

Pencester Road, Dover

Northbound Bus Contraflow



Newsletter 1 - Oct 2024

Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) is introducing a northbound bus contraflow in Pencester Road, Dover. This scheme aims to support and enhance the Dover Fastrack bus service.

Background

To assist in the delivery of Dover District Council's Local Plan, Dover Fastrack has been developed to mitigate the traffic impacts of the Whitfield Urban Expansion (WUE) and Connaught Barracks. This will be by providing a high quality and reliable public transport service to link the new developments to the Town Centre and the High-Speed Rail services at Dover Priory Station. It will also provide direct links to White Cliffs Business Park and its retail shops, Dover District Council Offices, Dover Castle, Dover Leisure Centre and shopping areas, including St James and the recently rejuvenated Market Square.

The Pencester Road scheme will provide a dedicated northbound bus lane, allowing the northbound service to avoid the busy alternative A20 and Ladywell routes to improve the journey time and reliability of the service. It will also provide better access and connectivity to the town centre amenities and provide a direct link to the existing bus hub in Pencester Road, allowing connectivity to other bus routes for onward journeys.

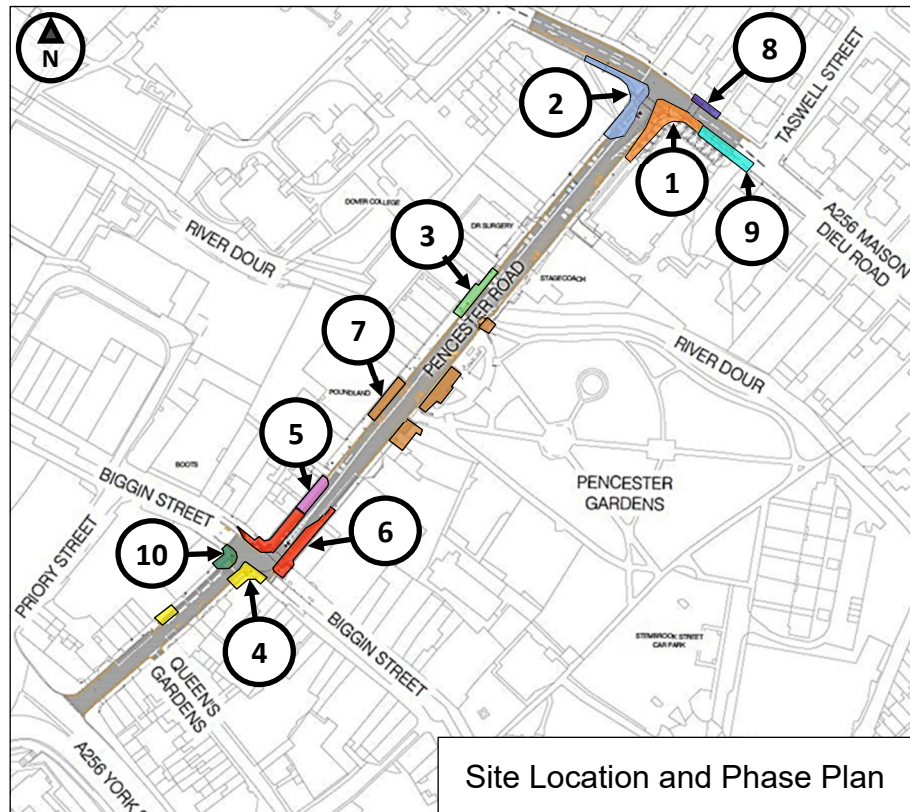
The consultation for the proposed scheme and the Traffic Regulation Orders required for the scheme, took place in November/December 2023 and following a review of the objections received, a decision to proceed with the scheme was taken by the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation in June 2024. Details of the consultation can be found on KCC's website at www.letstalk.kent.gov.uk/pencester-road

How will the scheme be funded?

KCC secured £18.9m of funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) through the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), for a series of improvements throughout Kent. This scheme will be delivered from this funding and is estimated to cost up to £900,000.

When will the works be carried out?

The works will be carried out by Amey, KCC's Term Maintenance Contractor and their Sub-Contractor, Walker Construction. Some initial vegetation clearance has been programmed to be completed on **10 and 11 October 2024**, with the main construction works due to commence on **14 October 2024** for an estimated period of 4-5 months.



How will the works and phasing programme be carried out?

Works will be carried out in phases, with the aim to maintain traffic flow and minimise disruption as much as possible. Where space allows, works will be carried out through localised narrowing of the carriageway, but road closures will be necessary at certain times to allow works to be carried out safely. Programme dates have been provided for the first two phases. Whilst every effort will be made to follow the phasing programme, factors outside of our control like adverse weather may cause delays, so dates for subsequent phases and any road closures will be confirmed nearer the time.

Access to properties and existing delivery arrangements will generally be maintained during the works but any restrictions will be discussed with any affected properties and businesses in advance.

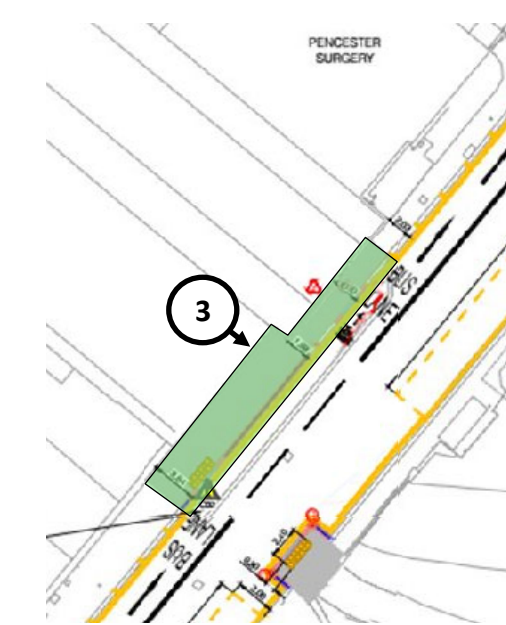
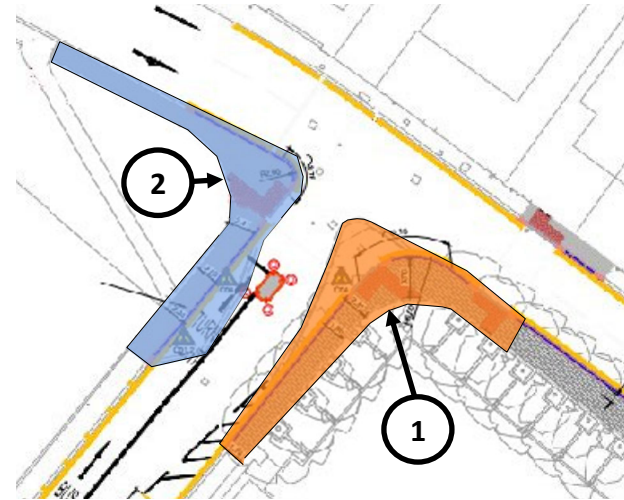
The existing parking bays will be maintained during the works but will need to be permanently removed following the resurfacing of the road. However, some parking bays will be required to be temporarily suspended to allow the works to be carried out safely. Any suspensions will be signed on site in advance.

Enabling Works - Vegetation Clearance

Removal of low and overhanging branches of the trees on the corner of Pencester Road and Maison Dieu Road is programmed for 10 and 11 October 2024. Works will be carried out under lane closures between 09.30 and 15.30. The existing pedestrian crossing will be closed during these works and a temporary one provided west of Pencester Road.

Phase 1 – Pencester Road/Maison Dieu Junction (eastern side)

Removal of the widened footway, new carriageway/footway construction, new signal ducting/chambers and diversion of Virgin Media apparatus. This phase is programmed to start on 14 October 2024 for an estimated duration of 3 weeks. Works will be carried out under a localised narrowing of Pencester Road and a lane closure of the southern lane on Maison Dieu Road between 09.30 and 15.30.



Phase 2 - Pencester Road/Maison Dieu Junction (western side)

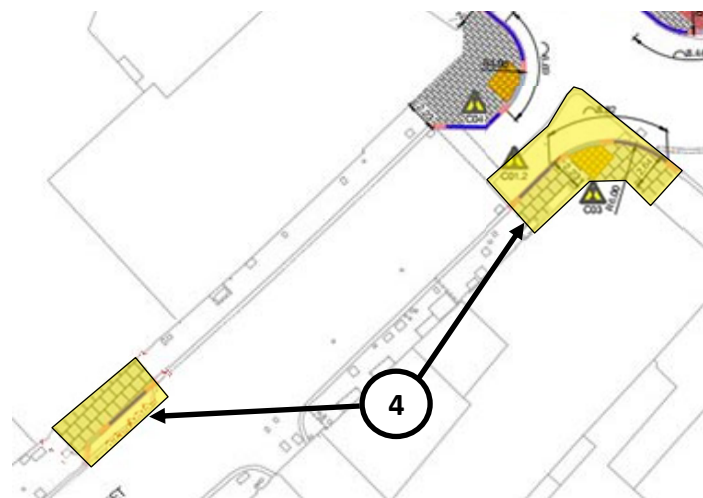
Removal of the widened footway, new carriageway/footway construction, new signal ducting/chambers and diversion of SGN apparatus. This phase is programmed to start on 4 November 2024 for an estimated duration of 3 weeks. Works will be carried out under a localised narrowing of Pencester Road and a lane closure of the southern lane on Maison Dieu Road between 09.30 and 15.30. Temporary suspension of adjacent parking bays will be required.

Phase 3 - Pencester Road (adjacent to Caffé Macari's)

Removal of the widened footway on western side of Pencester Road, construction of new carriageway/footway. Estimated duration is 3 weeks but works will overlap with Phase 2. Works will be carried out under localised signing and guarding of the works area. Temporary suspension of adjacent parking bays will be required.

Phase 4 – Worthington Street/Biggin Street Junction (Eastern Side)

Removal of the widened footway, changes to highway drainage, new signal ducting/chambers, and footway/carriageway construction. Estimated duration is 3 weeks. Works will be carried out by localised narrowing of the carriageway and temporary closure of the footway. Works within the pedestrianised area of Biggin Street will be carried out between 10.00 and 16.00 when Biggin Street is closed to through traffic. Temporary suspension of adjacent parking bays will be required. This phase also includes the removal of part of the widened footway at the former bus stop.

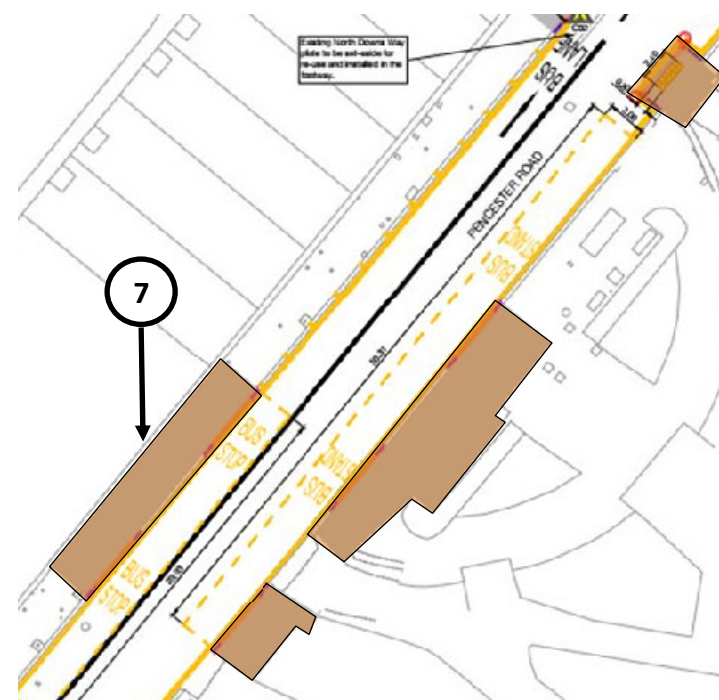
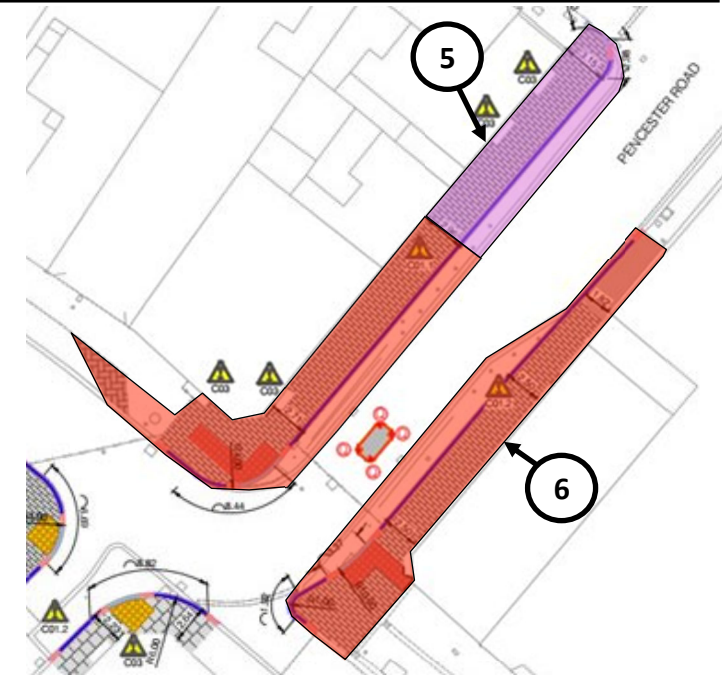


Phase 5 – Pencester Road (West side outside Betfred)

Removal of the widened footway and new footway/carriageway construction. Estimated duration is 1 week. Works will be carried out under localised narrowing of the carriageway. Temporary suspension of disabled parking bays outside B&M will be required.

Phase 6 – Pencester Road junction with Biggin Street

Removal of the widened footway on both sides of Pencester Road, changes to highway drainage, new signal ducting/chambers, footway/carriageway construction and diversion of UKPN apparatus. Estimated duration is 5 weeks. During this phase it will be necessary to close this end of Pencester Road for 3 weeks. During the closure, the remainder of Pencester Road will be made two-way, with temporary traffic signals provided at the Maison Dieu Road junction to allow vehicles to exit onto Maison Dieu Road. The remainder of the works in this phase can be carried out by localised narrowing of the carriageway around the works area, allowing Pencester Road to be kept open at other times. Localised closures of footways will be required and the temporary suspension of disabled parking bays outside B&M may be required.

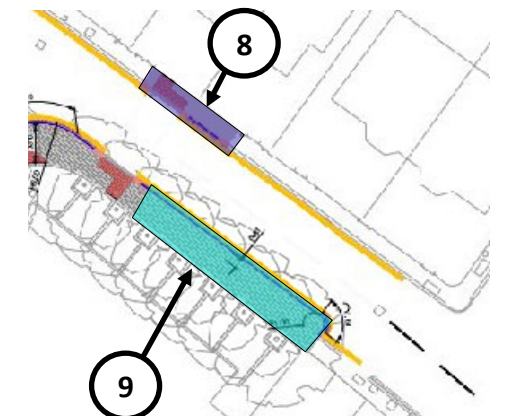


Phase 7 – Pencester Road (central area)

New bus stops with raised kerbs and footway surfacing formed outside Poundland. Minor amendments to existing bus stops along the eastern footway. Estimated duration is 2 weeks. Works will be carried out under localised signing and guarding of the works area. Temporary suspension of adjacent parking bays will be required.

Phase 8 – Maison Dieu Road (North side)

Installation of signal ducting/chambers and footway construction. Estimated duration is 1-2 weeks. Works will be carried out under a lane closure of the northern lane on Maison Dieu Road between 09.30 and 15.30. Temporary closure of the northern footway.



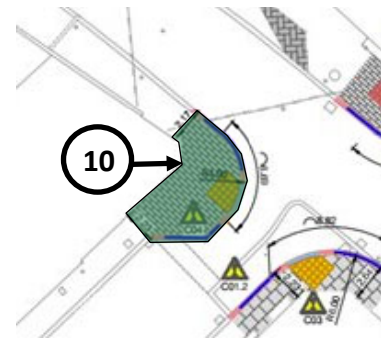
Phase 9 – Maison Dieu Road (South Side)

Completion of new footway construction. Estimated duration 1-2 weeks. Works will be carried out under a lane closure of the southern lane on Maison Dieu Road between 09.30 and 15.30. Temporary closure of southern footway will be required.



Phase 10 – Worthington Street (Northwest Corner)

New widened footway and new signal ducting/chamber. Estimated duration 1-2 weeks. Works will be carried out under a road closure at the northern end of Worthington Street. Worthington Street will be made two-way to allow access/egress to properties. Vehicles wishing to access Biggin Street and Priory Street, will be diverted via the A256 Priory Road, Ladywell, Maison Dieu Road and Pencester Road.



Phase 11 – Surfacing and Road Markings

The resurfacing of Pencester Road and Worthington Street is currently proposed to be completed in phases and carried out over 6 night-time road closures, after phase 10 has been completed. Exact details will be confirmed nearer the time.

Phase 12 - Installation and Commissioning of New Traffic Signals

The installation of the traffic signal equipment at both ends of Pencester Road will be carried out once all the necessary underground infrastructure has been installed.

What will change

A summary of the proposed changes are as follows:

- Kerbs and footways will be realigned at the Worthington Street and Biggin Street junction to allow space for the movement of buses to cross into Pencester Road.
- Installation of a new signalised junction at the Worthington Street, Biggin Street and Pencester Road junction – the existing controlled crossing on Pencester Road will remain.
- Kerbs and footways will be realigned at the southern end of Pencester Road, at the junction with Biggin Street, to allow two-way passage of vehicles – the existing footway width will be reduced slightly, and a central island installed to separate lanes.
- A contraflow bus and cycle lane will be installed along the western side of Pencester Road, between Biggin Street and Maison Dieu Road, with all existing parking removed from this side of the road.
- The existing footway will be reduced in the width between the access to the parking area at the rear of the parade of shops and the front of Dover Technical College, to allow for an uninterrupted bus lane.
- Installation of a new signalised junction at the Pencester Road and Maison Dieu junction, including the realignment of kerbs and footways on both sides of Pencester Road, to allow space for the movement of buses. The existing controlled pedestrian crossing of A256 Maison Dieu Road will remain, and a new controlled pedestrian crossing of Pencester Road will be provided.
- The existing southbound bus stops and bus stands will remain with two new stops being provided on the western side of Pencester Road.
- You can also view scheme drawings and further information on the project webpage at www.kent.gov.uk/pencester-road.

How to contact us

We ask for your patience and co-operation whilst these works are undertaken but if you have any concerns or require more information about the work, please call us on **03000 418181** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) or via email at Pencesterroad@kent.gov.uk.

Regular updates will be provided as the project progresses and if you would like to receive any updates by email, then please email the project email address requesting this and we will add you to our circulation list.

For your safety and the safety of our workforce, please drive carefully and slowly through the roadworks.