

RE: Potential road closure through RHS



From Josh White <Josh.White@suffolkhighways.org>
To John Ambrose <johnambrose@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>, Holbrook Parish Council <clerk@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Date 2026-08-10 08:41

Good morning John,

Appreciate the response and feedback.

Yes, I would also pre-emptively get in touch with AW and express the PCs concerns, and see what practical options they can provide in reducing the impact.

Kind Regards
Joshua

From: John Ambrose <johnambrose@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 August 2026 13:57
To: Josh White <Josh.White@suffolkhighways.org>; Holbrook Parish Council <clerk@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Potential road closure through RHS



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Josh

Thank you for the informative response, I appreciate the health and safety requirements for these types of works can mean that traffic lights and partial road closures are not allowed.

However, the increased traffic on local roads does cause problems even though they are not part of the official diversion. This will always happen as drivers will use any road to get round the closure. Appreciate that there is nothing that can be done to stop them but the roads used are often quiet lanes shared by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorists.

We will look forward to AW engaging with us concerning the RHS works. When they renewed the water main running along Ipswich Road, they did come to us to discuss their plans and hopefully they will do the same this time?

Regards

John Ambrose
Chairman Holbrook Parish Council

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Josh White <Josh.White@suffolkhighways.org>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2026 11:10 am
To: Holbrook Parish Council <clerk@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: John Ambrose <johnambrose@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Potential road closure through RHS

Hi Jo,

Just received this update from our Network Assurance Team.

Ipswich Road, Holbrook

CityFibre commenced their planned road closure on Ipswich Road, Holbrook on 21 July 2026, with works expecting to be complete by 10 August 2026. The works are to install fibre network to allow connections to individual residential properties and businesses, as part of the Building Digital UK (BDUK) government led scheme.

Due to the excavations required to install the fibre network, CityFibre requested a 24hour road closure, including weekends. The official signed diversion route implemented for these works is to follow the B1080, B1456, A137, B1080 and vice versa.

We fully appreciate the inconvenience road closures can have on local communities, residents and businesses and will always prefer for less

disruptive traffic management to be used where it is deemed safe and compliant to do so.

Unfortunately, alternative traffic management options, such as traffic signals, are not always able to be deployed along Suffolk's maintainable highway as the Department for Transport | Safety at Street Works and Road Works – A Code of Practice sets the parameters of the type of traffic management required to be used on the highway. If the remaining carriageway (road) width is less than 3 metres, traffic signals cannot be installed, and a road closure would be required to ensure safety for the travelling public and the workforce. The remaining carriageway width is calculated by the following -

The width of existing carriageway (road) minus: -

- The width of the work site (i.e., excavation, plant/machinery widths, etc.)
- The Safety Zone (between work site and live traffic)
- Pedestrian walkway which is normally installed between the work site and the safety zone (at 1.2m width for pedestrian users), if no other safe alternative is available for pedestrian access.

Please be assured that Network Assurance will continue to monitor these works until they have been completed.

Royal Hospital School, Holbrook

Network Assurance are aware of Anglian Water's requirements to replace the water main along Royal Hospital School, requiring a road closure. We have been advised that a water supply affecting Royal Hospital School and surrounding houses within the grounds has become contaminated, therefore a new supply is required to ensure safe drinking water.

Network Assurance held a meeting with Anglian Water on 6 August 2026 to go through their scope of works and required traffic management. Anglian Water have advised that due to the road width and scope of works on Royal Hospital School, there is no safe alternative to install the new main without a road closure. Anglian Water will be looking to downgrade their traffic management to temporary traffic signals for when they are at the stage to undertake the connections to the water main.

Anglian Water have been requested to engage with the affected Parish Councils and County Councillors in advance of these works and will be undertaking an engagement session to explain the scope and necessity of the works.

Please be advised that no dates have yet been agreed as the original dates applied for by Anglian Water could not be accepted due to clashes of other works.

Kind Regards
Joshua

-----Original Message-----
From: clerk@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk <clerk@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 August 2026 13:27
To: Josh White <Josh.White@suffolkhighways.org>
Cc: John Ambrose <johnambrose@holbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Potential road closure through RHS

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Dear Josh,

There is a potential road closure on B1080 at RHS from 21st September to 13th November 2026 for Anglian Water to put in new water mains at the RHS. Is there a way that the Parish Council can lobby for this work to be done using a traffic light system, rather than a complete closure? It would, as I am sure you are aware, cause considerable disruption and it is a very long period of time for such a closure. Already residents are struggling with the 3 week closure (still ongoing) on Ipswich Road.

Do Highways have an influence over how this is managed?

Once again, your help is very much appreciated.

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Kind regards
Jo Hazlewood
Holbrook Parish Clerk
4 Shepherds Lane, The Street, Holbrook, Ipswich IP9 2QA

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