

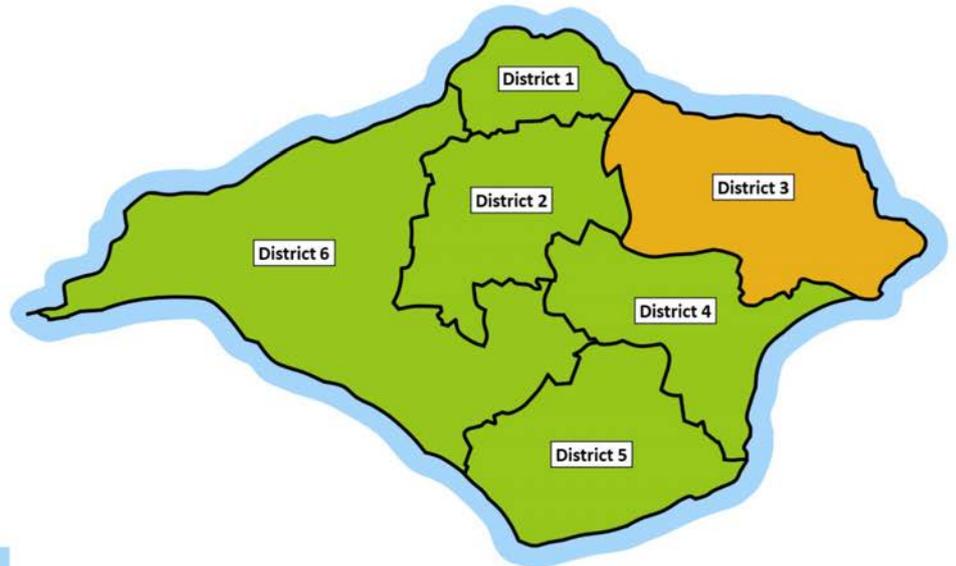


Get all the latest highways news on Twitter

You can receive regular updates on our activities across the business via Twitter @IslandRoads.



District Steward: John Barry



District Three: Wootton, Fishbourne, Binstead, Ashe, Brading, Havenstreet, Ryde, Oakfield, Seaview, St Helens, Nettlestone, and Bembridge.

Introduction

Please find below our latest quarterly District Update, providing you with general updates about different aspects of our work as well as advance notice of any specific activity in your local area.

We hope you find the information in this update useful but if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Island Roads via info@islandroads.com.

You can also find more information about Island Roads, our services, and activities via our website www.islandroads.com or via Twitter @IslandRoads.

Highway major maintenance

Smallbrook Junction Improvements

Major work to improve safety at the busy Smallbrook roundabout on the outskirts of Ryde started at the beginning of October and is estimated to last six months, completing Spring 2022.

Visibility on the roundabout approaches will be improved, especially for traffic approaching from Smallbrook Lane and Carters Road. There will also be additional

streetlighting, a speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph and anti-skid 'slow down strips' will be laid at the approaches to the new, realigned and relocated roundabout.

Among the new safety features are also the realignment of the junction's approaches and introduction of new traffic Islands which will require traffic to slow down and negotiate the new roundabout rather than 'straight-running' across it.



During the majority of the work, the junction is being controlled by temporary traffic lights and Smallbrook Lane is restricted to one-way eastbound (towards Ryde). The non-residential end of Carters Road is also one-way (eastbound) towards its junction with Ashley Road.

For the past few weeks, utility companies have been redirecting their services so the new layout can be built next year. One element of this utility work requires the diversion of BT Openreach infrastructure.

This work will require the closure of Ashley Road between Smallbrook Junction and the junction of Upton Road and Swanmore Road between Friday December 17th and Tuesday December 21 including at the weekend. While on site, they will bring forward work involving the erection of a new telegraph pole prior to the re-routing of overhead cables which is planned for January.

The diversion in both directions will be via Upton Road and Carters Road. Both Smallbrook Lane and Carters Road will be re-opened in both directions to facilitate the diversion. There will also be three-way traffic lights at Smallbrook Junction.

On completion of the work, Smallbrook Lane and Carters Road will revert to one-way west to east (eastbound) for the ongoing construction works.

We hope to then remove all traffic restrictions over the Christmas holiday between December 24 and January 4 if safe to do so.

You can read more about the scheme on our website www.islandroads.com

Coppins Bridge Signal Upgrade programme



A rolling programme of work to upgrade the traffic signals at Coppins Bridge in Newport is underway. The project is the last phase of the major programme under the Highways PFI to upgrade all the Island's traffic lights and pedestrian crossings.

The work, which started on 8 November, is being undertaken on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council and will see all the signals at Coppins Bridge upgraded to include the latest 'intelligent technology' to make them more reliable and energy efficient, and to improve remote access to enable responses to changes in traffic volumes and faster fault reporting. The project will also see four

pedestrian crossings in the area upgraded to incorporate the latest LED, low-energy technology.

The work has temporarily ceased for the festive period between Monday 6 December 2021 and Friday 7 January 2022 and will resume with the final phases from Monday 10 January 2022. The first of these final phases will involve more complex work to the High Street signals/Coppins Bridge pedestrian crossing. During this work (10-28 January) there will be a 24hr High St road closure and signed diversion route to Towngate/Hunnycross Way/Medina Way. The High Street pedestrian crossing will also be undertaken during this phase, and this will involve daytime lane closures.

Residents are being kept informed with regular publicity about each stage of the works and special arrangements to accommodate business deliveries are being discussed with high street businesses impacted by the works.

The programme will be completed in its entirety by Friday 11 March 2022.

You can read more about this scheme on our website www.islandroads.com

Footway (pavements) programme

We are continuing our programme of footway improvement works around the Island working closely with the Isle of Wight Council to accommodate works in advance, where possible, by WightFibre with their roll out of superfast fibre broadband across the Island.

Bus stop improvements

A number of rural bus stops on the Island are being upgraded to improve safety and accessibility as part of an Isle of Wight Council scheme.

The works are specific to each location but include the introduction of dropped kerbs, new road markings and signage, tactile paving, increased hard standings and improved drainage.



Motorists are being advised that there could be some localised disruption where works are taking place.

Completed works so far include bus stops at Chale Street, Chale, Whitwell Road, Ventnor, Shanklin Road, Sandford, Alum Bay New Road, Totland, Hillway Road, Bembridge, Forest Road, Newport, Gunville Road, Newport, Park Road, Cowes and Newport Road, Northwood.

The remaining accessibility improvement programme includes:

- Nodes Road, Northwood - north of Uplands Road, Weds 01/12/2021 06/12/2021 to Thursday 09/12/2021 (approx.)

- Whitcombe Road, Gatcombe - Cox's Corner, Mon 03/01/2022 to Fri 14/01/2022 (approx.)

Active Travel improvements



Work to create an upgraded shared use route between The Riverside Centre and Mews Lane in Newport is progressing well.

The scheme is part of the Isle of Wight Council's ongoing work to encourage greater use of cycling and walking by creating high quality shared-use paths.

The first two phases of the work between Mews Lane and Halberry Lane and Halberry Lane to Gordon Road have already been completed and work has now started on the third section between Gordon Road and the junction of St Paul's View/Victoria Road.

On completion of the third phase in late December, the scheme will take a pause in order to tie in work on the final phase — St Paul's View/Victoria Road to The Riverside Centre — with the scheme to upgrade the traffic lights and pedestrian crossings at Coppins Bridge and its approaches. This work will start on Monday February 21 with a planned completion date of Friday March 11. This will mean that the temporary pedestrian crossing facilities at the junctions of Fairlee Road and Hillside, and Link Road and Fairlee Road, will be the only traffic control in this vicinity during work.

Network Management

Ditch and grip survey

We are continuing to undertake our annual ditch and grip survey to ensure these are all functioning correctly in time for the winter months.

'Grips' are the channels that take rainwater from the highway into the ditches. This is being supplemented by an inspection of the network's culverts - the tunnels/structures that allow water to flow under the road.

Line painting refresh

We are currently carrying out line painting to refresh markings where needed across the Island.



Maintenance works

We are continuing our year-round work to maintain the highway network, responding to reported defects, and carrying out repairs as required.

If you wish to report any issues in your district area, please use our Fix my Street facility via our online form which can be found by clicking the yellow box (top right hand corner) of our website or via this direct link <https://fms.islandroads.com> On this facility

you will also be able to see if it has already been reported and track the progress of issues raised.

Other highway works

There continue to be a significant amount of work across the highway network by utility companies and other contractors. Some of these are timetabled work to upgrade infrastructure and others are emergency works.

You can view which organisation is responsible for works in a particular part of the highway network by visiting <https://one.network> and entering the road name. You can then click on any of the roadworks symbols to find out more details about the works, what they involve and the timeframe for that work.



Operations and Maintenance

Winter service

Island Roads is responsible for maintaining a safe highway network and that includes work during the winter months to ensure the Island's roads are kept clear of obstructions, flooding, snow, and ice wherever possible.



That work starts in the autumn months and continues right through until the end of March each year, although our gritters remain on standby for any forecast low temperatures outside of these times.

Our depot at Stag Lane is home to our six frontline gritters, back-up and specialist vehicles as well as the Island's road salt supply. We begin each year with a stockpile of 1,600 tonnes which is more than enough to cope with even exceptionally severe winter weather. For example, during the winter of 2020-21 there were 53 runs using 1019 tonnes of salt. We can always obtain additional supplies in the unlikely event they are required.

Around 50 staff are based at the depot which also houses our gully-emptying and street cleansing teams.

Our state-of-the-art gritters are fitted with 'pre-wet' technology which sprays salt with a brine solution prior to spreading. This limits salt drifting on to grass verges or hedges and helps the salt stick to the road. Though people refer to grit, the substance used is actually graded rock salt.

Not all roads are treated. The Isle of Wight Council determines which roads are treated in freezing weather. The Council's focus is on the Island's key routes (main roads and those connecting towns) as it is not practical or economical to salt every road. We apply grit to over 350km of road, which represents around 43% of the highway network. Maps of our gritting routes can be found below and on our website www.islandroads.com/winter-service/

Gully cleansing



This time of year, we also begin our enhanced winter gully cleansing regime. Between now and March this additional gully cleansing, targets areas of the network most prone to flooding to help reduce the risk of water accumulating on the highway during wet winter weather.

You can watch a video on our [gully cleansing operations](#) on our website.

Leaf clearance

We are deploying additional mechanical and manual sweeping resources to help tackle leaf fall and keep drains, gullies, and pavements as clear as possible. This work helps prevent leaves from causing a safety hazard on the highway and/or entering (and compromising) the gullies and highway drainage systems.



Flooding

The Island has a network of around 20,000 gullies, drains and manholes helping take rainwater off the highway and these were all deep cleaned at the start of our contract and are now subject to a regular cleansing schedule agreed with and monitored by the Isle of Wight Council.

We also provide, within our available resources, an emergency response when highway flooding occurs. This will typically involve unblocking drainage systems that have been overwhelmed by storm debris.

The highway drainage systems are not designed to take water from adjoining third-party property or land which can also bring with it materials that cause blockages and flooding (this 'third party' water is often recognisable by its brown muddy rather than clear appearance). This is the responsibility of land and property owners to prevent water from discharging onto the highway.

You can read more on our flooding factsheet <https://islandroads.com/factsheets/>

Belgrave Road reinstatement

Works are underway at Belgrave Road in Ventnor to reinstate the failed wall and road above.

Local company Stoneham Construction have been appointed, following a tender process, to undertake the works that are expected to last just over a year, before completing in Autumn 2022.

The work will see the collapsed wall dismantled and the area behind it stabilised, before a new wall is built, and the road and footway reconstructed. In consultation with the local conservation officer, a natural stone finish will be



used to replace the wall so that it is in keeping with others in the surrounding area.



The new parapet wall will also be higher than existing to conform with the latest safety requirements for both pedestrians and vehicles (see artist's impression left)

Ground monitoring equipment will continue to be checked at regular intervals throughout the work with additional checks after any periods of poor weather, as we have done throughout, and regular site inspections will also continue.

We are continuing to ensure that the local and wider Island community receive regular updates as this project progresses.

Community involvement

Volunteering

Island Roads operate a volunteering scheme under which our employees are encouraged to take up to two days paid leave per year to assist local good causes with projects. These cannot be related to our highway work, but we try and use the skills we have within the organisation to assist charities and community projects. Examples have included, clearing church grounds, painting Scout huts, school halls, the Needles Old Battery tunnel walls, line painting in school playgrounds, and even goat herding for the National Trust on the Downs!



If you come across a project in your area that you think we could help with, then please email Samantha O'Rourke via info@islandroads.com

Isle of Wight Foundation

The latest round of grant applications to our Charitable Trust, the IW Foundation have been reviewed and a total of 11 separate community groups and charities have been awarded a combined total of over £85,000.

Each year, the Foundation, made up of the partners in Island Roads; Ringway Island Roads, Meridiam, Island Roads and Vinci Concessions, awards grants of between £3,000 and £16,000 to help good causes tackle social exclusion. Since 2014 nearly £630,000 has been awarded to community groups and charities across the Island.

We will be announcing the successful applications in the run up to and over the festive period.

More information

Understanding more about our work

We have created a series of factsheets about the various services that we undertake as part of our work on the Island's highway network, from work to keep the Island clean and tidy, to road and footway improvements, helping to reduce flooding, our winter service, and looking after the environment. These are being sent directly to members as they are produced, and you can also find these on our website here <https://islandroads.com/factsheets/>



We are continuing to produce more of these, so let us know if there are any topics you would particularly like us to cover at info@islandroads.com

Find out about roadworks in your area



Details of our roadworks are published in notice form in the County Press each Friday. We also update the 'Current Works' section of our website with details of our surfacing programme and other works and road closures each week, you can find those details here <https://islandroads.com/current-works/>

If you want to see Island roadworks at a glance you can also use the One.Network map here <https://one.network/custom/isleofwight/>. This is also accessible from the current works page of our website.

How to make an enquiry

We have a member of staff who is responsible for handling and coordinating responses to councillor enquiries. If you have an enquiry, please email Samantha O'Rourke via info@islandroads.com

Please note, we cannot respond to enquiries received via Twitter or any other social media platform. We have strict requirements within our contract regarding the handling of enquiries, and therefore these must be logged through our central system so that we can ensure we can track your query and our response.

Keeping up with our news

You can keep up with all our news on our website <https://islandroads.com/news/>

Follow us on Twitter

We are increasingly using Twitter as an additional means of getting information to the public. This information ranges from the latest updates on our work programme to general news about the business. If you do not already, then please follow us @IslandRoads and we would be grateful if you could encourage others to do so.

Thank you!