

# Access to Spurn Point

## Advice on access options

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Holderness, Yorkshire, UK



Spurn Head

Client: ABPmer

### Services provided:

- identification and review of options for maintaining access to facilities and the community that live on Spurn.
- expert input to review of future evolution of Spurn

Spurn Head is a narrow spit extending some 5.5kms from the cliffs at Holderness. Owned by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and managed as a nature reserve Spurn accommodates the ABP Vessel Traffic Service station and the RNLI Lifeboat Station. Further to this, it is home to the community living on Spurn, some of whom routinely need to travel to the “mainland”, e.g. school children. The north part of the spit is particularly narrow being about 50m wide only at its narrowest point. From time to time, serious overtopping has caused the roadway to be lost, interrupting access to and from Head and necessitating road realignment and/or improvised access until the road was reinstated.

ABPmer were appointed to assess the risk of access being interrupted and the risk of a more major breach which could develop into a sea connection across spit, effectively turning it into an island.

ENBE were engaged to work with ABPmer. In particular ENBE were principally responsible for identifying and assessing options for restoring/maintaining access over a range of time periods extending to 30 years. These options had to be appropriate to the scale of the problem and had to be consistent with the needs of the nature reserve. Typical options included: realigning the road to higher ground, ruggedizing the road structure with lightweight armouring, regrading sand and shingle to obtain a better profile, introducing locally dredged material to restore weakened sections.

Further to this, ENBE were able to apply their geomorphological knowledge of the Holderness coastline to the broader consideration of coastal evolution.