

6 September 2017

Important roadworks information

Dear Sir/Madam,

A14 Orwell Bridge inspection and resurfacing works September/October 2017

I write to inform you that Kier with contractors Up & Under, working on behalf of Highways England, started a Principal Inspection of Orwell Bridge on 14 August. This takes place every six years to monitor the condition of this concrete structure, and requires close inspection of every surface of the bridge, which takes two months to complete.

The first phase of this work up to 15 September, has taken place using abseilers under the bridge, accessing the bridge piers and underside of the bridge with no effect on traffic flows over the bridge.

During the second phase of works, we plan to complete work overnight for three weeks **starting Monday 18 September until Saturday 8 October, working 9pm to 5am, on weekdays only (Monday to Friday for 15 nights), weather permitting.**

While this inspection of the bridge deck (all 4 lanes), footways, gully clearance and other maintenance works plus resurfacing takes place, the A14 will be closed in both directions between Junction 55 Copdock and Junction 58 Seven Hills.

Eastbound closure: will start at Copdock Interchange (Junction 55) with traffic diverted towards Ipswich on London Road as far as Yarmouth Road to the Norwich Road junction, then join the A1214 Colchester Road, Heath Road and Bixley Road around the north of Ipswich to Felixstowe Road rejoining the A14 at Seven Hills Interchange (Junction 58).

Westbound closure: will start at Seven Hills Interchange (Junction 58) and follow the above diversion in reverse to rejoin the A14 at Copdock Interchange (Junction 55).

We would be grateful if you would share this information locally as widely as possible, so that Ipswich residents can plan their journeys effectively, allowing extra time to travel the diversion route or avoiding the need to travel during the road closure times stated above if possible.

To stay informed about all the latest major roadworks happening near you, visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england to register for the latest alerts. If you have any further enquiries about this work please contact the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000, or e-mail: info@highwaysengland.co.uk

I would like to apologise in advance to local residents or businesses along the diversion route for any inconvenience or disruption you may experience overnight during this essential work to maintain the Orwell Bridge. Please be assured that we will carry out as much maintenance work as possible in one visit to avoid the need for any further closures separately. We have also carefully planned the closures overnight when traffic flows are at their lightest to reduce the impact on the majority of the travelling public and local business needs.

Yours faithfully,



Melanie Willis
Customer Service Manager
For and on behalf of Highways England