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MailOnline

Now that's a cliffhanger: 20ft of coastline gone in just one year

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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When Paul England named his clifftop plot The Retreat, he didn't know how apt it would turn out to be.

As these pictures show, in just over a year up to 20ft of his land has fallen into the sea.

A large chunk disappeared over the last four weeks as waves driven by northerly winds battered the shore at Easton Bavents, near Southwold, Suffolk.



Going: Mr England's plot in October 2009 shows the land that has disappeared



Gone: A vast portion of the land has vanished by November 2010, much of it over the last four week

Also gone are two properties, a chalet and a mobile home, belonging to Mr England's children Charles and Beth.

In fact the homes have been deliberately destroyed as part of a landmark agreement to help homeowners cope with losing properties to coastal erosion.

Under the pioneering deal with Waveney council, residents can move to safe land nearby and build similar homes without any planning wrangles.

Yesterday as Mr England, 64, surveyed the rapidly disappearing Retreat, he praised the agreement. 'I feel like I am the driver now instead of the passenger,' he said.

'In the last month the scale of the erosion has been dramatic. It has never been so rapid.

'We are all in the hands of nature and no matter what we do, she will do what she wants.'

The Englands hope to buy some land and build a timber frame cabin similar to the chalet in the spring

The unique agreement with the family and other owners was made because of fears that they would lose their homes over the winter before a long-term coastal erosion policy is finalised.

The council hopes it will preserve the character of Easton Bavents and the neighbouring village of Corton by making it easier for property owners to relocate in the area.



Easton Bavents, Suffolk where the coastal erosion has seen the landmark land-use rights ruling

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Sorry folks, but erosion has been around here since before the sea broke through and cut Britain off from Europe. This is a continuing and normal process, and anyone who buys property anywhere near the sea in the east of England should know the score.

- C Smith, Ipswich, UK, 21/11/2010 18:35

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If only we had an organisation capable of dealing with this problem which is not all that difficult or expensive but regrettably we do not have the talent in the form of the right committee.

- pb, blandford, 21/11/2010 16:58

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Great, makes the distance between us and Europe greater!

- Jon, Salisbury, 21/11/2010 16:42

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I watched a documentary of an Engineer in Canada (Newfoundland I think) who had a similar problem and the way the Lady addressed the problem was to slope the angle of the cliff, and then to reinforce with metal netting which was then Chemically Anchored to the incline. I gave this to my Dutch colleagues for revision, as over here we are all truly "in this together", 7/8ths of the Netherlands are under Sea Level. The owners would be well advised to ask the Dutch

- George, Netherlands, 21/11/2010 10:59

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erosion has been around in the region since the 60s

also the cause is sand extraction for building etc.
take sand from the sea and the sea will take it back from the land.

- the truth master, Essex the un pc county, 21/11/2010 10:53

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Ask the Dutch how to reclaim land from the sea and help to protect from erosion by the sea.

They (many years ago) drained the fens, showed us how to do it.

Have done wonders in Holland.

If we need a big tug at sea who do we get? the Dutch.

So far as I know they haven't had naval ships in collisions or subs aground on shingle or sand banks.

Just think, no payment to EU and no more wasted payment on foreign aid, then we could afford to start looking after our own country and getting out of debt.

- Paul, Norwich Once Great Britain, 21/11/2010 08:59

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