



Travel and Transport News | 19 October



Our gritters will be out and about [tomorrow](#) (Friday 20 October) during our dry run day but, as the title suggests, they won't be spreading anything on the road.

All of our gritter drivers are getting ready for winter and will be attending their local depot to re-familiarise themselves with the routes and the vehicles – including our first female driver, Elizabeth Hemborough.

Remember you'll be able to follow all the action as it unfolds this winter on [@TravelDorset](#)

Heading north

Patching, surfacing and drainage work will be getting underway on the A350 and C13 (between Blandford and Shaftesbury) next month.

We're continuing detailed design work on the traffic management aspects of the scheme, and in December six options about the HGV routing will go before Cabinet for members to make a decision on the way forward.

[Get the details](#)

Take care out there



This weekend, the [Environment Agency](#) has put severe weather warnings in place for Dorset and the south west – strong winds with gusts of up to 65mph are predicted along our coast.

Bad weather and darker days (remember the clocks go back at the end of October) make driving more hazardous.

Top tips for driving in flooded areas:

- Avoid the deepest water – which is usually near the kerb
- Don't attempt to cross if the water seems too deep
- If you're not sure of the water's depth, look for an alternative route
- If you decide to risk it, drive slowly in first gear but keep the engine speed high by slipping the clutch – this will stop you from stalling
- Be aware of the bow wave from approaching vehicles – operate an informal 'give way' with approaching vehicles
- Remember to test your brakes when you're through the flood

In very bad conditions, avoid driving completely, unless you absolutely have to make the journey and driving is the only option.

[Check our live travel alerts before you head out](#)

County Town road closure

Our work at Trinity Street junction in Dorchester is progressing well and we'll need an eastbound road closure on High West Street at the end of this month.

The road will be closed from 9pm to 6am each night from Sunday 29 October to Friday 3 November, with the work finishing in the early hours of Friday morning.

[More about the project](#)

Verge transformation

Reminder for Blandford drivers

Remember, we'll be starting work in Blandford at the end of this month to repair two structures as part of our annual maintenance programme.

On 30 October work will start on Blandford Bridge, over the River Stour, on West Street. The bridge will be closed to vehicles 24 hours a day for four weeks while we strengthen one of the bridge arches, with the bridge set to be reopened at 4pm on Friday 24 November. We'll be maintaining access for pedestrians and dismantled cyclists.

At the same time we'll be repairing (putting a new top on) an existing culvert under the east pavement of West Street, opposite the junction with River Mews. To give us the space we need to work safely, there will be a lane closure – with two-way lights in use – until 6 January 2018. We know this is a long time – it's a complicated job and, because of this, we've allowed time in the programme for anything unexpected.

We're doing these two schemes at the same time to try and reduce disruption, and we're doing it now in preparation for West Street being resurfaced next year.

- A3030, Alwestern
night time closure 8pm - 5am, 27 November to 3 December
daytime closure 9am - 4pm, 11 December to 15 December

Please be aware dates can be subject to change, especially during periods of bad weather.



By using innovative approaches, we're aiming to reduce the cost of ongoing maintenance by reducing the amount of cutting taking place, and at the same time transforming them into a wildflower feast for pollinators.

Our Coast & Countryside Service is currently turning its attention to the large area of verge on the Weymouth Relief Road and its roundabouts.

[Find out more about the project](#)

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