

M2 junction 5 improvements A249 southbound – Stockbury Roundabout to Church Hill closure Your questions answered

The A249 southbound will be closed between the Stockbury Roundabout and Church Hill from Friday 23 February for five weeks. This will allow us to build the new A249 carriageways to the south of the roundabout. We understand you might have some questions about this closure, we've answered some of these below.

Why are you closing the A249 southbound and why does it need to be closed for so long?

Our next phase of work will see us constructing the new A249 carriageways to the south of the roundabout. This will include removing the existing road and building up the layers that will form the new carriageway, as well as drainage, construction of the central reservation, and safety barrier improvements.

As the new road is being built in the same place as the existing carriageway, to safely carry out this work, we need to close the southbound A249 carriageway between the Stockbury Roundabout and Church Hill.

During the closure we'll also be working on the southern links to the upgraded junction, including:

- The A249 southbound exit from the Stockbury Roundabout
- The northbound A249 on to the Stockbury flyover.
- The South Green link road that will connect South Green Lane and Oad Street to the Stockbury Roundabout.
- The M2 London-bound exit slip.

Why is the M2 junction 5 London-bound exit slip also closed?

To minimise disruption, we're using this opportunity to build the new exit slip road. This should also encourage drivers to stay on the M2 and reduce traffic arriving at the Stockbury Roundabout while the southbound A249 is closed.

What other options did you look at?

We looked at a contraflow system on the A249, with one lane for northbound and one for southbound traffic. Following discussions with stakeholders, including the emergency services and Kent County Council, it was decided that our chosen option would be less disruptive overall and be safer for all road users.

Closing the southbound carriageway allows us to keep two lanes open to traffic approaching the roundabout from Maidstone during peak times, minimising the impact on northbound traffic.

Who did you consult with?

We've been working closely with local stakeholders including Kent County Council and the emergency services to look at how we can deliver this work, while minimising disruption.

We can assure you we'll continue to work with the local authorities and emergency services to monitor the impact these closures have on the surrounding roads so we can make any necessary changes.

Why are there also times when the A249 northbound is closed?

We need to close the A249 northbound over a weekend to prepare for the closure of the southbound carriageway and ensure that we can keep two lanes of traffic flowing towards the roundabout for the duration of the southbound closure.

There will also be an overnight and weekend lane and full closures on the northbound carriageway to allow us carry out activities such as moving traffic approaching the Stockbury Roundabout from Maidstone onto the southbound side of the road, and prepare to reopen the road once work is complete.

Can I access Church Hill?

For safety, and to allow us to construct the new junction, the exit from Church Hill will be closed. Please use Chalky Road or Bull Lane to join the A249 during this time.

We'll be allowing larger vehicles to use the Church Hill exit while it is closed, this will be by arrangement only. If you need access for larger vehicles during the closure, please email us on M2J5@nationalhighways.co.uk with your contact details and one of the team will be in touch to discuss.

There will be some full overnight and weekend closures of the Church Hill junction, please keep an eye on our project website and signage for further information and diversions.

How do I access Stockbury while Church Hill is closed?

You will still be able to turn into Church Hill, and to join the A249, please use Chalky Hill or Bull Lane.

There will be some full overnight and weekend closures of Church Hill, please keep an eye on our project website and signage for further information.

We'll be allowing larger vehicles to continue using the Church Hill exit by arrangement. Please email us on M2J5@nationalhighways.co.uk with your contact details and one of the team will be in touch to discuss.

Can I access South Green Lane?

Properties on South Green Lane and those directly on the A249 within our closure, will need to access via Oad Street, Pett Road and South Green Lane, and or the A249 northbound and Rumstead Lane crossover.

Can I access Oad Street?

Oad Street will remain open during our closure with access via Maidstone Road. There will be no access to Oad Street from the A249 southbound.

Can I access Hayes Lane?

Yes, please use the Rumstead crossover from the northbound A249 to access Hayes Lane. There will be traffic marshals on hand at the closure point to

allow access via the closed southbound carriageway. This is for access only.

Are you doing anything to encourage use of other routes?

We know how frustrating it can be to be caught out by temporary lights, closures, and diversions when you're not expecting them. We share information about our closures through several channels to help drivers to plan ahead.

This includes media, social media, letters, email updates and signs on the network.

Why aren't you working 24-hours a day to get finished sooner?

We do work both during the day and at night, where appropriate, as well as weekends.

There are residents nearby, and some of our activities are noisy. We also need to consider the welfare of our teams, there are lots of dangers on construction sites, and the risks increase when we work overnight or if when the team have not had suitable breaks away from the site. We will continue to work weekends.

We'll advise of any changes to our working hours on our scheme webpage.

Will there still be access for emergency vehicles?

We regularly liaise with the emergency services, along with other stakeholders, when planning, and during, our closures.

If it is safe to do so, emergency vehicles on blue lights will be allowed through our closures.

Will you be paying the extra petrol for me to travel further?

The work we do, maintaining and improving the highways, is considered a statutory duty on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport as covered under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980

Therefore, we are not obliged or required to pay compensation for disruption, inconvenience, costs or loss of business caused by roadworks.

We understand that there is never a good time to complete works of this nature and we thank you for your ongoing patience.

You can find more information on our project website: nationalhighways.co.uk/M2-j5, by emailing the team on m2j5@nationalhighways.co.uk or calling our contact centre: 0300 123 5000, who will pass your details to the team.

The team will be available to answers any questions you may have at:

- Stockbury Village Hall on **Wednesday 7 February** between 11.00am and 12.30pm, and again 6pm and 8pm.
- Oad Street Food & Crafts on **Wednesday 14 February** between 10am and 12 noon, and again from 5pm to 7pm.