



Mr Ross Johnston  
Plymouth Local Access Forum  
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**ANTHONY PAYNE**

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Date: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011

When calling or telephoning please ask for: Anthony Payne

My Ref:

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Johnston

**South West Coast Path at Jennycliff**

Thank you for your letter dated 2 December 2010 regarding the above.

As you will be aware the section of coast path between Jennycliff and Bovisand was closed in February of this year due to a landslide. The landslide was in our opinion a substantial one and most notably removed supporting vegetation exposing loose material and making the potential for future slippages likely. On the basis that we are aware of heavy public use of the path, that further slippages are likely and on the advice of our insurers we have decided to close the path indefinitely on the grounds of public protection.

We have successfully applied for Foreshore Renewal Funding which we are using to carry out a geotechnical survey of the bank. If and when we reopen the path we will do so on the back of informed professional opinion. The results of this survey are expected in January 2011 and will inform our next steps. In the meantime you will note that the original route of the South West Coast Path remains available for public use. Those who choose to walk that route should do so with care as there is no public footway. To reduce the conflict between pedestrians and motorists a new set of steps have been installed along Staddon Road to take users back on the coast path as soon as is reasonably practicable.

In answer to your specific questions: -

1. The path remains closed because we consider it to present a very real danger to the public. We cannot and will not ignore the fact that the landslide has occurred and simply hope the problem goes away. Instead we seek professional advice to enable us to make an informed decision as to our next steps.
2. There is no expected date for the reopening of the path. It is closed indefinitely and will remain closed until we consider it is safe to be reopened.

3. The geotechnical report is expected to be available to us in January 2011. The report itself will not be published however it will be available to members of the public for inspection subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I hope this information is of use to you, should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Payne