

# Surge testing being deployed in Bradford, Canterbury and Maidstone

News story

NHS Test and Trace – in partnership with the local authorities – has this week launched additional testing and genomic sequencing in Bradford, Canterbury and Maidstone.



Additional testing is being offered in the CT1 and CT2 postcodes in Canterbury, the ME14 1 postcode in Maidstone and targeted areas within Bradford.

This surge testing is being deployed following the identification of a small number of confirmed cases of the Delta variant, B.1.617.2. All the confirmed cases have been instructed to self-isolate and their contacts have been identified.

Everyone who lives or works in these areas, including children aged 12 and over in Canterbury and Maidstone, and 11 and over in Bradford, is strongly encouraged to take a coronavirus (COVID-19) PCR test, whether they are showing symptoms or not.

Enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a variant of concern (VOC). This is where contact tracers look back over an extended period to determine the route of transmission.

By using PCR tests, positive results are then sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping us to identify COVID-19 cases with a variant of concern and then prevent their spread.

If you have symptoms you should book a free test online or by phone. You can then go to a testing site or have a kit sent to your home. If you have no symptoms, you should visit local authority's website for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

People in this area should continue to make use of free twice-weekly rapid tests, commonly known as lateral flow devices, alongside the PCR test as part

of surge testing.

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## [Towards COP26: The Pope's fleet goes greener](#)

On Saturday 5 June Nissan donated an electric Nissan Leaf to the Vatican at a ceremony in the Vatican.

His Eminence Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, President of the Governatorate of the Vatican City State, presided over the handover ceremony in the presence of Marco Toro, Managing Director for Nissan Italy; Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to the Holy See; and Seji Okada, Japanese Ambassador to the Holy See. Nissan's Sunderland factory joined by video-link.

The Nissan Leaf was produced in Sunderland in the north-east of England. Nissan is committed to producing vehicles sustainably: the production of the Nissan Leaf, as well as the car itself, is expected to reach net zero emissions within two years.

Sally Axworthy, British Ambassador to the Holy See, said:

'Transitioning to electric vehicles will be an essential part of our collective efforts to keep global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees. In the year in which the UK will host the climate summit, COP26, I am really delighted that the Vatican is greening its vehicle fleet with the help of Nissan. This sets an excellent example for us all.

'The UK has committed to reach net zero by 2050 and will end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030. The vehicle's production in Sunderland shows how technology can bring sustainable economic growth and dignified employment'.

Seji Okada, Ambassador of Japan to the Holy See stated:

"The Japanese Prime Minister Suga declared that Japan aims to realise a decarbonised society by reducing greenhouse gas emission to zero as a whole by 2050, and that the Government of Japan will work for the utilisation of decarbonised power sources, such as renewable energy. But, he added, "global decarbonisation cannot be achieved through the efforts of one country alone, it is a challenge that requires the whole international community to act in one".

As Pope Francis called for urgent action on climate change, it is particularly significant that the Vatican will gradually replace its service

vehicles with an all-electric fleet, setting an example for all other countries of the world. The contributions of companies like Nissan will be vital to achieving this aim”.

Note for editors:

- Sunderland plant is Nissan’s central manufacturing hub in Europe. The north-east of England had been a centre for coalmining, shipbuilding and steel, but by the 1980s most of that had gone. Nissan opened in 1986. It is the biggest automotive plant in the UK, producing 500,000 vehicles a year, more than 1500 per day. The factory employs 6,000 people and more than 30,000 rely on the plant for employment. They have made 200,000 Leafs since 2013. They built the UK’s first battery plant on site. The workforce is mainly local.
- At the Climate Ambition Summit in December 2020, Pope Francis committed the Vatican City State to achieving [net zero emissions by 2050](#). As part of this effort, the Vatican are gradually replacing all their combustion engine cars with electric or hybrid vehicles.
- In the run up to COP26, the UK is working with every nation to implement the Paris Agreement on tackling climate change. Key goals are securing global net zero by 2050 and keeping temperature rises below 1.5 degrees. To deliver on these targets, countries will need to accelerate the phase-out of coal, curtail deforestation, speed up the switch to electric vehicles and encourage investment in renewables ([“Pick the planet”](#)).
- Japanese Prime Minister Suga had declared that Japan will aim to realise a decarbonised society by reducing greenhouse gas emission to zero as a whole by 2050. Prime Minister Suga also stated that towards COP26, Japan intends to accelerate the “virtuous cycle of environment and growth” through innovation, and continue to lead the international community in order to realise the decarbonised society in line with the Paris Agreement.

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## [Surge testing to be deployed in Reading and Wokingham](#)

Press release

NHS Test and Trace – in partnership with the local authorities – is launching additional testing and genomic sequencing in Reading and Wokingham.



Additional testing is being offered in the RG1 3, RG1 5, RG1 6 and RG1 7 postcodes in Reading and in the Bulmershe and Whitegates, Evendons, Norreys, and Wescott areas of Wokingham.

This surge testing is being deployed following the identification of a small number of confirmed cases of the Delta variant first identified in India. All the confirmed cases have been contacted and instructed to self-isolate and their contacts have been identified.

Everyone aged 12 and above who lives or works in these areas is strongly encouraged to take a coronavirus (COVID-19) PCR test, whether they are showing symptoms or not.

Enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a variant of concern (VOC). This is where contact tracers look back over an extended period to determine the route of transmission.

By using PCR testing, positive results are sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping us to identify COVID-19 cases with a variant of concern and then prevent their spread.

If you have symptoms you should book a free test online or by phone. You can then go to a testing site or have a kit sent to your home. If you have no symptoms, you should visit your local authority's website for more information: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/> or <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/>

People in this area should continue to make use of free twice-weekly rapid tests, commonly known as lateral flow devices, alongside the PCR test as part of surge testing.

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# World Environment Day: Over £8m boost for international conservation

Threatened species such as whales, marine turtles and sharks will be better protected thanks to a boost of over £8 million for projects in the UK Overseas Territories, the government has announced today (Saturday 5 June) under plans to tackle the global biodiversity crisis.

The funding will also help protect a number of rare species and vulnerable habitats across the globe from the threats from invasive species.

Over the next three years, 31 projects will receive £8.02 million through the Darwin Plus scheme for conservation of the unique and globally significant environments found in UK Overseas Territories.

Habitats and species set to benefit from funding include:

- Threatened albatross species in the southern Atlantic overseas territories, Tristan da Cunha, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, through improved population monitoring
- A number of species found in Cayman's Sister Islands will be safeguarded from invasive species such as feral cats and invasive green iguanas
- Anguilla's shark populations, through increasing knowledge of their habitats and conservation needs, while developing local ownership of their conservation through greater community engagement
- The Ascension Islands' marine turtles through making improvements to their monitoring programme using innovative modelling techniques and new labour-saving technologies
- Coral reefs in the Indian Ocean by helping small-scale fishers to sustainably manage these habitats on the island of Diego Garcia

## **International Environment Minister Lord Goldsmith said:**

World Environment Day provides us all with a stark reminder of why we need to take urgent action to reverse global biodiversity loss.

The Darwin Plus funding announced today will support the magnificent biodiversity hotspots that make up our Overseas Territories, which are so threatened by climate change. It will restore precious ecosystems, prevent the extinction of some of the world's most wonderful species, and at the same time transform the lives of the poorest communities.

Over the last decade the Darwin Plus programme has supported over 120 individual projects supporting conservation in marine, terrestrial and freshwater environments. The UK government, as president of the G7 and COP26, is leading the way globally in the fight to tackle climate change and repair the natural world.

**Professor E.J. Milner Gulland, Oxford University and Chair of the Darwin Expert Committee and Darwin Plus Advisory Group, said:**

The UK's Overseas Territories are home to some of our most iconic and important threatened biodiversity, as well as rich and productive natural resources. The Darwin Plus projects span the range of biodiversity from wetlands to whales, and addresses issues from controlling invasive thorns to tracking threatened turtles. So I'm really happy that, on World Environment Day, the Darwin Plus fund is supporting the Overseas Territories to conserve their precious biodiversity while also building a sustainable future for people and nature.

**Beccy Speight, Chief Executive of the RSPB said:**

Our Government has an important role to play as we all work to revive our world, the UK's Overseas Territories are home to 94% of the plants and animals that are only found on UK soil. But these amazing places are under threat from the nature and climate emergencies.

Failing to act in our Territories would raise the real risk of global extinctions, so this vital funding will help fulfil our responsibilities to protect our precious wildlife, from tropical rainforests in the Caribbean to wind-swept albatross islands in the Southern Ocean. Today's announcement, plus the UK Government's additional £1.5m contribution to support our major partnership project to restore Gough Island, a threatened UK World Heritage Site in the South Atlantic recognised as one of the most important seabird islands in the world, will be welcome news to the local community and many individuals who continue to support this vital work.

Last month, [the Climate and Environment Ministers of the G7 committed to halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030](#). In efforts to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, all G7 members also signed up to the global '30x30' initiative to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of the world's land and at least 30 per cent of the world's ocean by 2030, as well as committing to '30x30' nationally.

The funding being announced today builds on the £220 million for biodiversity conservation in developing nations, and the doubling of UK international climate finance, [announced by the Prime Minister at the UN General Assembly in 2019](#).

Today's announcement forms part of the Government's commitments to drive international ambition on action to tackle the biodiversity crisis and work towards nature-based solutions ahead of the G7, the upcoming 15th UN Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (Convention of Biological Diversity

COP15), and the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) which will be hosted in Glasgow later this year. In the run up to the summit, the UK is focused on four goals to drive progress: securing global net zero, protecting communities and natural habitats from the impacts of climate change, mobilising finance and working together to accelerate action.

A full list of projects, including a number of small schemes, to be supported by the Darwin Plus programme is available on the [Darwin Initiative website](#).

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## **Government announces £11.8 million for new Lyminster Bypass**

- new road to provide better access to Littlehampton and quicker journeys in the area
- scheme will boost local economy, supporting 1,260 new homes and 700 new jobs
- latest move in government's drive to level up transport across the country

West Sussex is set to benefit from £11.8 million of government funding to construct the northern section of the Lyminster Bypass, Roads Minister Baroness Vere announced today (5 June 2021).

The planned scheme will link up with the southern section of the bypass, which is currently under construction, to complete a new 1.1-mile single carriageway running to the east of Lyminster and Wick villages.

The road will link a new junction on the A259 in Littlehampton to the A284 just south of the A27 at Crossbush, easing congestion, providing much-needed improvements to routes in and out of Littlehampton and supporting plans for 1,260 new homes and 700 new jobs in the region.

It comes as part of the government's drive to build back better from the pandemic and boost transport links across the country.

Transport Minister Baroness Vere said:

Local residents deserve quicker, easier and more reliable journeys in and out of Littlehampton and around West Sussex, and that's exactly what this scheme will deliver, along with new jobs, houses and safer and better journeys for cyclists and pedestrians.

This government is committed to levelling up transport across the country, so that no matter where you live, you can get around easily and safely.

Joy Dennis, West Sussex County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said:

The Department for Transport's financial backing for the project to build the northern section of the A284 Lyminster Bypass is excellent news.

It shows confidence in the scheme which is designed to provide strategic north-south access to and from the A27 for residents, businesses and visitors alike, address congestion and remove delays caused by the level crossing at Wick.

Currently, journeys in and out of Littlehampton are often very slow along the narrow route into the town centre, with numerous delays caused by the Wick railway level crossing. The proposed bypass would provide motorists and road-users with a shorter and less congested route, slashing journey times and avoiding the level crossing.

A 3m-wide shared cycle and footway will run along one side of the road and a signalised crossing will be built so cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders can safely cross.

Councillor Keith Glazier, Chair of Transport for the South East, said:

The planned Lyminster Bypass will provide a vital connection between Littlehampton and the A27. This investment will help boost economic growth, support new housing and jobs, and will improve quality of life for local residents.

A high-quality, reliable transport network is critical to our region's economic recovery and future sustainable growth, so it's good news that another of our top priority road schemes has received a major funding boost.

By speaking with one voice to influence where and how money is spent in our region, the Transport for the South East partnership is making a real difference for the 7.5 million people who live and work in the South East.

The total cost of the scheme comes to £21.6 million, with the remaining £9.8 million coming from West Sussex County Council, Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership and private developers, on top of the Department for Transport's multimillion-pound contribution.

Today's announcement is the latest investment from the government in transport in West Sussex, with [£17 million funding awarded last year towards improvements to the A2300 at Burgess Hill](#).