FAQ Questions – Jacksons Lane, Grove Hall Lane, West Park Drive residents & direct access residents

Background information

Wentbridge viaduct bridge, which opened to traffic in 1961, is a concrete motorway bridge carrying the A1 over the River Went. Wentbridge village sits immediately west of the bridge with Brockerdale Nature Reserve to the east.

The bridge, which is maintained by National Highways, needs several essential repairs in addition to our regular maintenance; these repairs were identified during recent inspections of the structure.

We expect this work to take around six months and we aim to start in April of 2023.

Our design team and engineers have spent some time looking at how this work can be carried out with the least disruption to customers and residents. This is a real challenge due to the importance of this route and the impact of diversions, especially on local people and hauliers moving goods around country.

While the road is closed, we'll also use the time to make more detailed inspections of the bridge and complete other repairs nearby at Wentedge Road Bridge.

We are replacing the central pier at Wentedge Rd Bridge plus associated works on the top of the structure including replacement of the parapets, joints, and surfacing.

To enable us to replace the pier we need enough room within the central reservation to complete the work whilst maintaining a steady flow of traffic minimising disruption to the public.

As part of the Wentbridge Viaduct works, we are therefore undertaking advanced work at Wentedge Road to realign the carriageway, moving all the traffic over towards the verge. This will increase the working area at the central reservation and yet maintain 2 lanes of traffic in both directions within narrowed lanes.

This is not straightforward, this requires the relocation of the drainage and barrier in addition to paving areas that are currently grassed, plus all associated re-lining and studding.

All this work requires full closures of the carriageway and incorporated it into the Wentbridge closures will maximise efficiency and minimise disruption to the public.

This will help reduce the need to carry out further repairs here in future.

Lessons learned from previous work

We have considered issues raised by residents with direct access to the A1 during precious work at Darrington and have put together a Frequently Asked Questions to provide you with as much information as possible.

FAQs

What hours will you be working? Can you work 24/7 to complete the maintenance sooner?

We will be working a combination of daytime and nigh time shifts dependant on the specific tasks, lighting, and access requirements. We are unable to work a continuous 24/7 pattern due to resource implications, however the programme does reflect the most efficient approach to completing the work as soon as possible

Why will the work take six months? Could it go on for longer than this?

We estimate the repairs needed will take six months to complete however, as with every construction project, more detailed inspections may uncover additional work or, we may be delayed by bad weather. We propose to keep you updated with a regular newsletter as the work is progressing.

How can I access and exit my home once the main work starts (Jacksons Lane)?

For the main work, we are making improvements to the private part of Jacksons Lane which extends from the equestrian centre to New Road. This is in private ownership and through agreement with the owner, we aim to offer residents access their property from this direction. This would remove the need for escorts and delays through the works on the A1T for those on Jacksons Lane.

Why is this solution for Jacksons Lane only being offered now?

The upgrade works on Jacksons Lane required heavy consultation with the landowner of the private road and an agreement on the improvement works needed. The opportunity to utilise this option needed to be fully explored before its implementation and this is why alternative options have been used in the past.

Will this route be available to Jacksons Lane residents after the work is completed?

The rear of Lane is a private road under the ownership of a private individual. Access for Jackson Lane is permissive and only for the duration of the project. Any future access during roadworks would need to be negotiated by National Highways on a scheme-by-scheme basis, directly with the landowner.

How can deliveries and emergency vehicles access my home during the work?

We are contacting Royal Mail, utilities, and emergency services to inform them about the permissive access available during the work. We will also install temporary signage to direct deliveries to your properties using the new access.

Will other road users be able to access this new route?

We will do all we can to reduce access by third parties by using temporary signage to reduce any instances of other road users following your vehicles through the works.

Are any of your construction vehicles using or parking on this route?

A compound is being established for the enabling works towards the east end of Jacksons Lane / New Road. This will be used for the upgrades to the lane itself and the works in advance of the main work and some construction traffic will be present.

A new compound is being established for the main work away from Jacksons Lane and no construction traffic will be utilising this route during the main work.

I live somewhere other than Jacksons Lane and with direct access to and from the A1. How can I access and exit my home?

Properties on the A1 southbound on Grove Hall Lane and West Park Drive sit within the area of road closure for our enabling work. During closures we will have dedicated staff available to escort you to and from your property during closures. More details on how this will work are to follow.

What sort of disruption/delays will you expect on the A1?

Our traffic modelling suggests that at peak times, when in contraflow, delays on the A1 will exceed 2 hours. We are doing all we can to reduce this by using capacity on the M1 and M18.

Where can I find real time updates about A1 delays and any closures?

Real time information about closures is available from National Highways by visiting www.trafficengland.com and the Twitter account @HighwaysYorks.

We'll also be updating our Facebook page, National Highways Yorkshire - although this is not managed 24/7.

For urgent real-time assistance, our 24/7 contact centre team can also provide up-to-the minute information on 0300 123 5000.

Who is my point of contact for any concerns or questions I may have once work starts?

- You will have a dedicated phone number for our traffic managers on site for access queries.
- Our Yorkshire and Northeast Customer Service team are available to you on odynecustomersupport@nationalhighways.co.uk
- The scheme Project Manager John Stebbing is also available to meet with you or discuss any concerns.