

## A35 Somerford Roundabout (Christchurch) resurfacing FAQs

### Q. When is it happening?

A. Work starts 19.00hrs Sunday 31 January for a total of five days

### Q. Is the roundabout closed?

A. Yes. The work is being done in two phases with access to and from the roundabout severely disrupted with continuous 24-hour road closures in operation as follows:

**PHASE ONE Starts 19.00hrs Sunday 31 Jan and expected to be completed by 06:00 Wednesday 3 February.** During this time the following road closures will be in place:

1. A35 Christchurch Bypass **eastbound** at the Stoney Cross roundabout exit.
2. A35 Lyndhurst Road on the immediate approach to the Somerford Roundabout
3. A337 Highcliffe Road at the Somerford Roundabout exit (eastbound). Note that temporary two-way traffic will be operating on this side of the road to allow access to and from Somerford Avenue **via Honeysuckle Way only**. There will be no through access to either roundabout.
4. On and off Slip at Salisbury Road/A35 Christchurch Bypass.

**PHASE TWO Starts 07.00hrs Wednesday 3 February to 19.00hrs Friday 5 February.** During this time the following road closures will be in place:

5. A35 Christchurch Bypass **westbound** at the Somerford Roundabout exit.
6. B3059 Somerford Road on the approach to the Somerford Roundabout.
7. A337 Highcliffe Road at the exit from Hoburne roundabout – note that temporary two-way traffic will be in operation on this side of the road to allow access to Grange Road only. It is NOT a through road and you cannot get to the Somerford Roundabout.
8. On and off Slip and Burton Road/A35 Christchurch Bypass

### Q. Is the road closed to all traffic including residents?

A. Yes. We can't let any vehicles travel over the freshly laid material until it is fully set.

### Q. Is there a diversion?

A. Yes, **for HGV traffic only**. During Phase One (31 Jan to 6am, 3 Feb), HGV traffic (**not locals**) will be directed to use the A338 Spur Road, A31 to Cadnam, A336, A326, B3054 to Beaulieu and Lymington and A337 Lymington Road, an unavoidably lengthy route due to low bridges and other restrictions being in place. Local traffic is expected to find its own way around. No formal local diversion will be in place.

During Phase Two (from 7am, 3 Feb to 7pm, 5 Feb), access will be restored at the Somerford Roundabout for traffic leaving the A35 Lyndhurst Road who will be able to turn left/east onto the A337 Highcliffe Road. The Christchurch Bypass will be closed westbound and there will be no access to B3059 Somerford Road.

See HGV diversion map at [www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/highwaymaintenance](http://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/highwaymaintenance)

**Q. Where is the local diversion for residents?**

A. There is no formal local diversion. Local traffic is expected to find its own way around the closures with every other side road remaining open. Individuals travelling to Highcliffe from the direction of Bournemouth, for example, would need to find a way via Hinton or Mudeford.

We took this decision after becoming concerned that HGVs may follow the local diversion instead of the official quite lengthy diversion route using the A road network (which by law they must do – a closed A road must have an A road used as a diversion route).

There is extensive local advanced warning signage being put out to advertise this and regular users of these routes will know to plan ahead.

Also given the current lockdown situation and the message to stay at home and minimise journeys we would not want to be seen as encouraging or enabling travel.

**Q. Are you resurfacing all of the roundabout?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Why are you doing this now?**

A. There is never a good time to do this crucial hub in our highway network and we appreciate it will cause disruption for lots of people.

Following the announcement of this latest lockdown we spoke to our contractor about getting the work done now whilst traffic levels are lower than normal. We have decided to capitalise on this opportunity and get this work done to avoid causing more disruption in a few month's time.

We are also under a time restriction to get the work done before April because this is being paid for directly by the Department for Transport as a 'Challenge Fund' project, i.e. part of a wider bid for structural maintenance jobs around the principal road network.

**Q. What about emergency vehicles? How will they get through?**

A. The Emergency Services have been informed and will be making their own plans to make their way around. Unfortunately, this material cannot be driven on whilst still setting, it's not like normal asphalt that we could plane off immediately after the vehicle had driven over it (and damaged it) and relay. This grouted asphalt behaves more like concrete. We just can't let people drive on it until it's cured (set properly).

**Q. What about access to the Sainsbury's supermarket car park? Is that still open?**

A. Yes. Temporary three-way traffic signals will in place at the Sainsbury's mini roundabout to facilitate access to local businesses (from 31 Jan to 3 Feb).

During Phase 1 - from 7pm Sunday 31 January to 6am Wednesday 3 February - Sainsbury's and other businesses on that side of the roundabout would need to be accessed southbound from the A35, but from Wednesday 3 February onwards, access will be possible by turning left from Christchurch Bypass as normal.

**Q. What about access to the garden centre near Sainsbury's? is that still open?**

A. Yes.

**Q. What about access to KFC?**

A. The access to KFC car park/drive through will remain open. Temporary three-way traffic signals will in place at the Sainsbury's mini roundabout to facilitate this (from 31 Jan to 3 Feb).

**Q. How are you able to resurface Poole Road in three days and yet this little roundabout is taking five days?**

A. Roundabouts are notoriously challenging for road surfaces and conventional materials such as those used on 'normal' roads tend to wear out quickly. We are using a specialised grouted asphalt material which is designed for use in high stress areas such as this.

Unfortunately, this material, which is much stronger, has a significantly longer curing time and the carriageway has to be closed for longer than we'd normally prefer.

The material will, however, last much longer so there is a positive pay-off for experiencing disruption now in order to delay additional resurfacing and disruption in the future.

**Q. What about the buses?**

A. Please speak to your bus operator about changes to bus services.

**Q. I live/work in Grange Road with sole access to A337 Highcliffe Road - how do I get in/out?**

A. - Letters to residents and businesses in Grange Road explaining access arrangements have been sent out.

During Phase 2 (starting 07.00hrs Wednesday 3 February), the A337 Highcliffe Road (westbound) will be closed to through traffic.

At this time, temporary traffic signals for two-way traffic will be put into place to maintain access to Grange Road. Traffic leaving Grange Road will turn right and then re-join the eastbound side of the A337 Highcliffe Road at the cross over (gap in the safety barriers in the central reservation) on the approach to Hoburne Roundabout.

A 20mph speed limit will be in place and the eastbound side of the A337 Highcliffe Road will be reduced to one lane in order to allow safe transit of vehicles joining from the cross over.

**Q. I live in Somerford Avenue; it's a cul-de-sac accessed of the A337 Highcliffe Road - how do I get in and out?**

A. - Letters to residents in Somerford Avenue explaining access arrangements have been sent out.

During Phase 1 (starting 19.00hrs Sunday 31 January) the A337 Highcliffe Road will be closed to through traffic.

At this time, temporary provision for two-way traffic will be put into place between the junction of Honeysuckle Lane and Somerford Avenue. A 20mph speed limit will be in place until the eastbound side of the A337 Highcliffe Road is re-opened to one lane operation during Phase 2 of the works at 07:00hrs on Wednesday 3 January.

**Q. When are you doing my road/other roads?**

A. The chances are that if it's 'bad' we already know about it and it will be on a shortlist for structural maintenance. More works are planned for the near future and details will be released once confirmed. Further information can be found on our website at

[www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/highwaymaintenance](http://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk/highwaymaintenance)