

Slapton Line Partnership: Inland Routes Working Group

Date: Wednesday 6th May 2026

Attendees:	Cllr. Jane Abbey (Slapton)	Lewis Kiely (DCC)
	Cllr. Piers Spence (Stokenham)	Tom Vaughan (DCC)
	Cllr. Paula Doust (Stokenham)	Rachel Roberts (Office of Caroline
	Cllr. Tim Singleton (Strete)	Voaden MP)
	Cllr. Nigel Hannaford (East	Lou Hoskin (SLP)
	Allington)	Kate Payne (FSC)
	Dan Field (SHDC)	Online: Matt Hawes (FSC)
Apologies:	Cllr. Julian Brazil (DCC)	Lisa Edmonds (DCC)
	Cllr. Peter Osbourne (Slapton)	Josh Bennett (DCC)
	Cllr. Ralph Clark (Strete)	

STATEMENT FOR RELEASE

The Slapton Line Partnership's Inland Routes Working Group has continued consultation with Devon County Council Highways to agree the first stage delivery of passing place improvements across strategic sections of the inland route network in 2026/27.

The first stage of improvements will be supported with route treatments such as surface and drainage works, improved signage, and discussions with SatNav providers to clearly route heavy traffic onto main roads.

The Working Group members will hold discussions with local landowners to encourage the lowering of hedges, wherever possible, to ensure better visibility on narrow lanes.

A request to Devon County Council to work on a number of additional safety measures on key sections have been requested, such as remarking junctions and warning lights around school access points. The County Council remains committed to securing funding for the second stage of delivery as soon as possible.

DISCUSSION

A. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

ACTION	OWNER	STATUS	NOTES
i. Produce long-list of Passing Places for further consultation	LK	Complete	Covered in Section B
ii. Route Treatment Works	TV	Ongoing	Will be undertaken in spring/early summer, with minimal disruption and advance notice to communities, will aim to do overnight works where possible
iii. Landowner permissions for hedge lowering	PS	Ongoing	Identified Landowner at Sherford Cross and will request hedge to be taken down to bank level
iv. Signage	TV	Complete	DCC have updated routing signage
v. Communication with Sat-Nav companies	TV	Ongoing	Difficulties contacting some key providers, notably Google
vi. Broken Fingerposts	TV	Ongoing	Received details from NH, will work to address

It is noted that Cllr Singleton rejected the Minutes of the previous meeting (Mar 26th) on behalf of Cllr Clark, noting a question regarding reinstatement of the A379 had not been included. **LH will action.**

It was acknowledged to all in attendance that improvements to the Inland Routes would have been much easier to co-ordinate with the full length of the A379 atop the Line open. However, reinstatement of the A379, even on a temporary basis, is contrary to the 2023 Revised Strategy and therefore does not fall within the SLP remit. In-kind secretarial assistance from the Partnership to the South Hams Parish Council Alliance (SHPCA) to pursue this avenue directly with DCC has been offered.

B. PASSING PLACES

LK detailed the next steps to progress improvements the agreed route (see **Figure 1**), which will include ecology work and drone surveys of identified routes in the weeks after the Summer half-

term. Road closures will be required but will progress through these as quickly as possible and avoid closing all routes at once. Further traffic counts will be undertaken in August.

JA noted a local resident has been collecting traffic data, **JA to share with LK**.

LH raised that conversations with local residents had identified request to prioritise Section 4 within works. Agreed by **JA** this was a priority for Slapton.

LK stated that current works form Tranche 1 of an ongoing commitment by DCC to secure further funding. Agreed that Section 4 (Deer Bridge) would be first priority within Tranche 2. It was noted that the main challenges faced by DCC are ecological mitigation works (in-hand) and securing Landowner permissions.

JA requested Landownership discussions are managed ahead of time, particularly for Section 4 to allow it to be delivered as soon as possible. **LK** agreed with this prioritisation.

Noted that improved signage across inland routes is helping with traffic flows. **JA to provide locations of where signs have been placed**.

The Working Group discussed various approaches to prioritising works within the agreed sections. Concluded that the best approach would be to undertake works on all “Red/Amber” rated locations and further Parish-level consultation to determine which “Green” locations can be used with any remaining spend. **LK to provide maps of agreed works and those left for consultation combined with car-camera footage** as requested by all attendees.

It was agreed that the priority is to ensure visibility from one passing place to another, and that this approach may require a combination of:

- Passing-place improvements as agreed
- Improved safety and signage at junctions, particularly location GP11, as requested by **PD**, and warning lights outside Stokenham Primary. **TV to investigate. LK to request safety improvements considered within agreed works.**
- Hedge lowering where possible. **PS in ongoing discussions.**

Requested by **PD** that works are undertaken at night where possible as this is when there is minimal traffic flow. **LK will consider this request.**

C. ROUTING DASHBOARD

LH proposed a statement to be placed on the SLP website advising visitors to the area to stick to the main routes in and out and follow all signage with regard to HGV/large vehicle access. Driving through Slapton Village is not advised. Visitors are encouraged to make use of Strete Gate, Monument, and Torcross Car Parks and walk along the closed section of the A379. It will be noted that all businesses in the area are open and visitors are encouraged.

Agreed in principle by all in attendance, **LH to draft statement for approval.**

D. PREVIOUS SPEND

JA requested clarity on scheduling and spending is maintained throughout Tranche 1 works and beyond. Stated that previously Parishes have felt in the dark about works and would not like for this to be repeated, given progress that is being made.

JA questioned previous spend by DCC. **TV will provide written response.**

E. AOB

No items raised

F. ACTIONS AGREED AND ONGOING

ACTION	OWNER	STATUS	NOTES
ii. Route Treatment Works	TV	Ongoing	Will be undertaken in spring/early summer, with minimal disruption and advance notice to communities, will aim to do overnight works where possible
iii. Landowner permissions for hedge lowering	PS	Ongoing	Identified Landowner at Sherford Cross and will request hedge to be taken down to bank level
v. Communication with Sat-Nav companies	TV	Ongoing	Difficulties contacting some key providers, notably Google
vi. Broken Fingerposts	TV	Ongoing	Received details from NH, will work to address
vii. Amend March Minutes	LH	Agreed	Minutes to be updated and redistributed to all in attendance
viii. Share local traffic data	JA	Agreed	
ix. Signage	JA	Agreed	Share locations of where signs have been placed
x. Updated maps of works	LK	Agreed	Map of locations agreed for works "Red/Ambers"

Map of locations for further consultation “Greens” with car-camera footage

xi.	Improved Safety and Signage	TV & LK	Agreed	TV to investigate what signage and white markings can be placed at noted locations (GP11 and Stokenham Primary) LK to request safety considerations included within agreed works
	Hedge Lowering	PS	Agreed	Hedge Lowering requested where possible at key locations (to be incorporated with Action iii)
xii.	Night Works	TV & LK	Agreed	Request by PD for night works to be considered whenever possible
xiii.	Routing Dashboard	LH	Agreed	Produce and share draft statement and map for use on SLP website
xiv.	Previous Spend	TV	Agreed	Written response to questions raised

SUPPORTING IMAGE

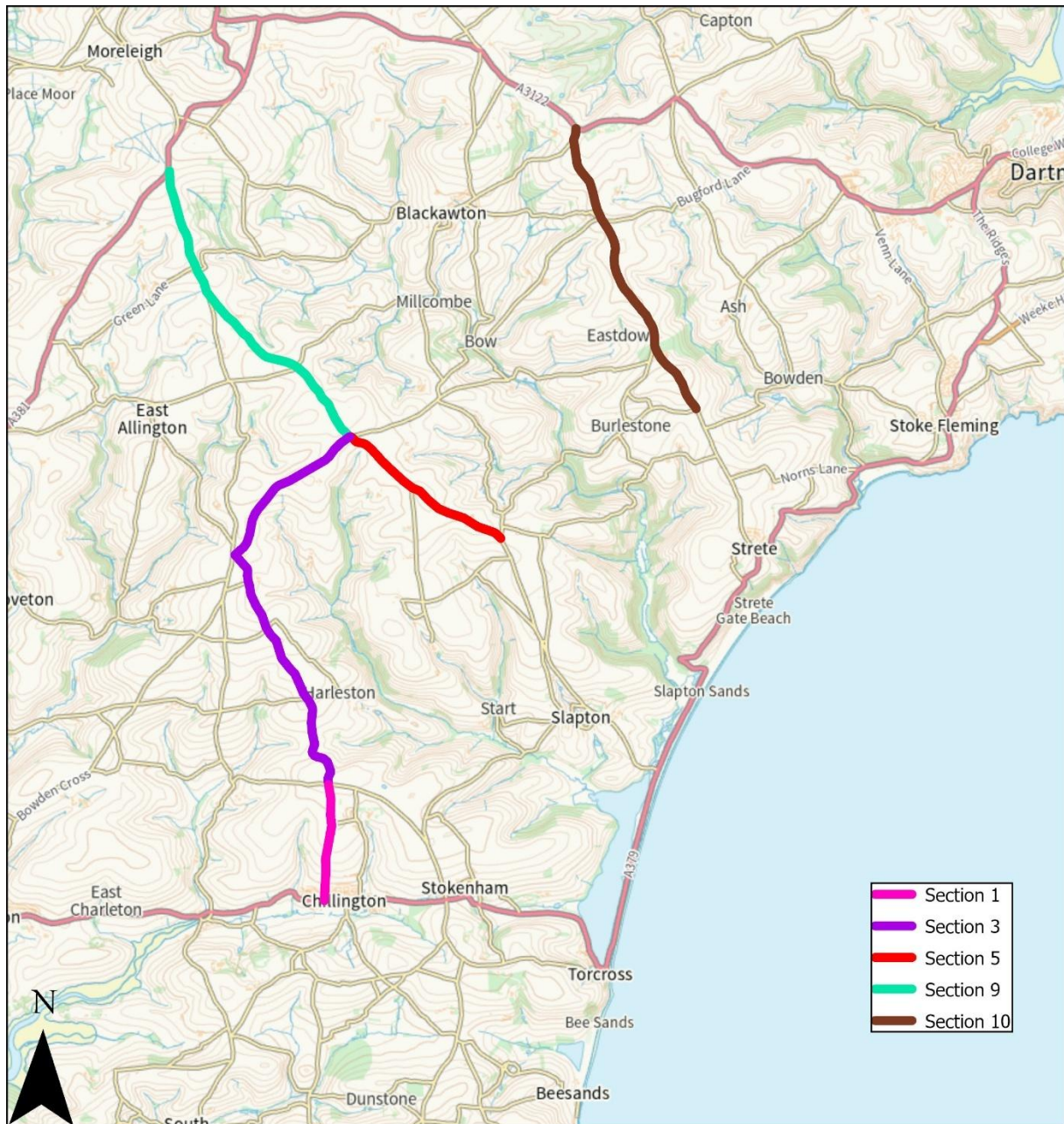


Figure 1: Tranche 1 Routes