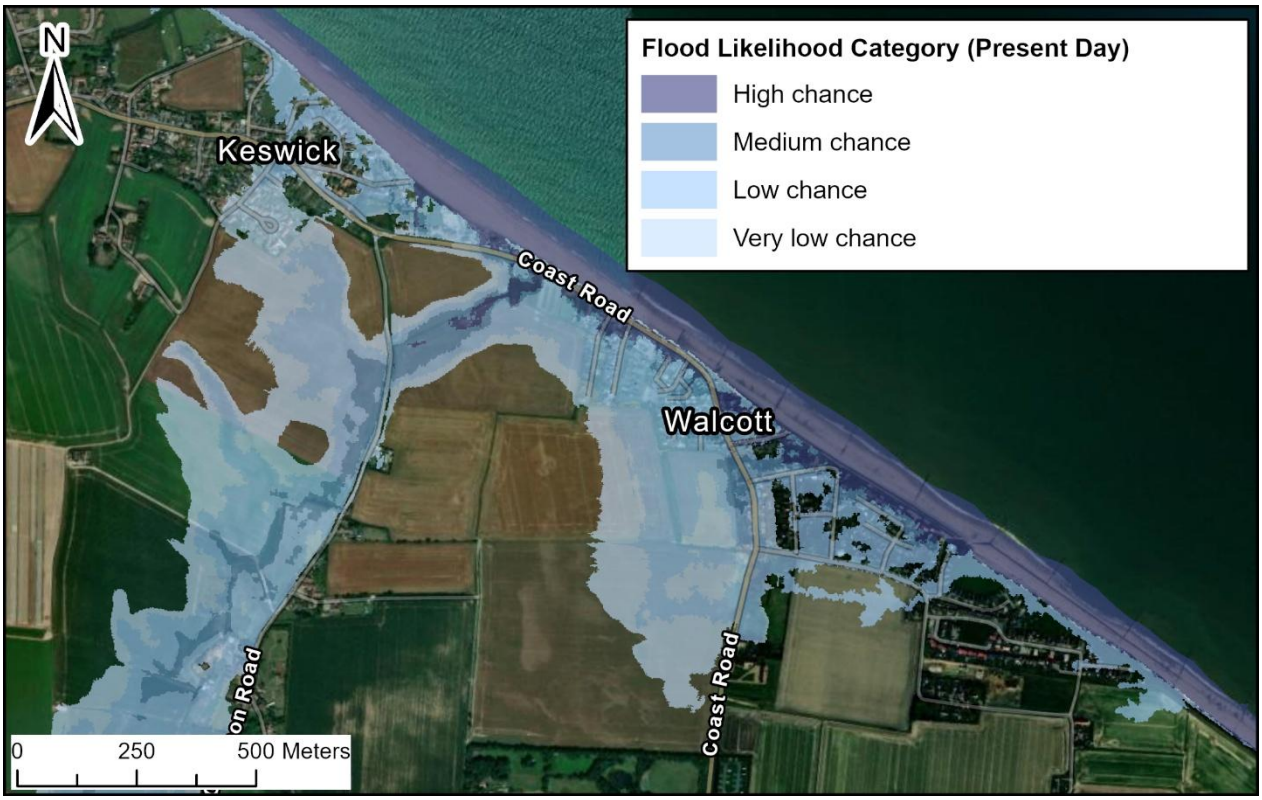


Figure 2-2: Indication of coastal erosion by 2055 and 2105, assuming beach loss, defence failure and high levels of climate warming[5]

Figure 2-3 shows the parts of Walcott at risk of flooding, based on the Environment Agency's 'Check your long-term flood risk' website[6]. The highest risk of flooding is currently mainly directly behind the *seawall*, including the Coast Road, due to overtopping of the *seawall*. However, most properties in Walcott (with the exception of Ostend) are at risk of flooding to some degree. Analysis carried out for the Bacton Sandscaping scheme suggested that approximately 80 households have a medium to very high chance of flooding. There is also a risk of flooding to the fields landward of the Coast Road. The figures also show the path of flooding from the coast along Mill Common Road via the field ditch between Coast Road and Mill Common Road (which caused flooding to spread further inland during the 2013 storm).

Similar to erosion, the actual risk of flooding is heavily influenced by the continued presence of the nourished beach and will further increase over time due to rising sea levels and increased winter storm intensity expected to be caused by climate change. Over time, these factors will mean that overtopping, as happened in 2013 at the *seawall* will become far more likely during storm surges, which is reflected in the increased flood risk in the future (Figure 2-3; bottom panel) compared to present-day risk (Figure 2-3; top panel).

[5] *You can check your coastal erosion risk at:* ***https://www.gov.uk/check-coastal-erosion-management-in-your-area***
[6] *You can check your long-term flood risk at* ***https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk***



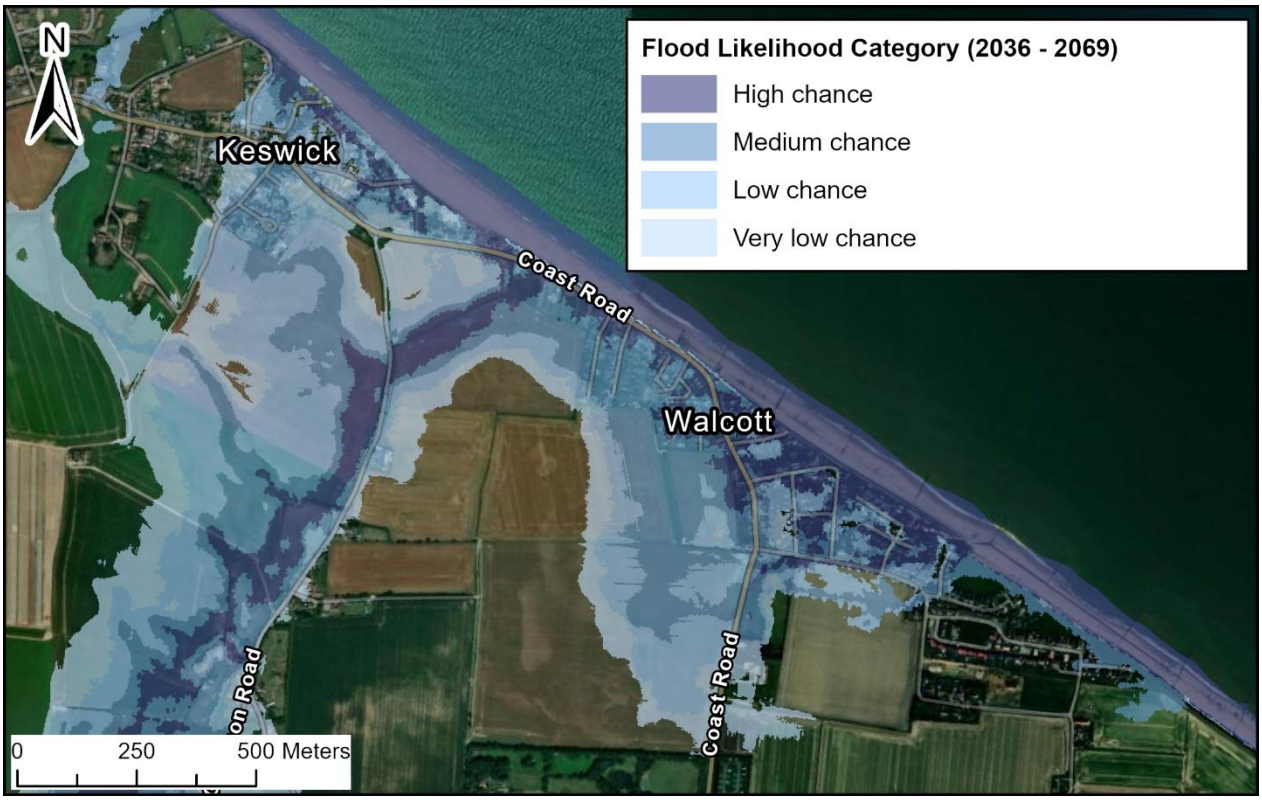


Figure 2-3: Indication of present chance of flooding (top panel) and predicted chance of future flooding with climate change (bottom panel) at Walcott

When comparing these two threats from the sea, the chance of erosion in the short term is smaller than the chance of flooding, because it would take a storm strong enough to destroy the seawall. However, if this does happen, then the consequences of erosion could be more dramatic, because it would lead to total loss of property and infrastructure. On the other hand, a less extreme storm could result in most of the community at Walcott being affected by flooding.

2.3 Walcott – The Community

Plans for adapting to changes along the coast should take into account the needs and identity of local people, helping communities adjust to the challenges brought about by coastal change. This section summarises the current community of Walcott, supported by official datasets. A key dataset is the 2021 UK Census, which details the community of Walcott parish on 21 March 2021. The Walcott parish census area includes Walcott and Ostend villages, inland up to and including Walcott Green, Rookery Farm Road up to the Rookery, Back Lane, and North Walsham Road up to Duck Pond Farm.

The 2021 Census records 327 households within Walcott parish, with 635 'usual' residents, of which 94.5% are over 16. 38% of those over 16 in Walcott Parish were economically active or in full time education at the time of the 2021 Census (which did occur during the covid-19 pandemic), which is lower than the average for England and Wales (Figure 2-4). The greatest employment sectors for people in Walcott parish are public administration, education and health (25%), followed by distribution, hotels and restaurants (23%). According to the 2021 Census, overall self-reported health in Walcott parish was reported to be below the average for England and Wales (Figure 2-4). 91.2% of households in Walcott parish reported having access to one or more vehicles during the 2021 Census.

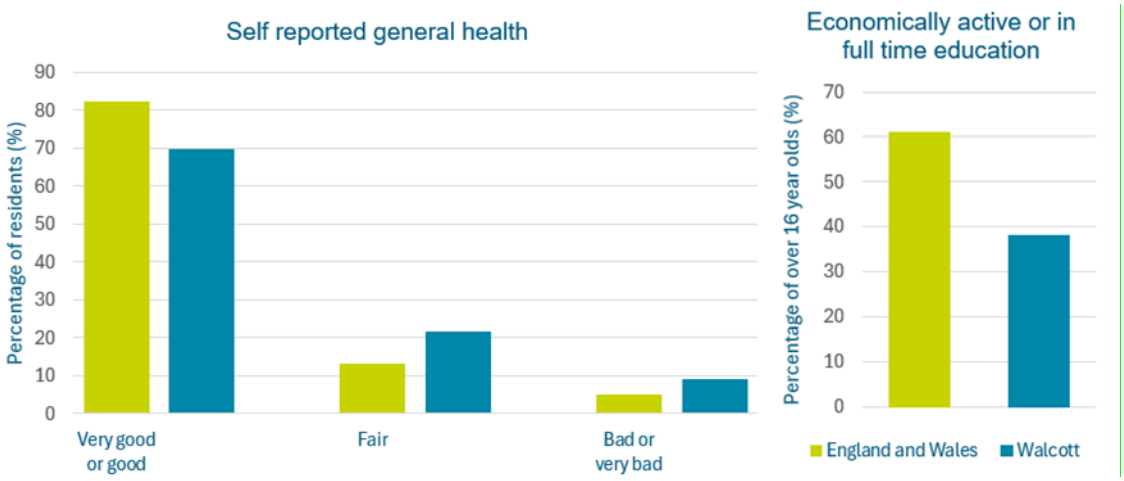


Figure 2-4. 2021 Census data comparing self-reported general health in Walcott parish to the England and Wales census average (left), and the percentage of over 16 year olds either economically active or in full time education (right).

Walcott village has no school, but is within the catchments of Bacton Primary School and North Walsham High School. Travel to Bacton Primary School is by car (with limited available parking) or general public transport, and to North Walsham by school bus (20 minutes). Walcott village

also hosts community and visitor facilities including Walcott Village Hall, a car park, public toilets, allotments, and further inland, away from the village, the All Saints Church.

A report for NNDC found the average house price in Walcott in September 2021 was £305,000; £20,000 more than the average house price in England for the same period, and it has a high level of holiday and second homes (17.1%). Only 5 homes in Walcott (1% of the total) are deemed affordable housing (April 2021 data). There are several businesses offering holiday accommodations within 500 m of the coast at Walcott village, predominantly holiday lettings and chalets, as well as a caravan park. Other small businesses at the coast within Walcott village include a fish bar, cafe and a convenience store.

2.4 Walcott –Landscape and History

2.4.1 Landscape

The character of the local landscape is defined by a flat or nearly flat open coastal landscape of predominantly Grade 1 arable farmland with some more naturalistic habitats. Church towers (particularly All Saints Church, and further St. Mary's of Happisburgh) and the Bacton Gas Terminal masts provide the most distinctive features on the skyline. To the south-west, ridgelines and woodland cops are visible and further away the ruins of Broomholm Priory, a scheduled monument nearer Bacton. The Norfolk Coastal Path runs along Walcott's coastl and beachfront.

2.4.2 Historic sites and features

Walcott parish contains a wealth of historic sites and features including designated and non-designated historic assets above ground, within the archaeological record, and etched into the landscape are boundary features and routes, displaying human presence and land use from the earliest prehistoric times. Archaeological finds include Palaeolithic through to Iron Age tools, and Medieval coins and other artefacts. The landscape reveals round barrows from the Bronze Age, and Medieval field boundaries.

All Saints Church, the only Grade I listed building in Walcott parish, was built early in the 15th Century. There are also 4 Grade II-listed farmhouses in Walcott. Visible on the skyline is Broomholm or Bromholm Priory, founded in 1113. It became very famous in the 13th century as possessing a relic of the Holy Cross and was visited on several occasions by Henry III. The Priory was once very extensive, but after its dissolution in 1536 much robbing of the stonework took place. However, the ruins today include two gatehouses, part of the precinct wall, the north transept, chapter house and dormitory.

In the 20th century, this stretch of the coast was perceived in both World Wars as a potential invasion point and various defensive structures were constructed. There are remains of WWII anti-tank blocks, pillboxes and remains of a temporary WWII military camp (south of Walcott), as well as of the Happisburgh Chain Home Low Radar Station, south of Ostend.

2.4.3 Bacton Gas Terminal

A notable element of Walcott's current coastal landscape is the Bacton Gas Terminal, which opened in 1968, and comprises of six gas terminals over four sites, extending over ~180 hectares along and near to the coast northwest of Bacton village, about 3 kilometres from Walcott. Bacton Gas Terminal is nationally critical energy infrastructure, as it is the landing point of up to one third of the UK's natural gas production, brought onshore from the Southern North Sea.

The Bacton *Sandscaping* scheme received significant investment from the Gas Terminal operators. Natural gas production is set to fall over the coming years, as the UK Government meets its target to reduce reliance on hydrocarbons, and the North Sea Transition Authority have recognised that Bacton terminal has the potential to establish itself as a low carbon hydrogen hub.

3 The things that matter for Walcott's coastal transition

This section sets out the things that matter to the community of Walcott and to *NNDC*, and that will determine their decisions and choices when planning for Walcott's transition.

3.1 Walcott Community Priorities

From the engagement with the community of Walcott when developing the Plan, it was identified that the aspects in the table below matter most when thinking about the future, building on the context of risk and place in Section 2.

Risk		Walcott is at risk of flooding through wave overtopping, and if the *seawall* fails, it will be affected by *coastal erosion*. The December 2013 flood affected most of the village; the 2019 *Sandscaping* project enhanced the beach which is currently reducing the risk. A key aim of coastal change transition is to reduce this risk by making Walcott resilient.
Landscape		Walcott has a (nearly) flat open coastal landscape, mostly arable farmland with naturalistic habitats including the coastal margin, and a traditional coastal strip development pattern. All Saints Church's tower and, in the distance, Bacton Terminal's masts are the most distinctive skyline features.
Historic Environment		Walcott's landscape contains a wealth of historic sites and features, including All Saints Church, remains from World Wars 1 and 2 and Happisburgh Chain Home Low Radar Station near Ostend.
Recreation, Health and Wellbeing		Walcott's beach is its main recreation asset. The community's ability to access the beach is important for its wellbeing. Anxiety about flooding has affected community members' mental health in the past; this was reduced by *Sandscaping*'s reinstatement of the beach but could return as the beach gradually reduces.
Affordable Housing		Affordable housing, especially for young local families, is very limited according to the Census data. This can be essential for sustaining local businesses, nearby schools and community cohesion.
Infrastructure		The Coast Road (B1159) is a significant piece of infrastructure, connecting a number of communities and heavily used by local people, visitors, public transport and also by larger vehicles accessing the Bacton Gas Terminal. Within Walcott the Coast Road runs directly along the shoreline and is at significant risk of flooding and erosion.
Community Cohesion		From the engagement, there currently appears to be a good level of community cohesion in Walcott. Villagers and businesses support each other during times of stress.

Economic Spin-off		Walcott's economy strongly relies on the aesthetic and access to the beach and on acceptable levels of flood and erosion risk. It is also supported by the nearby presence of Bacton Gas Terminal which employs a substantial local workforce.
Potential for Private Funding		It is not yet fully clear how different measures may be funded, but it is positive if solutions can attract private funding. The main potential private source would be Bacton Gas Terminal; others might be local businesses, charitable grants or philanthropic funding, and to an extent the community itself.
Costs		The full range of costs should be considered: not only the implementation costs of measures, but also the damages (direct and indirect) from flooding and erosion and the wider costs of transition. Any solution has to be affordable, otherwise it will not be implemented or maintained properly.

3.2 North Norfolk District Council and coastal transition

NNDC also has to make decisions in planning for the transition, not only at District level but also at Community level, including for Walcott. *NNDC* is driven by its overall vision of putting the communities of North Norfolk first, and its priorities of securing a sustainable future for them, through *transition* and *adaptation* responses, as outlined in *NNDC's Corporate Plan*[7].

The *Coastwise* project's overall objective is as follows: by 2027 we will have worked with communities in North Norfolk at imminent risk of erosion to explore, develop and facilitate a transition planning process, trial practical actions and capture evidence to demonstrate learning. *Coastwise* aims to achieve this objective through an ethos of co-creation, learning and innovation.

Another important piece of background is the *SMP* for the area. This is the document and process that first identified and confirmed the need for Walcott to adapt to coastal change over time. This is shown in the extracts from the *SMP* below, along with the crucial caveats that the existing defences would be maintained as long as possible, and that in parallel, a package of measures would be developed to mitigate the social impacts of allowing retreat of the shoreline. The work of *Coastwise* in general, and this *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan* in particular, is directly linked to this package of social mitigation measures.

Box 5: Important extracts from the Shoreline Management Plan, of relevance to the future of Walcott

Plan for Policy Unit 6.11 (Bacton, Walcott and Ostend):
The long-term Plan for this area is to allow shoreline retreat once present defences reach the end of their present effective life. This is essential to ensure that problems here and elsewhere are not exacerbated by impairing the movement of beach sediment, which will occur if this shoreline continues to be held in its present position.

This policy option will result in the loss of a large number of properties and associated facilities within these settlements. However, the properties and associated facilities located along this length of coast that are at risk from erosion and flooding do not generate sufficient economic benefit to justify prioritised investment in their long-term defence.

This area already suffers from low beach levels and it would become increasingly difficult to sustain defences along the present line without considerable investment. For the immediate future defences are to be maintained as far as possible within existing economic justification, whilst measures are put in place to manage this risk and mitigate the displacement of people and loss of property and facilities in the medium-term.

From 'Policies to implement Plan':
Investigations will be undertaken to identify technical options and establish an appropriate package of social mitigation measures, in preparation for the transition to the medium to long term policy option of managed realignment. Only when such adequate mitigating social measures are identified, which minimise the impact on the lives of individuals and communities, would the change to a medium to long term policy option of managed realignment be implemented

4 The Plan

This section describes the first version of the Plan for supporting the community of Walcott in its transition to adapt to coastal change. This initial version of the Plan is based on intensive engagement with the community of Walcott during the Autumn of 2025. A key next step is to engage again with the community to ensure it matches their views and needs.

The Plan describes a range of initiatives, at different timescales and to be led by different parties, and introduces the actions that the community of Walcott and NNDC (and others) need to take. Figure 4-1 gives a simplified overview of the Community Coastal Change Transition Plan for Walcott, and introduces the sub-sections that describe each element.

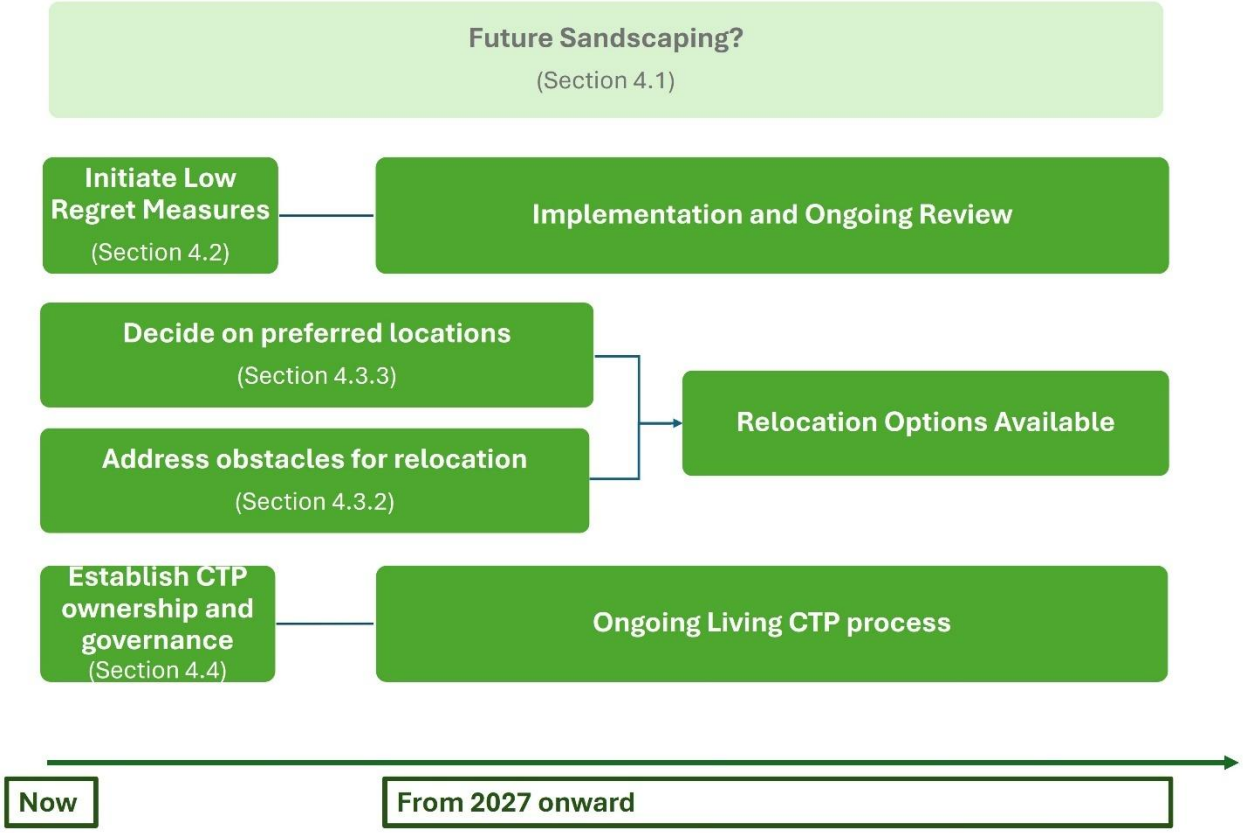


Figure 4-1: Visualisation of the Community Coastal Change Transition Plan for Walcott

The description of the Plan in this section has the following structure:

- Section 4.1 explains why *Sandscaping* 2, even if it happens and supports Walcott's beaches, is not the only solution for Walcott's coastal change transition.
- Section 4.2 introduces the *resilience* measures that can and have to be taken in the short term, irrespective of *Sandscaping* 2.
- Section 4.3 explains the need to consider *relocation* of most of Walcott's homes, holiday parks, other businesses and community facilities and describes what is needed to make this possible: removing the existing obstacles (financial, planning, access to land), and deciding on the areas that are most suitable, connected to the existing village of Walcott.

This section also introduces options for *relocation* developed based on intensive engagement with the community in 2025.

- Finally, Section 4.4 sets out what's needed to continue Walcott's coastal change transition process in the short term but also into the longer-term future.

4.1 Sandscaping now and in the future: two scenarios

The *Sandscaping* project in 2019 nourished the beaches in front of the Bacton Gas Terminal and the villages of Bacton and Walcott. The community at Walcott clearly understands that this is the reason why Walcott now still has a relatively healthy beach. *Sandscaping* has played an essential role in reducing the current flood and erosion risk and making it more acceptable. The improved beach is likely to remain for some more years, but natural processes are gradually eroding it away, as expected in *Sandscaping*'s design. Precise timescales are currently uncertain; this Plan contains an action to update the predicted future development of the beach, in partnership with the Bacton Terminal Companies (Action 1.1). The Bacton Terminal Companies have indicated that they may consider *Sandscaping 2*. As long as a future *Sandscaping* solution is designed to support the Villages, in addition to the Terminal, it will be very welcome for Walcott's coastal *resilience* and will help to reduce (or slow down the increase of) future *coastal erosion* and flood risk. This Plan contains actions to work with and help the Bacton Terminal Companies to make *Sandscaping* 2 happen in a way that supports the villages too (Action 1.2).

However, we currently can't rely on *Sandscaping* 2 as the sole solution for Walcott's coastal change transition: *Sandscaping*'s implementation is primarily a decision for the Bacton Terminal Companies, not for the Walcott community or *NNDC*. It is not yet guaranteed; it is uncertain when it would happen and to what extent it would work beyond the Terminal to also support the beaches at Walcott. And even if it does, then there is large uncertainty about the longer-term future, at the end of *Sandscaping* 2's functional life: would there be a *Sandscaping* 3, and if not, the beach will disappear, and Walcott will need to be ready to adapt at that point in time. This Transition Plan therefore treats future *Sandscaping* as a 'scenario': we need to plan for the transition to a resilient Walcott for both scenarios, with and without *Sandscaping* 2 (and 3, and further); just with different timescales.

Figure 4-2 below illustrates schematically that the need, extent and timing of coastal change *resilience* measures for Walcott depends on the health of the beach in front of the village. Future *beach health* will depend on a combination of factors. It will be heavily determined by the decisions made by the Bacton Terminal Companies regarding the implementation of future *Sandscaping* projects. This runs alongside the ongoing natural process of beach erosion, driven by storms, and expected to be accelerated in the longer term by climate and sea level change. The figure also shows that it is not possible to wait until the risk becomes unacceptable: it takes years for some measures to be determined and implemented (such as the *relocation* of buildings), so the planning has to start now.

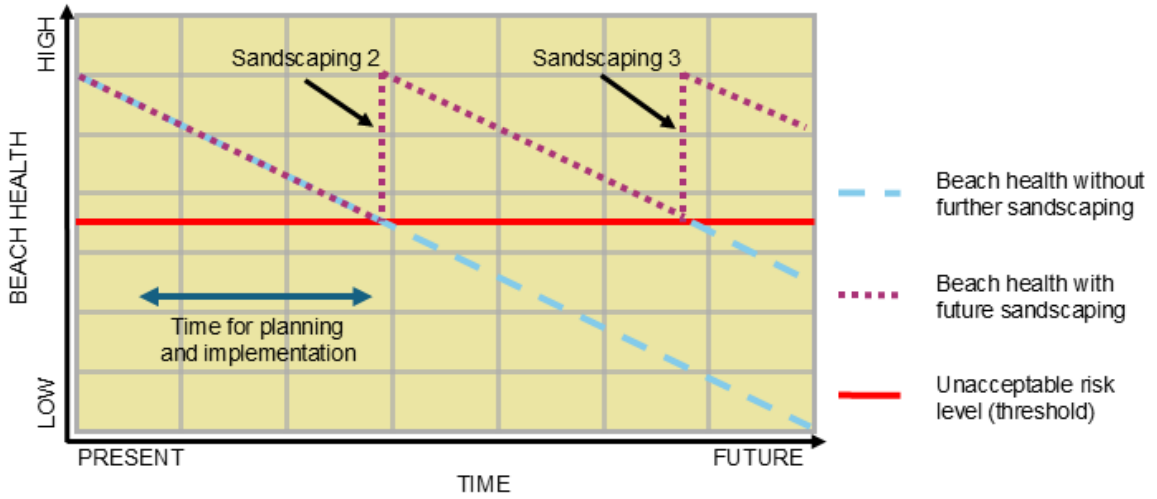


Figure 4-2: Simplified schematic to illustrate how beach health triggers action. Rates of sea-level rise, human factors and sediment availability will all influence the rate of change to beach health.

4.2 Low-regret resilience measures

Even in the scenario that *Sandscaping* 2 is implemented soon and supports the beaches at Walcott, most of the village would be flooded through wave overtopping in a very severe storm, and there is a chance that the *seawall* will fail and that the cliffs erode at Ostend. This means that in any scenario, there is a need for various low-regret measures (see explanation in Box 3 in Section 1.3) to reduce risk and improve *resilience*, which are covered more in this section. These will be effective now but will also buy time for planning and implementation of the more substantial measures as discussed later. For all these measures, there is a need to confirm how effective they will be, how any negative impacts would be addressed and how they would be funded; followed by a planned implementation by Walcott Community, *NNDC* and other relevant parties.

As part of the development of this *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan*, Walcott's Parish Council has established the 'Future of Walcott Fund', set up to enable the community to contribute to future *resilience* measures, which could include those listed here. This is an innovative approach, involving the Council Tax precept as a source of funding to support the village's approach to building a future for Walcott.

4.2.1 Community awareness

Residents want clear information about how long current coastal defences will last, and what future change might look like - reducing uncertainty is a key priority for Walcott. When it comes to flood risk and coastal change, a more aware community is a more resilient community. Awareness and understanding of local coastal change can be low in communities like Walcott, as the relatively high number of non-permanent residents have not been able to observe ongoing change over a longer period. Furthermore, the coastal change challenges at Walcott are quite complex: there is a combination of flooding and erosion; the role of the beach and *seawall* is changing over time, and for the future there are *scenarios* with and without further *Sandscaping*.

Coastwise events and engagement in Walcott over recent years, and especially in Autumn 2025, reached approximately 20% of the inhabitants and created an interest. In addition, *Coastwise* organised a very positive activity with the pupils and several teachers of Bacton Primary School in October 2025 (Figure 1-1) creating awareness without fear, generating enthusiasm and aiming to provoke communication around coastal change at Bacton and Walcott, both with the children and their families. However, there is more work to do.

The first step is to work with the Parish Council (who are already actively involved) and other community members to determine how the community of Walcott can take ownership of this *Coastal Change Transition Plan* as it develops. In itself, this can be an important vehicle for raising and sustaining awareness.

Potential engagement activities could consist of further *Coastwise* Cafes; activities focused on school children and their parents; taking part in wider community events, and mobilising people for the implementation of *low-regret* measures, such as *property flood resilience* and flood warning (Action 2.1). This will be supported by *NNDC's* ongoing initiatives to produce materials such as information panels and videos to help people understand how the coast works, and the formation of a coastal transition group with *Coastwise*.

4.2.2 Review and refresh flood warning system

The Environment Agency provides flood warnings for Walcott and there is an existing group of volunteer Flood Wardens in the community. It is important to ensure this works effectively, so NNDC will continue to work with the flood wardens to review the available information and response processes to ensure they are effective, and work with the community to increase the number of people signed up to the warnings. This review will also be considering if all relevant parts of Walcott are covered, including any issues with evacuation routes away from and along the coast (Action 2.2).

4.2.3 Address drainage issues

The seawall contains drainage pipes with non-return flaps to enable drainage of overtopped seawater and surplus rainfall toward the beach. It is essential that these flaps are maintained and cleared of excess sand so that they open and close when needed. The community can play a positive role by monitoring the flaps' status and reporting any issues to NNDC. NNDC will work with community representatives to facilitate this (Action 2.3).

Flooding from the 2013 storm surge was exacerbated within Walcott due to the presence of an earth bank at the southern boundary of the caravan park, trapping water on the seaward side (Figure 2-1).

4.2.4 Property flood resilience for flood prone buildings

Property flood resilience (PFR) is defined as a set of modifications to a building to lower its flood risk (see Property Flood Resilience - Environment Agency - Citizen Space[8]). PFR can reduce flood damage and speed up recovery after a flood. It is used around the UK in areas where improving or building of flood defences is not affordable. It is less common for coastal flooding and not suitable where properties are directly exposed to waves, but could protect against flooding from overtopped seawater that has pooled. PFR modifications can be installed quickly, and the most vulnerable homes can be targeted directly. Funding for PFR often comes from a combination of sources: the property owner, sometimes the insurer, and in some cases there are grants available, especially following flood events. Government funding rules for PFR are currently evolving, which means that in the future there may be more potential for grant support.

The plan identifies the opportunity for *NNDC* to work with the community of Walcott and other stakeholders to explore the potential for *PFR* in the areas at higher flood risk. (Action 2.4). Specific activities are:

- The identification of potentially benefitting properties, likely to be throughout Walcott, to be confirmed through local refinement of the flood maps, community knowledge and records of flood events
- Confirming type of measures suitable in which location
- Identify funding sources.

4.3 Enabling relocation

4.3.1 What happens if Walcott's beaches are not sustained

In addition to the low-regret measures, the community of Walcott realises that there is a need to start planning actively for the measures needed if Walcott's beaches are not sustained. This could be needed in the short term (in the scenario that *Sandscaping* 2 does not happen or is not designed to support the villages) or in the longer term if *Sandscaping* 2, 3 and further do support the beaches for a period of time. The *SMP* makes clear that in that scenario, it will not be possible to sustain the *seawall* in the long term, although *NNDC* will do so as long as it is affordable and sustainable. Walcott Parish Council's 'Future of Walcott Fund' could enable the community to also support this further (Action 3.1).

Even while the *seawall* is sustained in the absence of a beach, the risk of flooding due to overtopping during storms and/or high tides will increase, rapidly becoming as critical as (or worse than) before *Sandscaping*. In 2007 and 2013, significant flooding occurred throughout Walcott. The Environment Agency's future flood risk map shows that due to sea level rise the likelihood and impact of flooding will increase, and the *flood zone* will cover an even larger proportion of the village: it will increase to cover the slightly higher area along Lynton Road which is currently not at risk, only leaving the higher parts of Ostend out of the *flood zone*. In

[8] *To read about the Environment Agency's PFR visit* https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/engagement/propertyfloodresilience/#section2

addition, the seawall does not protect the eastern end of Ostend, so in the absence of a beach, cliff erosion will accelerate there.

There is also a need to plan for the situation that the *seawall* fails and can't be rebuilt, in which case flood risk increases further, and *coastal erosion* will be initiated. The available *coastal erosion* predictions have a relatively high uncertainty, in particular due to uncertainties around the future of the beach and the *seawall*. *NNDC* intends to refine the predictions of flood risk and erosion at a local scale to improve understanding of when the risk could become unacceptable, and to enable focused action (Action 3.2).

People will not be forced to move away, but this *Coastal Change Transition Plan* aims to initiate a process to enable and facilitate those who do want to relocate to safer areas, while remaining in or near their community. Section 4.3.2 sets out what is needed to address the existing obstacles to *relocation*, while Section 4.3.3 introduces potential new locations identified based on the community's ideas.

4.3.2 Enabling and facilitating relocation

During the community engagement in Autumn 2025, a number of people indicated that it is currently challenging for people, holiday parks, other businesses and community facilities to relocate away from the areas at risk. The main obstacles are finance and planning, and also access to land that can be purchased. Related to these is the Walcott community members' concern of disrupting their strong existing sense of community.

The project and process to produce this *Community Transition Plan* helped to establish a group where Walcott residents and *NNDC* representatives can work together to identify the opportunities and obstacles to coastal change transition, including where regulations and policies could support transition. This will form an important 'grassroots' evidence base to support *Coastwise*'s recommendations to Government (Action 4.1).

Addressing financial barriers

Homes and businesses that are at risk can lose their value, which makes it difficult to buy alternative housing in a lower risk area. Often homeowners have put all they have into the property and therefore have limited funds to move elsewhere. Finance can also be an obstacle for renters if they have to move elsewhere. NNDC already has some mechanisms for specific low-level financial support, and the *Coastwise* project is working with UK Government to develop a Coastal Housing Assurance Scheme and approaches to facilitate land purchases, noting that these are not yet operational, and their implementation and details are uncertain (Action 4.2).

Addressing planning barriers

It is not straightforward to get planning permission to build in a lower-risk area. *NNDC*'s planning policies do however recognise this challenge by treating coastal change as a potential justification for developing outside existing settlements. *NNDC*'s recently adopted *Local Plan* provides two potential routes:

- Policy *SS1* (Spatial Strategy) allows residential development under the *Small Growth Village Policy* where "the site is immediately adjacent to the defined settlement

boundary". As shown on Figure 4-3, this boundary runs tightly around the existing outline of Walcott village from the point where the coast road swerves away from the shoreline.

- Policy *CC6* (Coastal Change Adaptation) allows *relocation* and replacement of dwellings, businesses and community facilities at risk of erosion to areas outside existing settlements.

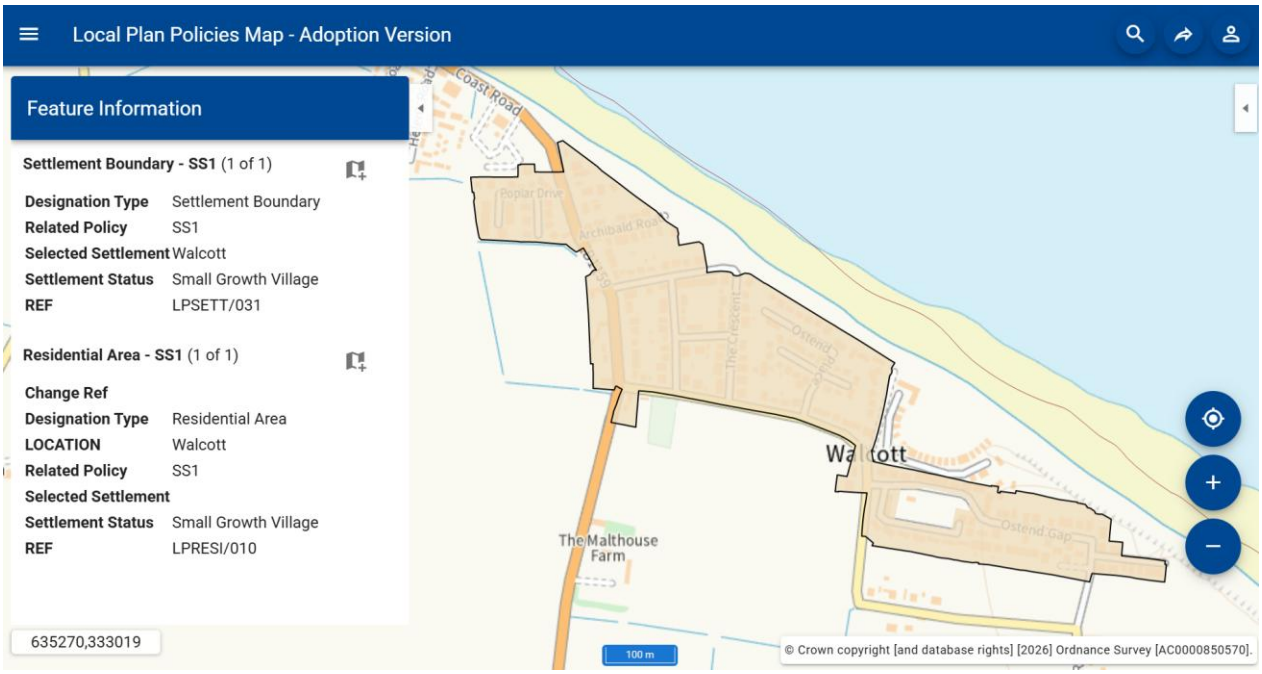


Figure 4-3: Settlement Boundary for Walcott (Small Growth Villages policy) from NNDC's Local Plan

NNDC will work with the community of Walcott to facilitate and support exploring opportunities for replacement sites for homes and businesses (Action 4.3). This includes exploring the role that *NNDC*, the community and other organisations would play in the process of identifying locations (see Section 4.3.3). The typical process would be:

1. Site identification and appraisal
2. Community discussion
3. Site selection
4. Securing site use and consenting

Section 4.3.3 introduces potential areas that may be made available for *relocation* for the community of Walcott.

4.3.3 Potential new locations for housing, businesses and community facilities

During the Autumn of 2025, the community of Walcott provided invaluable insights into their situation and perspective related to coastal change, and generated many ideas. This also included ideas for potential areas that people, holiday parks, other businesses and community facilities could move toward as the risk becomes unacceptable and unmanageable. Several options, along with their pros and cons, were shared with the community in December 2025.

Feedback was incorporated, and the options were further developed, and a next set is presented in this section. The next step is that these options are discussed and developed further or discounted with the community to ensure they match their views and needs, and to confirm that they are viable, including engagement with landowners (Action 4.4).

Three potential *relocation* areas were identified based on input from the community during Autumn 2025, as shown in the illustrations below. Note that the graphics are meant to be purely illustrative. The scale and location of the new housing areas as shown are not precise, are not based on specific study and would need refinement based on analysis and engagement.

1. Directly adjacent to the existing housing (in line with the *NNDC Local Plan*'s *Small Growth Village Policy SS1*, see Figure 4-3), but in the higher and more landward areas outside the flood and erosion risk zones. For Walcott, most of this area is within the floodzone and therefore only possibly appropriate if combined with flood defence (see option 2 below). There is however a potentially suitable area adjacent to Ostend Gap, as illustrated indicatively in Figure 4-4.

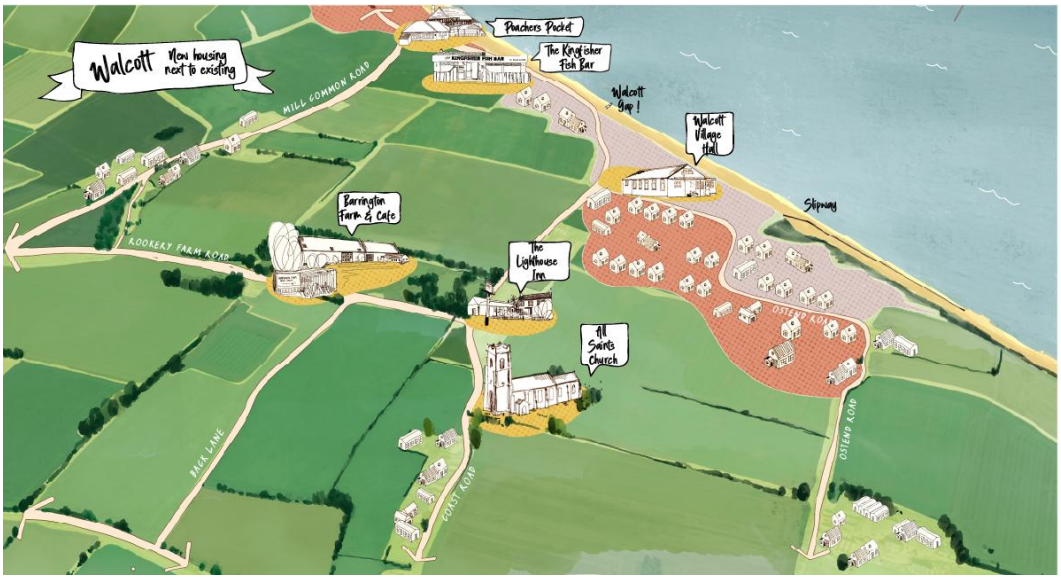


Figure 4-4: Illustration of potential new housing area adjacent to existing Walcott on higher ground,

2. Create a new housing area adjacent to the existing area, combined with realignment of the Coast Road and raising this to provide flood protection to the new housing area, as illustrated indicatively in Figure 4-5. The Coast Road has an important District-wide role, so there will be a need to work with Norfolk County Council (responsible for highways) to explore options for making this transport link resilient to coastal change anyway (Action 4.5).

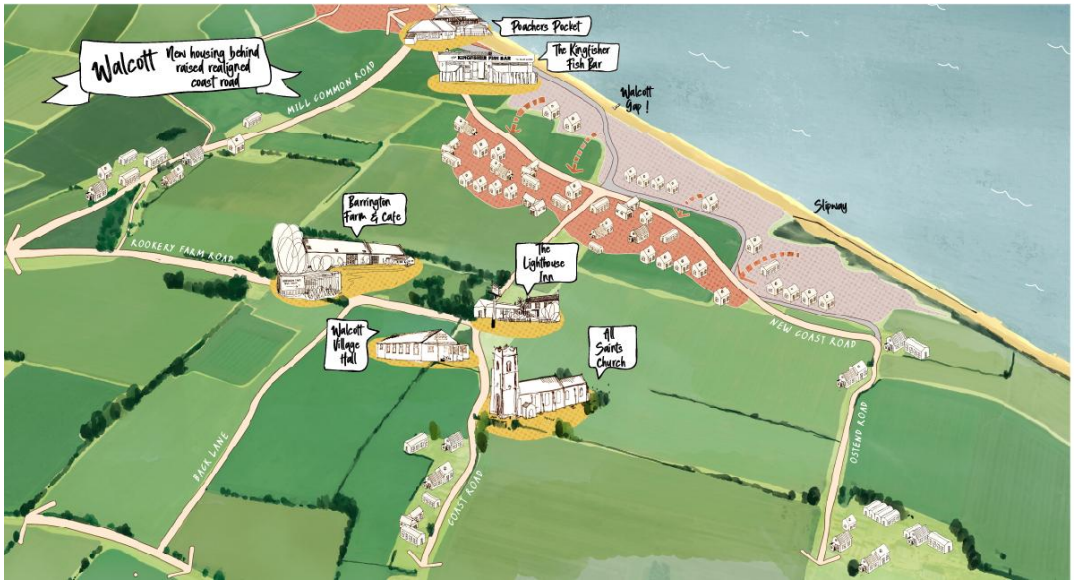


Figure 4-5: Illustration of potential new housing area adjacent to existing Walcott, protected by a raised realigned coast road

3. Create a new housing area around Walcott's All Saints' Church, which could be suitable for *relocation* from Walcott, but potentially also from Bacton and Happisburgh (illustrated indicatively in Figure 4-6).

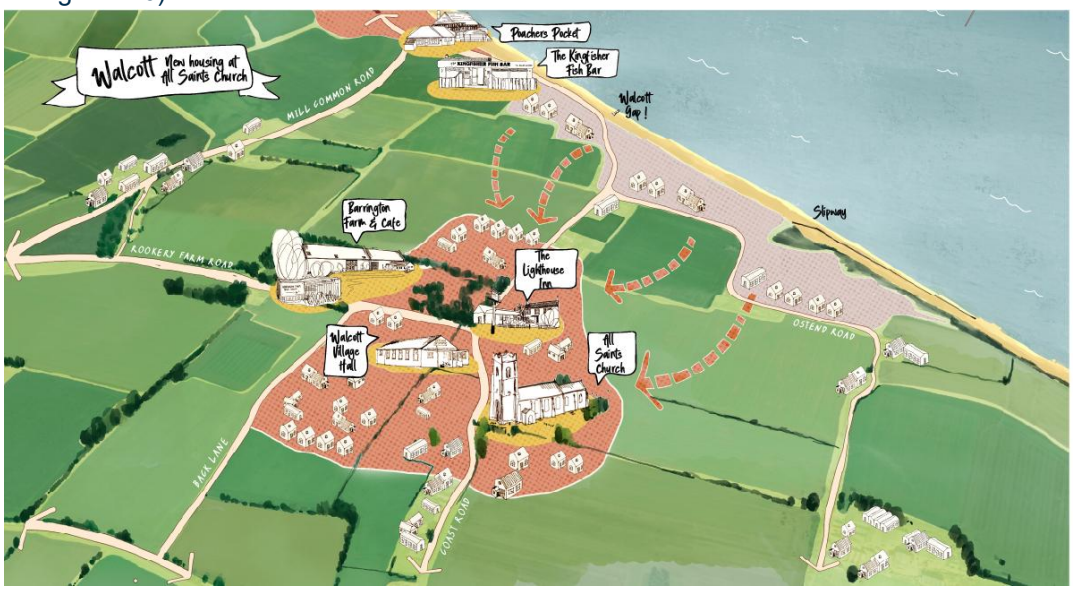


Figure 4-6: Illustration of potential new housing area around Walcott's All Saints Church

This document and the work underpinning it is intended as a starting point for further work by the community, *NNDC* and others to develop and implement a preferred solution, which could also be a combination of these three options.

4.4 Continuing the transition planning process for Walcott

This Community *Coastal Change Transition Plan* is a first step that aims to initiate a process. This will require close partnering between the community of Walcott, *NNDC* and other affected parties and stakeholders. It is the intention that this *Coastal Change Transition Plan* is owned by the community, while being adopted by *NNDC*. It is worth exploring if the Plan could have the status of, or support the development of, a Neighbourhood Plan.

The engagement during Autumn 2025 created many useful insights and ideas from Walcott's community members. This also included clear indications from Walcott Parish Council that they are interested in taking the required community-based ownership.

There is an important action for *Coastwise* and *NNDC* and Walcott Parish Council to work with the community toward clear and agreed ownership (Action 5.1).

5 Action Plan

This section summarises the actions identified and highlighted throughout this document (reference as given to the sections above where further detail is provided). The *Action Plan* is presented here as a table (which for ease of reading is split over 5 pages, by section) but is also available as an Excel document. This is set up to be used by the community of Walcott and *NNDC* as they continue the development and implementation of Walcott's *Community Coastal Change Transition Plan*.

Note on abbreviations used in the following tables:

NNDC: *North Norfolk District Council*
PC: Walcott Parish Council
BTC: Bacton Terminal Companies

Document section reference	Description		Timescale	Urgency [H/M/L]	Owner	Other actors	Status
Section 4.1	**1. Sandscaping**						
	1.1	Update prediction of future development of Walcott beach and associated flood and erosion risk (to form input into Action 3.2)	asap	H	NNDC	BTC	Data from 2022 onwards available; update not started
	1.2	Work with and support Bacton Terminal Companies for *Sandscaping* 2, with the aim of making it happen and having it designed to support the villages	asap	M	NNDC and Community / PC	BTC	BTC initiative starting

Table 5-1: Operational Action Plan for Walcott's Coastal Change Transition Plan

Document section reference	Description		Timescale	Urgency [H/M/L]	Owner	Other actors	Status
Section 4.2	**2. *Low-regret resilience* measures**						
	2.1	Plan for activities to raise awareness (see main text for potential specific activities)	asap	H	NNDC and Community / PC		Coastwise Cafes and Walk-in events held
	2.2	Work with the Flood Wardens to review and refresh the flood warning system	asap	M	NNDC / Flood Wardens	Environment Agency, Community/ PC	Flood warning system and Flood Wardens in place
	2.3	Monitoring and improvement of drainage issues	asap	M	NNDC and Community / PC		[Not started]
	2.4	Explore the potential for PFR in areas at higher flood risk (see main text for potential specific activities)	asap	M	NNDC	Community/ PC	Not started

Document section reference	Description		Timescale	Urgency [H/M/L]	Owner	Other actors	Status
Section 4.3	**3. Planning for the longer term**						
Section 4.3.1	**3.1**	Develop the 'Future of Walcott Fund'	ongoing	H	PC	NNDC	Announced and initiated
Section 4.3.1	**3.2**	Refine and localise understanding of future flood and erosion risk to support the community's ability to plan ahead and to underpin *low-regret* measures (with input on future beach change from Action 1.1)	asap	M	NNDC		National level future flood and erosion maps available as a starting point

Document section reference	Description		Timescale	Urgency [H/M/L]	Owner	Other actors	Status
Section 4.3.2	**4. Enabling and facilitating**						
	4.1	Progress the development and meeting of the Walcott Coastal Group	asap	H	NNDC	PC	first meeting held in November 2025
	4.2	Work with UK Government and other organisations to develop further mechanisms for addressing financial barriers to relocation	during Coastwise	H	NNDC	UK government and other coastal local authorities	Ongoing under Coastwise
Section 4.3.3	**4.3**	Confirm and initiate the process toward exploring and developing new housing areas for *relocation*, including roles of *NNDC*, community and other organisations (see main text for typical specific activities)	during Coastwise	M	NNDC	Community	
	4.4	Work toward a decision about preferred location / locations for potential future *relocation*	Start asap, confirm over the coming years	M	NNDC	Community / PC	Options developed based on community engagement and presented at 11 December event
	4.5	Explore options to support the Coast Road to be resilient to coastal change	Start asap	H	NCC	NNDC	

Document section reference	Description		Timescale	Urgency [H/M/L]	Owner	Other actors	Status
	5. Continuing the transition planning process						
Section 4.4	**5.1**	Confirm Walcott PC's local ownership and establish governance of the Community *Coastal Change Transition Plan* and its future iterations, including funding	asap, during Coastwise		NNDC, PC		PC expressed interest to take local ownership

6 Explanation of terminology

The complex and technical nature of coastal change and adaptation does require the use of terminology within this document, which is explained in the table below. Where these words appear in the main text, they are highlighted in italics. Links to additional information are also provided within the main document.

Term	Explanation
Adaptation	Measures or actions taken to reduce the vulnerability of people, homes and businesses to the impacts of flooding and coastal erosion
Action Plan	A list of practical steps, responsibilities and priorities.
Beach Health	How much sand is on the beach and how well it protects the village.
Coastal Change Transition Plan	A roadmap, developed by and with the community, for how a community can stay safe and resilient as the coastline changes.
Coastal Change Adaptation Policy (CC6)	A rule, within NNDC's Local Plan, allowing rebuilding in safer areas when at risk from erosion.
Coastal Erosion	The coast wearing away, as waves and storms remove land
Coastal Squeeze	The space for coastal environments (e.g., sand dunes) being reduced due to human activities (e.g., road, seawall).
Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP)	A national programme, funded by the UK Government, helping coastal communities plan for long-term change.
Coastwise	NNDC's project (funded by CTAP) that is working with communities to plan for and adapt to coastal change.
Dune Growth	Strengthening sand dunes so they act as natural flood defences.
Flood Warning System	Tools to warn people about potential flooding.
Flood Zone	An area at risk of flooding now or in the future.
Low-Regret Measures / Initiatives	Simple actions that improve resilience now and, in the future, regardless of the future decisions or scenarios.
North Norfolk District Council (NNDC)	The local council responsible for planning and flood risk management in North Norfolk.

Term	Explanation
NNDC's Corporate Plan	NNDC's main plan setting out what the council will focus on over the next few years, including protecting the environment, supporting local communities and strengthening the local economy.
NNDC's Local Plan	The statutory planning framework that sets out how North Norfolk will grow, develop and be protected up to 2040
Property Flood Resilience (PFR)	Improvements to homes and buildings that make them better able to withstand flooding, such as flood doors, raised electrics or water-resistant materials.
Relocation	Helping people and businesses move from high-risk to lower-risk areas.
Resilience	The capacity of people and places to plan for, better protect, respond to, and recover from flooding and coastal change.
Sandscaping	A major beach-replenishment project that added sand to protect Bacton and Walcott, which occurred in 2019.
Scenario	Different possible futures for the coast and/or community.
Seawall	A wall protecting the village from waves and flooding.
Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)	A regional plan for managing long-term coastal risks.
Small Growth Village Policy (SS1)	A rule, within NNDC's Local Plan, allowing limited new housing next to existing village boundaries.
Strategic Coastal Change Transition Plan	NNDC's plan for managing the coastal change transition for North Norfolk (under development).
Transition / Transition to coastal change	The journey that a coastal community takes to adapt to a changing coastline, with short, medium and long-term plans and actions.
Triggers / Trigger Points	Signs - like a declining beach or rapid erosion during a storm - that indicate actions need to be taken soon to keep the community safe.

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