

Road Maintenance in Your Area

Road Surface Improvement (Resurfacing)



A274 North Street, Sutton Valence Hill & Headcorn Rd

When we plan to carry out the work and how long it will take

This is to let you know that, as part of the on-going maintenance and improvement of the highway network, Kent County Council will soon be **resurfacing a section of the A274 in Sutton Valence, specifically between the Sutton Valence School entrance and the bus stop south of 'South Lane'.**

These road surface improvement works are programmed to start on **Wednesday 22nd October** and should take **9 nights** to complete. Works are planned to take place on weeknights only with no working planned on Saturday or Sunday nights. It is possible this could change as the scheme progresses should any inclement weather conditions or unforeseen situations impact our progress. These activities will be undertaken between the hours of **20:00 – 05:00**. Outside of these hours, the road will remain open for traffic.

During these essential works it will be necessary to [close the A274 completely between the Warmlake \(Chartway St\) crossroads and Heniker Lane](#) so that we can carry out the works safely for both the workforce and road users. A half-closure point will also be positioned where the A274 meets New Barn Road. [In addition, side roads which join the closed section of the A274 will also be closed at the most appropriate place to best manage access and vehicle movements.](#)

Temporary signage for the road closure and signed diversion will be installed at strategic locations along the A274 to discourage through traffic from approaching the closure points. Signing will extend as far as A274 Tenterden Road (south of Biddenden) and A229 Loose Road (north of the A229/A274 junction). Additional repeaters and direction plates will be used at key junctions to guide traffic onto the diversion.

The diversion route will be via:

[A274](#) (Headcorn Road, Maidstone Road, Mill Bank, North Street, High Street, Station Road, Wheeler Street, Biddenden Road, Headcorn Road, North Street), [A262](#) (High Street, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden Road, Sissinghurst Road), [A229](#) (Wisley Pound, The Common, Rocks Hill, Cranbrook Road, High Street, Station Road, Maidstone Road, Staplehurst Road, Linton Hill), [B2163](#) (Heath Road, Plough Wents Road), [A274](#) (Maidstone Road) and vice versa.

Property access

If you require essential access within the road closure extents, including to or from a property inside the closed section, please speak to our on-site team. For your safety and ours, follow their instructions and only proceed when directed. [When entering the work area or under escort, keep to 10 mph at all times.](#) Blue-light access will be prioritised: if emergency services need to reach any premises within the closure, we will facilitate this immediately.

What we plan to do

We will remove the existing road surface by a method known as milling. The complete area will then be swept by a mechanical sweeper to ensure the prepared surface is clean and free of dust and debris. If required, the existing manhole covers, and rain water gully gratings will be adjusted or replaced to the correct level before the new surface is laid. Due to the nature of this type of work, it is inevitable that a varying but significant level of noise will be emitted. The noise will be most pronounced during the preparation stage of the nightly works, with the old road surface being removed, mechanically swept and drains or inspection covers adjusted or replaced if necessary. There will continue to be noise whilst the new surface is laid but this is generally more mobile and therefore intermittent. We do sympathise with and apologise for any disruption or inconvenience the level of noise may cause.

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Why are we doing this work?

The majority of capital investment in maintaining our highway network is funded through various capital maintenance grants from the Government. To make best use of that finite resource we carry out condition surveys and inspections, using a combination of mechanical and visual means, together with an assessment of local needs, and that helps to inform an annual capital works programme that balances value for money and our duties under the Highways Act 1980. Our approach to highways asset management is based on using robust data to inform how we invest the funds available, so that we spend the right amount of money at the right time to reduce the cost of maintenance overall. Further details of our works programmes and our approach to highways asset management more generally can be found at www.kent.gov.uk.

The new surfacing material will then be laid using a machine called a paver and compacted with a roller. This is a quick process and dependant on the design will either be a one or two-layer process. Finally, following completion of the surfacing, all necessary road markings will be re-painted. The road will then be re-opened. Please note that during the whole process, audible warning reversing sirens will be heard along with flashing beacons; this is a health and safety requirement and cannot be turned off but will be kept to a minimum.

How you can help us

It is inevitable that residents and businesses near the works will experience some disruption and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused, but we will try to keep this to a minimum.

Access to properties within the closed section of road may need to be restricted for a short period whilst work is carried out in front of each property and across road junctions but will be provided as soon as it is safe to do so. Traffic Management operatives will be available at all our closure points to advise motorists on the most appropriate access route to their properties on each given shift.

We need your help to make sure the work is done as quickly as possible and to the best possible quality. **If your vehicle is usually parked on or adjacent to the carriageway, please make sure you park it somewhere else away from the site whilst the works are carried out, so the road is clear for us to resurface. Yellow cones will be positioned at locations where parking will be restricted.**

For your safety and the safety of our workforce, please drive carefully and slowly through the roadworks.

How to contact us?

If you need more information, you can visit our website www.kent.gov.uk/resurfacingupdates to view our programme & updates, to find out how we look after the roads throughout Kent or report any faults you find on our roads. You can also view our diversion/permit details at www.one.network. Alternatively, you can call us on **03000 41 81 81**.