

30th November 2020

Dear Neighbour

NORTH OF HORSHAM ROUNDABOUT WORKS NOTIFICATION

As you may be aware, work is now underway at the Land North of Horsham site. When complete, the development will provide around 2,750 new homes, shops and community facilities, a campus for the Bohunt Horsham School, sports hub, a 500,000sqft business park, green space and play parks, along with pedestrian, cycle and road networks.

Work began on 28th September 2020 to improve and upgrade the existing roundabout at the junction of the A264 and Rusper Road. This work needs to take place to support the entire development but has been programmed to start now to support the opening of the new Bohunt Horsham School which is being delivered by the Department of Education and will provide a much needed and high-quality education facility for Horsham's children.

Recently, you may have seen that a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order was published for a closure on Rusper Road, no right turns and temporary speed limits on the A264. However, Rusper Road south will not be closed for 10-18 months as the Order suggested.

The Order is worded to allow for works to take place within an 18-month period, rather than for the entirety of it, and currently the works are programmed to last approximately 10 months. We have been working closely with West Sussex County Council and NATTA, our appointed contractor, to agree how these works will be managed with as little disruption to you as possible.

We have reviewed the options available for carrying out these works including signalised traffic lights and night closures. Whilst we appreciate the disruption it will cause unfortunately a road closure is unavoidable. Therefore, the section of **Rusper Road south of the A264 will be closed for approximately 15 weeks, beginning on Monday 4th January 2021**. The section of the road which will be closed falls between the A264 roundabout and Lemmington Way roundabout.

For the estimated work programme of 10 months, there will be a number of restrictions on the A264 to improve the safety of the operatives working in this area. There will be a temporary speed limit on the A264 of 40mph, and no right turns from any part of the A264 **following the closure of Rusper Road**. As mentioned, this is to allow a safe working environment for NATTA's operatives whilst maintaining consistent traffic flow. This is shown in the diagram below.



Signage will be installed along the A264 warning of these works, and we are working closely with West Sussex County Council to inform as many people about these works as possible. The start date for the follow-on works to the A264 roundabout is still to be agreed with West Sussex, but is being scheduled to work in coordination with the West Sussex County Council Robin Hood roundabout works.

We have outlined some Frequently Asked Questions below and will be providing regular electronic and print updates to our mailing lists and to the local Councillors. If you are yet to sign up for our email updates, please do so on our website (www.landnorthofhorsham.co.uk) or contact the team using the details below. We will also be notifying the local emergency services to ensure they are all aware of the closure in advance.

We are keen to ensure you have access to a direct channel of communication whilst these works are taking place so please do contact the team using the details below to receive our updates or ask questions. Updates will also be shared on a regular basis on our website, and we will send out further information as required.

Thank you for your patience and understanding whilst these works take place. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours

Community Liaison Team

North of Horsham

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Frequently Asked Questions

What are these works for?

These works are to provide drainage and infrastructure connections to the Bohunt School Horsham site, and the rest of the homes, facilities and commercial uses for the Land North of Horsham development. Once these works have been carried out, no further work in this area will be required to provide services to the site, but future work will be needed along the A264 to connect the new roundabout. There are no future closures to Rusper Road south or the A264 scheduled (unless emergency works are required).

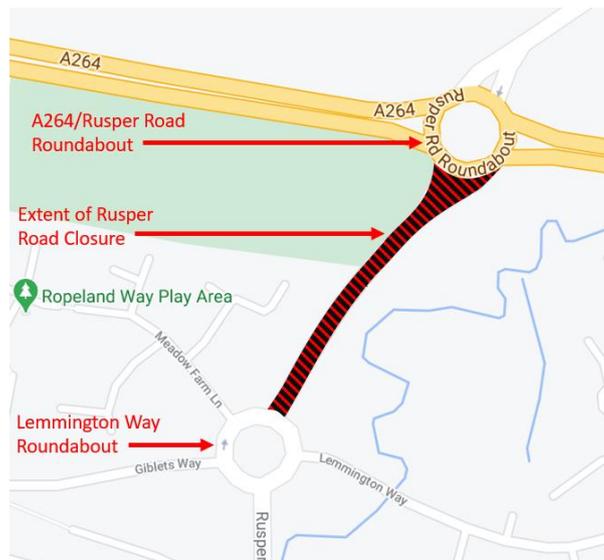
The works to be carried out during the closure of Rusper Road will be:

- Drainage:
 - Providing a new foul sewer 3m deep
 - Installing surface water drainage and petrol interceptor
- Infrastructure:
 - Diverting BT apparatus
 - Removing old streetlighting and installing new streetlighting
 - Constructing a new gas main
 - Constructing a new water main
 - Installing a water diversion
- Road maintenance:
 - Installing new kerbs
 - Resurfacing and white lining the road

As the works on Rusper Road fall between an ancient monument and a tree protection zone, and are near to residential properties, work will have to be done through a combination of extensive hand-digging, assisted by machinery.

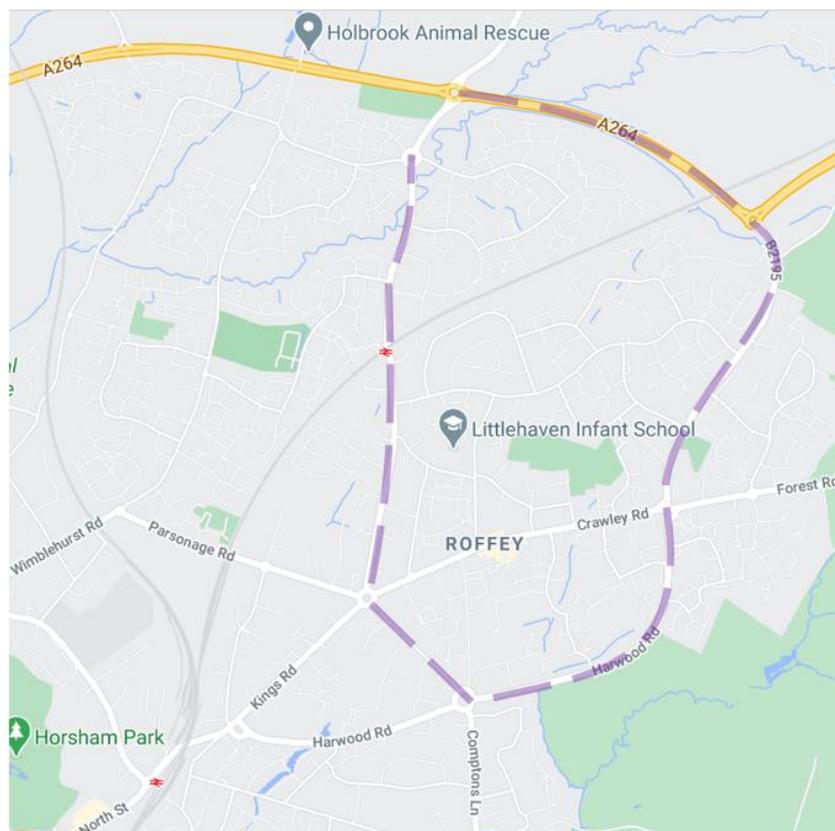
Which section of the road is closed?

The section between Lemmington Way roundabout and the A264 roundabout, as shown below.



Where is the diversion route?

Diversions must be along the same road type as the closed road, and therefore the agreed signed diversion route will be as highlighted below – along Crawley Road onto Harwood Road, and from Redkin Way onto Rusper Road.



Why have you chosen to use the road closure?

We have been working closely with the Highways Authority, West Sussex County Council, to find a solution for these works which causes as little disruption as possible. There is a significant amount of work to be undertaken, so we have programmed in 15 weeks to install new utilities and divert existing utility services.

The works will require deep excavations running along the road (rather than across it), which cannot be easily covered up or carried out safely with live traffic flowing past, which is why a road closure is required.

Additionally, and as mentioned earlier, a key priority for West Sussex County Council, the Department for Education and Horsham District Council is to open the new Bohunt facility in December 2021, for students to start in January 2022. Unfortunately to ensure the school is open on time a road closure is required to deliver the servicing requirements as soon as possible.

Did you investigate other alternatives to closing that section of Rusper Road?

The other options investigated prior to the 15-week closure being applied for were:

- Full closure of Rusper Road for 10 weeks, followed by 10 weeks of access for north-bound traffic only, then another 2 weeks of full closure. This would extend the overall period that there would be traffic management on the A264 to 12 months.
- Rusper Road to be kept open to north-bound traffic only for 32 weeks, followed by 2 weeks of full closure. This would extend the overall period that there would be traffic management on the A264 to 14 months.
- Two-way traffic lights on Rusper Road for 33 weeks then 2 weeks of full closure. This would extend the overall period that there would be traffic management on the A264 to 14 months.

On balance and considering the impact on the A264, the least disruptive and safest construction method is to have the full road closure for the 15 week period so that the overall programme and impact on the surrounding road network is minimised. The shortened programme of 15 weeks also enables these works and the road closure to be complete prior to start of the Robin Hood roundabout upgrade works which would have additional impacts on disruption.

Why can't these works be carried out under night-time closures instead?

The new services to be installed run parallel with the road and not across it. This means that wide and deep excavations will extend along the length of the road and cannot be covered to allow traffic to flow. With that in mind, even if the works were to only happen during the night, the road would still be impassable to traffic during the day and therefore required to be closed.

Is this work part of the A264 roundabout upgrade?

As part of the work required to support the Land North of Horsham development, we are upgrading the A264 roundabout. These upgrades include:

- Additional lanes to increase the vehicle capacity of the roundabout
- Installing intelligent traffic signals at the roundabout to help it to operate at maximum efficiency
- Installing footpaths and cycleways connecting Horsham to our new development
- Landscaping and drainage measures

Works to Rusper Road required as part of this roundabout upgrade will be carried out alongside the required infrastructure and utility works, meaning that no further closures will be required for Rusper Road as part of the roundabout upgrade.