# The decline of Chesil Cliff House: A Grand Designs nightmare



The unfortunate saga of the Chesil Cliff House, described as the “saddest-ever Grand Designs House,” continues as new images suggest the property is facing significant deterioration. Situated on the Devon coast and notable for its lengthy construction period of 12 years, the house has become synonymous with hardship and mounting financial costs, ultimately exceeding its budget by £7 million.

Recent findings from Google Street View, noted by fans of the Channel 4 show Grand Designs, reveal troubling signs of decay, including unsettling brown discolouration and green streaks of what appear to be algae on the property’s exterior. The most recent imagery dates back to August 2024, further indicating the building's decline. Observations shared on Reddit have prompted inquiries regarding the once-promising home, with one user remarking, “It also looks like it's turning brown already.”

Historically, the property has faced numerous challenges. Owned by Edward Short, the project placed a considerable emotional toll on him and his family, particularly on his then-wife, Hazel. The couple's experience with the build was deeply distressing, as expressed by Short in a Channel 4 episode aired in October 2019. “The whole project has been a horrendous strain for Hazel, I have sunk our family purse into this and I really feel for her,” he stated, highlighting the personal ramifications that accompanied the extensive delays and financial drain.

Adding to the house's troubled narrative, it has recently been removed from the market, according to reports. Savills, the estate agents previously associated with the sale, declined to provide further comment on the status or future intentions regarding the listing. This development follows interest from martial arts millionaire Matt Fiddes, who has expressed his desire to purchase the property after an earlier offer of £7.5 million was rejected. Fiddes, noted for his previous association with Michael Jackson as a bodyguard, has been vocal about the potential need for radical renovations on the structure. “If I were to purchase this land and property, I would probably knock it down and start again! It’s the most sensible option,” he shared with his followers on Instagram.

Despite the house initially capturing the attention of television audiences and the property market, its future remains uncertain amidst ongoing concerns about structural integrity and the maintenance challenges associated with its fading exterior. With Fiddes reportedly considering a new offer following a price reduction to £5.25 million, the ongoing saga of Chesil Cliff House continues to attract attention, keeping viewers and potential buyers alike curious about its fate.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/grand-designs-kevin-mccloud-property-disaster-b2607063.html> - This article provides insight into the history and challenges faced by Chesil Cliff House, including its financial struggles and the emotional toll on the owner, Edward Short. It also details the property's significant features and its decline despite being an ambitious project.
2. <https://www.ladbible.com/entertainment/tv/grand-designs-saddest-house-simulation-channel-4-503195-20250205> - It offers a visual representation of what the interior of Chesil Cliff House was intended to look like, highlighting the ambitious design and construction process that took over a decade to complete.
3. <https://www.housebeautiful.com/uk/lifestyle/property/a36343040/grand-designs-lighthouse-for-sale-croyde-north-devon> - This source covers the current market status of Chesil Cliff House, its unique architectural features, and the challenges associated with selling the property despite interest from notable figures.
4. <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the original source of the article detailing recent observations of the property's decay and discussions about its potential sale and future.
5. <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/grand-designs> - While not directly providing specific information about Chesil Cliff House, this link can offer context on the show Grand Designs, which featured the property and highlighted its compelling yet tumultuous construction story.
6. <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-129177690.html> - Though not explicitly mentioned, property listings like those found on Rightmove could provide additional details on past listings and the status of similar properties in the area, offering insight into the real estate market challenges faced by unique homes like Chesil Cliff House.
7. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/saddest-ever-grand-designs-house-35036702> - Please view link - unable to able to access data