

Our ref: 560385

Highways England
Stirling House (Area 7),
Lakeside Court,
Osier Drive,
Sherwood Business Park,
Nottingham, NG15 0DS

www.highwaysengland.co.uk

29th August 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

**NOTIFICATION OF OVERNIGHT WORKS ON A43 BETWEEN
M1J15A AND TOVE ROUNDABOUT TOWCESTER**

The safety of those using the Motorway and Trunk Road network is paramount to Highways England. No one should be harmed when travelling or working on the strategic road network. Our comprehensive and systematic approach to safety, minimising disruption for motorists when planning road works will continue to be at the core of our work as we modernise, maintain and operate our roads not only for drivers, but also cyclists, pedestrians and other road users.

What are Highways England Doing On The A43?

Highways England;

1. Are to open up the temporary closure of the A43 St Johns Road Tiffield/Top Farm/Wood Farm junction gap within the central reserve, Wednesday evening 29th August 2018.
2. Are to open up the temporary closure of the A43 Towcester Road Blisworth junction gap within the central reserve, Wednesday evening 29th August 2018.
3. Will extend the temporary 50mph speed restriction in a easterly direction on the A43 westbound accompanied by inherent signing.
4. Will introduce temporary signing on the A43 eastbound approaching the A43 St Johns Road Tiffield/Top Farm/Wood Farm, and, A43 Towcester Road Blisworth junction gaps to deter motorists destined for the A43 westbound towards Towcester from undertaking 'U' turn manoeuvres and encourage the use of the roundabout at M1 J15a.
5. Will be discussing enforcement of the temporary 50mph speed restriction implemented on the A43 westbound with Northamptonshire Police.

Why are Highways England undertaking the above actions?

Following representations received Highway England has undertaken a safety assessment of the impact the temporary closure of the St Johns Road Tiffield/Top Farm/Wood Farm junction gap within the central reserve is having upon vehicular movements.

We have concluded that the right turn vehicular movement from the A43 eastbound through the gap in the central reserve into the Top Farm/Wood Farm access located on the A43 westbound is a safer movement than the left turn movement into the access from the A43 westbound carriageway for all types of vehicles using this access. Consequently we have decided to open up the gap.

The risk that motorists normally undertaking a turn right from the A43 eastbound through the gap at the Northampton Road/Hulcote junction will undertake a 'U' turn manoeuvre at the St Johns Road Tiffield/Top Farm/Wood Farm gap within the central reserve still remains. However, it is Highways England's view that the risk of accidents associated with the left turn movement into the Top Farm/Wood Farm access from the A43 westbound carriageway is of greater concern in terms of safety.

We will be monitoring the junction to check that safety issues do not become prevalent particularly when there will be additional vehicular movements as a consequence of certain road closure(s) that we will be implementing within Towcester, and, would encourage motorists destined for the A43 westbound and Towcester to undertake the 10 minute 9 ½ mile safer journey to the roundabout at M1 J15a and back.

Why is the temporary closure of the gap at the Northampton Road/Hulcote junction still in place?

The risk that additional vehicle movements will be generated at the gap within the central reserve at the A43 Northampton Road/Hulcote junction still remains as a consequence of our A5 closures through Towcester, and, is of serious concern to Highways England. We have decided that the temporary closure of this particular gap should remain in place following a review of the recorded personal injury accident data associated with vehicular movements at this junction. In the last six years two of these accidents involved serious injury and one involved loss of life

Duration of Works

We are doing our very best to complete the work as quickly as possible, keeping disruption, disturbances and noise to a minimum.

We are endeavouring to minimise the overall duration of the works. We are pushing our contractors to maximise outputs and productivity without compromising safety with multiple gangs and crews.

Contact us

If you have any questions about our work, please call the Public Liaison Officer working on behalf of Highways England on 07964 114 623. You can also email us at infoA5towcesterhighstreet@forkers.com.

We have undertaken a considerable amount of work communicating notification and awareness of these works with stakeholders. We work with our contractors and other local stakeholders to plan work carefully and ensure that drivers are given the information they need to plan their journeys so that disruption is kept to a minimum. We will write to you again to keep you informed about our works and about road closures as an identified customer within our Communication Plans.

Yours faithfully,




East Midlands Operations Directorate
Highways England

