

Complex Infrastructure Programme
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

09 November 2018

Extension of the temporary closure of Lower Higham Road, November 2018

Dear Local Resident

I wrote to you on 24 October to let you know that we would be suspending access to Lower Higham Road, between Castle Lane and Church Lane, from Tuesday 6 November to Friday 9 November 2018.

Unfortunately, we have experienced some issues laying the required pipes, which means we need a further three days in which to finish excavating the road and completing the work. This means that access to Lower Higham Road will now be suspended to through traffic until **6am on Tuesday 13 November 2018**. I do apologise for the inconvenience this may cause you.

Access to the properties on the road will continue to be maintained on either side of the closure, through access will still be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians, and a signposted diversion route will be in place for other road users.

As I said in my previous letter, we are currently consulting on our plans for the Lower Thames Crossing. For more information and details how to respond to the consultation, please visit www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation during these essential works. If you have any concerns about the works, please contact our Highways England Customer Contact Centre by calling 0300 123 5000 or email info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk for further information.

Yours faithfully



Tim Jones
Project Director, Lower Thames Crossing

Why has the road suspension been extended?

We have experienced some issues laying the required pipes, which means we need a further four days in which to finish excavating the road and completing the work.

Why are you starting work before you have planning permission for the Lower Thames Crossing?

This is part of Highways England's ongoing investigation work for the Lower Thames Crossing project. We need to be able to demonstrate that the construction of the tunnel would not affect the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar site.

Why do you need to suspend access to the road?

We need to dig up a section of Lower Higham Road to install a pipe under the road, so we can drain water away as part of our tests. We considered laying the pipe over the road and covering it with a ramp but there is a risk that the pipe or vehicles could be damaged.

Why can't you do this overnight and keep the road open during the day?

We will not be doing work at night, to avoid the need for noisy generators and floodlights that can disturb people. However, the road will need to remain closed at night to allow the tarmac laid down in the day to cool down.

Will you need to close the road again in order to remove the pipe?

No. Once the checks (pump tests) are complete the pipe will be filled in but will remain in place under the road, so no further road closures will be necessary to remove the pipe.

I am a cyclist / pedestrian – can I still use the road?

Yes. There is a temporary pathway around the works on Lower Higham Road, so you can still use the road.

Where is the diversion route?

Due to the narrow local lanes, and their unsuitability for large volumes of two-way traffic, the diversionary road signage directs drivers via the following route: Lower Higham Rd – A226 Lion Roundabout - A226 Rochester Road - A226 Gravesend Rd - Villa Road, Higham - School Lane - Chalk Road, Higham - Lower Higham Road - Lower Road, Shorne (and vice versa).

Do you have permission to do this work?

Yes. Kent County Council has given approval for both the original road closure and the extension to the works, and agreed the diversion route with us.