

Arborfield Road (A327) Closure FAQ:

Q. What work are you doing and why is it needed?

A. As part of the Planning Permission for the Eastern Relief Road project, there is a requirement to install 3 additional flood relief culverts underneath Arborfield Road. These will help to reduce the impact of flooding south of the A327.

Q. Why do you need to close Arborfield Road (A327)?

A. To avoid between 20 and 24 weeks (5 – 6 months) of single lane traffic lights controlling traffic whilst we install the additional flood culverts, Wokingham Borough Council has agreed to a full road closure. This is considered by all parties to cause the least overall disruption to the local road network, particularly given that traffic has a tendency to queue on the A327 with even minimal traffic management.

We are working with Wokingham Borough Council to facilitate additional improvement work at the same time, to ensure the most efficient use of the closure.

Q. Where does the closure extend from and to?

A. The culverts are being installed to the east of the Magpie and Parrot pub, affecting a very short section of road between the Magpie and Parrot pub and the river Loddon bridge. However, the official diversion route for through-traffic will start at Arborfield Cross at one end and the roundabout in Shinfield (nr the petrol station) at the other end.

Q. When is the work taking place?

A. Work starts on 03rd August 2015 and continues for approximately 3 weeks. The road will close on 3rd August at 05.00 and will be re-opened on 24th August at 05.00. All work is subject to weather conditions.

Q. What are the hours of working?

A. Monday to Saturday – 07.00 to 21.00
Sunday – 09.00 to 18.00

24hr working was considered but discounted on the basis of the impact on local residents, in particular Parrot Farmhouse care home and the Magpie & Parrot pub.

Q. Why are you working longer hours?

A. The full road closure was granted with the intention of reducing long-term disruption to the local community and road users. Therefore, we plan to carry out as much as we can during the daylight hours available to us, with the aim of opening the road earlier than planned.

Q. What is the diversion route?

A. A diversion route map is being finalised and will be published in the near future. However, traffic will be diverted on to the following routes:

Westbound Traffic

At Arborfield Cross take the B3030 (Sindlesham Road, Mole Road, King Street) to Winnersh; Turn left onto the A329 (Reading Road) and then left onto the B3270 (Lower Earley Way North, Lower Earley Way);

Continue along the B3270 to Black Boy roundabout and then join the A327 to Shinfield.

Eastbound Traffic

From Black Boy roundabout take the B3270 (Lower Earley Way, Lower Earley Way North); At Winnersh turn right onto the A329 (Reading Road) and then right onto the B3030 (King Street, Mole Road, Sindlesham Road) to Arborfield Cross.

We will ensure that sufficient hard signage is erected to indicate diversion routes and we are looking at displaying strategic road signage and mobile VMS further afield to advise drivers to “self-divert” around the area.

Q. How long is the diversion route?

A. Vehicles travelling between Arborfield Cross and Shinfield roundabout (near the petrol station) would normally travel a distance of approximately 2 miles. Following the diversion route from start to finish (Arborfield Cross to Shinfield roundabout) is an additional 5.5 miles.

Q. How will you manage local traffic to both residential and business premises?

A. Full access will be maintained for all residents and businesses situated in the closure area. However, to discourage through-traffic from attempting to ignore the road closure signage, localised width restrictions may be installed at the start points of the diversion routes with suitable “access only” signage.

Pedestrian and cyclist access will be maintained through the closed section of the road.

Q. How will public transport be affected?

A. We are liaising with Reading Buses and the local authority public transport co-ordinator and they will notify local service operators of the work. Timetables and routes may be amended accordingly. Please see Reading Buses for further information.

Q. How will we manage traffic on the local roads during the full closure?

A. In order to advise drivers of the road closure, there will be a number of additional signs erected in the area around Shinfield & Arborfield. Discussions are ongoing with WBC and local parish councils to establish local temporary management measures e.g. weight/height restrictions, traffic calming, or waiting restrictions which might be necessary.

Q. How will deliveries (milk, post and refuse collections etc) be dealt with?

A. As with other access requirements, deliveries will be accommodated during the closure period. We are discussing the finer details with the relevant organisation.

Q. Will emergency vehicles have access through the closure?

A. Emergency vehicles will have full access to all properties and businesses within the closure area. However, during a large part of the work the road will physically be removed and therefore unsuitable for use. The emergency services are fully informed about the closure and will make arrangements to access properties from the most appropriate direction.

Q. Who can I speak to about the project?

A. At the Council?

The best contact at WBC is Louise Page, contactable through louise.page@wokingham.gov.uk or phone 0118 974 6000.

At UoR?

The best contact at the University is the University of Reading Press Office, contactable through 0118 378 5757 or pressoffice@reading.ac.uk.

At HOCHTIEF (UK) Construction?

The best contact at HOCHTIEF (UK) Construction is Kelly Shear, contactable through 07976 180 915, or email kelly.shear@hochtief.co.uk.