



Cromer coast protection scheme

Refurbishment of sea walls and groynes

2013-2015



Cromer coast protection scheme

Coastal Team – North Norfolk District Council
Telephone 01263 516193

Email: coastal.management@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Further information can be viewed at
www.northnorfolk.org/coastal

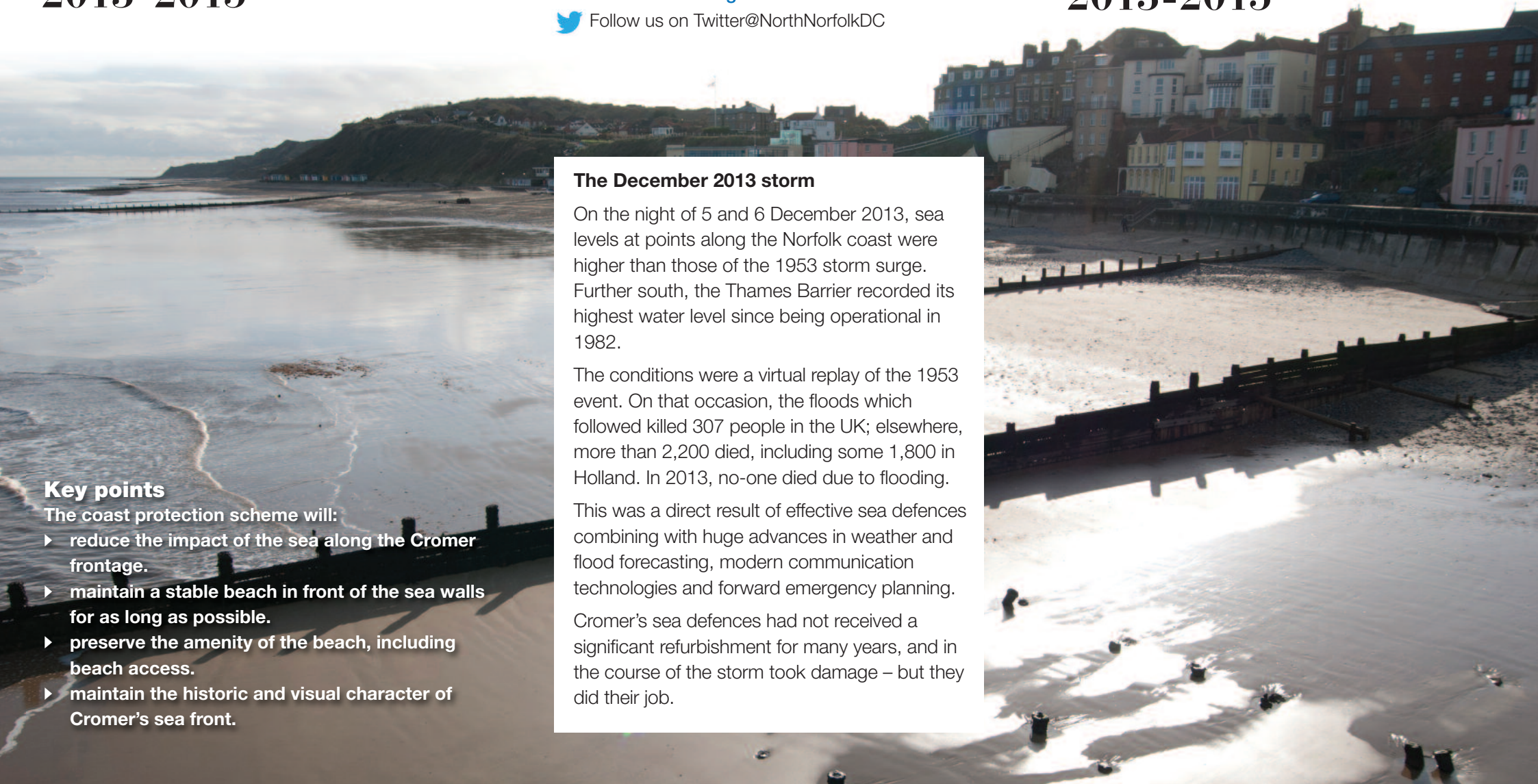
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Key points

The coast protection scheme will:

- ▶ reduce the impact of the sea along the Cromer frontage.
- ▶ maintain a stable beach in front of the sea walls for as long as possible.
- ▶ preserve the amenity of the beach, including beach access.
- ▶ maintain the historic and visual character of Cromer's sea front.

The December 2013 storm

On the night of 5 and 6 December 2013, sea levels at points along the Norfolk coast were higher than those of the 1953 storm surge. Further south, the Thames Barrier recorded its highest water level since being operational in 1982.

The conditions were a virtual replay of the 1953 event. On that occasion, the floods which followed killed 307 people in the UK; elsewhere, more than 2,200 died, including some 1,800 in Holland. In 2013, no-one died due to flooding.

This was a direct result of effective sea defences combining with huge advances in weather and flood forecasting, modern communication technologies and forward emergency planning.

Cromer's sea defences had not received a significant refurbishment for many years, and in the course of the storm took damage – but they did their job.



Cromer coast protection scheme

Historic photos courtesy of Cromer Museum



1821 – Cromer with no sea walls or promenade.



1822 – Slumping and overhanging cliffs with little protection from the sea



1831 – The Gangway busy with the towns fishing fleet as it is today



1900 – Cromer promenade/sea wall and pier under construction

The sea defences at Cromer protect the town from the force of the North Sea. They were built in various phases as the town expanded, the earliest walls dating back to 1836-38. Over the years the walls and groynes have withstood many storms and have been maintained, enhanced and repaired as and when required.

The current scheme is being designed not only to maintain the existing level of defence, but also to

withstand 50 years of predicted sea level rise. The work will include re-facing the existing sea walls with concrete, improving the parapet walls where necessary and repairing the timber groynes. The historical significance of some of the structures has been carefully taken into account and the overall character of the promenade should not change.

The total cost of the scheme is approximately £8m, funded by the Environment Agency and the

Regional Flood and Coastal Committee although the works will be managed by North Norfolk District Council. The work is provisionally programmed to take place from the autumn 2013 to spring 2014 and autumn 2014 to spring 2015.

No work will take place during the summer season, Christmas or Easter. The construction work will not affect your use of shops, restaurants and businesses on the seafront or pier.

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Work to be completed 2013/14 and 2014/15 subject to programme revision