

Environment Agency: Torcross sea defences

Update and responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) No. 6

14 October 2026

Project Update

Good News. Thanks to a huge amount of diligent work behind the scenes, we have secured the necessary Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)...and we now have the green light to proceed with construction of the scheme.

At this critical point it is worth just reflecting on what has been achieved since the storms of last winter, including:

- Rapidly mobilising a multi-disciplinary project team
- Fast-tracking in-house a business case to justify an urgent works project
- Securing the necessary £19.8m funding from within existing budgets
- Contracting with Kier to deliver the scheme on a 'design and build' basis
- Working in close collaboration with Devon County Council and South Hams District Council to include the reinstatement of the car park breach.
- Undertaking the scheme's design and specification – rock armour, slipway extension and car park piling
- Undertaking environmental screening and a range of EIA assessments to support undertaking work as 'permitted development' and the Marine Licence application.
- Contracting (at risk) the necessary rock supplies and shipping
- Procuring key construction plant and materials.
- Mobilising the site set-up
- Engaging regularly with the community and key stakeholders

The above might normally be expected to take 3+ years (even with a fair wind), so to achieve it within 7 months is a huge achievement, and represents a lot of hard work by many people.

There are still some aspects that need to be finalised (see below) but all the core aspects are now in place.

Looking ahead

Delivery of construction plant to site is currently underway. Rock deliveries – by both land (smaller filter material) and sea (the larger rock) are expected to begin next week, and rock armour construction very shortly thereafter. Exact dates/timings will depend on supplier factors, tides and the weather.

The large armour rock (1-3t and 6-10t) will come from quarries in Norway, Scotland and Northern Ireland and be delivered by barge. There will be multiple deliveries over the first couple of months of the project.

Delivering the 58,000 tonnes of this larger material by sea significantly reduces the number of heavy goods vehicle movements that would otherwise be required on local roads. For similar reasons the sheet piles for the car park breach repair will also be delivered by sea.

The large barges will anchor offshore, and the rock will be transferred to the beach using two smaller side-loader barges around high tides.

A further 30,000 tonnes of the smaller filter material will be transported to the site by road from more local quarries.

Project Timeline

All the rock shipments are scheduled to take place between mid-October and early December 2026, with road deliveries continuing through to the end of January 2027.

The rock armour installation is programmed to take place between October 2026 and April 2027, with the slipway extension and car park sheet piling in spring 2027.

The rock drops and rock armour installation work will need to be scheduled around the tidal cycles, which will include 24/7 working patterns at times.

Overall, the project is expected to be completed, the site demobilised and the car park re-opened in early summer 2027.

Note that these dates are indicative and may be subject to change due to weather and operational factors.

Outstanding issues

The main outstanding design issue remains public access at the southern end of the works.

We recognise that this is an important issue for the local community and remain committed to providing something if we can. The fact that it hasn't been progressed in the last couple of months is solely because the team have been focusing on more time critical aspects.

And finally...

Just a reminder. You can sign up to receive Kier's email updates [here](#) or at the link on the project [web-page](#) – which is on the Slapton Line Partnership website (www.slaptonline.org).