



THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Making La Coupée safer for Visitors and the Community of Sark

SARK, Friday 10 April 2026 — A significant programme of stabilisation works will be undertaken at La Coupée to enhance its long-term safety and reliability for everyone who depends on this vital connection and enjoys this tourist attraction.

La Coupée is the thin strip of rock connecting Big Sark and Little Sark and the only way to get from one to the other. It also sits above Grand Grève, one of the best beaches in the Channel Island and a major visitor attraction.

Sark's geology means that some areas are at risk of occasional erosion and La Coupée is no exception, having needed maintenance since the island was settled. A major slippage occurred in January 2025, needing rapid emergency works to stabilise and re-open La Coupée.

Following detailed inspections and surveys carried out by Geomarine, both before and after the emergency works in February 2025, this next phase is a proactive investment in safeguarding La Coupée for the future. The improvements are designed to reduce the risk of rockfalls and ongoing erosion, ensuring the route remains secure and dependable for years to come.

The works are scheduled to run for approximately three weeks, from Monday 13 April to Friday 1 May, with the programme structured to minimise disruption while addressing essential safety requirements. Completing the works now will significantly reduce future risks and the likelihood of more disruptive interventions later.

Access Arrangements During the Works

To ensure the works can be carried out safely and to a high standard, temporary daytime closures of La Coupée will be required. Scheduled access windows will be maintained each day to support essential travel. Grand Grève will also be closed to the public for the duration of the works and a Notice to Mariners for the benefit of visiting boatowners has been published.



THE DOUZAIN

Users affected: All vehicles and pedestrians

Closure period: Daily from 6.30am to 6.30pm

Scheduled crossing times:

- 8.00am – 8.30am (school run)
- 11.45am – 12.45pm (lunchtime access)
- 3.15pm – 3.45pm (school run)

Arrangements are in place for any access needed by Emergency Services.

The Douzaine has been keeping the community informed of these planned works since 2025. Their cooperation and understanding is much appreciated and will help ensure the improvements are completed efficiently and successfully.

Quotes

Mike Locke, Chair of the Douzaine, said:

“In past centuries, it has been the practice to fix erosion and rockfalls at La Coupée as they happen. We don’t want to do that these days and have instituted regular surveys of the geology of La Coupée. We carried out initial works to improve water run-off, reducing erosion, last year and planned, with Geomarine, a future schedule of on-going works and surveys. This year’s major piece of work should ensure La Coupée is properly stabilised and safe both for the community who use it every day and our visitors who come here to see one of the glorious views of Sark – and enjoy a swim on Grand Grève’s golden sands.”

Tom Whitmore, MD, Geomarine, said:

“Geomarine has helped Sark at La Coupée over the years. Our survey in 2024 meant we could mobilise the emergency works extremely quickly and re-open La Coupée within 2 weeks of the January 2025 incident. For these planned works, we’ve had time to prioritise and organise preventative works in the areas where we could identify problems developing. La Coupée is a unique piece of geology in the Bailiwick and we are pleased to be able to help Sark maintain it.”

Background

- Works follow emergency interventions completed in February 2025.
- Surveys and inspections by Geomarine informed the scope and design of the stabilisation programme.



THE DOUZAINE

- Public notices [2026 Works at La Coupée v2 30 Mar 26.pdf](#)
[Stabilising La Coupée Dec 25.pdf](#)
- The project forms part of a wider, proactive approach to maintaining critical island infrastructure.

About Chief Pleas and the Douzaine

The Chief Pleas of Sark is the government of the Island of Sark, one of three independent legislatures comprising the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

- <https://sarkgov.co.uk/>

The Douzaine is the Committee of Chief Pleas with responsibility for Public Works on Sark including the maintenance of Public Roads.

- <https://sarkgov.co.uk/douzaine-updates>

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