

# Torcross sea defence repair: final update

The Environment Agency is pleased to announce that today, 31 March 2017 we finished the Torcross sea defence repair. This final update provides an overview of what we've done and how we will continue to be involved in managing Torcross' flood and coastal erosion risk through the Slapton Line Partnership.

## What we've done

Storms in February 2016 damaged the Torcross sea defence when beach levels were low. Waves hitting the wall caused cracks to appear along the promenade.

The repaired wall is designed to withstand a severe storm, even when there are low beach levels. 12 metre sheets piles were installed directly in front of the existing line of piles with a new reinforced concrete capping beam. These double-length piles provide extra stability to the wall.

We have scheduled a routine asset inspection to be carried out every 24 months to assess the condition of the defence and will continue to monitor the asset repair during periods of bad weather.

South Hams District Council will undertake remedial surfacing work to the car park following the defence repairs and hope to have it open on Saturday 1 April 2017.



The project cost £2.4m from initial investigations through to construction



51 properties are protected by the Torcross sea defence



We used 713 tonnes of steel and 221m<sup>3</sup> of concrete during the 5 month repair

### Thanks from the Environment Agency's Project Manager, Becky Richards

Firstly a huge thank you to all the residents of Torcross who have supported our repair work. The project team worked hard to complete this project as quickly as possible, and ensure protection to your property is maintained. We've been fortunate to experience favourable weather and beach level conditions over the winter. Our contractor, BMM JV have done well to complete the works and be off site in time for the Easter holidays.

### Thanks from local MP Dr Sarah Wollaston

Thank you so much to all those who have worked hard to restore the sea defences at Torcross and to the community and agencies which came together during the anxious weeks following last year's storms to get things done.

## What you can do

Flood defences reduce, but do not completely stop the chance of flooding as they can be overtopped, or fail. Even with this sea defence, parts of Torcross remain at a high risk of flooding from the sea. High risk means that each year this area is at significant risk of flooding during storms due to waves.

Everyone has a part to play to protect themselves from the risk of flooding. There are some simple steps you can take now:

- Use our flood map to see which areas are more likely to flood first, deepest, or most often. Just enter your postcode: [www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding)
- Register for Floodline – if you're at risk of flooding, you may be able to receive flood alerts and warnings, completely free. Having time to prepare can save you time, distress and money.
- Be prepared – know what to do if flooding happens. Creating a flood plan for your household or business doesn't take long, and is proven to help during emergency situations. Download a personal, business or even a community flood plan template from [www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding](http://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding).

If you ever need to report an emergency flood incident in Torcross please call our 24 hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

## What we can do together

No single individual or organisation can manage Torcross' future flood and coastal erosion risk alone. We need to work together through the Slapton Line Partnership (SLP). The SLP brings together the various organisations responsible for the road, its coastal defence and the local special environment. Together the partnership aims to support the community as it adapts to live and work with a changing coast. The Environment Agency look forward to contributing to the work of the SLP, in particular the new Beach Management Plan.

### A word from Alan Denbigh, Chair of the Slapton Line Partnership

South Hams District Council is currently creating a Torcross and Slapton Beach Management Plan on behalf of the SLP. Together we hope to identify the best long term beach management options to reduce the impact of storms at Torcross. The local community are an essential part of this discussion. The SLP is planning events in summer 2017 for residents and businesses in and around Torcross to meet the partners and talk about the plan. Visit [www.slaptonline.org](http://www.slaptonline.org) to find out more about who we are, what we're doing and how to contact us.