

Working on behalf of



Forkers Ltd

Customer Contact Centre: 0300 123 5000  
[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

## ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORKS:

### A5 Towcester

#### Update Bulletin 2 – 8.8.2018

Since my last bulletin on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 we have continued carrying out drainage works to Phase 1 of our essential maintenance scheme on the A5 in Towcester.

Apart from the 'stand down' period we took from 9pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July until 7.30am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018, to accommodate the numbers of people who attended the Paloma Faith concert, we have been working seven days a week to complete these works to programme.

Wilkinson Environmental have continued to clean existing surface water drainage pipelines with a jetting machine, used specialist cameras to carry out CCTV inspections of the pipelines and carried out repairs using **trenchless technology** wherever possible. For the benefit of those recently added to the list of recipients of these bulletins, internal repairs to damaged pipelines are carried out by sending an epoxy 'sock' placed around a deflated air bag along the pipeline to the exact location of the damage, inflating the bag so that the epoxy 'sock' is compressed against the pipe and then deflating and removing the bag after the epoxy has 'cured'.

Two sections of collapsed pipes have been repaired by Forkers Ltd. This involved breaking out the existing asphalt carriageway and footway, excavating down onto the collapsed pipe, supporting the trench sides, removing the remains of the collapsed pipe, inserting a new pipe and connecting to the existing pipe at either end with 'bandseal' flexible collars. Four new surface water drainage gully pots and connections have also been installed. The provision of these gullies involved breaking through approximately 500mm of asphalt and reinforced concrete carriageway, hand excavating around gas and water mains, electric, communication and street lighting cables, all of various sizes and at varying depths before the gully pots and drainage pipes could be installed. The photograph below, in which mains and cables are highlighted, may help to give some impression of the difficulties involved in working around these obstructions without causing damage to them.

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The excavations have been backfilled using both foamed concrete and a granular material depending on whether there was room for compaction of the material. Permanent reinstatement of the carriageways and footways has been carried out using a polymer modified mastic asphalt highway reinstatement system. All drainage works in Phase 1, which are outside of the newly resurfaced area, are programmed for completion on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

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At present local traffic can travel north up the A5 to the junction with Brackley Road and Northampton Road and turn either right or left at that point. Local traffic can also approach this junction from both Northampton Road and Brackley Road and either travel straight ahead or turn south down the A5. **This situation will change on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018 only** when we start our resurfacing, high friction surfacing, road markings and traffic loop works.

**On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2018** Tarmac Ltd will start work on the carriageway from the A5 / Brackley Road / Northampton Road junction northwards up to Towcester Fire Station. The works will involve milling the carriageway surface to a depth of 50mm, applying tack coat to the milled surface and then machine laying approximately 100 Tonnes of asphalt surface course material to a compacted thickness of 50mm. In order to carry out this work safely we need to **close Northampton Road at the junction**. However, in order to try and keep the disruption this may cause to a minimum **we shall carry out the works between 9am and 1pm only**. Northampton Road will then be reopened to traffic. Please be aware that the time we reopen Northampton Road does depend on the curing time required before we can put traffic on the newly laid surfacing material. If we experience particularly high temperatures that curing time may need to be extended by a further hour or so. Access to Northampton Road will still be available one way from the south via Chantry Lane and Moat Lane and also off the southbound A43.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 Wilson Scott will lay High Friction Surfacing (HFS) to areas of the newly resurfaced carriageway and also apply road markings to replace those removed during the surfacing works.

This will be followed by J. McCanns saw cutting the carriageway and installing traffic signal loops on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

**Neither of these operations will involve the closure of Northampton Road** but there are likely to be delays to journey times for any traffic using the junction over these three days.

We have managed to accommodate parking for residents and businesses in the lay byes and on designated parking areas adjacent to the footways between the junction and the Fire Station since our works started on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018. As stated in my first bulletin this will unfortunately not be possible whilst these particular works are being carried out so I would ask for your forbearance in either using the public car parks or finding other offstreet parking during this time. The types and size of plant being used, together with the particular operations being carried out means we cannot accommodate vehicles being parked in close proximity.

**Please note that the red offstreet parking permits for phase 1 will not be required from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**

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On **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018** we will start works to **phase 4** between Vernon Road (The Olive Tree) and a point approximately 60 metres south of Marlow Road. i.e. towards Milton Keynes. Works within this phase will include: cleaning existing surface water drainage pipelines with a jetting machine, using specialist cameras to carry out CCTV inspections of the pipelines and carrying out repairs where required using trenchless technology, replacing gully gratings and frames. Resetting access chamber covers and frames and replacing where required, excavating trial holes to ascertain condition of reinforced concrete road slab and temporarily reinstating those excavations, milling the carriageway surface to a depth of 50mm, applying tack coat to the milled surface and then machine laying asphalt surface course material to a compacted thickness of 50mm, applying High Friction Surfacing (HFS) to areas of the newly resurfaced carriageway and applying road markings to replace those removed during the surfacing works.

These works are programmed to take approximately four days. During this time access to and from Vernon Road and Reffield Close will be available but only from or to the north i.e. the Town centre. Access to the A5 / Marlow Road junction will not be available between the hours of 9.30am and 3.30pm. Stagecoach are suspending their 'bus services using the Marlow Road junction during that time period only. the lay bye south of Laurel Place is being resurfaced and so will not be available for parking until we have completed all of our works in phase 4. Off street parking permits will be issued to those residents of homes in London Road within phase 4 together with those in Laurel Close who have off street parking. Access to and from these areas will be under escort of our traffic marshals. We will also have traffic marshals posted at Towcester Racecourse roundabout and at the junction with Vernon Road.

We currently have a safety camera van set up just inside our traffic management closure for Phase 1 pointing south down the A5 which is monitoring incursions into our work site and undertaking a traffic count. I can confirm that we have had no incursions to date and that the number of heavy vehicles which have come through to our first phase hard closure point on the north side of the A5 / Brackley Road / Northampton Road is minimal.

**NB:** Please note that all our planned road works may be subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances.

I'm sorry that you are receiving this bulletin just before the Northampton Road closure tomorrow. Confirmation that we would only need to close Northampton Road for part of one day and not two as previously programmed has only just been received following discussions about increasing resources to attain that outcome.

I apologise for any disruption our works may cause. Please plan ahead and allow extra time for your journey.

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For further information, please contact:

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**NB** Please note I have received the following statement about the proposed **M1 J13 – J16 works** from Highways England:

Costain Galliford Try Joint Venture working on behalf of Highways England, are carrying out the Smart Motorway scheme on the M1 between junctions 13 to 16.

We can confirm that they are aware of the clash of diversion routes along the A5 through Towcester. They are in the process of amending their current planned diversion. Once this has been confirmed, Costain Galliford Try will issue a revised diversion route.