

Spring 2026

# Dorset Coast Forum

Charmouth Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> Edition



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## Charmouth Coastal Adaptation Plan

In February and March, the project team hosted several community drop-in events and workshops to gather early ideas for developing a community Adaptation Plan. Once complete, the Plan will set out practical ways the community can respond to long-term coastal change, from protecting buildings against flooding, to allowing the coast to move back naturally in some places, and re-locating paths, buildings or other infrastructure such as car parks when needed.



Community input is central to shaping these measures. In this first round of engagement, we asked for ideas on potential future triggers of coastal change—such as landslides or major storm events—and the actions and consequences that might follow.

A stakeholder workshop was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, bringing together representatives from the community, local businesses, the Environment Agency, National Trust, Dorset Council Planning, Greenspaces and Climate teams, the South West Coast Path, and the World Heritage Site. The findings from this session were then shared at a community drop-in event later the same day, giving residents the opportunity to review the material and add further comments.



We organised all the feedback we received and displayed it in the Community Library and on the project webpage for two weeks in March, giving people the chance to review it and share further comments.



The feedback from both community members and stakeholders is now being analysed. This will be used to develop a set of “Adaptation Pathways”—practical routes that set out how and when the community might respond as coastal conditions change. These pathways will be presented back to the community later this year and, if supported, could be incorporated into an updated Neighbourhood Plan. Embedding them in the Plan will keep the work locally relevant, strengthen planning considerations and future funding bids, and ensure ongoing community ownership.



## Face2Face Sessions

While the Adaptation Plan information was on display at the Community Library, members of the project team were available for anyone who wished to discuss any aspect of the project. The community drop-in event on 5<sup>th</sup> February highlighted that residents still had many questions, and that some key information was not yet fully understood. The follow-up Face2Face sessions provided an opportunity for people to have more in-depth conversations in a relaxed, informal setting. These discussions were constructive, helped clarify concerns, and offered valuable insights and ideas to guide the project's next steps.



## Reports, recordings and slides

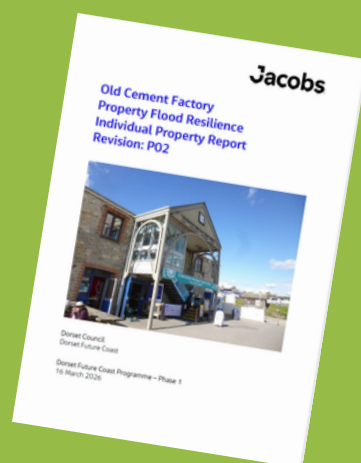
Project consultants, Jacobs, have been working on a series of technical reports that provide essential background information and evidence for the project's delivery stage. These reports are now available on the project webpage and can also be viewed at the Community Library.

We encourage community members to explore these documents to support informed and meaningful discussions.

A recording of the presentation delivered by Jacobs at the Adaptation Plan community event, along with the accompanying slide deck, is also available on the project webpage.



Please scan the QR code to visit the technical reports



## Mid-Programme Update

With the project now at its halfway point, we have published a Mid-Programme Update outlining progress since March 2025.

The report, available on the project webpage, sets out the latest status of each delivery option using the project's traffic-light system, making it easy to see what is on track, what needs further work, and what is no longer feasible.

It also explains the evidence and feedback behind each decision, helping the community understand how the programme continues to evolve.



## Future Coast Dorset Student Panel

As highlighted in the previous newsletter, Future Coast Charmouth, and its sister project in North Swanage, has recruited a group of local KS4/5 (GCSE and A-Level) students to form our new Student Panel. Many of the students joined us at the Adaptation Plan drop-ins in February, and we have since held our first online meeting.

The Panel gives young people the opportunity to engage with real-world coastal science and climate action taking place right on their doorstep. We hope this experience will support them in pursuing future pathways in related careers.

The Panel also ensures that the voices of younger residents, an age group often under-represented in consultations, are included in shaping how Charmouth responds to future coastal change.

If you know a young, aspiring environmental scientist, engineer, geographer or geologist who might like to get involved, please get in touch.



## Stonebarrow landslip

Many of you will be aware of the large landslip that occurred at Stonebarrow in mid-February. A significant section of the SW Coast Path was lost, and the route had to be closed. Thanks to quick action from local authorities, the path has since been rolled back to a safe distance from the new cliff edge, allowing walkers to continue enjoying the area safely. Events like this landslip are very much in line with the narratives and predictions at the heart of Future Coast Charmouth. They remind us that:

- The coast is always changing. Natural processes like erosion and landslips are constantly reshaping our shoreline.
- Infrastructure and public access are becoming increasingly vulnerable. Paths, car parks, and other facilities will need ongoing adjustments as the landscape evolves.
- Communities must plan for flexible, adaptive and future-ready coastal assets. Embracing change rather than resisting it will help us stay safe, resilient, and connected to our coastline.

The Stonebarrow landslip is a striking demonstration of why planning for a dynamic future coast is so important.

