

York Avenue FAQs

Why is the work being done at this time of the year?

The work is being done early in the year so as not to impact upon the main holiday months. We hope the project will be completed in early June. The work will also take place during a period of Covid restrictions when traffic volumes, including via the Red Funnel Ferry, is lighter.

Why can't the work be done overnight?

While working early in the year should enable the scheme to be completed before the main holiday season, it does mean we are working in temperatures and weather not best suited to this kind of work. This is particularly so at night when temperatures can be expected to be at their coldest. The scheme also involves the digging of deep trenches so for health and safety reasons it is better to undertake the work in daylight.

However, we do plan to undertake the resurfacing element of the project at night in order to reduce inconvenience.

Why can't the highway be opened up at night when work has finished and at weekends.

The project involves fairly deep excavations up to a depth of 650mm. It would be unsafe to allow traffic to pass over, or close to, these excavations particularly at night. Therefore, the section of road on which we are working must remain closed until completed and the excavations refilled.

Why are you not working weekends?

To reduce impact on the network, we decided to undertake the work in four phases. Not least to allow us to comply with Covid-19 guidance, these phases are best undertaken by a single crew and as with any walk of life, those on this crew are entitled to time off. We will however look at introducing weekend working if required to keep the project on schedule.

Why does my car have to be moved?

Because the site will be unsafe for vehicles during work, it is necessary to divert traffic via other neighbouring roads and streets. This will mean

additional volumes of traffic and also a greater number of larger vehicles will be using these roads.

In order to make this diversion route as safe and free-flowing as possible, it is necessary to prevent parking on some sections. These temporary restrictions will be kept under review and adjustments made if appropriate. The temporary restrictions will be removed as soon as it is safe to do so.

What steps have you taken to minimise disruption?

We have divided the work up into distinct phases. The road closures in place will only be for as long as required to complete a particular phase. By limiting the road closure to a particular section on which we are working, we can retain access to as much as York Avenue as possible and also minimise the amount of on-street parking lost during the work.

We will also work at night to complete the resurfacing element of the work.

We have also taken care to inform the East Cowes community and the wider travelling public of the forthcoming work so they can leave more time for their journey or use alternative routes.

Why don't you resurface all the remaining sections of York Avenue at the same time?

We are always keen to avoid work on this busy main road and gateway route during the tourism months. Any additional work would extend the duration of the scheme into these vital tourism months. Furthermore, we prioritise our work so as to treat those roads most in need of improvement and there are other roads on the network requiring upgrading ahead of the remaining sections of York Avenue.

Will you open the road for the Bank Holiday

Yes. That is our intention.

Will the work affect polling in the local elections (May 6).

We are liaising with the Returning Officer at County Hall to ensure the work does not compromise people's ability to vote on May 6.