



Dinah's Hollow Project Stakeholder Update – January 2026

Overview

Preparation and enabling works for the Dinah's Hollow project are progressing as planned, with tree surveys underway in accordance with Natural England licensing requirements and Stage One tree removal scheduled for February. Despite recent adverse weather, the programme remains on track.

Traffic counts indicate that the expected increase of vehicles using the A350 during the closure of Dinah's Hollow has not been as high as originally anticipated and, so far, there have been no reported issues with HGV movements.

All traffic management measures are being kept under review as driver behaviour continues to adapt.

C13 / Melbury Abbas Traffic Management

A revised Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) came into force on 24 January. While most drivers are complying, there continue to be reports of road users ignoring the one-way system – particularly on White Pit Lane.

We are also aware of Increased speeds on one-way routes – particularly on Quarry Lane – which heightens safety risks if vehicles are travelling against the flow. We have now put out advisory 20mph signage to encourage reduced speeds.

We are continuing to discuss how best to address these issues – including requesting a police presence if available and considering if any other highway restriction/intervention is possible.

A350 Signage, Speed Limits & Temporary Signals

Although all signage is legal and in accordance with Department for Transport's Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual, we are continuing to work closely with the police to ensure all temporary 20mph limits are fully enforceable; additional temporary signage may soon be installed.

To reduce clutter of signage on side roads joining the A350, we are considering a second TTRO to cover the side road in the villages. This will allow us to reposition these signs further back from the junction where there is more road space/verge.

Temporary traffic signals are currently performing well with no reported issues. The pedestrian crossing in Iwerne Minster has been removed following engagement with Clayesmore School, with traffic now managed by two-way lights.

Initial reports of the temporary signals failing were inaccurate. Tailbacks were caused by drivers running through red lights. As the signals are vehicle activated, if a vehicle has the green light but cannot get through due to an oncoming driver, the signals will detect no movement and provide more green time to the 'offending' side.

Where to Direct Enquiries

- **Project email address** – questions about the stabilisation works, plus comments and concerns about temporary signage, traffic lights and one-way routes
- **Report via online highways portal** – potholes, verge damage, gully clearance and other maintenance matters
- **Dorset Police online reporting** – dangerous driving and speeding complaints