



## Important information about road closures

### Why do we need to close roads?

- **To keep everyone safe:** we must keep our workers, road users, and the public safe while we work. We also need room to store materials, machinery and park vehicles, sometimes including HGVs.
- **Legal requirements:** we need to follow rules for signing, lighting, and sectioning off our work areas to comply with the law. The 'safety at street works and road works' government guidance can be found by visiting [gov.uk/government/publications/safety-at-street-works-and-road-works](https://gov.uk/government/publications/safety-at-street-works-and-road-works)

### When do we close roads?

- **Limited space:** If there's not enough room for us to work safely and allow traffic past us, we'll close the road. This happens about 30% of the time for work like this, especially on roads with speed limits over 50mph.

Road closures are usually needed if we can't keep 3.25 meters of the road open to traffic, or 3 meters in low-risk areas.

- **In high-risk areas:** we might need to close roads near level crossings or very busy roads.

### How long do road closure applications take?

We need to apply for a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) from the local highway authority if the work will involve a road closure, speed limit change or suspension (for cycle lanes or parking spaces).

Their rules stipulate that has to be done at least three months in advance, so if one is needed it will affect when we can start our work.

# If the road speed is 20-40mph and our works extend beyond the middle of the road

Are there <b>safety risks*</b> on the road?	Working area needed	The road width needed to avoid a closure
<b>No</b> → 3.5 metres of free road space needed	+ 3.5 metres	= <b>7 metres</b>
<b>Yes</b> → 3.75 metres of free road space needed	+ 3.75 metres	= <b>7.5 metres</b>

# If the road speed is 50-60mph and our works extend beyond the middle of the road

Are there <b>safety risks*</b> on the road?	Working area needed	The road width needed to avoid a closure
<b>No</b> → 4.2 metres of free road space needed	+ 4.2 metres	= <b>8.4 metres</b>
<b>Yes</b> → 4.45 metres of free road space needed	+ 4.45 metres	= <b>8.9 metres</b>

## \*What are safety risks?

Being close to a speed limit change | Evidence of speeding  
 Sharp bends | Signage warning of a high accident spot | Steep hills

The diagram illustrates a road layout for a 'Far-side connection diagram'. It shows a road with a dashed line indicating the 'Working area' and a solid line indicating the 'Free road space'. A car is parked in the working area, and a water main is shown below the road surface. A yellow excavator is also shown working on the road.