

1 February 2019

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.

3. Will access to businesses/properties be hindered during 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.

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. This has not been an easy task and as yet we have not been able to confirm a suitable location in the village centre where parking can be offered.

We continue to gather suggestions to 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 advised to consider what other alternative parking options they have available to them.

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.

From 18 February, a formal diversion route will be adequately signed to encourage drivers to use the formal diversion. The route is considered to be the most suitable alternative route. 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.

We appreciate that drivers familiar with the area may choose to use local alternative routes.

All drivers are encouraged to consider planning journeys in advance, take additional care when travelling in the area and observing traffic management in place. Road closure details are available on our webpage and diversion information is also visible on the following website: roadworks.org.

8. What are the alternative bus arrangements?

Stephensons are proposing to run an interconnecting shuttle bus service (no. 9 and 16) during the five day road closure. We have been advised that the shuttle buses will be accessible to disabled passengers.

We anticipate they will run a service to the village centre, stopping either side of the bridge allowing passengers to drop off/pick up the interconnecting service on the other side. Passengers need to be aware that they will be required to make their way to the other side of the bridge, via the current pedestrian access over village pond, in order to pick up the interconnecting service.

Further details, including bus drop off/pick up points either side of the bridge will be communicated by Stephensons and the Essex County Council Passenger transport team who will ensure the information is displayed in the bus shelter in the village centre. We will also provide a link to this information on our website.

If you have any queries relating to the services or timetable arrangements please contact Stephensons direct or follow the Essex County Council passenger transport twitter feed: [@essex_pt](https://twitter.com/essex_pt).

9. What are the arrangements for emergency 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.

10. 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 (search 'Finchingfield Bridge, B1053, Finchingfield').

You may also wish to follow us on twitter: [@essexhighways](https://twitter.com/essexhighways) and check roadworks.org for information about other works in the area.

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.