

Field Studies Council – Operational Position Statement

A379 Disruption: Access, Transport and Safeguarding

Date: April 2026

Review Date: February 2027

Purpose

The Field Studies Council is a UK charity delivering public benefit through residential environmental education. Field Studies Council has operated at Slapton for approximately 68 years.

This statement sets out the Field Studies Council operational position during the period of disruption following the closure of the A379. It provides clarity on how Field Studies Council will manage access, transport and safeguarding associated with its activities while continuing to deliver its charitable programmes.

This document represents the Field Studies Councils operational position. It is not a binding agreement and does not transfer operational control beyond the Field Studies Council.

Core Principle

Field Studies Council will manage its operations to minimise additional congestion, risk and disruption within the village of Slapton where reasonably practicable, while maintaining safe access for residents, agricultural activity and emergency services.

Coach Access and Routing

- Coaches dropping off or collecting groups from the Slapton Ley Field Centre will access via the A379 from Strete and Slapton Turn.
- Coaches are not required, nor instructed to enter or transit through Slapton village as part of routine operations.
- Field Studies Council will contact schools and coach companies with clear instructions and directions.
- Where circumstances outside the Field Studies Councils direct control result in a coach entering the village, we will report this to the coach company.

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TQ7 2QP

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Parking of Coaches

- Where a coach is required to remain in the area during a residential visit, it will be directed to Start Bay Centre via Five Mile Lane, rather than parking within the village.
- Transfers between Start Bay Centre and the Field Centre will be carried out using Field Studies Council minibuses or electric vehicles.

Use of Wood Lane and Sands Road

- Wood Lane is used solely to enable a controlled reversing manoeuvre by coaches prior to positioning in front of the bus stop on Sands Road.
- Once positioned, coaches will undertake brief collection or drop-off only, with no waiting or parking on Wood Lane.
- Where two or more coaches are due to arrive or depart, movements will be managed by the Field Studies Council so that they do not arrive together.

Greenbanks Pick-Up Arrangements

- Where Tally Ho transport is required, students will walk from the Field Centre to the Greenbanks school pick-up point, accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Coaches will arrive at an agreed time and remain stationary only for the minimum time required.
- Where two small coaches are required, Field Studies Council will request that one waits at Start Bay Centre until the other has departed.
- Indicatively, use of Greenbanks is expected to occur up to two times per week during term time, subject to operational need.

Access to Coastal Field Sites via Deer Bridge Road

- Field Studies Council will minimise the use of Deer Bridge Road wherever possible.
- Where journeys are necessary, vehicle use will be consolidated and limited to essential trips.
- Indicative travel times are 10:00–11:00 outbound and 16:00–17:00 return, subject to programme requirements.

Southgrounds Farm Access

- Field Studies Council recognises the importance of maintaining access for agricultural activity.
- Vehicle movements will not be planned in a way that intentionally obstructs access.
- Any issues affecting access will be treated as a priority.

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Driver Standards, Contractors and Safeguarding

- All drivers engaged in Field Studies Council activity must hold appropriate licences and meet legal and professional standards.
- Contractors and temporary staff receive briefings appropriate to the village context, including expectations around conduct and vehicle movements.
- Field Studies Council will continue to apply its safeguarding policies throughout the disruption period.

Communication and Collaboration

Field Studies Council is committed to constructive engagement with Slapton Parish Council and will:

- Hold regular liaison meetings, as requested.
- Provide an overview of monthly vehicle movements.
- Maintain transparent communication, including advance notice of significant works or changes.
- Maintain a single operational liaison contact.
- Attend Parish Council meetings termly where possible.
- Work in the spirit of a shared commitment to preserving the village's rural character and community wellbeing.
- Residents can contact us with concerns at enquiries.sl@field-studies-council.org, and in an emergency on 01548 580466.

Conclusion

Field Studies Council believes the approach set out above is proportionate, realistic and capable of managing impacts within the village while enabling the continued delivery of its charitable educational activities.

Operational Liaison



Kate Payne, Centre Manager

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