# bank holiday tides sweep cars into sea at Burnham Overy Staithe amid stormy weather



Drivers faced significant challenges during the recent Bank Holiday as several cars were swept into the sea at Burnham Overy Staithe, a popular beauty spot in Norfolk. The incident highlighted the dangers of parking near coastal areas, especially during periods of notably inclement weather. On Sunday, at least six vehicles were stranded close to the waterfront, becoming entrapped by unexpectedly high tides, fuelled by a combination of the monthly Spring Tide and strong winds.

The rising water levels, which surged by an estimated 40 cm due to these weather conditions, created a rushed environment as visitors attempted to salvage their vehicles. Although many motorists managed to reach their cars in time, two vehicles were not so fortunate, ultimately drifting into the sea. One of these vehicles was retrieved, but reports indicate that its engine sustained significant damage from water intrusion.

Adding to the turmoil, the incident coincided with special sailing races hosted by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) at a nearby location, Brancaster Staithe. Such events are usually a highlight for both locals and tourists; however, the rising seas complicated the races and raised concerns over safety. Often, visitors are unaware of the dramatic tidal changes in the area, which can easily catch them off guard as they venture out for a scenic walk or a drink in local pubs.

As forecasts predict further gusty winds on Monday evening, there are warnings that additional high tides could pose risks to vehicles parked too close to the beach. Furthermore, following a surprisingly dry start to spring, England has experienced heavy rain recently—an anomaly for a season typically marked by milder conditions. The Met Office's meteorologist, Alex Burkill, has suggested that the severe weather conditions could even lead to unusual phenomena such as funnel clouds or brief tornadoes.

While recent rain has brought temporary relief, it remains a paradox in a season expected to be among the driest ever recorded—in fact, this spring could fall short of the historical benchmark of 100.7 mm of rainfall set in 1852. As of mid-May, 80.6 mm had been recorded across the UK. Due to this lack of steady rainfall, the Environment Agency previously cautioned that millions of households might face water usage restrictions this summer.

In the context of ongoing climate concerns, coastal areas like Norfolk are particularly vulnerable to flooding. Last autumn, severe rainfall caused considerable flooding in East Anglia, raising alarms about coastal erosion. Just last year, the Environment Agency identified a seven-mile stretch of beach near Hunstanton and Snettisham as having reached a 'trigger point' for erosion, heightening local flood risks. They have been proactive in protecting these areas, warning property owners against interfering with coastal shingle ridges, which serve as natural flood defences.

Thus, this recent incident serves as a vivid reminder of the interplay between tourism, weather phenomena, and the precarious nature of coastal infrastructure. With predictions of continuing volatile weather, it is crucial for both visitors and locals alike to remain vigilant about the tides and their potential impacts.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14750599/Drivers-Bank-Holiday-cars-underwater-flood.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data