

A14 junction 47a Haughley to junction 49 Tothill road reconstruction

April 2023

Stakeholder newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter for the A14 junction 47a to junction 49 concrete road reconstruction scheme.

In this issue we share information about our upcoming work and what we're doing to prevent rat running in local communities.

Keeping traffic moving

The first part of our work focused on reducing the width of the A14 between junctions 46 to 49 from two lanes to one lane in both directions. We needed to do this to create the contraflow which allows us to keep the road open during our construction work.

A contraflow is when the road is shut in one direction and traffic moves over to drive on the other side of the road to share the remaining carriageway. This gives us a clear area where we can work quickly and safely, which means that our workforce can safely rebuild the road whilst keeping traffic flowing.

We apologise for the congestion caused while we completed our preparation work. The contraflow was set up overnight on the westbound carriageway and is now in place.

What we'll be doing

We'll be starting work first on the eastbound carriageway. We'll use a planer to remove the existing concrete surface. We will take the concrete rubble away to our site compound in Barham. Here the concrete is recycled to make a new foundation for the A14.

As part of our work, we'll be installing new steel central reservation barriers,

laying a low noise asphalt surface with new white lines and roads studs (cats' eyes).

We'll be working between 7.30am and 5pm during the day, and overnight from 8pm to 6am. The contraflow will be on the westbound carriageway seven days a week, 24 hours a day for around six months.



We'll then swap the contraflow over to the eastbound side so we can rebuild the westbound carriageway. We are due to finish work in Summer 2024.

Width restrictions

During the contraflow, vehicles with an overall width exceeding 3.4m will be unable to travel through the roadworks. From early May, the overall width will be increased to 3.5m. Any loads wider than 3m must give advance notification to Suffolk County Council and receive consent. See

www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/apply-to-move-abnormal-loads

Preventing rat running

Thank you to everyone who joined us at our public information exhibitions in Stowmarket and Elmswell last month. Many attendees were happy to hear that the old concrete road is going to be replaced with a new, modern road that will improve safety, mean smoother quieter journeys, and extend the life of the road to make it fit for the future.

We're aware that a number of vehicles are rat running through the villages of Beyton, Thurston, Tostock, Elmswell, Wetherden and Haughley. These roads have lower speed restrictions and aren't meant for the high volumes of Heavy Goods Vehicles and often have weight restrictions in place.

Rat running can also lead to more congestion, increasing the risk of accidents for both motorists and pedestrians. We'll be using enforcement camera vans along these routes and will be sharing evidence with the police.

We're committed to protecting the local roads and communities from the dangers of rat running and we'll be implementing a number of tactics to help encourage good driver behaviour. This will include:

- an information campaign including issuing publicity directly to key stakeholder groups, local news outlets and on social media about the dangers of rat running and reminding people to stick to the A14.
- using far wide-reaching signs to advise long-distance traffic on the A14 to stay on the road rather than using satnavs
- putting signs up on local roads, stating that these should be used by local traffic only and to keep resident accesses clear.
- placing signs saying 'Residential area – 30mph' at suitable locations to help reinforce the speed limits.

Breakdowns

Breakdown safety is very important to us, not just for our workers but also customers who travel through our roadworks.

There will be a 24/7 free recovery service to remove any vehicles that have broken down within the roadworks.



When a breakdown is spotted, our CCTV camera team alerts our recovery team who then travel to the stranded vehicle and move them to a place of safety.

If you breakdown within the contraflow, then switch your hazard warning lights on, even during the day. If it's dark, use side lights and in poor visibility use fog lights.

If it's safe and you can get out with any passengers, exit your vehicle via the left-hand door and get behind a safety barrier where there is one. They offer extra protection. Keep well away from your vehicle and moving traffic, even if it's raining, cold or dark. If you're on a verge, be aware of any unseen hazards such as uneven ground or debris.

If you're unable to exit your vehicle to get to a safe place or feel you're in danger:

- Stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt and hazard lights on
- Call 999 immediately or press the SOS button in your car.

SMS alert service

Our SMS (Short Messaging Service), issues messages to customers when there is an incident that will impact on this stretch of the A14 during morning or evening peak-time travel.

You can sign up for this service by sending your mobile number to ConcreteRoadsA14@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Keep in touch.

Visit our webpage and sign up for updates about the scheme at www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A14Haughley

For more information about this work, please call our 24/7 Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000, or email info@nationalhighways.co.uk