

# The Dynamic Coast...

## Slapton Sands Map Skills (1:25,000)

### Introduction

Slapton Sands is an extensive shingle beach stretching from Torcross in the south to Strete in the north. It is centrally located within Start Bay in Devon. The beach is an example of a barrier beach. It was formed after the last ice age when rising sea levels (due to the melting ice) bulldozed sediment from the seabed towards the coast. A freshwater lagoon, Slapton Ley, has formed behind the barrier beach.

**Map A** is a 1:25,000 OS map extract that shows Slapton Sands and Slapton Ley. Access the OS map symbols for this map at <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/assets/doc/Explorer-25k-Legend-en.pdf>.

**Photo B** is an oblique aerial photo showing Torcross and Slapton Ley.

**Photo C** is a vertical aerial photo showing the car park at Slapton Sands.

1. Study **Map A**.

- (a) What is the name of the village at 820450? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) Torcross is found in grid square 8242. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) In what direction is Torcross from Slapton? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) You plan to walk along the beach between the car park in Torcross and the car park at the northern end of Slapton Ley. Is this distance more or less than 2km? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (e) Measure the width of Slapton Ley at the 43-gridline. Give your answer to the nearest 100m.
  - (f) Using the blue symbols on the map, describe the attractions of Slapton Ley to tourists.
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2. Study **Map A** and **Photo B**.

- (a) In what direction is the photo looking? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (b) What is the land use at X? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (c) What is the land use at Y? \_\_\_\_\_
  - (d) **Photo B** was taken at low tide. Locate and label the barrier beach and the high tide line.
  - (e) Locate and label the seawall in Torcross.
  - (f) On **Photo B**, look closely at the edges of Slapton Ley. Notice that it looks muddy. Use the map and a symbols key to identify the shallow water vegetation found here.
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3. Study **Map A** and **Photo C**. The vertical aerial photo shows Slapton Sands car park in grid square 8244. The photo was taken at low tide.

(a) Write the following labels on the photo.

- Low tide line
- High tide line (use the map to help you)
- Sea
- Car park
- Slapton Ley

(b) Use the map to find the number of the road shown in the photo. Write this as a label on the photo.

(c) Use the scale bar on the photo to measure the distance between the low tide line and the high tide line. \_\_\_\_\_ metres

(d) What is the total width of the beach? \_\_\_\_\_ metres

(e) The beach has become wider in recent years. What is the evidence that recent storms have deposited sand and shingle at the top of the beach?

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4. **Map D** is a partly completed sketch map of **Map A**. Use the gridlines to complete the sketch map.

- Complete the route and label the A379.
- Complete the extent and label Slapton Ley.
- Locate and label the three car parks.
- Locate and label the villages of Slapton and Torcross.

5. Study **Map A** and **Photos B** and **C**. Climate change will cause sea levels to rise and storms to become more frequent. Coastal management at Slapton Sands will not intervene which means that the main coastal road will be eventually be eroded by the sea. Do you think this is the right decision? Explain your point of view.

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Map A OS Map Extract (1:25,000) Slapton Ley



Source: Map, courtesy of Digimap for Schools.

**Digimap for Schools**



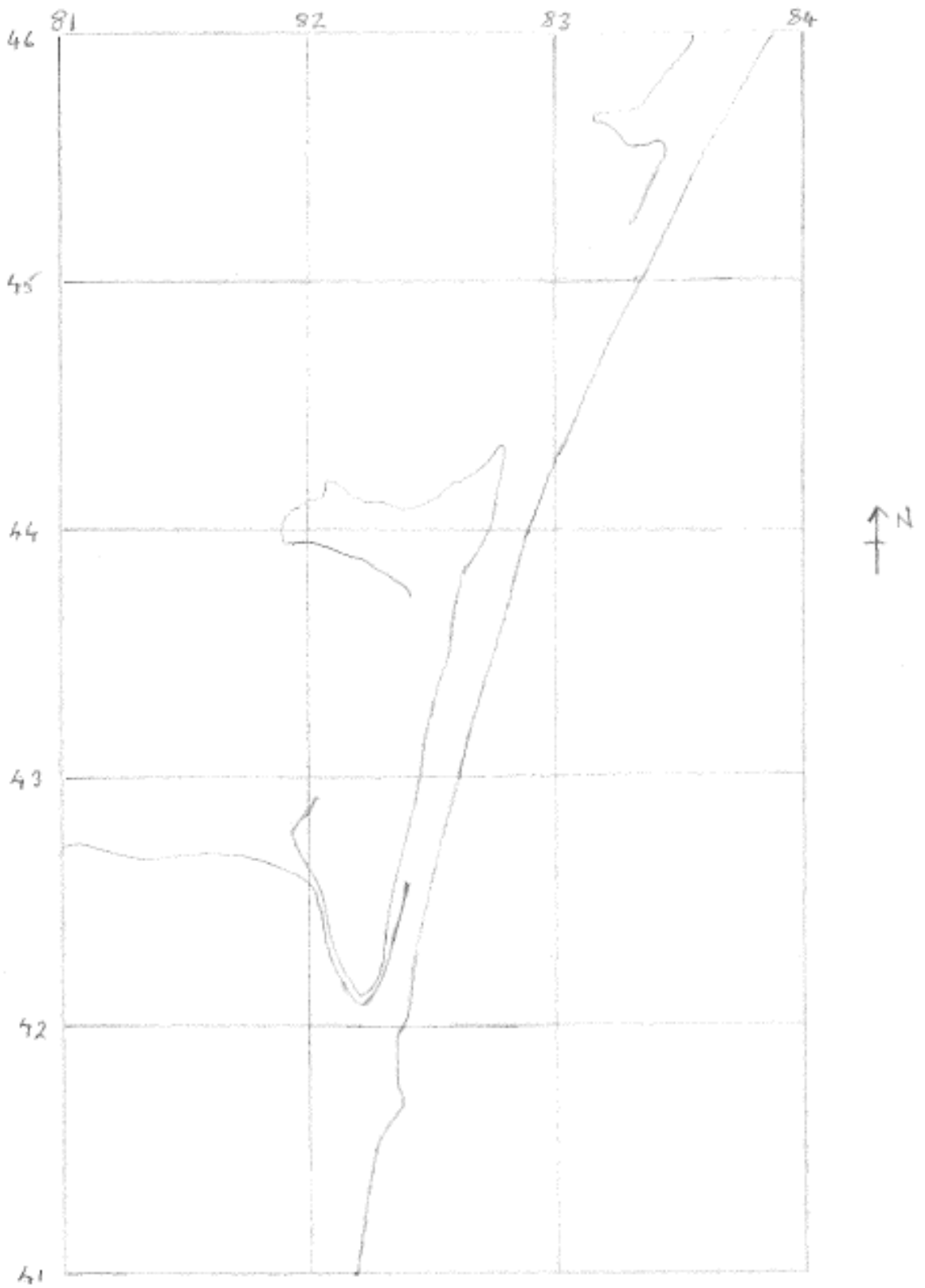
Photo B Aerial photo of Torcross and Slapton Ley



Photo C Aerial photo showing the car park at Slapton Sands



Map D Sketch map of Slapton Sands (1:25000)



Scale  
1 Km

