

Press release: Weather update: no restrictions planned for A14 Orwell Bridge

Highways England is advising road users in the east of England that there are no current plans to close the Orwell Bridge in Suffolk tomorrow (Friday 3 February).

High winds have been forecast across the region for much of the day, peaking in the afternoon. However, based on the latest information from forecasters, Highways England considers it unlikely that conditions at the bridge will require a closure.

Drivers are asked to pay close attention to the weather forecast in case circumstances change. Safety is Highways England's top priority, and any decision about whether to close the bridge will be based on the safety of road users, taking into account the speed and prevailing direction of the wind.

Whilst the bridge is open, Highways England will continue to monitor wind speeds closely. If there is an increase in the forecast high winds, which would make the crossing unsafe for drivers, the Orwell Bridge, which carries the A14 over the River Orwell near Ipswich, could be closed at some point on Friday 3 February.

If the Orwell Bridge is closed, the planned diversion route is via the A1156, A1189 and A1214 through Ipswich.

Drivers planning to travel on Friday 3 February are encouraged to plan their journey in advance and check the latest weather and traffic conditions along the route. You can get the latest forecast from BBC weather, the Met Office, and BBC Radio Suffolk.

Drivers should be aware of sudden gusts of wind, and give high-sided vehicles, caravans, motorbikes and bicycles plenty of space.

Highways England provides live traffic information [via its website](#), local and national radio travel bulletins, electronic road signs and mobile platforms. Local weather information is also available on Twitter at @HighwaysEAST. The latest weather forecast can be seen on the [Met Office website](#).

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.

Press release: Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

From:

First published:

3 February 2017

Part of:

Mr Simon Smith CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

Mr Simon Smith CMG has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea in succession to Mr Charles Hay MVO, who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Smith will take up his appointment during March 2018.

Curriculum Vitae

Full name Simon John Meredith Smith CMG

Married to Sian Rosemary Stickings MBE

Children Two daughters

2016 – present Language training (Korean)

2015 – 2016 FCO, Leader, Review of Buildings Security

2012 – 2015 Kyiv, Her Majesty's Ambassador

2007 – 2012 Vienna, Her Majesty's Ambassador & UK Permanent Representative to the UN

2004 – 2007 FCO, Director, Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia Directorate /Head of Eastern Department

2002 – 2004 FCO, Head of North East Asia & Pacific Department

1998 – 2002 Moscow, Counsellor (Economic/Commercial)

1997 – 1998 Language training (Russian)

1995 – 1997 FCO, Deputy Head of Southern Europe Department

1994 – 1995 FCO, Speechwriter to the Foreign Secretary

1992 – 1994 FCO, Head of Nuclear Policy Section, Security Policy Department

1989 – 1992 Tokyo, Second Secretary, later First Secretary

1987 – 1989 Language training (Japanese)
1986 – 1987 FCO, Assistant Desk Officer, East Africa Department
1986 Joined FCO
1981 – 1986 Department of Employment

Further information

[Press release: Major upgrade to Leeds junction gets underway](#)

As part of the £8.3 million scheme Highways England will be widening some of the approaches to the M1 roundabout and adding an extra lane to sections of the roundabout itself, increasing it from 2 to 3 lanes.

Most of the work for the 30 week scheme will be carried out during the day. However, some overnight closures will be required with the first taking place tonight, Thursday 2 until Saturday 4 February between 7pm and 6am.

During the overnight closures the M1 southbound carriageway between junctions 46 and 44, and all the approaches to the M1 junction 45 roundabout will be closed so narrow lanes can be installed. While the scheme is ongoing there will also be a reduced speed limit of 50mph on the M1 and a 30mph limit on the slip roads and roundabout.

Highways England project manager Derek Dobinson said:

We are investing more than £15 billion in over 100 schemes across England that will enhance, renew and improve the network. We recognise that this is an important junction which serves a major route into Leeds city centre and is the main access for a number of major businesses and that is why we are investing £8.3 million to improve it.

This scheme, once complete, will improve capacity, reduce congestion and improve the safety for drivers. Predominantly work will be carried out during the day during off peak hours but they may be the occasional overnight closure of the slip roads and the M1.

As well as carrying out improvements to the roundabout, new traffic signal crossings, and improved cycle and pedestrian routes will be installed.

Further information can be [found on the scheme website](#).

Similar improvements have recently been completed at junction 26 of the M62 where it meets the M606. The extra lane was opened to traffic back in December around Chain Bar roundabout and the new traffic signals were installed this month.

Over the next few weeks, contractors will be taking down the old traffic signals and completing the landscaping and pedestrian and cycle route work. These will be carried out at night when traffic levels are at their lowest.

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[Press release: Heineken paying £160,000 over pollution incident](#)

From:

First published:

3 February 2017

The Environment Agency has accepted an enforcement undertaking from a major brewer following a pollution incident on a Herefordshire Brook.

The Environment Agency has accepted an offer of £160,000 for an enforcement undertaking from brewer Heineken UK following a pollution incident at their cider factory in Hereford, which saw several thousand fish killed.

Heineken have also paid more than £12,000 to cover the Environment Agency's legal costs.

The incident, at their Bulmer's cider plant in August 2014, was caused when a container of ammonia-contaminated water was emptied to a surface water drain which connected to the Widemarsh Brook.

At the time it was estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 fish were killed including bullhead, minnows, juvenile chub & dace.

Environment Agency spokesperson Dave Throup said:

It's very unfortunate that a significant pollution of one of Hereford's main watercourses happened as a result of Heineken's actions.

However, we are pleased that the company is planning to make a positive contribution to the county's environment by offering this enforcement undertaking.

As a result of the enforcement undertaking, £150,000 will go to the Wye & Usk foundation and £10,000 to Yazor Widemarsh & Eign Brook restoration project.

[Press release: New charity investigation: The Suyuti Institute](#)

From:

First published:

3 February 2017

Part of:

The Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry into The Suyuti Institute (registered charity number 1151600).

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, has opened a statutory inquiry into [The Suyuti Institute \(registered charity number 1151600\)](#). The inquiry was opened on 16 January 2017.

The charity has objects to advance the Islamic Faith through education and distributing literature.

Concerns were raised with the Commission about a lecture given by a trustee of the charity and whether the content of that speech was appropriate and furthered the charity's purposes. As a result of these concerns the regulator met with the trustees and conducted a visit and books and records inspection at the charity on 1 November 2016.

At the visit, the Commission learnt that the charity had taken over a private trust linked to one of the trustee's late mother, which included all of its assets and liabilities. The Commission has specific concerns relating to the management of conflicts of interest and whether the trustees have acted in the best interests of the charity to accept the assets and liabilities of the private trust. The Commission is also concerned that this decision has

exposed the charity to significant financial risk.

As a result of these serious concerns the Commission has issued an order restricting transactions from the charity's bank account and directed the trustees to provide information and documents to the Commission – [see notes to editors](#).

The inquiry will examine the administration, governance and management of the charity by the trustees, in particular:

- whether the trustees have properly exercised their legal duties and responsibilities under charity law in the administration of the charity
- the financial management of the charity, in particular with regard to the decision to accept the assets and liabilities of the private trust
- whether there has been any private benefit to the trustees of the charity
- whether the trustees have operated the charity in furtherance of its charitable objects for the public benefit
- whether there has been misconduct and/ or mismanagement by the trustees

It is the Commission's policy, after it has concluded an inquiry, to publish a report detailing what issues the inquiry looked at, what actions were undertaken as part of the inquiry and what the outcomes were. Reports of previous inquiries by the Commission are available on its website.

The charity's details can be viewed on the Commission's [online charity search tool](#).

Ends

PR 09/17

Notes to editors

1. The order to freeze the bank accounts of the charity was made on 18 January 2017 under section 76 (3) (d) of the Charities Act 2011. The Direction to the trustees to provide information to the Commission was made on 19 January 2017 under section 47 of the Charities Act 2011.
2. [The Charity Commission](#) is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. To find out more about our work, see our [annual report](#).
3. Search for charities on our [online register](#).
4. Section 46 of the Charities Act 2011 gives the Commission the power to institute inquiries. The opening of an inquiry gives the Commission access to a range of investigative, protective and remedial legal powers.
5. The Commission's decision to announce the opening of a statutory inquiry is based on whether it is in the public interest to do so and with consideration of our objective to increase public trust and confidence in charities.