

28 May, 2010

### **First coastal Pathfinder project successfully completed**

The first North Norfolk Pathfinder coastal adaptation project has come to an end, with the removal of the remaining concrete debris from the beach at Beeston Regis this week.

Some 800 tonnes of debris below the cliffs at Beeston Regis, reinforced concrete left by the deterioration and destruction of old sea defences, has been taken away to improve the environment and a new access for beach users has been constructed. The rubble has been crushed for re-use in the construction industry.

The three-week, £15,000 project also means people can walk more easily between West Runton and Sheringham at high water.

All that remains is for North Norfolk District Council to report back to Beeston Regis Parish and neighbouring Sheringham Town Councils to keep them updated and discuss the project.

The 18-month national Pathfinder programme is designed to allow councils to test ideas for managing areas of the coast and supporting communities affected by coastal change. It will potentially lead to new Government policies for coast and flood management.

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In North Norfolk, the District Council is trialling a range of initiatives until April 2011, and will evaluate their successes, the issues faced and lessons learnt before reporting back to Defra, the Government department responsible for shoreline management. It is not yet clear how the findings will be interpreted, or what support will be available beyond these Pathfinders.

NNDC was awarded £3 million in 2009 from a Government allocation of £11 million for the pathfinder programme nationwide. NNDC's share was the single biggest award of funding, and Norfolk and Suffolk councils received £5 million – almost half the entire available funding.

### **Notes for Editor**

- For a full explanation of the North Norfolk Pathfinder, and details of the Pathfinder projects along our coast and elsewhere in the country, visit the new mini-site at:

**[www.northnorfolk.org/pathfinder/](http://www.northnorfolk.org/pathfinder/)**

- You can also call Rob Goodliffe, North Norfolk Pathfinder Programme Manager, on 01263 516321.

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