



# Slapton Line partnership living with a changing coast

## How we work

### Purpose

Slapton Line is a coastal section of the A379 road that runs between Torcross and Strete Gate, South Devon. The Line sits on top of a mobile shingle barrier, flanked by the sea on one side and the largest freshwater lake in the Southwest, Slapton Ley, on the other. Like many coastal areas, the shingle barrier and road are exposed to periodic storm events and erosion, with both intensity and frequency being accelerated by the climate crisis.

The Slapton Line Partnership was formed in 2001 to promote a coordinated policy for managing coastal change in the area, in response to a major storm event that damaged Slapton Line road. The Partnership has worked collaboratively over the last 20 + years to respond to successive storm damage events, use sound science and intelligence to manage the road's future, and support the community as it adapts to live and work with the changing coast.

In 2019, the Slapton Line Partnership published a 'Strategy for Adaptation', acknowledging that Slapton Line will soon reach the end of its life, with no viable options for long-term maintenance or relocation.

The Slapton Line Partnership now exists to

1. Plan and deliver an Adaptation Project in anticipation of future change, including a range of activities to manage impacts and build on opportunities
2. Ensure that appropriate contingency and emergency response plans and preparations are maintained for responding to future storm and erosion events

In doing so the Partnership will

- ensure that suitable expertise, research, and intelligence is available to inform decision making
- promote public awareness and community engagement in the coastal management and adaptation process
- assist the member organisations in meeting their statutory duties in the management of the area

### Geographical remit

Adaption Planning is in response to the eventual loss of Slapton Line Road, within the Parishes of Stokenham, Slapton and Strete. However, both impacts and opportunities will be realised between Dartmouth and Kingsbridge and Salcombe and more broadly the hinterland of Start Bay. The Adaptation project will, therefore, work collaboratively with the inland communities of Start Bay, as appropriate.

## Membership

The Slapton Line Partnership is made up of a range of public, private and third sector organisations with a broad range of expertise to support the Partnership's activities. A core working principle of the Slapton Line Partnership is to ensure that the local community and businesses participate in the planning and delivery of the Adaptation Project, and contingency and emergency response.

Members include

Member	Representation
Devon County Council	Planning, Transportation and Environment Group Highways and Transport Planning County Councillors
South Hams District Council	Engineering and Assets Economic Development Placemaking and Enterprise District Councillors
Parish Councils (Slapton, Strete, Stokenham)	Residents and businesses Parish Councillors
Environment Agency	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Shoreline Management Planning
Natural England	Environmental conservation and consents Coastal access management
Field Studies Council	Land Management Delivery of duties to the National Nature Reserve (Slapton Ley) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (shingle barrier)
Wild Planet Trust	Landowners: Slapton Ley and shingle barrier
South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Protected Landscape Management

## Adaptation Funders Group

An Adaptation Project is jointly funded through a Local Levy, raised by the Environment Agency from Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, and supported in-kind by the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Adaptation Funders have specified 4 deliverables for the Adaptation Project

1. Creation and initial delivery of a locally supported Adaptation Plan
2. A Contingency and Emergency Response Manual
3. Incorporation of the Coastal Change Management Area into the Adaptation Plan
4. A Fundraising Strategy for Adaptation Plan delivery

## Adaptation Steering Group

The Adaptation Steering Group exists to enable supported, transparent, and accountable decision making for delivery of the Adaptation Project. The Adaptation Steering Group meets on an *ad hoc* basis and has a membership that has been collectively agreed by the Slapton Line Partnership. Membership includes

- Devon County Council
- South Hams District Council

- Representative for the Parish Councils
- Environment Agency
- South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Wild Planet Trust

### **Project Teams**

A range of project teams will be set as required on a task-by-task basis to progress delivery of the Adaptation Project, as outlined in the Adaptation Plan and Engagement and Communications Strategy. The membership of each team will be selected to match the requirements of the respective project.

### **Organisation of Partnership meetings**

The Slapton Line Partnership meets formally in March and October prior to and after high-risk season for storm damage and major erosion events. All partners and representatives are expected to attend these meetings to review activities and agree priorities going forward. All partners and representatives are expected to proactively feedback the work of the Partnership to their respective organisations.

Notice of Partnership meetings will be sent out to members at least one month in advance of a meeting at which time members will be invited to submit items for inclusion in the agenda. Agendas will be sent out to members at least one week in advance of meetings

Meetings will be open to members of the public and representatives of interested organisations to attend as observers

The Partnership will endeavour to make decisions by agreement and consensus whenever possible. However, where a vote is required to resolve an issue, the decision will be by simple majority and Members of the Partnership Committee will have equal voting powers.

### **Chairing of meetings and Secretariat support**

The Slapton Line Partnership operates through rotating Chair and Vice Chair positions, with Secretarial duties for minute taking provided by South Hams District Council. The current positions held are

- Chair – Roger English, Manager of the South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Vice Chair - open
- Secretary - open