

THORPE NESS

A short walk north along the beach from Thorpeness village, this is one of the Suffolk *nesses* – large curved **beaches** extending above high water which protrude from the coast at intervals. Others include Orfordness, Kessingland Ness, Lowestoft Ness and Winterton Ness (in Norfolk).



Thorpe Ness is about 500m long and extends 75m out from the base of the cliffs at low tide, with 30m of medium-sized, sub-rounded flint shingle above storm tides. This area is vegetated with sea kale, sea holly and other species adapted to the coastal environment. The shingle banks extend northward below LWM with 'Sizewell Rocks' beyond. Blocks of Coralline Crag eroded from this area of the sea floor are often found on the foreshore at Thorpe Ness.



The Ness traps shingle eroded from Dunwich and Minsmere cliffs which moves offshore to the Dunwich and Sizewell banks (about 1km offshore and 5m below mean tides) and then south under the influence of the dominant wind to Thorpe Ness. Sand from the cliffs is mostly carried out to sea, but beach cusps can be seen at low tide indicating a mixture of sand and shingle here.

