

Why are you doing the work now?

We are undertaking this work outside of the main tourism season when there is less traffic and events such as the IW Festival and RiverFest are not affected.

What are bearings?

Bridge bearings are crucial components that transfer loads from the bridge deck to its supports while allowing movement and rotation to accommodate temperature changes, traffic forces, and structural loading.

Why is it necessary to shut Little London and Newport Quay as through routes.

Little London and Newport Quay must be closed as through routes to ensure a safe working environment beneath the bridge. Temporary jacks will support each bridge deck and road closures will prevent vehicles from coming into contact with these supports. The entire structure could be compromised if a vehicle collided with the temporary jacks while they were providing support.

Additionally, scaffolding will be installed to provide access to the bridge bearings which will also limit the available road space.

What are the access arrangements for The Quay and Little London?

Both Newport Quay and Little London will remain accessible but closed as through roads for vehicles. Access to Little London will be via Riverway (as currently). The short section of Little London outside of the Bargeman's will temporarily be made two-way, this will be monitored throughout the project.

Newport Quay will need to be accessed via Fairlee and Seaclose. All businesses in the area are aware of these temporary traffic arrangements.

What about cycle and pedestrian access?

Access for cyclists and pedestrians will remain on both Little London and The Quay.

How can I contact Island Roads with questions about the scheme.

The best way is to email info@islandroads.com and your message will be passed to the relevant team.

Why does the project take so long?

Bridge bearing replacement is a highly specialised and complex engineering operation. Before the bearings can be replaced, significant preparatory works are required, including strengthening the bridge abutments and installing temporary works such as jacking points and extensive propping. These temporary measures allow specialist equipment to safely lift and support the bridge deck while the existing bearings are removed and replaced. Once the bridge has been lifted, further specialist techniques

are used to remove the old bearings and install the new ones before the bridge is carefully lowered back into position. Due to the complexity and safety-critical nature of these activities, the works must be carried out in carefully planned stages. The project also includes the installation of a new movement joint on Medina Way, which will be undertaken during phased overnight road closures to minimise disruption to road users.

Given the time of year we're undertaking these works, adverse weather conditions can delay the project. The need to keep at least one lane open on both the north and southbound sections also extends the time required for the work. It would be much quicker to complete the work under a full closure but that would clearly cause a far greater level of journey disruption.

What night-time closures will there be?

There will be phased night closures of Medina Way (dual carriageway) during the project. During these closures either the southbound or northbound carriageway will be shut from 19:30 in the evening until the early hours of the morning, with the carriageway back open before 0700 the following day. These closures will be advertised accordingly.

The diversions in place will be the same as those used in previous closures of the dual carriageway. They are relatively short and have worked effectively during previous closures of Medina Way.

Northbound traffic will be diverted via Coppins Bridge, South Street, St James Street, Hunnycross Way and Lidl roundabout.

Southbound traffic will be diverted via Riverway Industrial Estate, Hunnycross, St James Street and Newport High Street onto Coppins Bridge.

How can I keep up to date with progress?

There will be a dedicated page on Island Roads' website www.Islandroads.com that will be regularly updated. A QR code on information boards on site will link back to our website. Updates will also be given via the media and our X feed @IslandRoads. Updates will also be sent regularly to local elected members.

How much of an impact will the lane closures have on journey times?

The lane closures, while necessary, will unfortunately, prolong journey times. While the situation is likely to improve as people learn to use alternative routes or avoid busy times, it is sensible to allow extra time for your journeys along Medina Way during the lane closures. Alternatively, you can use public transport with Southern Vectis providing a very regular service between Cowes and Newport which avoids the dual carriageway.

What effect on traffic will the full dual carriageway closures have?

By closing the road at night, from 19:30 to 07:00 at the latest, we hope to avoid major disruption. Medina Way is regularly shut for maintenance work (such as grass cutting) with little or no problems as people use the usual diversion route.

What benefits will the work bring?

The new bearings will help the bridge continue to safely carry traffic by transferring loads from the bridge deck into its supports, while allowing the structure to move naturally with temperature changes and traffic loading. This will improve the bridge's long-term resilience and reduce the risk of future maintenance. The works will also include new jacking points, making any future bearing replacement easier and less disruptive.

Have you contacted emergency services?

Yes, we have informed emergency services about the project well in advance so they can make plans.