

A1 Safety Advisory Group 15 April 2024

Agenda

Safety Moment – How to report a defect via National Highways online map tool.

<https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/>

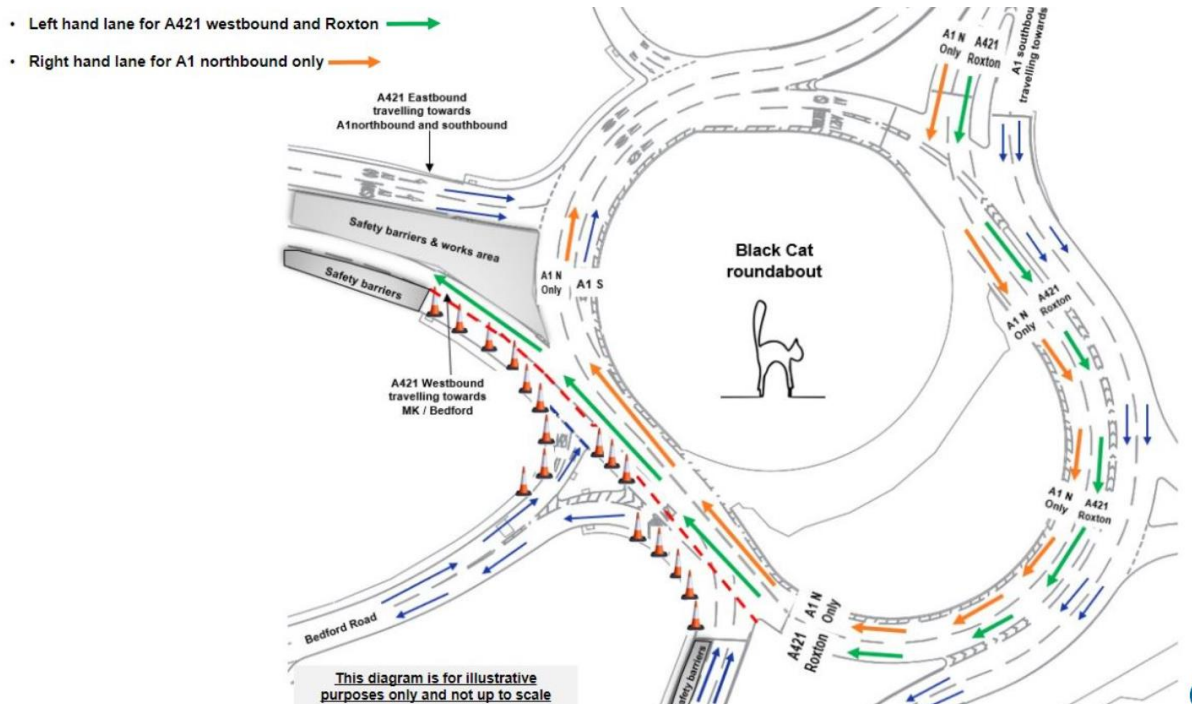
How to report a problem

1. Enter a location, road name or postcode
2. Locate the problem on a map of the area
3. Enter details of the problem
4. We will investigate

Black Cat project - New layout on Black Cat roundabout

There has been a switch of the layout on the **Black Cat roundabout**, and the **A421 Westbound (Towards Bedford/MK)**. These changes are essential to facilitate the construction of the scheme without closing any part of the road permanently, therefore trying to reduce ongoing disruption.

We have since added lane lines for traffic to follow. The inside lane for All Routes, predominately for A421 West and Roxton. The outside lane for A1N Only, continues around the roundabout. If you find yourself in the wrong lane, please continue around the roundabout, rather than move in front of vehicles heading toward the A421 West (Bedford/MK).



Buckden Rbt Mitigation work

- Update on any progress since last meeting.

Buckden

- Stirtloe Lane development.
- Shell garage development
- Taylors Lane drainage
- Hardwick Lane drainage / farm lane.



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- Subways
 - Anti-social behaviour northern subway door to pump system padlock damaged twice.



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Southoe

- Designated Funding
- Footway scheme – Buckden to Lt. Paxton
- Drainage scheme – Southoe to Lt Paxton SB verge
- A1 Injurious weed, Japanese Knotweed
- A1 crossing point from Lees Lane
- Pedestrian crossing signage request
- A1 road surface Lt Paxton Southoe – (advance notice required)
- Request for noise / omissions issues associated with the A1 to be looked into.
- A1 ditch systems north and south of Lees Lane.

Diddington

- Vicarage Lane vision splay
- Drainage problem to NB verge
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A.O.B

- Are there any know issues with HGV movement in the area in particular access / parking issues?

Minutes

- AT presented a safety moment regarding the defect reporting tool for National Highways to the group in light of the damaged door incident in the northern subway.

<https://report.nationalhighways.co.uk/>

It was agreed that defects could be reported this way and would mean defects go direct to source teams within National Highways for a response. AT was happy to be notified of issues in order to chase up responses / actions.

- AT shared the A428 Black Cat Traffic Management drawing for the current layout of the Black Cat roundabout during this phase of construction.
- CU raised a point about the bus shelter damage and it was agreed the asset was responsibility of the PC to resolve.
- The group discussed the mitigation work required for the Buckden roundabout and the status Morris Homes are currently with the submission of a design. At present no contact has been made since initial meeting in November 2023.
 - The group discussed the various stages required to get to technical approval of the design. AT assured the group the traffic light design will receive specific scrutiny by our inhouse design consultant similar to the drainage, streetlighting and general arrangements drawings.

- Buckden raised point that the modelling for the A1 should be revisited since the Black Cat project pre – post completion. Questioned the impact this will have on the traffic light design and will this be now taken in to account in the design submission.
 - Question for Spatial planning team regarding the planning permission and the previous approval by HDC was the DCO taken into account?
- Shell garage development no update, but the group briefly discussed the design and the impact this would have on the Mitigation for the roundabout if they no longer have to take account of access from the garage on to the roundabout?
 - Group also briefly discussed any change to the shell exit entry impact on the central reserve crossover south of the garage at Stirtloe Lane.
- Group discuss the flooding issues at Hardwick Lane, Hardwick Lane farm road and Taylors lane. MG informed group that HDC have carried out work at High St end of culvert and would like to get a roundtable meeting in place with all interested parties soon.
- Group discussed issues relating to Southoe in particular
 - Request for hedge or fence on A1 to deter noise and or omissions. A resident has raised concerns at recent Southoe Parish meeting and is expecting a response from NH. AT informed the potential risk of installing any form of vegetation or fence on the A1 NB as a potential vision splay concern. The group discussed NIA noise improvement areas and AT informed the group that Southoe Lees Lane Junction was the only area within the zone and mitigation had been completed. The group discussed potential for some informal signs requesting drivers of HGV in the laybys switch off engines at night to prevent the noise travelling across the fields to residents in Bells Lane.
- The group were updated on the current status of the designated funding application for footway on the NB verge of the A1 & crossing point around Lees Lane.- no progress to date since feasibility study completed. Need for external funding source such as development.
- Pedestrian crossing signage was raised again as a concern for Southoe residents trying to cross the A1
- A1 Southbound grass verge area flooded due to recent heavy rainfall.
- Southoe request an update on any news relating to HDC call for land in the area of the A1 and what impact this would bring to the area. Short discussion took place, as there was no update since the call went out last year.
- A1 road surface condition is suffering after the winter period and NH operations are aware of the problem and are planning works. Southoe ask for notice of any road works ahead of planned closures.
- Diddington was discussed in relation to the drainage works recently taking place on the A1 northbound verge. Works undertaken appear to have resolved the ongoing surface water problem experienced on this section of the A1.
- The ongoing discussion regarding the vision splay at Vicarage Lane will be checked by NH Inspector and action taken if necessary.

Actions

- Update from spatial planning regarding HDC call for land, last year.
 - AT to contact Spatial planning team for an update.
- Drainage under the culverts of the A1 north and south of Lees Lane.
 - AT to contact drainage asset lead for update.
- Drainage update for Taylors Lane
 - AT to speak to drainage asset lead for update.
- NIA mitigation for Southoe and Buckden.
 - AT to contact Environmental team for update.
- Noise and omissions relating to layby on southbound A1 at night HGV issue.
 - AT to discuss with operations potential for informal signage in layby requesting HGV drivers switch of engines whilst parked up in layby?
- Vicarage Lane Diddington vision splay from junction affecting A1 NB.
 - AT to check in with inspector and soft estate team for status.
- Morris Homes update since November 2023 meeting.
 - AT to contact developer / 3PP team for any development in design.
- Modelling impact of delay for Buckden rbt since planning permission granted.
 - AT to speak to Traffic light engineers regarding potential impact
- Review of detailed design drawings by technical experts – traffic light design
 - AT to speak with Traffic light engineer regarding checking process.
- Westfield Farm central reserve planning permission / Shell Development.
 - AT to update spatial planning team, impact on central reserve.
- National Highways online defect reporting tool.
 - Link sent to all on the call

Date of next meeting agreed: Monday July 22 2.30pm