

Slapton Sands Beach Management Plan

Briefing Note

February 2017

Introduction

The 'Slapton Line' and the A379 road are suffering from lowering beach levels and storm damage. This along with recent emergency repair works has reinforced their importance to the local community.

Sea level rise predictions and increased storminess will only continue to increase the vulnerability of the Line and its associated infrastructure to damage. It is therefore vital that we consider now what feasible protective measures could be taken.

The Slapton Line Partnership (SLP) has appointed consultants *CH2M Hill* to develop a detailed plan, known as a Beach Management Plan (BMP). *CH2M Hill* have successfully delivered these plans in over 20 locations in the South-West alone.

The BMP will identify and assess all the potential beach management options in accordance with best practise guidance and identify funding opportunities. Without it, further funding will be extremely difficult to justify.

This briefing note provides you as a resident, user of the road or as an organisation, with further project information and details about how you can become involved in shaping the BMP.

Which area is being looked at?

The Beach Management Plan boundary will include Torcross in the South, incorporating the existing Environment Agency defence, to Strete Gate in the North.

A review of coastal processes will consider the wider Start Bay and will be led by Plymouth University who form an important part of the project team. The results will be used to review the current Shoreline Management Plan (the national plan for the entire UK coast) and better inform the management of adjacent coastal communities.

What are the objectives of the Beach Management Plan?

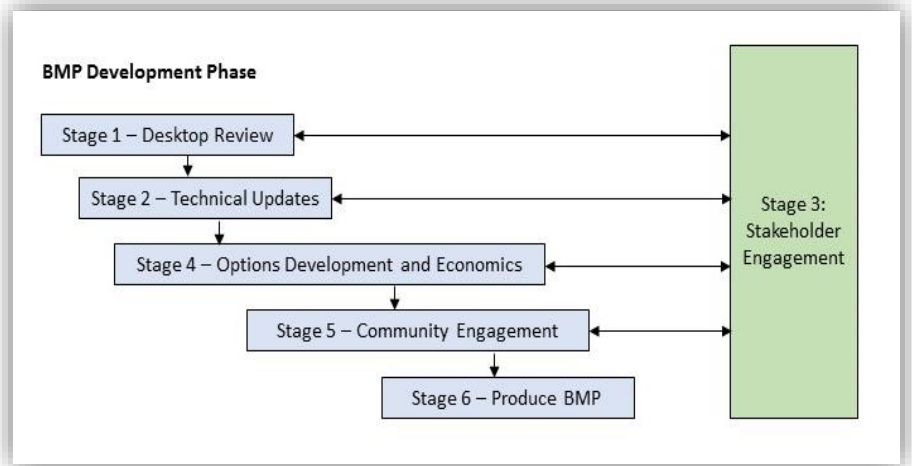
- To review and better understand the coastal processes which contribute to change along the study boundary.
- To assess the performance of the existing coastal defences.
- To assess the local economic benefit of future management options.
- To appraise each short listed option against technical, economic, environmental and social criteria and identify the preferred management approach.
- Present a monitoring and intervention plan to sustain the A379 for the next 20 years.
- To develop and implement more sustainable longer-term solutions with consideration of the current 'Shoreline Management Plan'.
- To consider long term changes to both funding and local policy.
- Consider that impact of any management solution on the Slapton Line which is in a National Nature Reserve and SSSI designated for vegetated shingle, freshwater lakes and wetlands, geomorphologic features and rare plants and birds.



How will the Beach Management Plan be developed?

The Plan will be prepared in six stages, with stakeholder communication scheduled throughout;

- **Stage 1 – Desktop Review:** We will assess the ‘baseline’ data i.e. what’s necessary to produce the Plan, what information we don’t have and how we can get this. This will define the scope for the next stage.
- **Stage 2 – Technical Updates:** We will update the baseline information (including coastal processes, defences, environment and economics), fill in the gaps and use this to decide which beach management options could be used.
- **Stage 3 – Stakeholder Engagement and Funding:** The communications will continue and be integral to each stage.
- **Stage 4 – Options Development and Economics:** This stage will identify and appraise the different management activities that could be implemented between Torcross and Strete Gate.
- **Stage 5 – Community Engagement:** We will present the findings of the Plan to the local community via a public exhibition at a site local to Slapton Sands.
- **Stage 6 – Plan Development:** Following the public exhibition(s), the final Beach Management Plan document will be prepared and finalised.



How you can get involved?

At each stage, stakeholders along with the local community will be contacted to seek local knowledge/information and to help guide the selection of beach management options. The first of these, Stage 1, provides you with the opportunity to provide any relevant information you may have about the Plan. Information that we are particularly keen on obtaining includes:

- Historical extreme event information (e.g. when have big storms caused flooding/erosion to parts of the frontage in the past 20 years; photos of storms and/or their impacts would be valuable);
- Your own suggestions as to how you think the Slapton Line should be protected.
- Information about private defences that have been built, or maintenance/monitoring undertaken by local landowners/conservation groups etc.
- Future plans/opportunities for regeneration/development that could inform consideration.
- Studies that estimate value of infrastructure/facilities ‘at risk’ of coastal flooding/erosion to the wider area.

Contacting us

If you have any information that you would like to provide to the project team or any further questions then please submit these to the following email address: Slaptonbmp@swdevon.gov.uk

Please note that any information submitted may be used in community engagement activities and future publications, but the owner will always be fully referenced. All materials submitted should be copyright free.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated