

## Finchingfield Bridge – Frequently Asked Questions February 2019 investigation works (five days)

### 1. Why is the bridge closure needed?

In order for us to progress a future bridge design option, site investigation works need to be conducted at Finchingfield Bridge. These works will include ground surveys and excavations in the carriageway which cannot be conducted while the bridge is in use.

Due to the tight work programme which has been limited to a full five days and given the changing weather conditions, it is important that the on-site team have the flexibility to continue with one excavation from one day to the next. Sufficient time also needs to pass to allow back-filling material to set prior to reopening to vehicles. For these reasons the road needs to be fully closed to all vehicles 24 hours a day during this period.

### 2. Why do you need to close Bridge Street?

A section of Bridge Street will be closed to accommodate a site compound. This will be adjacent to the pond and village green.

To ensure that the section of Bridge Street is clear of vehicles ready for the site team to set up prior to the works, **a Clearway/No Parking zone will be in place on a section of Bridge Street from Friday 15 February 2019.**

Vehicles parked within a Clearway zone are at risk of receiving a Penalty Charge Notice and the vehicle relocated to a local safe place.

Further information relating to enforcement of the Clearway/No Parking zones is outlined below (number 5 below).



### 3. Will access to businesses and properties be hindered by the works?

The closure of Finchingfield Bridge and section of Bridge Street will not prevent pedestrian or vehicular access to driveways either side of the bridge or on Bridge Street.

All residential and business premises access will be maintained, including access to The Greedy Duck.

Signage will be in place to reflect that businesses are open as usual.

The pedestrian footbridge over the pond will remain unaffected by the closure.

Signage will be in place to reflect that no motorbikes are permitted to use the footbridge and cyclists are required to dismount.

#### 4. Why are Clearway/No parking areas needed in the village?

The bridge will be fully closed to vehicles during the site investigations. As a result we need to ensure large vehicles have sufficient turning space either side of the bridge at all times.

This will support vehicles providing services to the village centre such as shuttle buses, emergency vehicles, winter gritting, waste recycling services as well as delivery vehicles serving local residents and businesses ensuring they have sufficient space to manoeuvre safely.

#### 5. How will the Clearway/No parking be enforced?

Clearway/No parking areas have been identified in the centre of Finchingfield to support our works. Advance notices will clearly identify the sections of roads and periods when parking enforcement is effective.

No Parking cones and signage will be in place during enforcement - please do not leave your vehicles in these areas.



If you leave your vehicle parked within a Clearway zone then we will make efforts to contact you, however if you cannot reasonably be identified then you are at risk of receiving a **Penalty Charge Notice and your car moved to a local safe place.**

If a Penalty Charge Notice or parking ticket is issued then details of how to pay will be outlined on the back of the ticket.

Illegally parked vehicles will be removed by our qualified and experienced contractor to a safe parking place as near to the original location as possible.

If you cannot find your car nearby please call the Essex County Council Contact Centre on 0345 603 7631 or Essex Police on 101 who will have details about the whereabouts of your car.

Please support us in keeping the Clearway/No Parking zones free from vehicles.

## 6. What alternative parking arrangements are you putting into place during the Clearway/No parking period?

We have been working with members of the community and the Parish Council to try and identify locations where temporary off road parking can be offered. We can now confirm that a limited number of temporary parking spaces have been offered by the Parish Council at the following locations:

- Finchingfield Village Hall (West side), Bardfield Road, Finchingfield, CM7 4LX  
10 spaces
- Finchingfield Playing Fields (West side), Stephen Marshall Avenue CM7 4LZ  
15 spaces (on hard standing)

We continue to gather suggestions for temporary parking and check their feasibility as we need to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that any formal temporary parking options recommended do not inadvertently cause difficulties or hazards to the users, nearby residents/businesses or the travelling public.

Residents affected by the parking restrictions are also advised to consider what other alternative parking options they have available to them as spaces offered will be subject to availability.

## 7. How will you ensure vehicles do not ignore the road closure?

Through our advance publicity we are providing an opportunity for residents, businesses and commuters to consider appropriate alternative routes to take when the bridge is closed.

Our Essex Travel Control Centre, who monitor traffic in the county and provide traffic announcements on local radio stations, have also been informed. We will also use our social media channels to advertise the closure.

Our traffic management plan ensures that adequate signage will be in place in advance of the works to ensure drivers, including HGVs, have notice of the closure.

Checks will be made during the closure to ensure the traffic management signs remain in place, and to consider whether any adjustments are necessary during our works.

## 8. What are the arrangements for the formal diversion route?

Early warning signs are already on the network to notify all drivers including HGVs, that the bridge will be closed.

From 18 February 2019 (the first day of the bridge closure), a formal diversion route will be adequately signed to encourage drivers to use the formal diversion.

Proposed diversion:

- The Green, Brent Hall Road, Sampford Road, Hawkins Hill, Finchingfield Road, Hill Road, Moor End Road, High Street, Walden Road, Anso Road, Bumpstead Road, Hempstead Road, Water Lane, North Street, Haverhill Road, Chapel Street, Old Hall Road, Eggshell Lane, Cornish Hall End, Little London Hill, Howe Street, Duck End, The Causeway and vice versa.

The route chosen is the most suitable and the shortest alternative route accessible to all vehicles, including HGVs, during the closure. This can be viewed from <https://roadworks.org/?109531208>.

We do appreciate that some local people may choose to use local alternative routes.

We encourage all drivers to take additional care when travelling in the area, plan journeys in advance, observe traffic management in place and allow extra travelling time.

This closure will provide us with an opportunity to monitor the diversion route and to ascertain whether any reasonable adjustments could be made to improve it when planning any future works in the area.

## 9. What are the alternative bus arrangements?

Bus operators have been informed about the works and arrangements have been confirmed by Essex County Council Passenger transport for an interconnecting shuttle bus service to be available (Stephensons no. 9 and 16) during the five day road closure. This service is being fulfilled by Flagfinders.

We have been advised that the shuttle buses meet the same level of accessibility to those normally provided.

The service will stop on one side of Finchingfield Bridge in the village centre allowing passengers to make their way to the other side of the bridge, via the current pedestrian footbridge over village pond, in order to pick up the interconnecting service.

The timetable and [map](#) indicating pick up/drop off points have been confirmed and details will be displayed in the bus shelter in the village centre. Details are also included on the news section of the [Stephensons website](#). We have included a copy of the proposed timetable information in the Document Section of our website for information, however if there are any amendments to the service these will be communicated by the operator.

Passengers are advised to check the operator's website or contact the Essex County Council Passenger Transport team with any specific queries relating to this service.

## 10. What are the arrangements for emergency services / health services?

Emergency services have been informed of the closure and we will continue to update them if there are any changes to the programme.

We anticipate the provision of a Clearway/No Parking areas within the village centre will support services operating in the area.

We are also in contact with the Healthcare Centre along with other organisations who serve the community to understand specific concerns and work together to minimise the impact of the bridge closure as much as reasonably practicable.

## 11. Where will the latest information be advertised about these works?

We will continue to post updates about the works on the Essex Highways webpage: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways) (search 'Finchingfield Bridge, B1053, Finchingfield').

Please check the Document Section at the bottom of the page which will contain supplementary information.

You can follow the Essex Highways on twitter feed: [@essexhighways](https://twitter.com/essexhighways) and check <https://roadworks.org> for information about other works in the area.

For passenger transport related updates you may wish to follow: [@essex\\_pt](https://twitter.com/essex_pt) or visit: <http://www.stephensonsofessex.com>.

These works may be subject to change at short notice for example if affected by adverse weather conditions. In these circumstances the latest information will be reflected on site signage and updated on our website.