

A249 Bearsted Road Improvement Scheme



Community Information Leaflet

May 2026

www.bearstedroad.co.uk



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Project Progress Update

Brehehy Civil Engineering is continuing to deliver the A249 Bearsted Road Improvement Scheme on behalf of Kent County Council. Since our last newsletter, works have remained focused on progressing the new road layout and retaining wall construction near Newnham Court Shopping Village, alongside utility diversion activities and preparation for future phases of the scheme.

Our overall strategy remains to deliver these improvements in a carefully planned sequence that prioritises the safety of residents, businesses, and road users while minimising disruption to the area.

Below is a summary of progress to date.

1. Utility Diversions and Ducting Works

Utility diversion activities have continued across the scheme to prepare for future carriageway widening, lighting installation and footpath works. Recent works have included:

Electricity (UK Power Networks): Following the successful completion of Phase 2 works in March, we are now entering Phase 3. Preparations are underway for jointing pits and cable pulling, with the final Phase 3 changeover scheduled to take place between late May and early June.

Telecommunications (Openreach): Significant progress has been made on the Openreach network. Construction of four new chambers began in early May, and we are currently completing ducting works to allow cabling for this phase to commence in the coming weeks.

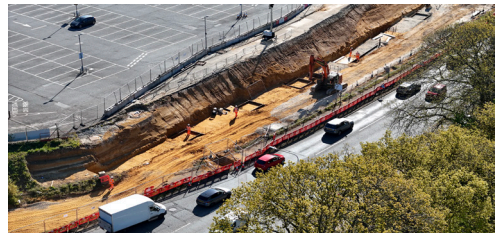
Gas and Water: Major gas and water diversion works were successfully completed through March and April, including the installation of new meters and the capping of old mains to enable bulk earthworks to re-commence.

These activities are essential to allow the new road layout and associated infrastructure to be safely constructed.

2. Retaining Wall Construction – Newnham Court Area

Over recent weeks, significant progress has been made on the new retaining wall adjacent to Notcutts Garden Centre and Newnham Court Shopping Village.

Following completion of the bulk excavation works in mid-April, construction activities have focused on casting wall foundations, laying retaining wall blocks and carrying out associated testing activities. This structure is an important part of the scheme and is required to facilitate the widening of Bearsted Road. Construction is continuing in phases, with the retaining wall expected to be substantially completed during June, subject to progress and weather conditions.



3. New Access Road Progress

Works along the new access road and service road have continued, helping the area begin to take its final shape. Recent activities have included permanent footpath construction, fencing works and the installation of various permanent signs for Newnham Court Shopping Village. The binder course for the new footpaths in the switching station area has also been completed, helping prepare the area for future finishing works and public use.



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4. Bearsted Road Widening Works

Significant surfacing works have been completed during planned night closures to start forming the new carriageway on Bearsted Road (East) and the widened KIMS roundabout.

Works have continued along the A249 southbound side of Bearsted Road, where the team has been carrying out excavation, ground preparation and widening activities associated with the future traffic signal layout for the roundabout. Recent works have included site clearance, footpath removal, drainage and utility preparations, alongside the installation of new ducting and sign foundations.



Next Steps on the Bearsted Road Improvement Scheme

Construction activity will continue across several areas of the site throughout June and July. Over the next two months, you will see the following progress:

- *Utility Connections Adjacent to Retaining Walls:* Following completion of the Western retaining wall, our teams will focus on “joining up” utility connections from both sides of the wall. This includes installing underground ducts for BT, electricity (UKPN), and new street lighting in the area that will later become the new road and footpath.
- *Access Road Enhancements & “Tidying Up”:* As the western wall reaches completion, we will begin “tidying up” the new access road area. This involves removing temporary construction materials and preparing the topsoil for future seeding & planting.

- *Utility Diversion Finalisation:* Critical work to relocate UKPN electricity cables will reach its final stages in early June. Digging for connection pits will take place, followed by cable pulling, with the final “changeover” to the new network scheduled at the start of June.
- *Preparing the Road Foundations:* On the A249 southbound and near the western wall, we are moving from excavation to preparing the foundational aggregate layers (technically known capping & sub-base). This involves laying and compacting specific stone materials to create a solid, level base that is essential before the final road surface can be laid.

Planned Night Works – Mid-June into July

A new phase of night works is currently scheduled to *begin from 8th June and is expected to continue for approximately five to six weeks*. These works will focus on essential drainage, ducting and utility installation activities across road crossings, including areas around the Bearsted Road and KIMS Hospital roundabouts.

Carrying out these activities overnight helps reduce disruption during daytime peak traffic periods wherever possible, while allowing works to be completed safely and efficiently.

To complete this upcoming phase of works, *closures of Bearsted Road are currently anticipated in mid-July*. Further details, including confirmed dates and a diversion route will be communicated to residents, businesses and stakeholders in advance.

We would like to thank residents, businesses and road users for their continued patience while these essential improvement works are carried out.



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Local Community Events & Opportunities

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the local community, we are pleased to help promote several upcoming local events taking place across Maidstone and the surrounding area this summer:

Bearsted & Thurnham Carnival & Fayre

27th June 2026

The annual Bearsted & Thurnham Carnival & Fayre will bring the local community together with live entertainment, activities, stalls and family attractions.



Creative Arts in Diversity Festival 2026

4th July 2026

Maidstone Mela returns this summer celebrating culture, music, food and community, with a variety of performances, activities and entertainment taking place across the event.



Allington Castle Open Gardens

26th July & 9th August 2026

Residents can visit the historic Allington Castle Open Gardens event, providing an opportunity to explore the grounds and gardens while supporting the Heart of Kent Hospice.



Stay Updated

Residents and businesses can continue to receive regular updates about the scheme by visiting: www.bearstedroad.co.uk

You can also contact the project team directly:

- Email: bearstedroad@breheny.co.uk
- Telephone: 07976 367359

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