

Highways Guide

**Need to contact East Sussex County Council
about a highways matter?**

The highway network is essential for the economic sustainability and growth of East Sussex and ensures that local communities remain safe and well-connected. Several teams work to manage the network, as detailed in this document. Additional information is available on the respective team pages on the East Sussex County Council website.



East Sussex Highways

East Sussex Highways is a collaborative partnership between Balfour Beatty Living Places and East Sussex County Council.

Safety is our top priority. Our highway stewards assess issues based on local needs and street usage to promptly address hazards. Focusing on value by prioritising repairs and investing in preventative maintenance, ensuring wise budget spending. Through comprehensive surveys, safety inspections and tracking public reports, we target repairs effectively to prevent larger problems in the future.

Responsibilities:

- Roads
- Pavements / footways
- Drainage
- Streetlights
- 483 bridges including the Newhaven swing bridge
- Traffic lights
- Two tunnels including the Cuilfail Tunnel
- Winter gritting services
- Delivering highway improvement schemes
- Licencing and enforcement linked to the highways and footways



Find out more on our website:
eastsussexhighways.com

Contact:

- **Online:** Report a problem at eastsussexhighways.com
- **Phone:** 0345 60 80 193

Our Asset Management Approach

We look after roads and footways in a smart, planned way to keep them safe and in good condition. This is called **asset management** — it means we take care of roads and other transport-related things by planning ahead, not just fixing problems when they happen.

What we manage

We manage more than just roads. This includes footways, signs, streetlights, highway surface water drainage, and other parts of the transport network.

Why we do it this way

Our approach helps us:

- Keep roads and paths safe and easy to use
- Spend public money wisely by planning ahead
- Act early to stop small problems from getting worse
- Use inspections and data to make smart decisions

How we do it

We regularly inspect roads and other assets, and we plan repairs based on safety risks, how busy the road is, its condition and age, and where we can get the most value for money. And we follow clear rules to fix problems based on their risk.

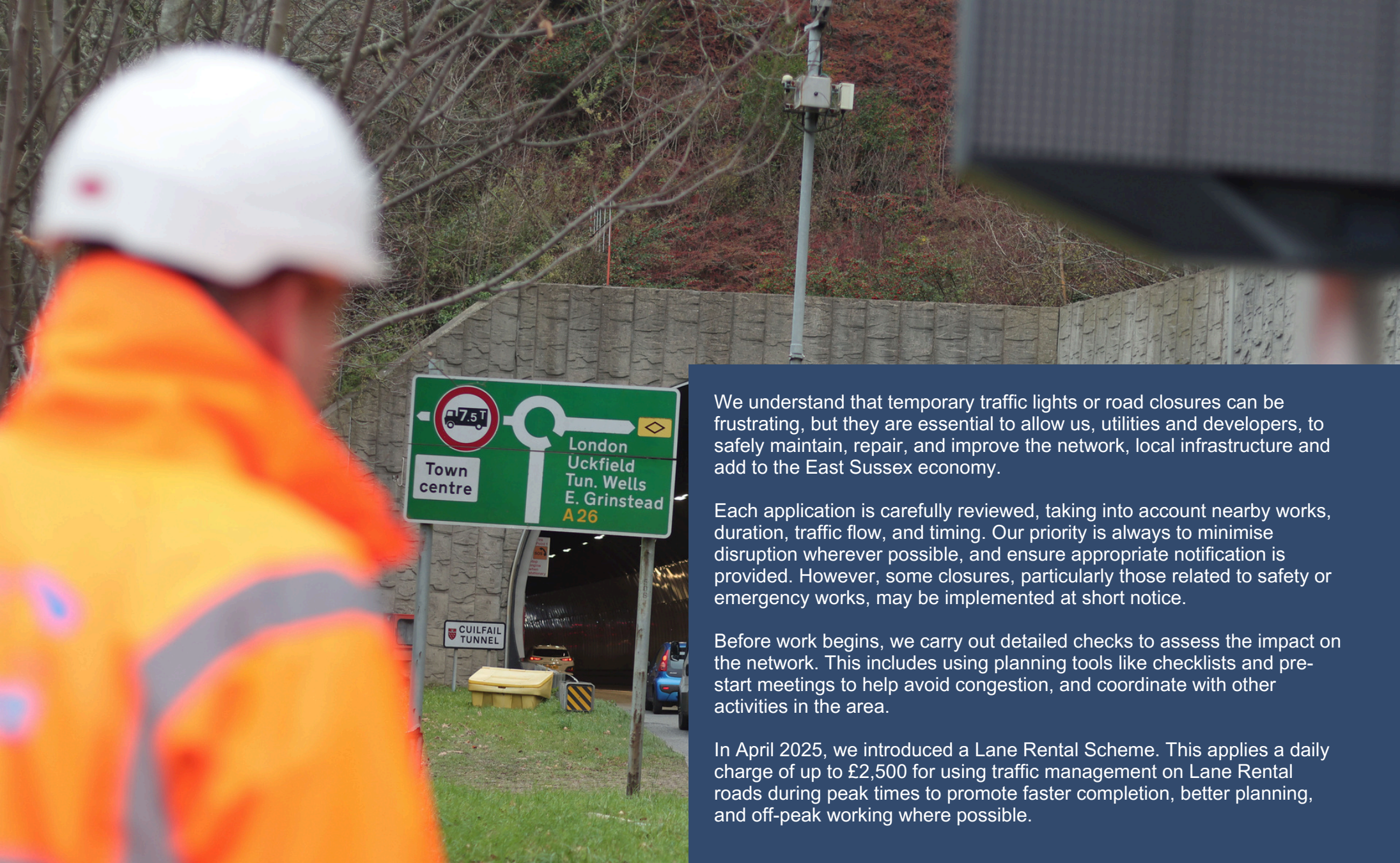
East Sussex Highways



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Network Management

We understand that temporary traffic lights or road closures can be frustrating, but they are essential to allow us, utilities and developers, to safely maintain, repair, and improve the network, local infrastructure and add to the East Sussex economy.

Each application is carefully reviewed, taking into account nearby works, duration, traffic flow, and timing. Our priority is always to minimise disruption wherever possible, and ensure appropriate notification is provided. However, some closures, particularly those related to safety or emergency works, may be implemented at short notice.

Before work begins, we carry out detailed checks to assess the impact on the network. This includes using planning tools like checklists and pre-start meetings to help avoid congestion, and coordinate with other activities in the area.

In April 2025, we introduced a Lane Rental Scheme. This applies a daily charge of up to £2,500 for using traffic management on Lane Rental roads during peak times to promote faster completion, better planning, and off-peak working where possible.



Find out more about lane rental on our website:

eastsussexhighways.com/services/east-sussex-lane-rental-scheme



Utility suppliers

Sometimes utility companies need to carry out essential work to repair, maintain, or upgrade the pipes and cables located beneath our roads and footpaths to ensure reliable services.

If you have questions about specific works taking place in East Sussex, we recommend contacting the utility company directly. They will be best placed to provide updates and answer queries about their planned or ongoing works.



For all current and planned roadworks in your area visit:

[one.network](https://www.one.network)

Key utilities in East Sussex:

Southern Water: [southernwater.co.uk](https://www.southernwater.co.uk)

South East Water: [southeastwater.co.uk](https://www.southeastwater.co.uk)

Southern Gas Networks (SGN): [sgn.co.uk](https://www.sgn.co.uk)

UKPN: [ukpowernetworks.co.uk](https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk)

Openreach: [openreach.com](https://www.openreach.com)

Lightning Fibre: [lightningfibre.co.uk](https://www.lightningfibre.co.uk)



Road Safety Team



Responsibilities:

- Crash site investigation
- Community road safety
- Road safety education (with Sussex Safer Roads Partnership)
- Traffic movement restrictions
- Speed limits
- Parking (non-CPE areas)
- Road safety audits
- Traffic signs and road markings
- School Crossing Patrols
- Cycle training



Find out more on our website:
eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/roads/road-safety

Contact:

- **Online:** Report a problem at eastsussexhighways.com
- **Phone:** 0345 60 80 193
- **Email:** traffic.safety@eastsussex.gov.uk



Transport Development Planning



Responsibilities:

- Providing transport and highway advice to Local Planning Authorities on Local/Neighbourhood Plans
- Assessing highways and transport impacts of new developments on classified roads, and more than five dwellings or equivalent
- Advising and securing the necessary transport and highway measures required to mitigate the impacts of those Local/Neighbourhood Plans and planning applications.
- Ensuring highway improvements by developers meet standards
- Providing information regarding the public highway including extent searches, road adoptions and answering CON29 questions
- Maintenance of ESCC's highway terrier (record of highway status and extents)



Find out more on our website:
[eastsussex.gov.uk/planning/roads](https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/planning/roads)

Contact:

- **Phone:** 01273 482254
- **Email:** transportdevelopmentplanning@eastsussex.gov.uk (general)
highway.searches@eastsussex.gov.uk (highway boundary queries)



Responsibilities:

- Management and enforcement of on street parking for Eastbourne and Hastings boroughs and Lewes and Rother districts
- Parking enforcement for Lewes District Council car parks
- Considering challenges and appeals against penalty charge notices issued in the parking areas we manage
- Introducing and reviewing parking restrictions in Eastbourne and Hastings boroughs and Lewes and Rother districts

Please be aware the parking team cannot assist with:

- Parking in Wealden district. Enforcement of on street parking in Wealden is for Sussex Police
- Unhitched caravans or trailers. This is a matter for East Sussex Highways
- Car parks. Please check the signs for rules, restrictions and charges. These could be privately owned or by the district and borough councils

Parking



Find out more on our website:
eastsussex.gov.uk/parking

Contact the team via our website:

- eastsussex.gov.uk/parking/contact-us-about-parking



Rights of Way & Countryside Team (RoWC)

Responsibilities:

- Managing 2,000 miles of Public Rights of Way
- Maintenance work and enforcement
- Updating the Definitive Map for public rights of way
- Managing Common Land and Town & Village Green registers
- Maintaining countryside sites:
 - Chailey Common, Ditchling Common, Camber and Broomhill Sands, Cuckoo Trail, Forest Way, Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve, Riverside Park, Weir Wood Local Nature Reserve



Find out more on our website:
eastsussex.gov.uk/leisure-tourism/discover-east-sussex/rights-of-way

Contact:

- **Phone:** 0345 60 80 193
- **Email:** rightsofway@eastsussex.gov.uk (Public Rights of Way)
countryside.management@eastsussex.gov.uk (Countryside Sites)



District and Borough Councils

Responsibilities:

- Litter picking (including clearing leaves)
- Road sweeping
- Maintenance of “road name” signs
- Abandoned vehicles
- Car parks - please check the signs for rules, restrictions and charges. These could be privately owned or by the district and borough councils.

Eastbourne Borough Council and Hastings Borough Council also look after trees on behalf of East Sussex County Council



Eastbourne Borough & Lewes District Councils:

lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Hastings Borough Council:

hastings.gov.uk

Rother District Council:

rother.gov.uk

Wealden District Council:

wealden.gov.uk