

Environment Agency: Torcross sea defences

Update and responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) No. 5

01 September 2026

Project Update

This is a further short update as we approach the start of work on site.

Our contractor Kier will start mobilising to site next **Monday, 7th September**, when they will take possession of Torcross Car Park for use as the site compound area. This will house the site offices and welfare facilities, and storage areas for plant, equipment and materials.

The lay-by parking, access to the Tank memorial and the public toilets will remain open and a public footpath between the village and Slapton Line will be maintained. The concrete road behind the seawall will also remain open as usual – and will be a great viewing point to watch the work.

However, the main car park will remain unavailable to the public until Kier demobilise at the end of the works. Once construction work starts, the existing sea defence revetment and the beach area in front of Torcross and the car park will also be off-limits to the public for the duration of the project, and we will be closing the access gates through the sea wall.

Kier cannot undertake any construction work until we receive the necessary Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). We hope for this by the 16th October, and the first shipment of rock remains scheduled for **17th October**, with construction of the rock armour then beginning in earnest – *subject to* receiving the MMO Licence.

We can't give a firm completion date at this stage, and progress could be affected by the weather. However, if all goes well, we anticipate finishing work on site in May/June.

As Kier mobilise over the next few weeks, the project team continue to finalise aspects of the design. This includes working with Devon County Council Highways on the details of the design for Car Park breach repair. We are also continuing to consider practical options for providing access at the Southern end, but have accepted that this will have to follow the placement of the rock armour at that end.

Public engagement during construction

The community WhatsApp groups that we have been using to date for project FAQ's/Updates have been very successful, and we are extremely grateful to Pat Hunter and Nick Cordrey for their assistance with these. We hope to continue to use these groups for any occasional communications needed from the EA.

However, they aren't appropriate for delivering the more frequent site updates that Kier aims to provide. So, for the construction stage we propose a slightly different approach:

1. Kier will email a regular **site update** to all interested. If you would like to receive these emails, please **register your details with Kier** at this [link](#).
2. We have also set up a dedicated [web-page](#) on the Slapton Line Partnership website (thank you Lou Hoskin). This will contain updates from Kier as well as background information on the scheme (such as previous FAQ's and the Public Event posters), and key contact details.
3. There will be a couple of **Notice Boards** around the village where Kier will also post information.

Once the site offices are established, Kier will also publicise opportunities for local residents to come and meet some of their key staff, ask questions etc.

Q: Why can't we get the rock from local quarries?

Kier did make enquiries with local quarries in the southwest and they have procured the smaller filter layer rock locally. However, it was just not possible to get the larger sizes of rock for the armour stone layers in sufficient quantities in the time we need it.

Moreover, bringing the larger rock from land-based quarries to Torcross would be involve a very large number of lorry loads, which would be logistically very challenging given the nature of the local roads.

Accordingly, the larger rock (1-3 tonne and 6-10 tonne) will be coming by sea from quarries in Norway, Scotland and Northern Ireland.