

Windblown sand

June 2021

An information sheet to support communities

Sand blowing off the beach and onto promenades, business frontages and property gardens is a regular annoying occurrence, and something we have seen over many years.

We appreciate that it can be difficult to understand the roles of the different authorities and their remits on sand clearance, and where that leaves you as a resident, landowner or business owner.

Below are some answers to questions frequently asked by communities, and hopefully some clarity on who does what.

Whose responsibility is it to carry out sand clearance from promenades, businesses and private properties?

There is no one responsible authority for sand clearance.

Various authorities and local groups have taken on sand clearance over the years, from East Lindsey District Council through to Parish Councils and community groups. Authorities tend to only clear lengths that are within their ownership.

All authorities sympathise with homeowners and businesses who have issues with sand on their property, but the responsibility to clear sand ultimately falls to the landowner, as with all maintenance and beach care issues.

What sand clearance do the different authorities carry out?

- **Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency does carry out some minor sand clearance at tidal flood gates and access points to the splash deck service road (promenade), enabling them to perform their duties effectively. The Environment Agency does not have any land ownership along the length of promenade. Their role is to reduce flood risk to people and property, and resources need to be focussed on this.

The Environment Agency has supported local businesses and communities with sand clearance in previous years, as they are sympathetic to the issues it can cause. Unfortunately this becomes more and more difficult to commit to due to the impact on their resources elsewhere. The first priority must be to deliver activities to protect people and property from flooding.

- **Lincolnshire County Council**

The County Council carries out limited sand clearance on land in its ownership or management, predominantly at Huttoft Car Terrace, on some public rights of way and parts of the England Coast Path. Whilst every endeavour is made to ensure access along these stretches remains available there will naturally be periods of time when prevailing weather will cause more than usual amounts of sand to accumulate. Resources remain limited in terms of the number of times the authority can attend and clearance must be timed to provide as much benefit and value as possible.

- **East Lindsey District Council**

East Lindsey District Council removes sand from the top of the sea defences that are located on district council managed areas. These broadly cover Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea and Skegness beaches. As a



priority ELDC focusses resource to ensure access around the central beach areas, businesses, chalets, main access points and ensures that the emergency access points are clear. However, there will be occasions where due to wind direction and the build-up of sand on the beach, when the promenades will be covered by sand.

Why do we have such high levels of sand on the beach?

Since 1994 we have nourished the beaches in Lincolnshire between Mablethorpe and Skegness with sand to provide a wide defence which reduces the impact of wave action and tides, in combination with the existing hard and soft flood defences.

Without beach nourishment, there would be little sand left on the beaches. The sand plays a vital part in protecting the defences. Without this protection, there would be an increased chance of the defence becoming breached during stormy weather. Large areas of land behind the seawall are at or below sea level and such breaches would be devastating for homes, businesses and agriculture. The sandy beaches not only help to protect and preserve the defences but also provide an ideal attraction for tourists visiting the area.

I have sand on my property, what can I do?

It does ultimately fall to the landowner to clear the sand from their property.

If you have windblown sand on your property/land, you can return clean sand to the beach.

Contaminated sand (i.e. sand mixed with large quantities of soil) from property's can be taken to local Household Waste Recycling Centre. A daily limit of up to 120 litres will be accepted per household.

For issues with sand on promenades, or more substantial problems on your private land, we would advise contacting the highway authority to report issues with sand in the first instance. There is an online form to complete to raise issues with Lincolnshire County Council <https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>.

If you would like to discuss an issue with a particular authority we are happy to listen and advise accordingly dependent on the situation. Please find the different contact details below:

Environment Agency General enquiries

National Customer Contact Centre - PO Box 544, Rotherham, S60 1BY

Email - enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone - 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

East Lindsey District Council

Neighbourhood Services on 01507 601111

Email - cleansing.team@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council

Email - countryside_access@lincolnshire.gov.uk

