

A4 Bath Road Speen Road Closure FAQ's

Details of closure

A4 Bath Road Speen will be closed from 28 April – 8 June 2025 between Station Road to the A34T and A4 East Roundabout.

The closure is required to allow Section 50, Section 278 and utility works to take place to aid the new housing development in this location.

Diversion & Closure details

The A4 will be closed between Station Road to the A34T and A4 East Roundabout. Diversion signage will be in place for traffic navigating around the closure.

For anyone wishing to travel West along the A4 Bath Road, the diversion route will be via the A339 Northbound, Chieveley Interchange Roundabout, A34 Southbound.

For anyone wishing to travel East along the A4 Bath Road, the diversion route will be via the A34 Northbound, Chieveley Interchange Roundabout, A339 Southbound.

Over the dates of 16th – 19th May, the diversion routes will differ due to a clash of works with National Highways. Please see below details for the alternative route over these dates –

For anyone wishing to travel West along the A4 Bath Road, A339 Southbound, A343, A34 Northbound.

For anyone wishing to travel East along the A4 Bath Road, A34 Southbound, A343, A339 Northbound.

Access and egress to the A34 from the West will remain unaffected at all times.

Access and egress to the A34 from the East will be obstructed by the road closure and traffic will need to follow the diversion route(s).

Access to Hungerford from Newbury via the A4 will not be possible and traffic will need to follow the diversion route(s). Traffic joining the A4 to the west of the closure will be unaffected.

Why is a road closure required and why is it required 24 hours a day?

The services that the new apparatus will be connected to are in the middle of the carriageway meaning excavations will be beyond the white line. This means it is not possible to undertake the works and retain the correct minimum widths for the road to remain open to traffic.

Services include a new gas main which needs to be installed at a minimum depth of 1m meaning it will not be possible to reinstate the road each night and safely allow traffic to drive over the excavation thus requiring works to take place during the day. In addition to this, reinstating the road with the correct materials for the level of traffic that would pass over the reinstatement would not be possible in time to re-open the road each evening. There would only be time for the hole to be dug and reinstated constantly, leaving no time for apparatus to be installed.

The number of assets that are already in the ground in this location mean that quicker means of working such as drilling isn't possible due to the likelihood of service strikes. The services also need to be tested once they are installed to ensure it is safe which adds to the duration required.



Why now?

Planning permission for this development was granted many months ago.

Whilst we recognise the disruption that this closure will cause, the Streetworks team cannot justifiably refuse a request to install utility services and provide power and water to the development. Therefore, the agreement had to be made to allow the works to take place. We cannot actively disrupt this work taking place, doing so could result in litigation and/or legal action being taken.

We have taken action to ensure that the works span a school half term (26th – 30th May) to reduce some disruption to the schools. Ideally, all works of this duration would take place during periods of least disruption, e.g. the summer holiday period, however there is already a significant amount of work planned over the summer period across the network. With the high volume of road space requests, it is simply not possible to programme all works into the 6-week summer holiday without causing a complete standstill of the network.

Duration

The works required in this location are a mixture of highway development works and installation of Streetworks services. The programme of works includes the following activities that span a duration of 6 weeks - tree surgeon works to cut back privately owned trees encroaching onto the highway and development, trench excavations followed by installation of gas and water services, connection of new apparatus to existing mains, testing of the water and gas mains to ensure compliance, drainage & gully connections, removal of splitter island, curbing, edging & resurfacing of development entrance bell mouth, tying in of access to existing road, white lining, reinstatement of excavations.

The safety of the workers on site and the surrounding residents is paramount. There is a large amount of work to be carried out over a short stretch of the A4 Bath Road meaning not all work can take place at the same time and existing services need to be navigated carefully to reduce the risk of interference or damage.

Collaboration

All utilities with assets in the West Berkshire Area have been contacted with details of these works for collaborative purposes, to reduce the need for further disruption in this location at a later date. The WBC Street Lighting team will be undertaking works on their assets and the WBC ITS team will be undertaking investigatory and survey works.

How will resident access be managed?

There will be gatemen on site to allow access and egress to/from properties during the closure. Directly affected residents have received a letter from David Wilson Homes who are managing access requests and liaising directly with residents. Wider affected properties have also received a letter detailing the extent and reason for the closure along with diversion details.

How will emergency services be affected?

Like all road closures, emergency access will be provided whenever possible. There will be gatemen at either end of the closure points who will aid the passing of emergency vehicles provided it is safe to do so. The emergency services in the area are part of our key stakeholder list and have received communications to ensure they are aware of the closure ahead of time. We will liaise with them directly should there be any queries.

Can pedestrians and cyclists get through while the road is closed?

Pedestrian access will not be obstructed by this closure. There will be footways and walkways available for pedestrians whilst the works are taking place. Cyclists are prohibited from proceeding between the closure points. They can however dismount and utilise the footway/walkway for the short length past the works until they are outside of the closure points.

Can vehicles be prohibited from using other routes that are not part of the official diversion route?

We cannot prohibit traffic from utilising other routes to navigate around the closure on the Bath Road without evidence that this is necessary. 'Road not suitable for diverted traffic signs' will be installed at the junctions of roads that we predict may be used as alternative routes to the official diversion. We will monitor the surrounding routes and install more signage should it be required in other locations and will consider enforceable restrictions if it is necessary to do so.

Bus Services

For information on changes affecting Newbury & District bus services 3c, 3X, 4, 4a, and 4c, please refer to www.newburyanddistrict.co.uk/

Other bus services should run as normal, but there may be slight delays to some journeys.

Residents of **Stockcross, Wickham and Wickham Heath** will have a special service as follows:

Monday to Friday Only

Wickham Crossroads	07:40	Newbury College (Campus)	15:10
Wickham Heath	07:42	Parkhouse School (Monks Lane)	15:14
Stockcross Post office	07:45	St Bartholomew School	15:18
Newbury Park Way	08:05	Newbury Wharf (Stop C)	15:24
Newbury Wharf (Stop H)	08:08	Newbury Park Way	15:27
Newbury College (Monks Lane East)	08:13	Stockcross Post office	15:47
Parkhouse School (Monks Lane)	08:17	Wickham Heath	<i>R</i>
ST Bartholomew School	08:21	Wickham Crossroads	<i>R</i>

R – At the request of passengers already on the bus.

Monday to Friday between 10:15 and 14:15, and between 17:00 and 18:00

An on-demand bus service will operate.

Passengers will need to call 01635 519650 between 09:00 and 16:00

We encourage passengers to book at least 24 hours before travelling for the on-demand service. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a Saturday service.

School Buses

Any students that may be impacted where transport is organised by the Council will be notified separately if any changes to timings are required.

Students that use the public bus routes should refer to the **Bus Services** section of these FAQs.