

Structures Upgrade Work 2021-23

Questions and Answers

Why is the work necessary?

Hundreds of structures including retaining walls, parapets and bridges need to be kept up to standards agreed in the Highways PFI contract. These structures play an important part in supporting the Island's highways network and therefore it is important they are fit for purpose.

A structure that becomes defective or is assessed as not being able to carry traffic for which it is designed may have to be closed or subject to a weight restriction and that would have a major impact on the network. The ongoing inspection and investigation regime with associated remedial / strengthening work will help keep the structures up to the task for which they were designed – and keep traffic moving.

Why is the work only being done now?

A number of structures have been recently added to the scope of the Highways PFI following an agreement with the IWC. This agreement has also established a timetable in which the work must be completed (target for end of March 2023)

Does the work have to be done in the summer?

Our first priority is safety. Any work will be carried out to a timetable that meets our responsibility to maintain a safe network. There is also a target date – end of March 2023 – by which the work is to be completed. Fortunately - and unlike major highway resurfacing schemes – some of the required work on structures can be done during the winter so we will be able to spread the work programme out as much as possible.

Additionally, we are aware of the importance of the tourism industry and that the network is busier in the summer months, and we will bear these factors very much in mind when planning our work programme.

Will there be much disruption?

Much of the work will be done with only a small amount of localised disruption. However, some of the structures we need to inspect (and possibly strengthen and/or repair) will be those supporting main roads and, as such, some disruption is inevitable. Given that many of these structures are in the Ventnor area, it is here that the impact of this work will be most noticeable.

In all cases public safety will be paramount and we will need to take all necessary steps to ensure our work sites are safe for passing traffic and/or pedestrians and close the road for the duration of the work if required. We will however seek to minimise any disruption and will publicise the works in advance so people can plan their journeys accordingly.

It should also be noted that any disruption due to inspection and strengthening work will be far less than if the structure were to become unfit for purpose and a closure or weight restriction was necessary.

How will I know if my wall will need repairs?

You will be notified in writing if your wall requires inspection, assessment, strengthening or maintenance works. Letters will give further information and also provide contact details should you have any queries. Our team will be happy to attend a site meeting with you if required.

Please note that inquiries in the first instance should be made via our contact centre info@islandroads.com or telephone 01983 822440

What work can be expected?

The work programme will be decided according to the results of the inspection and assessments we will be carrying out. Some of these inspections will be visual, others may involve more in-depth assessments involving taking cross-section samples of the wall and localised excavations to inspect the foundations. It is possible that part or full road closures may be possible although we would expect the durations of these to be short and we will of course look to complete all work as quickly as practicable.

Some inspection may result in low level monitoring or minor repairs to cracks and surfacing, others may require more substantial works to strengthen retaining walls or parapets. Where work is required, we will communicate fully in advance with the local community and road users.

Who is paying for the work?

All the work will be paid for under the Highways PFI contractual arrangements.

Who is doing the work?

The work is being carried out by Island Roads structural engineers and our approved contractors and specialist consultants.

If you have any questions please contact us at info@islandroads.com or in an emergency please telephone 01983 822440