

Godshill Q and A

What work is being carried out?

The work will improve a significant section of the main road through Godshill — the section west of Godshill Primary School and east of the main car park. This has been highlighted as needing improvement by the local community as well as Island Roads' own inspections and data.

The eight-week project will involve the excavation and then reconstruction of large areas of the highway. This will address the underlying ground issues that have caused the highway to deteriorate in the ten years since it was last resurfaced.

With the foundations strengthened, Island Roads will return to the site later in 2027 – most likely April - to resurface the entire road over several nights, with the road reopened during the daytime.

Without this work, the road surface would continue to deteriorate and the longer it is left, the more extensive the remedial work will need to be.

When is the work being carried out?

Works are scheduled to start on 2nd November after the school holidays. The works will pause on 11th December and recommence on 4th January and we aim to complete by the 15th January.

Why are the works taking place now?

We have waited until after the summer season so as not to disrupt the important summer trade. While there is no 'good time' to carry out this kind of work, local businesses have told us that they would prefer work not to begin until after the half term when some shut for the winter.

Can you guarantee that the project will be completed on schedule?

We will make every effort to keep to the published schedule. However, there are always factors that we can encounter during the work that may affect the programme. These include the presence of unmapped services or coming across unexpected ground conditions. In order to protect the tourism economy, we are also working in the winter when wet weather can also hinder progress.

While we hope to finish the work in eight weeks (or before if at all possible), we have booked the road space until January 29 in case there are delays to the intended programme for reasons including severe weather, unmapped services or unexpected ground conditions. The community can be assured that we will do everything possible to complete the work on time – and ahead of schedule if at all possible.

What is the diversion route?

The diversion is via Rookley – Blackwater – Arreton – Ventnor Road & Canteen Road, Apse Heath. This will be signed. A diversion route is one that is suitable for all vehicles, including HGVs. Motorists with local knowledge may use other routes but these will not be promoted.

Why can't the road be re-opened at the end of each day?

The excavations required to strengthen the road foundations are up to 240mm deep. This means it would not be safe to open the road between work shifts. We will, however, work to ensure our progress is such that we will, if possible, open the road over the weekend from Friday evening to Monday morning.

Why can't the works be carried out under temporary traffic lights?

We have looked carefully at this but the scale of work is such — often covering both carriageways — that it will not be possible to complete the work under lights. Even on sections where the full width is not being excavated, we need to ensure our workers can operate safely.

What can be done to prevent motorists using alternative routes, such as Merstone Lane and West Street, inappropriately?

This is an issue that we have discussed with local elected members for the area and we would like to thank them for their input. We will look at putting out temporary road signs that either discourage motorists from using alternative routes (other than the diversion route) or address the risk of people travelling at inappropriate speeds.

This is best done in the early stages of the scheme once we have had the chance to observe driver habits. We will keep traffic movements under review (with particular focus on Merstone Lane and West Street) and we will take whatever measures are needed to ensure the safety of all road users. It should be noted that enforcement of any such measures is the responsibility of the police.

What about consultation?

We have held two detailed briefings with local members and the parish council at which we explained all aspects of the scheme. We have also visited all the businesses that were open during our visit. Businesses between Sandford Garage and the doctor's surgery in Yarborough Close were spoken to at length. Email addresses were collected and regular updates will be sent to all those on that contact list.

Have you listened to what you've been told?

Most certainly. Our original plan was to start work at the beginning of the half-term holiday on October 19. We had planned this because the initial phase was outside Godshill Primary School and we wanted to do this while pupils were not present.

However, during our visit to businesses, it became abundantly clear that half-term trade at this time of the year was vital to the town's economy. Following discussions with colleagues at the Isle of Wight Council, it was agreed to push the scheme back by two weeks as requested by many businesses. We have held further discussions with Godshill Primary and are sure we can undertake the work outside the school safely. To be clear, we would not work at this location if doing so posed any additional risk to the safety of pupils and staff.

Unfortunately, it is simply not possible to undertake work of this nature without causing some local disruption: there simply is no good time to do it. What we have done, having listened to what we were told, is to arrive at a schedule that minimises this disruption.

We have been told by some businesses that the run-up to Christmas is also very important. We will continue to discuss this with those businesses and we will do all we can to assist them in trading as normally as possible during work. We will also do all we can to finish the work ahead of schedule if we possibly can.

Why are you not undertaking the whole project in January/February?

The January and February period is generally considered by the UK construction industry not to be a good time for road resurfacing and road reconstruction schemes. This is for three main reasons:

Cold Temperatures: Low air and ground temperatures reduce the workable time for hot asphalt, making proper compaction difficult and leading to early structural failure.

Increased Moisture: Frequent rain, snow, and wet sub-bases disrupt drying times and destabilise the foundation.

Frost Risk: Laying new material on frozen ground prevents proper bonding and ruins the integrity of the surface.

Dark nights also reduce the available working time. While one can never accurately predict the weather, all these likely negative influences increase the risk of the project overrunning. Any delays would threaten the chances of getting the road open for Easter, which would be a major blow for the local tourism economy.

So completing as much work as we can in November and the first half of December reduces the risk of over-run.

How can residents and businesses stay informed about the project?

We will issue regular updates to stakeholders, including local elected members and Godshill Parish Council, and we will ask these partners to circulate this information across the local community. We will publicise the work well in advance and invite anyone to join that contact group. If you would like to be included in the distribution list for these updates, then please email CIPAdmin@islandroads.com.

We will also issue regular updates via the local media and via our X (formerly Twitter) [@islandroads](https://twitter.com/islandroads) feed.

All updates will also appear on a dedicated page on our website, which can be accessed from the current works tab of the homepage. www.islandroads.com

Who should I contact if I have a query during the works?

You can contact Island Roads either by telephone on 01983 822440 or by email on info@islandroads.com. Contacting us in this manner means your enquiry can be logged and tracked and that you are put in contact with the person best equipped to deal with your enquiry.

Elected members and parish councils can contact us in the usual way.

Will residents be able to access their properties during the scheme?

Yes, as long as it is safe to do so. We have split the work into three phases to minimise disruption. Residents will be able to access their properties as long as there is no work directly outside that prevents it.

Will businesses remain accessible?

We will do as much as we possibly can to allow people to access businesses, although this is a very unusual location given that many businesses are not served by a footway. There is parking locally at the Isle of Wight Council's car park where the authority has kindly agreed to waive parking charges during work. Access to this car park will remain open primarily from the Whiteley Bank direction - however, when we are working east of Hollow Lane, access to the car parks will be available via Wroxall.

What about bus services?

It is the responsibility of the bus company to run services. The Council and Island Roads has no power over the services provided and nor can the council insist a shuttle bus is provided during work. Any such arrangement would need to be agreed by the parties .