

Schedule of proposed A38 carriageway closures

(all dates are provisional and may be subject to change. See the local press and roadside signs for updated information)

Provisional Start	Provisional Finish	Location	Direction	Restriction	What's Happening...
Friday 01 July 2005	Monday 04 July 2005	A38 (Swinfen to Weeford)	Southbound	Full weekend closure of southbound carriageway from Swinfen gap to Weeford Roundabout. Swinfen gap reopened for duration.	To allow tie in of new carriageway just south of Swinfen gap.
Friday 08 July 2005	Monday 11 July 2005	A38 (Weeford to Bassetts Pole)	Southbound	Full weekend closure of southbound carriageway from Weeford Roundabout to Little Hay Lane.	To allow tie in of new carriageway.
Friday 15 July 2005	Monday 18 July 2005	A38 (Weeford to Bassetts Pole)	Both	Full weekend closure from Weeford Roundabout to Little Hay Lane.	To allow installation of new bridleway/cycleway bridge.
Saturday 23 July 2005	Saturday 23 July 2005	A38 (Weeford to Bassetts Pole)	Northbound	Full closure from Weeford Roundabout to Little Hay Lane (night time).	To allow tie in of northbound carriageway adjacent to old junction with Hungry Lane.
Friday 05 August 2005	Monday 08 August 2005	A38 (Swinfen to Weeford)	Southbound	Weekend closure of Slip road from A38 to Weeford.	To allow tie in of carriageway.
Friday 05 August 2005	Monday 08 August 2005	A38 (Swinfen to Weeford)	Both	Full weekend closure from Weeford Roundabout to Swinfen (weekend).	To allow installation of new bridleway bridge.

Note: Overnight closures are typically 10.00pm to 6.00am.
Weekend closures are typically 10.00pm Friday to 6.00am Monday.



A5 Weeford to Fazeley Improvement



Welcome to Newsletter No.5. Since our last newsletter we have made good progress on all aspects of the works.

Side Roads

Flats Lane has now been diverted onto the new bridge over the new A5.

Bucks Head Farm Bridge has also been opened allowing the land owner, ramblers and equestrians to return to the realigned Heart of England Way.

Quarry traffic is now passing under the new Quarry Access bridge, allowing us to progress with building the new embankments either side and constructing the new A5 carriageway over.

The junction of the A38 / Flats Lane / Hungry Lane was successfully closed in late February, significantly reducing the amount of traffic passing through Weeford Village and also reducing rat-running on Flats Lane. Unfortunately a number of design problems with the new Hungry Lane / Flats Lane link meant it remained closed for significantly longer than planned. The link has now been opened. We apologise to everyone affected.

Hints Lane remains closed while the new bridge is constructed. The structure is due to be completed in July and then the lane will be re-opened. Completion of this structure will allow construction of the final section of the new A5.

At the eastern end of the scheme the Fazeley roundabout and junction works are progressing well. To link up the new to the old carriageways, a closure of the B5404 to the east of the junction began on 31st May. Whilst the Orders are in place for a two month closure, it is anticipated that it will only be necessary to keep the closure in place for 3-5 weeks. During the period of the closure, a diversion route is being signed around the Mile Oak Junction.

Department for
Transport

A5 Mainline

Over 3km of the new road surface has now been laid with the installation of white lines, safety barrier, drainage channels and traffic signs following.

Over 60% of the proposed hedgerows and woodland areas have already been planted, a year earlier than originally planned. Large areas of wildflower grass lands have also been planted - stabilising the slopes and providing habitat for insects.

We plan to switch traffic on to the new A5 carriageway later this summer. This will allow completion of the tie-in works at the eastern end of the scheme. The remainder of the planting and landscaping works will then be completed following the start of the planting season in November.

The new carriageway has been surfaced using a stone mastic asphalt (SMA). This type of surfacing creates less noise than traditional surfacing materials and during wet weather the surface texture allows the water to pass through it, reducing spray and making the road safer in the wet. The material has a longer life too so it is better for the environment, better value and less disruption for local people and road users.



A38

The bridleway / footway and cycleway bridges over the A38 are due to be erected in August. These 'warren truss' structures will be delivered to site in two-pieces on specially designed vehicles. Full closure of the A38 at each location will be required in order to set up the crane to lift the bridges into position. Local press and road-side information signs will give detail of closure dates and diversion routes.

There have been some delays to the works on the A38 to the North of Weeford Island, primarily due to works to the underground services, however regular review of the programme has enabled us to mitigate the delay effects.

We have had problems with traffic queues building up when working in one particular area on the roundabout. Steps have been taken to minimise use of this problematic traffic management layout to reduce disruption to residents and motorists. However, it may be necessary to implement this lane closure in the future. Where possible we will limit this use to Mondays and give advance notice in the local press.

Over the next few months there will be many changes to the traffic management arrangements and a number of off-peak closures of the A38 will be necessary to complete the works that will allow the road to flow freely under Weeford interchange.

The [table](#) enclosed with this newsletter details the full carriageway closures that are currently planned on the A38 in order to facilitate completion of the works. Please note that all dates are provisional and may be subject to change. Local press and roadside information signs will confirm closure dates and times and diversion routes will be signed.

By mid-June all traffic should be running on the completed Weeford Island roundabout bridges allowing the link-up of the A38 beneath, with the current plan to have traffic passing under Weeford Island junction by August.

We realise that the ongoing roadworks and changing layouts on the A38 may be frustrating to local people and motorists but please bear with us through these final few months. The end is in sight!

Community

Two local primary schools have now been involved in the scheme using it as the basis for some of their curriculum work. To mark the opening of the new bridge to take the Heart of England Way over the new A5 students at St. Gabriel's and St. Elizabeth's Primary Schools prepared mock press releases. The standard of their work was again high and we congratulate all those who took part.

Before the A5 is opened to traffic, we are hoping to hold a sponsored walk involving the local Rotary Club. For further information and to register an interest please contact [Gerald Blackburn 01543 481593](mailto:Gerald.Blackburn@highways.gsi.gov.uk).

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Driving through roadworks

If you do have to drive through roadworks, please take extra care.

- Keep to the speed limit - it is there for your safety
- Get into the correct lane in good time - don't keep switching
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks
- Keep a safe distance - there could be queues in front
- Observe all signs - they are there to help you

Remember that tiredness can kill. Take regular breaks from driving.

For real time traffic information:

08700 660 115

www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

(Calls from BT landlines to 0870 numbers will cost no more than 8p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

For general Highways Agency information:

0845 7 50 40 30

email: ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-5pm weekends

(Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute; mobile calls usually cost more)

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