



UPDATE

11 September 2026

Dark Lane – protecting an important part of our town

We know how much Dark Lane means to our town. It is not simply a road or footpath — it is an important part of our heritage and provides a much-loved route for pedestrians and visitors.

Following a report from a concerned resident Devon County Council acted and commissioned a geotechnical survey which has confirmed that the bank and trees along Dark Lane are currently considered unstable, particularly during periods of wet weather. As a result, the route cannot safely be reopened to pedestrians at this time while remedial works are considered and funding is sought.

DCC initially put a soft closure in place. However, unfortunately, pedestrians and drivers continued to move the signs and use the lane. With the safety concerns identified by the surveys, the difficult decision was therefore taken to introduce a hard closure until such time as a safe solution can be found.

We can all agree that safety has to come first. However, we also believe that Dark Lane is far too important to our town to remain inaccessible indefinitely.

👉 BSTC has therefore written formally to Devon County Council, making our position clear that Dark Lane is an important part of the town's heritage and accessibility, and that funding must be found to make the area safe for pedestrians. The estimated cost of the necessary repair works is at least £150,000. Devon County Council had hoped to use its Resilience Fund to support the works, but this funding has now been exhausted.

We will continue to press for progress and keep residents updated as we receive further information. A special thank you to County Councillor Nick Hookway for pushing this important issue on all of our behalf. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding. Most importantly, we want to see Dark Lane made safe, properly restored and returned to the community. ❤️

BSTC will keep pushing for this and will share further updates as they become available.

Residents can make their concerns known by also making contact with their County Cllr Nick Hookway – nick.hookway@devon.gov.uk