

Working on behalf of



Forkers Ltd

Customer Contact Centre: 0300 123 5000
www.highways.gov.uk

ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORKS:

A5 Towcester

Update Bulletin 3 – 23.8.2018

Since my last bulletin on 8th August 2018 we have completed works to Phase 1 and substantially completed works to Phase 4 of our essential maintenance scheme on the A5 in Towcester. We have also adjusted the levels of road gully grates and frames and carried out CCTV surveys of Anglian Water drainage assets within accessible areas of Phase 2 together with monitoring noise and vibration within Phases 2 and 3.

Forkers Ltd. completed all planned drainage works, as well as some additional drainage works, to Phase 1 within the original programme period.

On Thursday 9th August 2018 Tarmac Ltd resurfaced the carriageway, from the A5 / Brackley Road / Northampton Road junction northwards up to Towcester Fire Station, by machine laying approximately 100 Tonnes of asphalt surface course material to a compacted thickness of 50mm. Northampton Road was closed for a time between 9am and 1pm and then reopened to traffic.

Wilson & Scott laid High Friction Surfacing (HFS) to areas of the newly resurfaced carriageway including the Fire Station access and also applied road markings to replace those removed during the surfacing works.

J. McCanns then saw cut the carriageway and installed traffic signal loops to complete this phase of our works. The A5 within Phase 1 was re-opened to traffic at midnight on Sunday 12th August 2018. I understand that the off street parking permit system for residents and businesses within Phase 1 worked well during the works. This permit system is no longer in operation in Phase 1.

On Monday 13th August 2018 works started to Phase 4 between Vernon Road (The Olive Tree) and a point approximately 60 metres south of Marlow Road. i.e. towards Milton Keynes. By Tuesday night Tarmac Ltd. had resurfaced the carriageway by machine laying approximately 300 tonnes of asphalt surface course material to a compacted thickness of 50mm. Wilson Scott had applied both High Friction Surfacing (HFS) to areas of the newly resurfaced carriageway and road markings to replace those removed during the surfacing works. Forkers Ltd. had also adjusted the levels of road gully grates and frames within accessible areas of Phase 2.

On Wednesday 15th August 2018 we started surveying a brick culvert which runs through Phases 2 and 3. Although this culvert is an Anglian Water asset we are working with them collaboratively and using the opportunity afforded by the road closure to provide them with this survey. The

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information we provide will enable Anglian Water to prepare a schedule of any repairs found to be necessary with the intention of carrying them out during the road closure. On Thursday 16th August 2018 we had started cleaning existing road gullies and surface water drainage pipes in Phase 4 with a jetting machine to allow the use of specialist cameras to carry out CCTV inspections of the carrier pipes. However, after two near miss incidents when drivers ignored the traffic control system and put our workforce at risk of serious injury or death, the decision was taken to put the safety and welfare of the public and our workforce first and suspend these drainage works. We had intended to continue trenchless drainage works to Phase 4 on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th August and to phases 2 and 3 during this week but these have all been affected by suspension of the works. We will be returning to Phase 4 to cleanse existing surface water drainage carrier pipes with a jetting machine, use specialist cameras to carry out CCTV inspections of the drainage runs and carry out repairs where required using trenchless technology only. These works will now be carried out sometime after work restarts on 28th August when the road is closed to through traffic and our workforce can operate in a safer environment. The off street parking permit system for residents within Phase 4 will not be required during these drainage works.

The A5 was reopened to through traffic at approximately 8pm on Thursday 16th August 2018.

Since then we have installed 'tell tales' to the frontages of seven properties fronting the A5 which will allow us to monitor any effects of vibration to these properties. We are also continually monitoring noise in Phases 2 and 3.

We have also been completing non-intrusive investigations to find the locations of gas and other services to properties within Phase 2 and are continuing to do so.

Following the August Bank Holiday, **from approximately 7am on Tuesday 28th August 2018** works will start to **Phase 2a and 2b (part)** with a full road closure of the A5 southwards from the Saracens Head Hotel, past Park Street to a point half way along the Market Square parking area near J and A and The Co-operative Food store. It was originally intended that Phase 2a would end at the north end of the Market Square parking area near the Sponne Shopping Centre. However, in order to make the disabled parking bays in Market Square available at all times during our works, it is necessary to merge Phase 2a with part of Phase 2b. This will allow access to the disabled parking bays from the south (Richmond Road) from 28th August 2018 and from the north (A5 / Brackley Road / Northampton Road junction) when works to these merged phases have been completed. **NB** with the exception of delivery vehicles and permit holders, only vehicles displaying disability parking permits will be allowed into the parking area. As there are a limited number of parking spaces available I shall be grateful if those using them would try to keep their stay as short as possible. Delivery vehicles will be operating in the same area so please follow the instructions of our Traffic Marshal and drive with caution.

During works to these merged phases the unloading area for vehicles delivering to shops and businesses will be slightly further south than originally intended but still accessed from Richmond Road.

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Park Street will temporarily become two way with access from and egress to Brackley Road only. Chantry Lane will be closed to traffic from the A5 and Moat Lane will temporarily become two way with access from and egress to Northampton Road only. The winding section of Moat Lane will be controlled by temporary two way traffic signal control. From 9th September 2018 for approximately three weeks, we are working collaboratively with local businesses by providing a slot in our programme for urgent repairs to be carried out to Chantry House by others during the closure of Chantry Lane. This work will be carried out from scaffolding erected in Chantry Lane but pedestrian access will be available beneath the scaffolding. From the same date and during the same period we are working collaboratively with local businesses to provide a slot in our programme for urgent repairs to be carried out to the Town Hall by others. This work will also be carried out from scaffolding erected along the A5 Watling Street side of the building. This scaffolding will not affect access for delivery and other permitted vehicles.

Our planned works to Phase 2a and 2b (part) includes the following: milling and removal of the existing carriageway surface to a depth of 50mm, cleaning of existing surface water carrier pipes with a jetting machine, using specialist cameras to carry out CCTV inspections of the drainage runs and carry out repairs using trenchless technology whenever possible, repairs to collapsed pipes where required, installation of new road gullies and surface water pipes, permanent reinstatement of footway around road gullies with block paving or asphalt, relaying of granite kerbs and channels around road gullies, replacement of ironwork where required i.e. access chamber covers and frames and gully grates and frames, removal of sections of the existing reinforced concrete road slab affected by road gully and pipeline installation and above the existing low pressure gas main, permanent reinstatement of reinforced concrete road slab, saw cutting contraction and crack inducer joints in new reinforced concrete slab, applying tack coat to the milled surface and then machine laying asphalt surface course material to a compacted thickness of 50mm, laying High Friction Surfacing (HFS) to areas of the newly resurfaced carriageway, applying road markings to replace those removed during the surfacing works and installing traffic signal loops and road studs.

Our working areas will be protected by a mix of 1.8 metres high weldmesh fencing panels with acoustic barriers attached where required and 1.2 metres high pedestrian crowd barriers. Pedestrian crossing points will be installed at regular intervals with tarmac ramps provided.

An archaeologist has been appointed to maintain a watching brief during excavation of new gullies and carrier pipes.

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

Towcester is open for business as usual during these essential works and all of the public car parks are accessible so please use your local shops, bars and restaurants and ask others to do the same. I'm sure that your local business community would appreciate it.

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

For further information, please contact:

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