

## **Loddon Viaduct Q & A**

### **What is the Loddon Viaduct?**

The Loddon Viaduct forms part of the A3290, which is a classified road. Immediately to its east the road is designated the A329(M), and the combined lengths link Reading & Bracknell.

More commonly known as Loddon Bridge, the main residential area of Woodley is to its north, with Winnersh and Lower Earley situated south.

The section is an elevated dual carriageway with two traffic lanes in either direction, surrounded by residential and commercial areas.

Access on and off each carriageway is via slip roads leading to signalised roundabouts; Bader Way to the north and Winnersh Triangle (formerly Winnersh IQ) to the south.

### **What is the work?**

This major project is very complex and necessary. This is the second and concluding phase of the project.

It will replace the bridge's noisy joints, install new concrete safety barriers, replace the existing waterproof membrane, improve drainage and signs, and give the dual carriageway a new low noise road surface.

It will also mean the bridge shouldn't need significant maintenance for some time.

### **Why does this work have to be done?**

This is essential work that needs to be done to maintain this vital piece of our road network.

The existing bridge parapets need replacing and are costly and time consuming to maintain.

The existing waterproof membrane needs replace to protect the main bridge structure.

New concrete safety barriers offer a more effective solution whilst also lasting longer.

The new carriageway surface and bridge joints will be quieter for nearby residents, businesses and road users.

**Why is the concrete barrier different to the other side?**

Better design and availability gave Wokingham Borough Council the option of selecting an improved solution.

**When is the work happening?**

To minimise traffic disruption the work was split into two phases, with the eastbound carriageway towards Bracknell completed summer 2014 and the westbound carriageway towards Reading re-scheduled for summer 2016.

The works re-scheduled for 2016 allowed Highways England to complete the M4 improvement Scheme. This avoided traffic management conflict and kept traffic disruption to a minimum.

This summer work will start July 11<sup>th</sup> with fencing repairs and enabling works during the days for 2 weeks. The hours of working will be 09.30 - 16-30 each day.

The main works will begin on the evening of July 22<sup>nd</sup> for up to 6 weeks. The work will happen daytime although some night work will also be needed.

**Why is the work happening like this?**

Following the problems faced by motorists and the impact on surrounding residents and roads during the preparatory works October 2013, Wokingham Borough Council rethought the January 2014 schedule for this major project – opting for two separate phases during the school summer holiday because local roads are quieter.

**What are the traffic management plans?**

With the westbound carriageway across the viaduct closed for the duration of the works a temporary contraflow will be in operation. There will be one traffic lane in each direction on the northern carriageway across the viaduct.

Eastbound traffic will be able to exit at Winnersh Triangle (formerly Winnersh IQ).

To help keep traffic moving on the A3290 and A329(M), traffic won't be able to get onto the main carriageway from the Winnersh Triangle slip road heading westbound. Road users should take the A329 if heading towards Reading.

Temporary speed limits of 30 & 50 mph in both directions and a 24-hour breakdown service will be in operation throughout the temporary contra-flow.

Diversion routes will be in place but road users are strongly advised to plan their journeys in advance and seek alternative routes as there will be additional traffic demands on the local road network. Other road works have been coordinated to avoid conflicts wherever possible.

**How is this traffic management different from Phase1 in 2014?**

Essentially the traffic management is the same but now in the opposite direction. This enables the eastbound off slip road to Bader Way to remain open reducing disruption.

**What is happening with the M4/J10 works?**

This was Highways England project, not ours and is now completed. The benefits of the scheme are monitored by Highways England.

For more details about this scheme visit [www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m4-  
junction-10-congestion-relief-improvement](http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m4-junction-10-congestion-relief-improvement)

**Where can I find out more information about the Loddon Viaduct scheme?**

The council's highways team will keep nearby residents and businesses up-to-date about the works as they progress.

The latest Road works including live traffic conditions is available:

<http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/roadworks-and-new-roads/current-roadworks-and-road-closures/>

The latest traffic conditions and problems across the borough are also available by signing up to the council's text and email alerts at [www.wokingham.gov.uk/register](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/register).

Traffic updates are also posted on the council's Facebook and Twitter @WokinghamBC pages.

