

Sandown Bay Coastal Defence Schemes

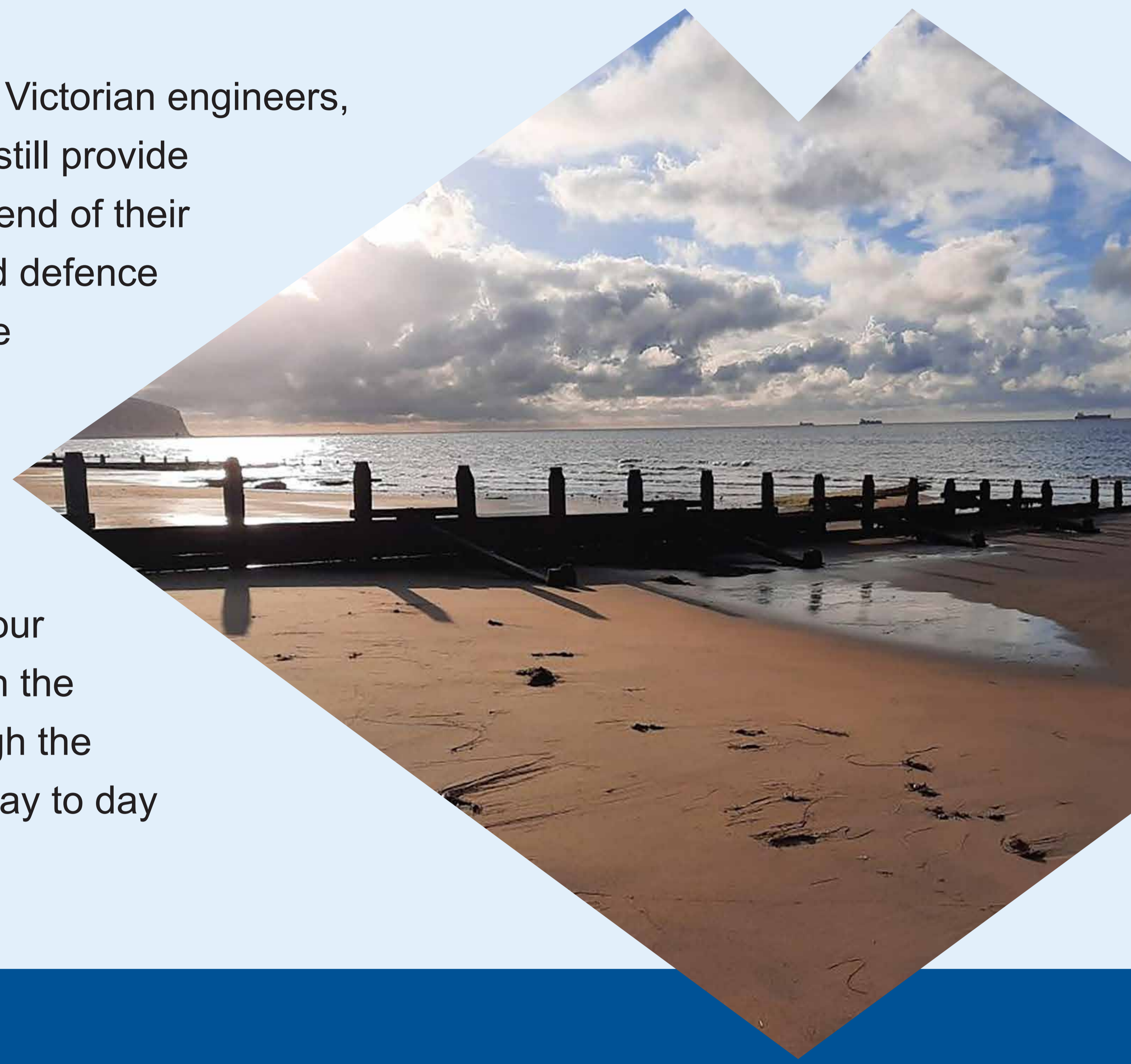
The Environment Agency, in partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, are working to reduce the impact of flood and coastal erosion events around the Isle of Wight coastline. The project team are investigating the refurbishment of coastal defences at Yaverland and Shanklin. The aim of these studies is to reduce the coastal flood and erosion risk to more than 500 homes and businesses, this risk is predicted to be worsened by climate change.

The challenges facing us

Ageing infrastructure

The coastal defences on the Isle of Wight were built by Victorian engineers, and today have varying levels of effectiveness – some still provide adequate reduction in risk, others are approaching the end of their ‘useful’ lifespan. For example, sections of the Yaverland defence are estimated to have 20 years of life remaining and the Shanklin defence just 5 years.

Many of these structures date back to the early 1900s and have been constantly exposed to severe wind and wave forces. If we do not review and update our current defences, it could mean a significant increase in the chance of the sea over topping or even breaking through the current defences. This would impact people’s homes, day to day lives and livelihoods.



Climate change

Climate change is a critical factor in why we need to invest and improve our existing coastal defences on the Isle of Wight. Sea levels in the south of England are predicted to rise by more than a metre over the next 100 years. This rise in sea level combined with more regular and larger storms will increase the risk of coastal flooding and erosion. Today’s coastal defence schemes will come under increased pressure.

Fit for the future

Based on current sea level rise predictions, our assessments show that the existing methods of coastal defence will need to be upgraded and reinforced.

If we don’t upgrade our existing defences, doing nothing could mean:



Risk of flooding and/or erosion to over 300 homes



Damage to over 200 business and non residential properties, with transport and utilities also being affected



Threat to over 300 hectares of protected habitat over the next 30-40 years

