Future Coast Dorset, supporting communities in adapting to change

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Dorset Coast Forum





Resilient coasts, thriving communities - embracing change for future generations

Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP)

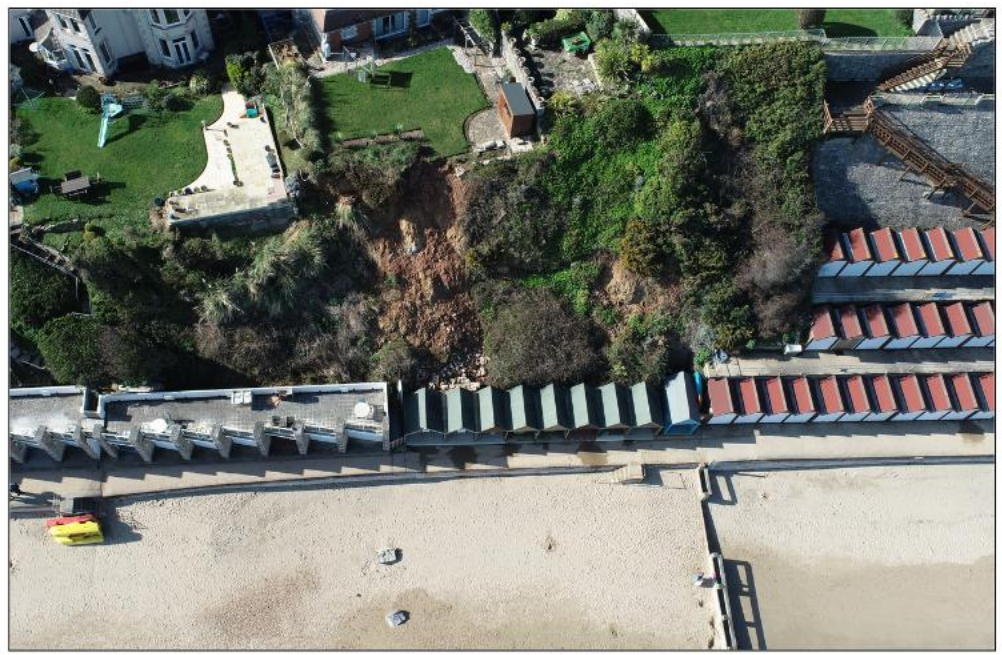
- Future Coast Dorset is funded through CTAP, £36 million across 4 locations.
- Covers two communities - Charmouth and North Swanage, sharing £3 million.
- Project began in March 2025 and runs until March 2027.
- CTAP is not only delivering adaptation planning locally, but also contributing evidence, insights and lessons learned to the wider national conversation on coastal adaptation and climate resilience.



Why North Swanage?

- Majority of the land, including houses, businesses, gardens, cliff, beach huts and beach, is privately owned.
- Beach and beach huts particularly vulnerable from cliff falls and land slippages.
- Managing drainage could have a positive impact.
- Important beach access point for the community at Sheps Hollow.

SMP Policy	Timescale
Hold the Line	2005-2025
Hold the Line	2026-2055
Managed realignment	2056-2105



Why Charmouth?

- Active cliff erosion and landslip processes affecting the coastline.
- Residential properties, businesses and community assets potentially vulnerable to future coastal change.
- Possible opportunities for one key asset, the Heritage Coast Centre to be rolled back.
- Tourism and recreation are important to the local economy.
- Coastal processes and drainage issues are closely linked.

SMP Policy	Timescale
Hold the Line	2005-2025
No Active Intervention	2026-2055
No Active Intervention	2056-2105

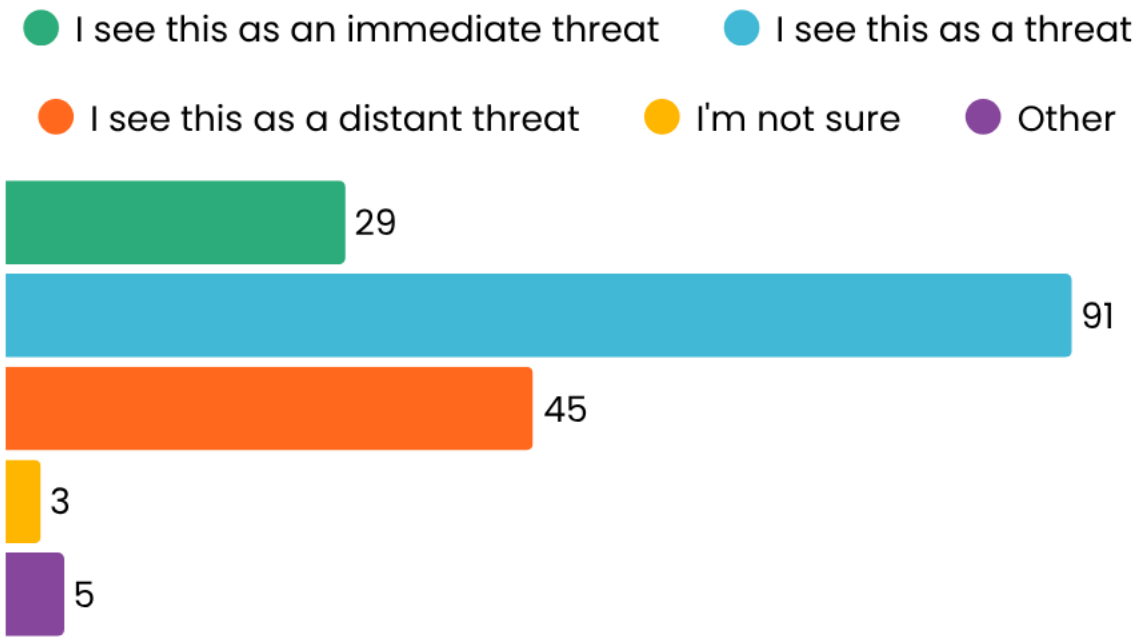


Photo credit:
West Dorset Leisure Holidays

CTAP funds planning, engagement and preparation for coastal adaptation, helping communities understand risks, explore options and plan for the future. It does not fund coastal defence works or guarantee implementation of adaptation measures.

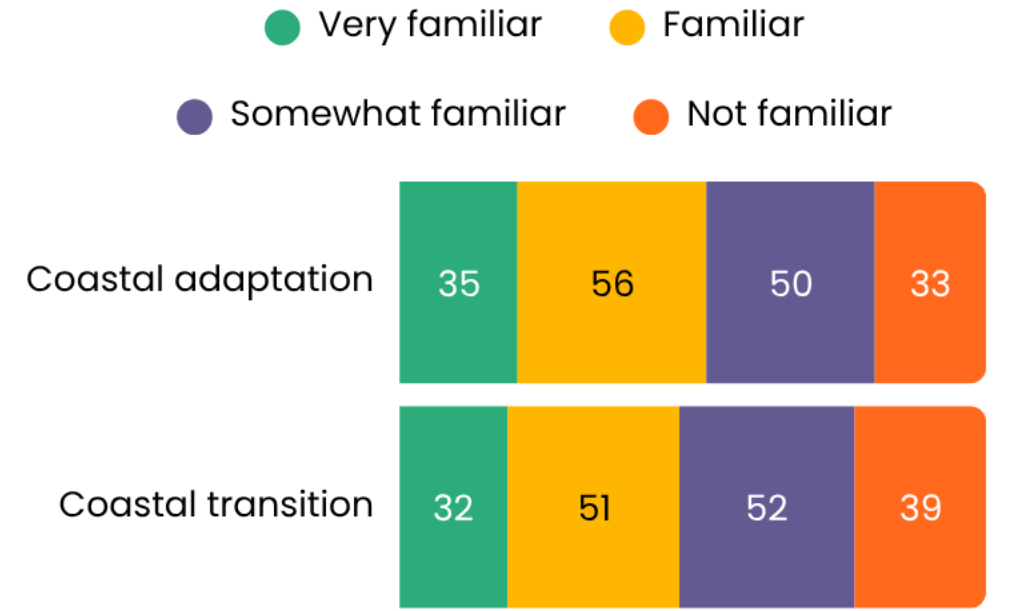
Do you see coastal erosion as a threat to the community?

(173 responses)



Please state to what extent you are familiar with the following coastal terms.

(174 responses)

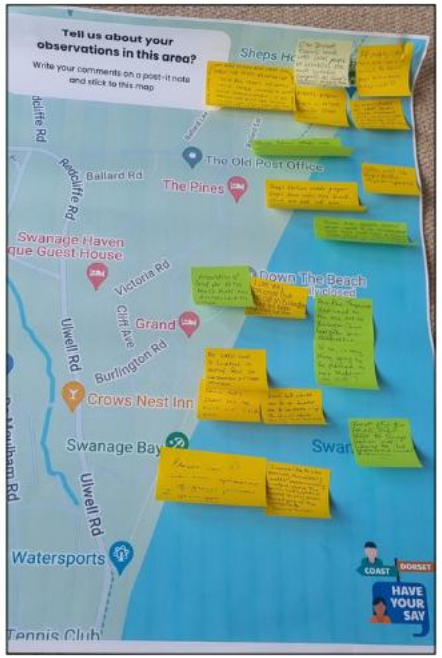


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Measures co-created with the community

Stakeholders and communities have played an active role in shaping project deliverables, helping to ensure that plans and outputs reflect local priorities, concerns and knowledge.

Through community and stakeholder engagement, 17 different delivery options were created for Charmouth, and 13 options for North Swanage.







What is being delivered?

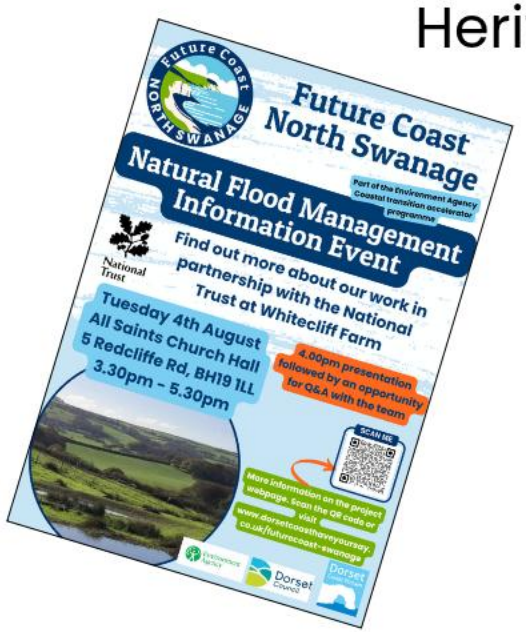
North Swanage

- Adaptation Plan
- Improved access steps at Sheps Hollow
- Cliff drainage scheme at the Ballard Estate
- Alternative Tourism Study
- Natural flood management

Charmouth

- Adaptation Plan
- Improved access steps to West Beach
- Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures to the Old Cement Factory Building
- Acquisition of a new property for Heritage Coast Centre rollback

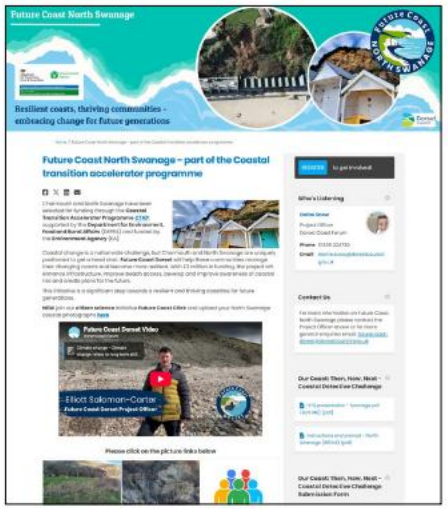






Community Engagment

Dedicated webpage per location





Surveys and Quick Polls



Walks and Talks

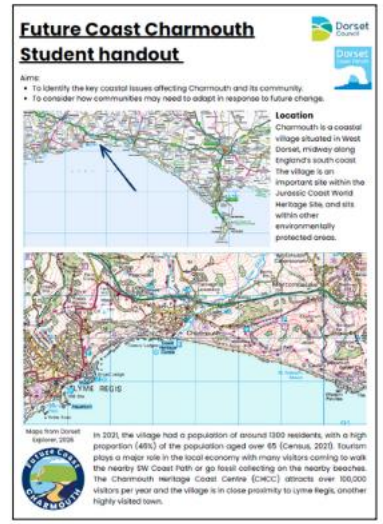
Targeted workshops



Set up Steering and Working Groups



Pop-up events at markets and on the beaches



Youth Engagement, creation of Student Panel, assemblies, competitions, educational resources



Gathered contacts for mailing lists and newsletters

Joined other community events, e.g River Dragon Festival and Coasts in Mind



Timeline for Adaptation Plans

February 2026

Targeted workshops to identify future coastal change triggers and actions

February 2026

Community drop to gather comments based on workshop findings

March 2026

Consolidation of feedback and comments into themes

March / April 2026

Further consultation online and at Face2Face sessions

April - September 2026

All feedback used to create draft Adaptation Plans and Pathways

November 2026

Second round of workshops to identify action "owners" and to discuss next steps

February 2027

Publish Adaptation Plans

February 2027

Further community engagement

March 2027 onwards

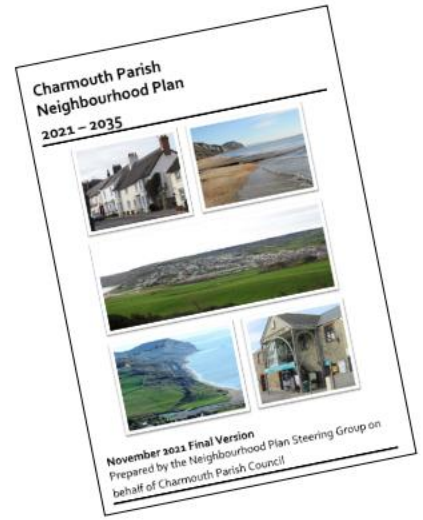
Plans to become embedded in and adopted by local Neighbourhood Plans









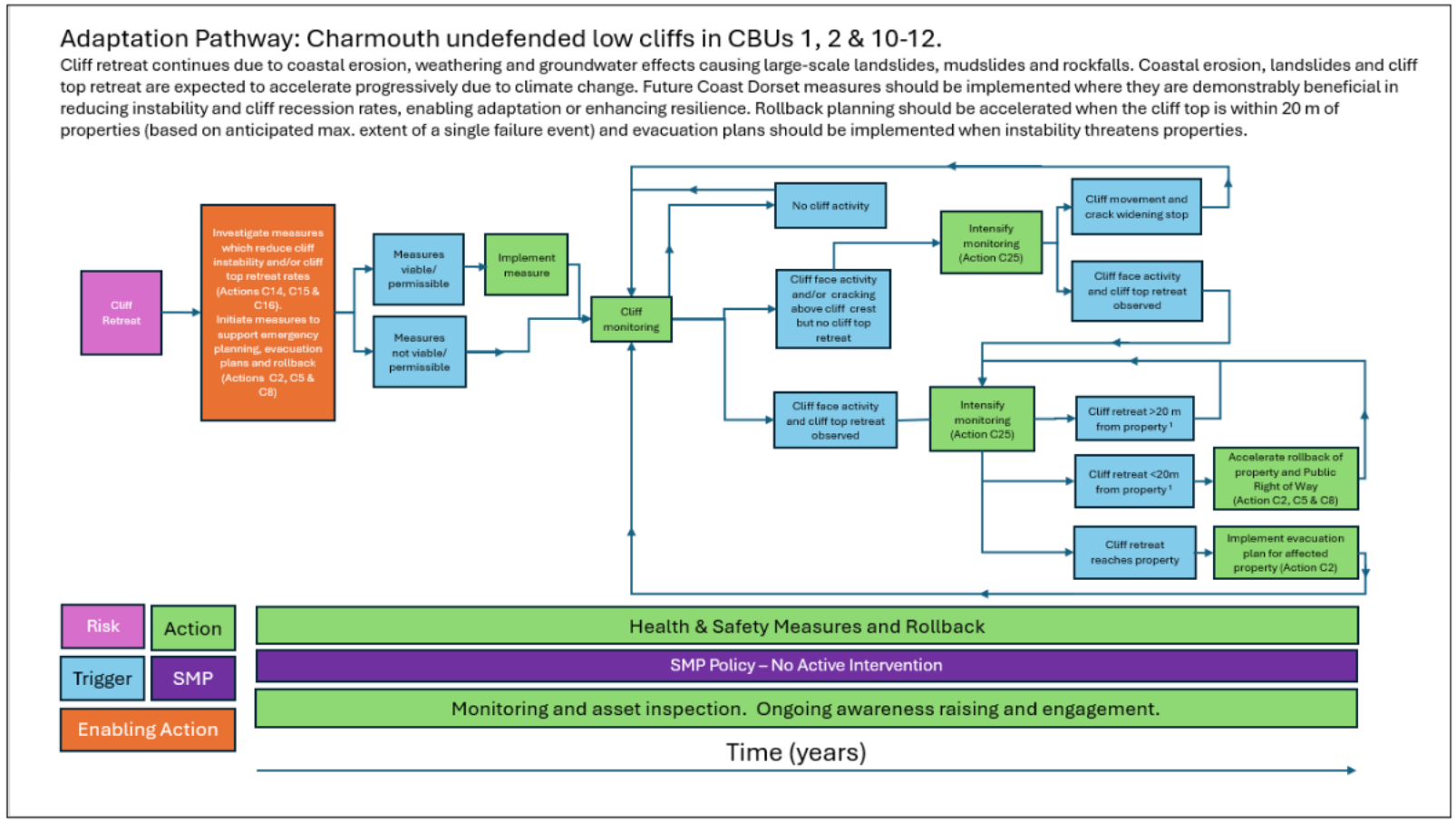


Adaptation Pathways

- Based on the undertanding that coastal adaptation is about making decisions over time as and when conditions change, rather than choosing a single solution today.

- Decisions are taken when evidence shows they are needed, rather than according to pre-determined dates.

- Specific to the triggers presented, e.g cliff instability or a large storm event.



Challenges

- Adaptation can feel like a future problem, not a current one.
- Discussing uncertain futures is difficult.
- Translating technical evidence into local relevance.
- Balancing different community and stakeholder priorities.



Lessons Learned

- Start conversations early.
- Use trusted local networks.
- Focus on places and people, not just coastal processes.
- Give communities a genuine voice in shaping outcomes.
- Young people can be powerful advocates for adaptation.



Successful coastal adaptation starts with communities at the heart of every decision. It is a long-term journey built on collaboration, learning and action over time.

