

24 October 2018

Our Reference
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Temporary Closure of Lower Higham Road, 6-9 November 2018

Dear Local Resident

I am writing to let you know that access to Lower Higham Road, between Castle Lane and Church Lane, will be suspended to through-traffic between **6am on Tuesday 6 November and 23.59 on Friday 9 November 2018**. Access to the properties on the road will be maintained on either side of the closure, access will also be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians, and a signposted diversion route will be in place for drivers.

The suspension is needed so that we can install a pipe under Lower Higham Road, on behalf of Highways England. This will be used to carry out checks (pump tests) of the water levels in the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar site, an area of international importance for nature conservation. It is an important part of the investigative work that Highways England need to do as part of their plans for the Lower Thames Crossing, a proposed new road connecting Kent, Thurrock and Essex through a tunnel beneath the Thames.

You may be aware that a public consultation for the Lower Thames Crossing is taking place until 20 December 2018, with a number of information events in the local area during October, November and December. If you would like to discuss the testing taking place in your local area, or any other aspect of the project, the next consultation events taking place near to you are:

- Cascades Leisure Centre, Gravesend, DA12 4LG Thursday 1 November, 2pm – 9pm
- Shorne Village Hall, Shorne, DA12 3EA - Saturday 3 November, 12pm – 6pm

Alternatively, please contact the Highways England Customer Contact Centre by calling 0300 123 5000 or email info@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk.

We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation during these essential works. For more information about the Lower Thames Crossing and details of the current consultation, please visit www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Giles Gordon-Saker
Associate Director,
AECOM

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. They 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 undertaking 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 will be a temporary pathway around the works on Lower Higham Road, so you will still be able to 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 will direct 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 the road closure and have agreed the diversion route with us.