

A45 Chowns Mill Roundabout Improvement Scheme

Progress report – April 2021

Junction is two lanes running

In mid-April, we reopened two lanes around the roundabout and the roads approaching it. We were also able to open Station Road (A5028) Higham Ferrers at the same time.

While this has improved the overall traffic flow around the junction and significantly reduced peak-time queuing, we're aware that it has also highlighted the pre-existing flaws with the old junction.

Safety is our number one priority and we've been listening to customer concerns. As a result, we're introducing a number of temporary measures to address them.

Station Road (A5028) Higham Ferrers

Customers have told us that some drivers have ignored the left (A45 WB) only lane and are using it to head straight to the north, leading to near misses. To address this issue, we'll be temporarily making Station Road (A5028) a single lane entry to the junction. This may result in longer queues than usual. We would encourage you to allow more time for your journey, especially at peak times. We're also considering alternative markings and signage too.

A6 North Bypass approach

Customers have told us that some drivers have ignored the left lane (Higham / A45 WB Lane) to travel north. We'll shortly install a CCTV / Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera at the junction and will keep the situation under review. Northamptonshire police are responsible for enforcing this and we'll work closely with them to share any footage that they may request.

Height of concrete blocks

Some customers have asked about the height and length of the vehicle restraint system (VRS) around the junction. The VRS is in place to protect our workforce whilst also acting as a natural brake point for drivers entering the junction, to view oncoming traffic. We'll remove the temporary VRS as early as is safe to do so.

A6 South approach

The temporary signs into Higham Ferrers and road layout are the same now as before we started the work. The A6 southbound layout allows two lanes to head towards Bedford. If we were to make lane 1 for Higham Ferrers only, we believe this may create more lane conflict with vehicles weaving between lanes. For safety reasons, we've decided to keep it as it was for now.

Please be assured that we recognise that roadworks can be frustrating. We'll keep these temporary measures and other concerns under regular review. We're working hard to complete this work as safely and as quickly as possible. Thank you for your ongoing patience while we carry out this important work.

Once complete, the new junction will help reduce the existing flaws, with advanced signage and dedicated three lanes on the A6 Bypass approach. This will help guide drivers through to their exits.



Proposed A6 northbound and A5028 Station Road

Images show road markings and dedicated lanes from the A6 Bypass and Station Road (A5028) approaches



No unauthorised persons allowed on this site

Station Road (A5028) open again but not for pedestrians

Whilst Station Road is open to road users, we would like to remind pedestrians that, the footways around the entire junction remain closed for safety reasons. Please use the free 24/7 Shuttle Bus to safely cross the junction.



Image shows Station Road (A5028) open to traffic but not pedestrians



STOP PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CLOSED

THIS JUNCTION IS CLOSED TO PEDESTRIANS

Please use the **FREE 24/7** nearby call - point **SHUTTLE BUS** service

FREE

Northamptonshire Police Speed Camera Van returns



The Northants Police Road Safety Team will be back on site carrying out speed enforcement around the junction over the next few months.

What's Next?

During May, you'll see us continuing to work behind the concrete barriers. We'll also be completing work to the A6 approach, on the North side of the roundabout as well as the new pedestrian ramp.

We'll also carry on with drainage and verge work. To carry out this work safely, we'll need to close the A6 between Chowns Mill and Nene Park.

Please find road closure details below.

DATE	CLOSURE DETAILS	TIMES
Sat 8 and Sun 9 May	Daytime closure of the A6 between Chowns Mill Roundabout and Nene Park, Irthlingborough	7am to 7pm
Sat 5 and Sun 6 June	Daytime closure of the A6 between Chowns Mill Roundabout and Nene Park, Irthlingborough	7am to 7pm

NOTE: Signed diversion routes will be in place during any closures. Our planned closures may be subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Where possible, we will notify you if there are any changes to the schedule.

Keeping Informed



For information about the scheme, please visit our webpage:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a45a6-chowns-mill-roundabout-improvement/

To receive text alerts about future A45 Chowns Mill road closures, please text **A45CM** to **07537 439499**. Messages will be charged at your standard network text message rate.

To unsubscribe, please text A45CM STOP to the same number.

For more information, or to be removed from the mailing list, please email:

infoA45chownsmill@carnellgroup.co.uk

Regards,

Paul

Paul Valentine

Public Liaison Officer (A45 Chowns Mill)

M: 07596 278260

D: 0333 0124596 (24hr)