

Island Roads - Improving our roads to drive our future



This is the second in a series of six features helping to keep you informed about work to improve the Island's highways network.

In April 2013 we started a comprehensive programme of work to improve the 804km of roads and 756km of pavements across the Island, making journeys easier, safer and more comfortable for everyone. Now that the major tourist season has passed, we have started to intensify these works and many of you will have seen our crews working during the day and night to complete sections of roads and pavements right across the Island.

How is the surfacing work planned?

Over the seven year programme we have to make sure we manage the works effectively and efficiently so that we bring all of the roads across the Island up to the required standard at an equal pace, and tackle those with the most serious underlying problems first. Works are programmed in a sequence, following detailed inspections and mechanical scanning and according to a number of complex technical factors.

Deep underlying structural repairs and resurfacing

In some instances deep underlying structural repairs are required to ensure the stability of the road. Sometimes these roads can appear to the naked eye to be in a better condition than others however, deep mechanical scanning has shown improvements are urgently required to prevent substantial deterioration. In most cases, the existing road structure is partially removed, gullies and kerbing reinstated (where required-based on their condition) and a new surface applied with improved skid resistance.

Surface repairs

In some cases, the problems are superficial only and the road may simply require a new surfacing treatment. The type of treatment used (there are some 160 different treatments) will vary according to the type of road (e.g. concrete or asphalt) and where it is located (e.g. urban or rural, main road or cul de sac) where traffic volume and the ease of manoeuvring works vehicles need to be taken into consideration.

The surfacing treatments are also designed to increase skid resistance. Once applied, we then undertake surface sweeping at a later date to clear any remaining loose materials.

The roads are surfaced in sections at a time. This may mean that side roads leading off a main section of road, or indeed different sections of the same road, will be completed at different times according to their needs and condition. However, all adopted roads will be at the required standard at the end of the seven year period.

Line markings and ironwork adjustment (e.g. drainage covers) are completed at the time of the work or in the month following, depending on the surface treatment applied and other scheduled work.



Geotechnical repairs

There are a number of roads on the Island where the underlying road structure has failed due to ground movements and this has led to uneven road surfaces. This is particularly true at both Bouldner Road near Yarmouth and the Undercliff near Ventnor. These areas require more substantial, technical projects requiring several months of work and separate programming is undertaken for these, together with specific information plans to inform local residents during these times. We'll be telling you more about these in the coming weeks and months.

Location

We also need to carefully programme works in areas where there is a high volume of traffic or where work would severely disrupt the flow of traffic e.g. around the ferry terminals. Often this work is carried out at night to minimise large-scale disruption.

Drainage

Some roads also require drainage improvements and in some instances these works will take longer to complete and need to be programmed accordingly.

Available diversion routes

When we programme work we also think carefully about other works going on in an area and the availability of routes along which to divert traffic. This is one of the reasons why the entire programme will take seven years to complete.

Other works on the highway

The programme is also affected by other known works on the highway e.g. utility works. We will do all we can to ensure work is programmed to incorporate these ahead of any resurfacing work. However emergencies do occur and the utility companies are then required to make good the road surface and these works will be checked by our engineers.

Restricted working times

There are some parts of the highways network where our operatives are only able to work at certain times of the day, or times of the year. This may be because of a major event such as Cowes Week or a music festival, other local factors or because the stretches are on major commuting routes. You may therefore sometimes see workmen at work for a short period and then returning later that day or another day. These are part of an agreement with the council to adhere to specific work times in a given area.

General maintenance and repairs

As the main part of the surfacing programme will take seven years to complete, many roads will be waiting in turn for their respective surfacing work within the programme. However, during that time – regular maintenance and repair work is undertaken to help make temporary improvements eg pothole filling and rutting repairs, line markings, gully clearing etc and to help prevent the further deterioration of the road.

During maintenance work traffic controls may be used (these are sometimes manual Stop and Go signs) – please do take note of these for your own safety and those of our work colleagues.

What do we need you to do before we turn up in your road?

We issue letters to residents two weeks ahead of works in a local area. We also put up information boards with dates and times of the works and 'no parking' notices.

You can help to make our works run smoothly and effectively by keeping a close eye on the boards (some works may change owing to the weather or other works not running to schedule) and by making sure your vehicles are parked in your garage, if you have one, or away from the works area in advance of work taking place.

If you have trees or shrubs overhanging from your property onto the highway or pavement, please also ensure these are pruned/trimmed to enable us to complete our works.



How can I find out when my road or pavement will be surfaced?

Visit our website:

www.islandroads.com

Call our helpdesk: (operating 24/7)

01983 822440

Visit our Visitor Centre:

Opening hours:*

Mon-Fri 08.00-17.30hrs,

Sat 09.00-12.00hrs

St. Christopher House, Daish Way, Newport.

Look out for our Mobile Visitor Centre coming to your local area - visit our website for more details.

Listen out for traffic and travel updates on Isle of Wight Radio

(FM107 and FM102)

Sign up for our Twitter feeds

@IslandRoads

Read more about the programme, the local people working hard to deliver the improvements and much more in our series of features in this paper.

See also page 79 for a list of temporary traffic orders for forthcoming works.

*excludes Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and Bank Holidays.