



THE DOUZAINE

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Stabilising La Coupée

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The survey done in December 2024 was updated after the rockfall and emergency stabilisation works at the Little Sark end on the Guernsey side in Jan/Feb 2025. There are 2 reasons for the subsidence: erosion of the rock structure, and erosion of the retaining walls and their footings. Without something to stand on, the walls slip down the rockface as we have seen earlier this year and previously. The full reports are available on the Chief Pleas website.

To preserve La Coupée, we need to reduce erosion as much as possible - which means better drainage so rain run-off is directed away from the affected areas, reducing load and movement damage to the roadway, underpinning the retaining walls as required, and stabilising the rockface where needed. This is supported by regular visual inspections.

Further inspections, interim works on drainage and the concrete roadway have been done this year in preparation for major works. The funding for these was approved in the November budget so they will be carried out early in 2026.

Trailer Load Limit

A trailer load limit of 750kg was recommended by the engineers after the emergency works and we would like to thank the tractor drivers for keeping to that. Exemptions can be made on request and Emergency Services are exempt when responding to emergencies.

Tractor Speed Limit

The trailer limit has helped but further steps can be taken to prevent cracking and erosion. We've been advised that tractors should cross preferably at walking pace but certainly no more than 5mph. This is why the Douzaine has asked Chief Pleas to approve adding La Coupée to the list of roads with a 5mph speed limit.

Both limits will be reviewed after the next phase of works. It is hoped the load limit can be raised but it is likely the speed limit should remain.

April 2026 Next Phase of Stabilisation Works

Starting just after Easter (13 April), the works will stabilise 5 priority areas. They should be complete by 1 May as long as all goes well and no further issues found. They will be carried out by Geomarine using Sark contractors and resources wherever possible. During the works, La Coupée will need to be closed other than 3 scheduled crossing times. More information will be published in 2026.