

Working in partnership



21st September 2021

Smallbrook junction improvement scheme

We are writing to let you know about the forthcoming works at Smallbrook Roundabout at Ashley and to provide you with some information and guidance about what will happen during the works to enable you to plan accordingly.

This document includes information about the reasons for the project, the planned work schedule (though this is subject to change as will be explained) and details of the traffic management that will be in place.

What is this scheme and why is it taking place?

The council collects accident data so it can plan and undertake the most beneficial safety work at the sites identified by that data as being most in need of attention. Over the past ten years, the Smallbrook Roundabout at Ashley has been identified as the junction where there have been most injury accidents. In that time, there have been 22 collisions resulting in injury as well as numerous other non-injury collisions and near misses.

Island Roads has designed - and will shortly be delivering - a scheme on behalf of the IW Council that includes several measures to make the junction safer. The scheme is funded by a Government grant. Through primarily a road safety scheme, the project will also include various features agreed with local ecological experts Arc Consulting to support biodiversity in the area given the loss of some trees/habitat that is necessary to complete the scheme.

The project will last an estimated six months during which the junction will be controlled by traffic lights. Smallbrook Lane will become one-way (eastbound towards Ryde) with diversions in place for Westbound traffic and the non-residential end of Carters Road will become one-way eastbound from the last property up to its junction with Ashley Road. Some short-term road closures may also be necessary, although if progress with the scheme permits the oneway restriction will be removed for the festive and new year period.

How will it improve safety?

The project will include a number of safety features including:

- New greatly improved visibility splays, particularly for traffic entering the junction from Carters Road and Smallbrook Lane.
- Improved street lighting
- Reduced speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.
- Realigning the approaches to the roundabout and introducing new traffic islands to ensure cars slow down to pass through the roundabout junction. It will no longer be possible for cars to 'straight run' across the junction.
- The introduction of anti-skid 'slow-down strips' on the approaches to the new roundabout,

When does it start and finish?

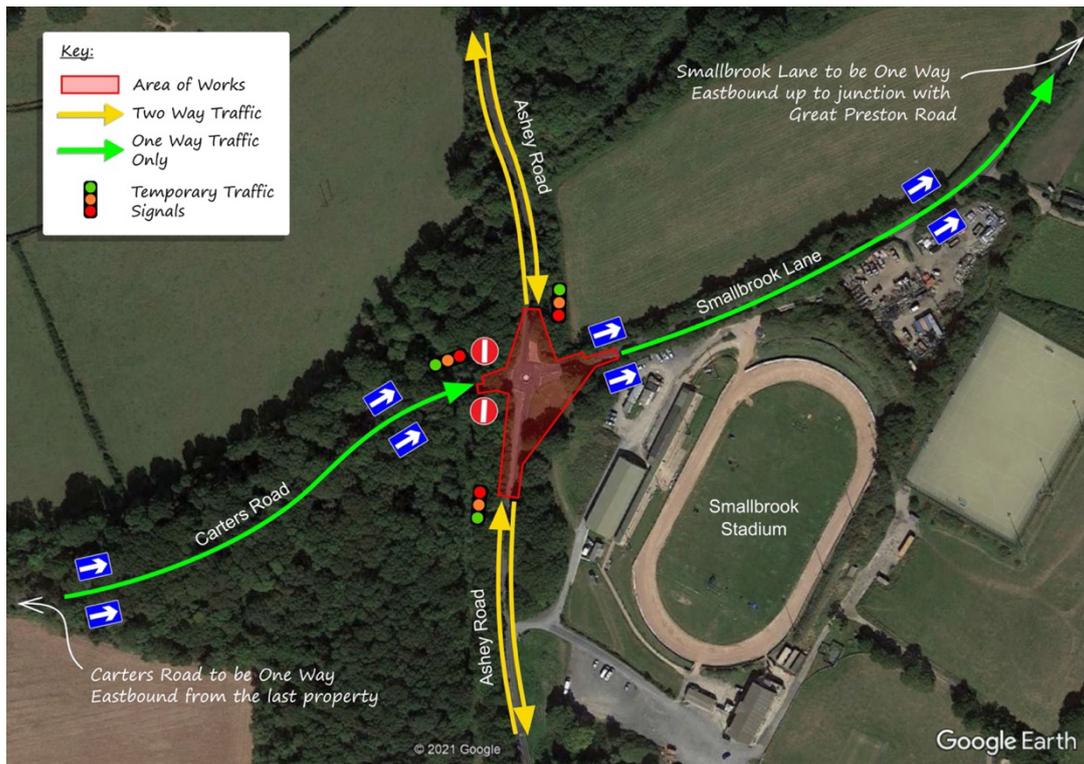
The scheme will start on October 4 (outside of the main tourism scheme and in line with Arc's advice on the best time to carry out the work in the interest of local ecology) and will take an estimated six months to complete:

- Ground clearance (approx. one month) including fingertip searches of any vegetation prior to clearance - and under the guidance of Arc - to ensure the risk of impacting upon the dormouse population is lessened.
- Utilities diversion (approx. 2 months) including the principal water main serving Ryde. In all, the services of four utility companies will require relocation to facilitate the scheme. This work is estimated to take up to two months though, as it is being undertaken by third parties, it is possible there may be delays which are outside of our control.
- New road layout and build (approx. 3 months)

Please be aware, these works are weather dependent, therefore, the date and duration may change if the conditions are not suitable.

How will this affect road users?

A plan of the site during construction is below.



- During work, the junction will be controlled by three-way temporary traffic lights.
- Smallbrook Lane will be one way (eastbound towards Ryde)
- Carters Road will be one-way (eastbound) from the last property to its junction with Ashley Road
- The diversion for Westbound traffic will be via Great Preston Road, St Johns Hill, Green Street, Upton Road.
- Access will be maintained to Smallbrook Stadium
- Any changes to the above will be communicated in advance via the media/social media.
- At times, yet to be confirmed, there will be a need to shut individual roads for works and also the junction itself for resurfacing which is scheduled to be undertaken at night. These closures will be publicised in advance and every effort will be made to maintain access to properties.

What will happen in an emergency?

We work closely with the emergency services to inform them of works taking place across the Island and will assist the emergency services to safely pass through the site, should they need to access the works area in the event of an emergency.

How will the environmental work be carried out?

It will be necessary to remove some vegetation, including a small number of trees, in order to accommodate the work. All the vegetation to be cleared has been identified as being of low habitat value by experts from Arc Consulting.

Because dormice are known to be present in this vicinity, Arc's experts will supervise the thorough inspection of all vegetation approved for removal prior to clearance. These experts will continue to supervise the clearance throughout the work.

At the end of the scheme by way of habitat mitigation and enhancement, new native species will be planted including hazel, hawthorn, and blackthorn as well as honeysuckle which provides food and shelter to wildlife. No protected trees will be removed while six dormice boxes will also be introduced to the area at the end of work. This mitigation and enhancement work has all been agreed with Arc.

How will the community be kept informed?

Island Roads is giving this scheme high priority in terms of communicating with the local community.

- A letter is being delivered to residents and businesses in the area
- There will be a dedicated and frequently updated webpage on the scheme, accessible via the home page of www.islandroads.com
- Updates will also be given via Twitter @IslandRoads
- A press release is being issued to the local newspapers/radio/online media

How can I find out more?

We hope you find this information useful, but if you have any questions please contact info@islandroads.com or in an emergency call 01983 822440.

We recognise that these improvement works may cause some inconvenience for residents and businesses. We hope any disruption will be offset by the long-term improvements we are making in your area. We would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in enabling us to complete these works.

Thank you,

Isle of Wight Council and Island Roads

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