

# [Press release: Planned roadworks in the East of England: weekly summary for Monday 30 January to Sunday 5 February 2017](#)

The following information summarises the work being carried out this coming week. It is correct as of the above date but could be subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. All our improvement work is carried out with the aim of causing as little disruption as possible.

## **A12 and A120 Colchester: traffic light repairs**

Highways England will be repairing the traffic lights at the junction of the A12 and A120 at Crown Interchange. This will be done using a westbound slip lane closure while we are working, between 8pm and 6am overnight on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 February.

## **A428 Eltisley: street lighting and road markings**

Highways England will be improving street lighting and road markings on the A428 through Eltisley. This will be done between Monday 30 January and Friday 31 March. During the works we will have traffic lights in place while we working. As part of this work, it will be necessary for road to be closed overnight on some dates. Where the A428 is closed westbound, drivers will be diverted to take the A1198 northbound at Caxton Gibbet roundabout, then at Godmanchester follow the A14 westbound to junction 21 at Brampton Hut, then take the A1 southbound and follow the A1 southbound to Wyboston junction roundabout, where the diversion ends. Drivers heading eastbound will follow this diversion in reverse.

## **Various roads: routine inspections and maintenance for street lighting**

Highways England is carrying out a programme of routine inspections of electrical and structural equipment across the region, which is planned for completion in spring 2017. In addition there is a programme of maintenance which includes bulk lamp changes. Work will include inspecting equipment on the:

- A1 between Wittering and Stibbington with traffic management but no full closures
- A12 at Capel St Mary's with traffic management but no full closures

Work will include maintenance and bulk lamp changes on the:

- A1 between Wittering and Stibbington with traffic management but no full closures
- A1 between Sandy and Biggleswade with traffic management but no full closures

## **Various roads: barrier repairs**

Highways England will continue repairs to barriers throughout the week, using lane closures to keep road users at a safe distance from the work. The work will take place at various locations, between 8pm and 5am. This week we are repairing barriers on the M11 in both directions from Monday 30 to Friday 3 February overnight, using lane closures while we are working between junctions 6 (M25) and 9 (A11). We are also repairing barriers on the A120 in both directions, between junction 8 with the M11 and Braintree (Marks Farm).

## **Various roads: litter picking and sweeping**

Highways England will continue litter picking throughout the week on the M11. This will be done using a mobile slow-moving hard shoulder or lane closure. Work will also include sweeping the hard shoulder of the M11 during the day while we litter pick between junctions 6 (M25) and 9 (A11).

## **M1: technology repairs**

Highways England will be working to repair and replace faulty power cables for signage technology on the motorway, including overhead sign lighting, on the M1. This will be done using lane and hard shoulder closures while we are working, between 9pm and 5am, from Monday 30 January to Friday 10 March. As part of this work, it will be necessary for slip roads to be closed overnight on some dates. Where slip roads are closed, drivers will be diverted to continue on the M1 to the next junction, exit and return to leave the junction from the opposite direction.

## **M11 and A120: structures maintenance**

Highways England are carrying out routine maintenance work on bridges crossing the M11 between junctions 6 (M25) and 9 (A11) in both directions. They will also be doing similar work on the A120, between junction 8 with the M11 and Braintree (Marks Farm). These will be done during the day, with the hard shoulder closed while we are working.

## **M11 and A120 Stansted Airport: pothole filling**

Highways England will be filling in potholes on the M11 between junctions 8 (Stansted Airport – Bishop's Stortford) and 9 (A11) in both directions, and on the A120 between Braintree and junction 8 of the M11. This will be done using lane and hard shoulder closures while we are working, between 8.30pm and 6am, from Monday 30 to Friday 3 February.

## **M1: routine maintenance**

Highways England will be doing routine maintenance of structures and technology boxes along the M1 during the day. These will be done with a hard shoulder closure, taking place between junctions 6 (M25) and 9 (A11).

## **A5-M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass), Bedfordshire: major improvements**

Highways England is building a new 2.9-mile, two-lane dual carriageway running from north of Dunstable and joining the M1 at a new junction 11a, south of Chalton. Main construction started in March 2015. Work is progressing well. The traffic management, including hard shoulder closures, safety barriers, signs, CCTV and average speed cameras, will stay in place throughout the construction work, which will be carried out in phases and should be finished in spring 2017. Work on the M1. This week there will be M1 lane closures between junctions 10 and 13 from Monday 30 January to Friday 3 February between 10pm to 6am for overhead gantry works. Work on the A5 and local roads. This week there will be traffic lights overnight on the A5-A505 between 8pm and 6am for safety barrier installation and construction of a new footpath works. There will be off-peak temporary traffic lights on local roads and A5 between 9.30am and 3.30pm for verge and safety barrier work.

## **Cycle improvements schemes in Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Bedfordshire**

Work is substantially completed on the building or improving of cycle paths at 16 locations across the East of England including on the A12, A120, A47 and A5.

The work included the installation of new and upgraded shared-use foot/cycle ways and toucan crossing facilities. The new or improved paths will make it safer and easier to cycle on or around major A-roads and will improve connections with the local and national cycle network.

The project is part of a country-wide initiative which will see Highways England deliver 200 projects over the next five years after the government set up a £100 million dedicated fund for cycling in its Road Investment Strategy.

Ongoing work for this week:

### **A12 Lowestoft – Station Road/Gunton St/Peters Avenue**

There will be off peak three way lights upgrading the existing footpath works. The northbound bus stop opposite the works has temporarily been suspended, whilst the southbound bus stop has been relocated.

A12 Lowestoft: Bascule Bridge works

We will be carrying out routine maintenance works on the A12 Bascule Bridge at Lowestoft. This will be between Monday 30 January and Monday 20 February, from 8pm to 6am. During the work the A12 will be closed in both directions at the bridge and a diversion will be clearly signposted. Northbound traffic will travel north from the Bloodmore Lane roundabout on the A1117 (Bloodmoor Road, Elmtree Road, Cotmer Road), right at the T-junction between A1117 Cotmer Road and A146 Bridge Road onto the A146, left onto the A1117 (Bridge Road) and over the Oulton Broad Bridge, carry on the A1117 (Normanston Drive), turning left at the roundabout with the A1144 (Normanston Drive and Millenium Way) and right along A1117 Bentley Drive, to re-join A12 northbound (Yarmouth Road) by turning left at Tesco roundabout toward Great Yarmouth. Southbound traffic will follow the same route in reverse.

A free hourly bus service will be provided for pedestrians wanting to cross the bridge. This will leave from the north side of the bridge at quarter past the hour and from the south side at quarter to the hour.

## **A12/A47 renumbering**

Highways England has started work to renumber part of the A12 to become the A47. This work is being carried out as part of the improvements to the A47/A12 corridor. We will be replacing road signs that currently show the A12 to now show the A47. The work will last approximately 12 weeks to complete. The section of the A12 that currently runs from Lowestoft to Great Yarmouth will become the A47.

There will be off peak lane closures and two/three way traffic lights during the day and night throughout Lowestoft on the A12 installing sign faces and patches.

## **A14 Bury St Edmunds: junction improvements**

Improvement works are being carried out on the A14 junction 45 Rookery Crossroads/Rougham. Works include construction of new eastbound slip roads, which are being funded by Suffolk County Council as part of the Bury St Edmunds Eastern Relief Road scheme. There is a 24 hour 40mph speed limit in place through the works for safety reasons, works are currently taking place overnight using lane closures in both directions. The works are due to take five months to complete.

## **A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: major improvements**

Early preparatory construction work on the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon scheme has been underway for a number of months.

We are currently carrying out a variety of tasks which will require us to close lanes/carriageway on the A1, A14 and some of the side roads. The work we will be doing will include:

- creating strengthened crossing points for site vehicles on a number of the side roads; these are called plant crossings
- installing access points to our construction compounds
- taking core samples of the existing trunk roads to enable appropriate design and construction
- clearing the site of vegetation which is adjacent to the live carriageway
- installing CCTV and average speed cameras

Wherever possible, work will take place at night (usually between 8pm and 6am) to minimise disruption to traffic. During the week commencing Monday 30 January lane or carriageway closures are currently planned for the following locations to enable site clearance and installation of CCTV to take place.

All closures will be effective between 8pm and 6 am unless stated.

Full closures:

Monday 30 January:

- full closure of A428 eastbound from Caxton to Girton
- full closure of the A1 northbound between Brampton Hut and Alconbury
- A1 northbound Brampton Hut entry slip road closed
- A1 northbound Alconbury exit slip road closed

Tuesday 31 January:

- full closure of the A1 Northbound between Brampton Hut and Alconbury
- A1 northbound Brampton Hut entry slip road closed
- A1 northbound Alconbury exit slip road closed

Wednesday to February to Friday 3 February:

- full closure of the A1 southbound between Alconbury and Brampton Hut
- A1 Southbound Brampton Hut Exit slip road closed
- A1 Southbound Alconbury Entry slip road closed

Lane closures:

Monday 30 January to Tuesday 3 January:

- A1 northbound between Buckden and Brampton lane 2 closure

Wednesday 1 February to Friday 3 February:

- A1 southbound between junctions 15 and 14 closure of lanes 2,3 and 4

## **A14 Cambridgeshire: drainage repairs**

Highways England is undertaking investigations and repairs to the drainage system of the A14 between junctions 32 (Girton – M11 interchange) and 35 (Stoke cum Quy). They will be working off the road during the day clearing vegetation and re-profiling drainage ditches. There will be lane closures and

slip road closures between 8pm and 6am while we are working overnight, with all works on weekdays only.

This week we are working on the A14 in both directions with the inside lane closed between junctions 34 and 35.

## **A47 Dogsthorpe: junction improvements (Peterborough City Council)**

Peterborough City Council is continuing its junction improvement work at the A47/A15 Dogsthorpe junction, Peterborough. The work will involve some overnight full closure and 24/7 lane closures on the A47. For more information, [visit the Peterborough City Council website](#).

## **A120 and A12 Essex: essential maintenance work**

We are completing essential maintenance work on the A120 and the A12 in Essex, which will be ongoing until May. This work will include resurfacing, safety barrier repairs, and bridge repairs, with work taking place between Braintree and Marks Tey, near Colchester, at Kelvedon, and at Wix. Unless detailed otherwise, work will be taking place between 8pm and 6am.

This week we are resurfacing the road and footpaths and replacing street lights, fencing and road signs on the A120 from Monday 30 to Friday 3 February, the A120 will be closed while we are working from the Marks Tey roundabout to the B1024 Coggeshall. Drivers heading westbound diverted to continue south on the A12 to junction 19, take the A130 northbound to Little Waltham, the A131 northbound through Great Notley, then re-join the A120 at Braintree. Drivers heading eastbound will follow this diversion in reverse. We expect this work to be completed by May.

Between Mark Tey to Marks Farm there will also be temporary traffic lights (one set in Coggeshall) to support the resurfacing works.

We are repairing drainage on the A120 Wix bypass, with work expected to be completed by late April. There will be traffic lights in place and a 40mph speed limit while we are working.

We are replacing the central reservation safety barrier on the A120 between junction 29 of the A12 (Crown Interchange) to Hare Green (between the B1029 and the A133). There will be narrow lanes westbound with a 50mph limit in place in both directions 24/7 throughout the works until mid-March. In addition there will be a lane 2 closure eastbound from Monday 30 to Friday 3 February overnight.

We are repairing bridge joints on the A12 Ewell Bridge near Kelvedon. We will complete this works over the weekends between Saturday 4 February and Monday 6 March. The closure will start on a Saturday evening to Monday morning. To keep road users at safe distance from works bridge will be closed to pedestrians and divers. Drivers will be diverted to take the A120 westbound to Braintree, then take the A131 southbound through Great Notley, then take

the A130 southbound and then east around Chelmsford to re-join the A12. Pedestrians who cross over Ewell Bridge westbound from its connection with Windmill Hill will be diverted head south on Windmill Hill to its junction with Highfields Lane, then along Highfields Lane, heading towards Kelvedon, before crossing Maldon Road Bridge to the junction with Ewell Hall Chase, and finally join Ewell Hall Chase to meet with the public right of way in the vicinity of Ewell Hall Farm. Pedestrians wishing to cross eastbound, the diversion is the reverse of the above.

## **A120 Great Bromley: road surface repairs**

Highways England will be repairing the road surface of the A120 near Great Bromley. Subject to weather conditions, we plan to complete this work between Tuesday 31 January and Friday 3 February working between 8pm and 6am on weeknights only.

To keep road users at a safe distance from the works, we will close the A120 westbound between the Harwich Road junction (shortly before the A133 Hare Green Interchange) and the A12/A120 Crown Interchange at Colchester. The westbound carriageway of the A133/A120 link road will also be closed during our works.

There will be a clearly signed diversion route in place while we are working, whereby drivers heading westbound will:

- exit at Horsley Cross Roundabout and take the B1035 south through Tendring
- take the B1033 west towards Weeley
- take the A133 west towards Colchester
- take the A1232 north towards Ipswich to re-join the A120 at the A12 Crown Interchange

Drivers who miss the Tendring diversion will be turned around at the A120/Little Bromley Road and A120/Harwich Road junctions to pick up the strategic diversion route at Horsley Cross roundabout.

### **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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# [RR1084 – Forklift truck reverse sensor systems assessment](#)

Counterbalance forklift trucks (FLT) are widely used in a variety of industry sectors for material handling. Incidents involving FLT are typically vehicle/pedestrian, vehicle/vehicle, or vehicle/structure collisions. Of these, vehicle/pedestrian incidents have the most potential for reportable injury and around 500 incidents a year involving moving FLT are reported to HSE.

Measures to improve or augment the operator's field of vision can include: mirrors and CCTV systems (which rely on the operator's observations) and sensor systems (including ultrasonic, radar, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)), similar to those commonly fitted to passenger vehicles; or simply improving the driver's operating position.

This report describes work undertaken to assess the active sensor systems (ultrasonic and radar) commonly used to reduce the risk of collisions. The systems tested appeared to provide a useful function in mitigating the risk of collision by stopping the truck when an obstruction was detected. However, certain configurations produced blind spots in the detection zones that could allow a pedestrian to approach the truck without being detected. The sensors also needed to be mounted to give an appropriate detection zone without producing a large number of false detections.

Companies should establish the conditions under which they will be operating an FLT and select a system that best fits their particular operating environment. Consideration should be given in the first instance to the practicability of removing pedestrians from the working area, although it is acknowledged that this is not always possible.

Assistance in the use of Adobe Acrobat PDF files is available on our [FAQs](#) page.

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## [Press release: Clay company pays heavy price for toxic discharge](#)

The case was brought by the Environment Agency.

The offence occurred in July 2013 after staff at Rocks Dryers, a site operated by Imerys near Bugle, St Austell, flushed a hazardous substance called 'Jayfloc 85' out of a redundant storage tank and into drains where it entered a series of settlement lagoons before discharging into Rocks Stream,



a tributary of the Par River.

Imerys failed to carry out a risk assessment despite Jayfloc85 being classified by its manufacturer as 'hazardous' and 'harmful to aquatic life'. Guidance on its use clearly states this chemical should not be allowed to enter 'drains/surface waters/ground waters'.

The company has an Environment Agency permit to discharge into the Rocks Stream from a single discharge point. Liquids entering the settlement lagoons undergo a basic treatment. China clay solids held in suspension settle out of the liquid and accumulate in the bottom of the lagoons. Sodium carbonate is then used to adjust the pH before the effluent is discharged. The system is not designed to treat toxic chemical pollutants such as Jayfloc85.

On the day of the offence, the chemical, which is used in the processing of china clay, was flushed out of the storage tank and into the site's effluent system and settlement lagoons via drains.

Imerys did not believe the chemical would harm the environment as it claimed the volume released was relatively small (estimated at 474 litres) and once in the settlement lagoons, it would have been heavily diluted.

The company failed to check the manufacturer's data sheet about the harm Jayfloc85 can cause if it escapes into streams, lakes and rivers. The chemical should have been removed from the site and either used elsewhere or taken to a permitted site for safe disposal.

The Par River, downstream of the discharge point, flows into Par Beach, a designated bathing water popular with holidaymakers.

Chris Barnes, for the Environment Agency, said:

This case demonstrates how important it is for site operators to have effective training and management systems in place to prevent the discharge of toxic chemicals into the environment. Clearly, this wasn't the case at Rocks Dryers where Imerys failed to properly assess the risks of emptying a hazardous substance into the site's drainage system. Had it done so, the company would have soon realised the disposal of hazardous chemical in this way is illegal.

At an earlier hearing Imerys Minerals Limited pleaded guilty to, on around 25 July 2013, discharging poisonous, noxious or polluting matter into inland freshwaters including the Rocks Stream, Rosevean Stream and Par River in contravention of Regulation 12(1)(b) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010.

Appearing before Truro Crown Court on 20 January 2017, the company was fined £75,000 and ordered to pay £25,000 costs.

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## **RR1083 – Risks to respiratory health in the grain industry**

A detailed literature search was carried out to summarise evidence about respiratory disease caused by exposure to grain dust. Long term epidemiological studies examining the risk for respiratory disease in grain workers were undertaken in Canada and the USA from the 1970s to the late 1990s. Smaller studies were undertaken in the UK and Europe but mostly focussed on respiratory disease in arable and livestock farmers.

The conclusion of this review is that the damaging effects of grain dust on the respiratory tract are accumulative and occur at high concentrations of exposure. Acute responses also occur and include declines in lung function as well as irritation and inflammation of the airways. There is less evidence that grain dust exposure causes occupational asthma despite the dusts containing allergens. This may be due to a 'healthy worker' effect with those already having, or developing, asthma leaving employment earlier than others. There is stronger evidence that the long term effects of exposure include emphysema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and interstitial fibrosis of the lung. The risk of developing extrinsic allergic alveolitis has reduced through preventing damp conditions in stored grain.

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