



From mountain to sea

Gardenstown landslip

Fact sheet

HEADLINES:

The landslip first occurred overnight on November 28 last year, depositing debris on the B9123 Harbour Road. Closure of Harbour Road at this location prevents all vehicular access to the New Ground, the harbour area and Seatown. Work began to clear rock from the road.

Initial inspection work began in December once the site was deemed safe to access. This was impacted by worsening conditions. We had been able to open the road after installing more robust temporary walling, but unfortunately the slip continued to worsen over the festive period. This led us to take the decision to close the road again on 31 December 2017.

Since that time we have been monitoring the slip and have been able to open the road under close supervision, and over recent weeks this has been a 0900-1600 opening on Thursdays.

Public meetings were held on 19 January, which helped us take the public views on alternative supervised openings, and we are grateful for the 13 residents who took the time to reply to us with their thoughts.

A contractor was appointed in February and began intrusive work, expected to take 19 days, in the week beginning 12th. They are drilling boreholes at a number of sites to give engineers a clearer picture of the ground conditions, so they can ascertain the best place for a more permanent solution.

Supervised openings are being arranged to allow vehicular access to the village until an engineering solution has been developed.

Current agreed openings

Friday 23rd February between 1.00pm and 4.00pm

Saturday 24th February between 9.00am and 4.00pm

Sunday 25th February between 9.00am to 4.00pm

IMPORTANT MESSAGES:

There are significant safety issues here. There are people working on the site, our colleagues and our contractors, whom we need to keep safe. It is also important to



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remember that the ground in the area is relatively unstable, so we need to keep the public safe as well.

We appreciate that weekday closures cause an issue for the community and we are grateful for their patience. However, the safety of residents, colleagues and contractors is most important.

Through our Emergency Planning Team the Emergency Services have been made aware of the situation as it has evolved and they have confirmed that they have appropriate plans in place to deal with emergency events.

Waste services as well as local fuel suppliers have been advised of the revised closure dates and will change their collections/deliveries accordingly. Winter maintenance plans also updated to ensure local steps and path access can be cleared in winter conditions.

The landslip occurred on land that is not within ownership of Aberdeenshire Council, or indeed on land which we have responsibility for or control over. The sole reason that the Council has become involved is the impact that the slip has had on the public road.

DETAILED TIMELINE OF THE SLIP

28 November 2017

Slip on the slope above Harbour Road resulting on debris (soil and rock) being deposited on B9123 Harbour Road. We attended site, along with our appointed consulting engineers Atkins to carry out an initial assessment.

Clear up operations were also initiated, including the placement of a temporary blockwork wall.

At this time it was deemed safe for the road to remain open.

4 December 2017

Rope access contractors were engaged and began work on the slip zone focused on clearing fractured rock, as that material posed the biggest threat to those move around below the slip zone.

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Atkins attended site and conducted a detailed inspection of the slip area using rope access techniques. The purpose of the inspection was to identify the possible causes of failure and evaluate the residual risk to the public and to Harbour Road.

Atkins provided technical advice on methods of rockfall protection and a rockfall drape was identified as the only practical solution.

Emergency Planning Officer contacted to be made aware that the situation had worsened and that the road may have to be closed at short notice. Asked that this be communicated to all Emergency Services, to allow them to develop appropriate contingency plans.

6 December 2017

Conditions worsened overnight following rainfall with several rocks having fallen, leaving others undermined. Material could be seen falling from the outcrop during the inspection and it was deemed unsafe to access the crest of the outcrop or work beneath it.

Discussions took place on whether the rockfall drape could be installed safely but concluded it could not since installation of the drape would require persons to work beneath the unstable rock outcrop. In addition, the weight of the drape on the rock outcrop may cause further instability.

Assessment of the slope on that day led to the decision to close Harbour Road.

15 December 2017

Collective discussions were held between Aberdeenshire Council and Atkins to discuss potential remedial strategy and options to facilitate road opening.

It was agreed that the road could open subject to the installation of a second row of temporary concrete blocks and regular monitoring to highlight changes in condition of the slip zone.

19 December 2017

Reinforced block wall completed and road reopened for general access.

29 December 2017

Further movements in slope observed. Decision was taken to continue to keep the road open.

31 December 2017

Further movements in slope observed. The decision was taken to close the road with immediate effect.

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It was agreed at that time that should the slope remain in that condition periods of supervised opening would be arranged. This would be assessed on the day of each period of opening to reflect the conditions on site.

4 January 2018

Supervised opening of Harbour Road from 0900 to 1500

8 January 2018

The above decision was reviewed, taking account of the progression of the landslip and considering advice from our consulting engineers. It was agreed at that point that the road would continue to remain closed to general access, but periods of supervised opening would continue if conditions permitted.

11 January 2018

Supervised opening of Harbour Road from 0900 to 1600.

17 January 2018

A public evening meeting was arranged to provide additional information to the affected community.

The community was also asked to provide input into which days would be suitable for controlled openings (conditions permitting). 13 responses were received and the local Roads Team have been considering the most appropriate way of achieving additional periods of weekly supervised openings to reflect the requirements of the community.

18 January 2018

Supervised opening of Harbour Road from 0900 to 1600.

19 January 2018

Confirmation from Stagecoach that they will reinstate a service, which will see the vehicle turning at the end of Main Street. However, in order to do that they will require the turning area to be free from parked vehicles.

Sought confirmation from Emergency Planning Officer that Emergency Service have plans in place and are content with the current arrangements.

20 January 2018

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service visited residents in the area to check, or provide smoke detector, and provide advice and guidance on basic fire safety.

25 January 2018

Supervised opening of Harbour Road from 0900 to 1600.



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1 February 2018

Supervised opening of Harbour Road from 0900 to 1600.

5 February 2018

Ground Investigation procurement completed and BAM Ritchie appointed. They will mobilise on site on Monday 12 February with an expectation that the works will commence by middle of that week. The site investigation works are expected to take 4 weeks to complete, however that is heavily dependent on conditions on site and weather. This is based on seven day per week working. However, we will discuss this further with the community before agreeing to a working pattern that includes Sundays.

The ground investigation works will be disruptive and for that we apologise in advance. As well as being quite noisy, three boreholes are required on the surface of Harbour Road, directly below the slip zone, and those works will interfere with planned supervised opening. Discussion are ongoing with the Contractor to determine the least disruptive way to achieve this.

8 February 2018

Supervised opening of Harbour Road from 0900 to 1600

9 February

Contractors appointed to begin intrusive inspections

14 February

Work began to drill boreholes at a number of sites to give engineers a clearer picture of the ground conditions.

21 February

Friday, Saturday and Sunday road opening confirmed, subject on on-site inspections.