



WHITE COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

White Colne Village Hall, Bures Road, White Colne, CO6 2QA.

www.whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

clerk@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village of the Year 2025

Minutes of the White Colne Parish Council Extra-Ordinary Meeting held at White Colne Village Hall on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 19:30hrs.

Present: Cllr Paul Batchford
Cllr Paula Bull
Cllr Jane Taylor (Chairperson)
Cllr John Wilson
Jim Morris, Parish Clerk
Gary Tidman, Project Manager, Cadent
Twenty-one members of the public

Absent: Cllr Chris Siddall, Halstead Division

091/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Michael Field, Cllr Jason Pryke, Cllr George Courtauld, Colnes Ward, and Cllr Gabrielle Spray, Colnes Ward.

092/25 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

No disclosures of interest were received.

In accordance with White Colne Parish Council Standing Order 3f, the Chairperson directed that time given for public participation would exceed fifteen minutes if necessary.

093/25 PUBLIC SESSION

Resident reported a long-standing informal arrangement whereby local residents had maintained and used a parking area for many years, and raised concerns about the lack of consultation or notification by Highways, and surface damage from works, spoil and vehicles. The council asked for assurance that no vehicles or spoil would be placed on the Village Green.

RESPONSE: Cadent confirmed spoil is being stored within its work area; residents' vehicle access would continue where possible; and that it would make good any damage and restore the surface on completion; no spoil would be placed on the Green; Cadent to ensure controls, and agreed that no parking would take place on The Green.

Parishioners noted that the rerouted no. 82 bus would be insufficient. Bus services and public transport disruption was a major issue. Residents raised significant concerns regarding diversion arrangements and loss/reduction of services. In particular: reliance on the 82 service as a substitute was considered not fit for purpose due to infrequency, no Sunday service, and poor connectivity for shops, school, doctors and Earls Colne/Halstead; buses not turning up or being cancelled at short notice, causing lengthy waits in poor weather; long walks to alternative stops (e.g., Church Hill) and safety concerns on narrow pavements/roads; confusion over timetables and lack of clear, stable information.

RESPONSE: Cllr Taylor read out an email from Konectbus, *in order to divert the 88 we would need to run a different timetable which due to relevant legislation we did not have enough lead time to submit and review, diverting the 82 is the best compromise we could provide to cover as much route as possible without needing to register a new timetable with the traffic commissioner.*

Residents queried this explanation, noting the 88 had already been diverted.

RESPONSE: the clerk would raise the query with Konectbus.

Residents reported serious disruption to school transport for pupils attending Honeywood and other schools. Parents reported using informal lift-sharing arrangements coordinated via WhatsApp. Concerns included the lack of clear alternative pick-up/drop-off arrangements, young people waiting in cold/wet conditions for long periods due to unreliable information, and the need for planning

ahead given works moving through phases. It was thought that a miscommunication may have occurred between parties regarding whether the works were traffic-light controlled versus full closure, which possibly affected transport planning.

RESPONSE: Cadent advised bus routing/temporary stops are the responsibility of passenger transport/bus operators, though Cadent provides notifications and diversion info via the formal TTRO process.

Residents described inconsistent signage showing different closure dates/locations. One resident reported being told by a worker that the next phase would begin very early the following morning, but signage remained misleading.

RESPONSE: Cadent explained that from the next day the closure would move, with access maintained to certain roads but with turning restrictions depending on the phase. Cadent agreed to review signage placement/clarity.

Residents raised the risk of HGVs attempting unsuitable routes such as Tey Road and small lanes, causing damage and safety risks, and asked for "No HGV" / clearer restriction signage.

RESPONSE: Cadent stated the official diversion routes are suitable for larger vehicles; difficulties are being caused by drivers not following the official diversion. Cadent noted that it could add signage but could not compel compliance.

With regards to access and egress during the works, a resident asked about access for clients visiting a home business within the closure area.

RESPONSE: Cadent stated that it aimed to accommodate access case-by-case, particularly where residents had mobility issues or business needs, though some stretches are very narrow and arrangements would depend on the phase and safety constraints.

A resident noted heavy rain forecasts and stated some shortcut/diversion roads can flood, such as on the Chappel route, for example.

RESPONSE: Cadent did not provide an immediate contingency answer but would take the issue away for consideration.

Residents asked who would restore damage to roads and verges caused by diverted traffic.

RESPONSE: Cadent stated that if vehicles ignore the official diversion and damage minor roads/verges, this would generally be a highways matter rather than Cadent's, but Cadent acknowledged ongoing discussions with the Highways Authority about traffic management issues.

With no further questions from the public, Cllr Taylor ended the Public Session.

094/25 REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Colnes Ward Cllr Spray had sent information regarding the ongoing gas main replacement (attached at Footnote¹). Colnes Ward Cllr George Courtauld had offered apologies for absence. Halstead Division Cllr Chris Siddall was not in attendance.

095/25 COMMUNITY LIAISON

- i. *Earls Colne Gas Mains Replacement* (attached to record Minutes).
- ii. *Update: 30 January 2026* (attached to record Minutes).
- iii. Meeting with Cadent and Traffic Management at White Colne 'Pop-Up' Gazebo (attached to record Minutes).

¹ I am sorry but there is a meeting of Braintree's Cabinet on Thursday evening so I am unable to attend the Extra Ordinary meeting of the PC.

I have been following the many comments and statements regarding the Cadent works on the local facebook pages and have posted a couple of statements myself to try and help with providing information.

I also walked down to the Cadent 'pop-up' event held at Colneford Hill on Friday and spoke to the team there. They are pleased with progress so far and should finish the Church Hill works ahead of schedule. After that they will move on to commence the work on Upper and Lower Holt Street. Because of the nature of the work, it will be necessary to close the roads completely to traffic. The old gas pipes run down the middle of the road, the trenches will be deep and when you factor in the construction vehicles and the workforce, it simply will not be safe for traffic to go through.

There will, of course, be access and parking for residents who live along there and Cadent have a plan for that, which they explained to me on their maps. All other traffic will have to use the diversion routes via the A120/Braintree/Halstead - which are long but much safer than using local small lanes. The vans and HGVs using those lanes have caused huge problems over the last week; Highways has increased the number of signage but this is being ignored by some drivers. Cadent and Essex Highways acknowledge that this work is a real inconvenience for everyone but it is essential this work is carried out.

Cllr Gabrielle Spray, The Colnes Ward

iv. Correspondence: *Gas Mains Replacement* (attached to record Minutes).

It was RESOLVED: that the items be noted.

v. Members discussed possible solutions for mitigating impacts of the ongoing works and communicating with residents. Immediate priorities were improving timely, offline-accessible information for residents and mitigating isolation for those dependent on buses. It was noted that Cadent representatives indicated a willingness to consider covering printing costs. Council agreed volunteers could not be expected to deliver flyers at short notice and in poor weather. Residents would be encouraged to coordinate shopping deliveries between neighbours, and lift-sharing to key stops/services. Forthcoming Warm Hub sessions could identify residents who were struggling without transport. The Priority Services Register (PSR) would be promoted, to support vulnerable households. Members would follow up with Cadent regarding funding/arrangements for repeated updates as works and bus information change.

It was RESOLVED: that the council would produce and distribute a village-wide leaflet and laminated signs including information, as available, on:

- **confirmed closure phases/likely dates (with caveats where changeable)**
- **bus service changes and where to catch services**
- **DaRT demand-responsive transport guidance and contact details**
- **practical support options (shopping deliveries, lift-sharing/community help)**
- **how residents can request help / register needs**
- **Konectbuses (including 82/88 arrangements and any temporary timetable)**
- **Cadent’s progress with the works (phasing updates / confirmed access arrangements)**

096/25 PLANNING

The council had received an update regarding Chalkney Mill and recent flooding photographs submitted to Planning Enforcement. An Enforcement Officer had stated that the site owner had until late February to submit a planning application. Enforcement action had been approached cautiously due to livestock present and because development was viewed as potentially acceptable in principle, but planning permission was required and approval was not guaranteed. Members noted residents’ ongoing concerns over flood risk, runoff, and increased vehicle movements. Flooding and pollution concerns would be assessed as part of the planning process, and residents were advised to report concerns to relevant agencies.

The Braintree Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation expected to begin on 19th February, with a six-week period ending Maundy Thursday.

097/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of White Colne Parish Council was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at White Colne Village Hall at 1930hrs.

The meeting closed at 20:55hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....



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Village of the Year 2025

MATTERS ARISING & ONGOING

Minute Ref.	Action
066/24	Local Council Award to be considered at a future meeting.
009/25	Cllrs Pryke & Siddall to assess possible SID sites in Bures Road.
040/25	Enter application for outdoor gym to Enover Community Trust.
056/25	Reconsider recycled clothing banks at a future meeting.
065/25	Clerk to follow up with ECC Highways over the missing streetlight.
072/25	Plan for Road Safety Week 2026.
073/25	Seek quotes for grass cutting.
	Develop Meadows Management Plan.
	Write to Allotment plot holders regarding netting; update 2026-27 Allotment Agreement.
079/25	Seek advice on installing a bin at the layby on Bures Road.
083/25	Write to Cllr Siddall re footways, streetlight, and pole for SID
084/25	Notify Hall users of price increases
	Enter precept requirement
085/25	Invite Essex Sight to attend Warm Hub
086/25	Write to owners of property adjacent to former railway line
087/25	Revise and publish Village Hall Hirer's Terms & Conditions
	Enter Outdoor Gym grant application
	Seek tree works quotes
088/25	Publish reviewed Fol, Complaints, & Feedback Policy
095/25	Draft and deliver a household leaflet with closure/bus/DaRT/support info. Post laminated Parish Council notices at bus stops and key locations. Request up-to-date printable info from Konectbuses, IPTU, and Cadent. Follow up Cadent re printing cost support for repeated updates. Obtain Post Office quote for door-to-door delivery. Promote Priority Services Register and gather needs via Hub/leaflet returns.

Earls Colne Gas Mains Replacement

Upgrading the ageing gas pipes

Cadent manages the local network of underground pipes that carry gas to homes, schools, hospitals, offices, and other buildings, where it is used for heating, hot water and cooking.

- Modernising gas pipes that have been in operation for over a century
- Upgrade will future-proof the network
- Works began on Monday 26 January 2026 and run until the end of April 2026

Cadent is replacing approximately 1000m of gas pipes along Church Hill, Park Lane, Upper Holt Street, Colneford Hill, and Colne Park Road. The planned activity will involve the decommissioning of the current metallic gas pipes and installing tough new pipes which will last for decades, future-proofing the local network.

Amber Greensmith, Head of Customer Experience at Cadent, said: We have a responsibility to make sure every property that uses gas has access to it 24/7, 365 days a year and these essential works will ensure we keep that promise here in the East of England.

We are very conscious of the disruption roadworks cause and hope people understand this is necessary and essential work, to ensure everyone's safety and maintain a reliable gas supply for your central heating systems.

We work closely with the council and local Highways Authority to find the best possible diversion, but we must ensure that any route is suitable for all traffic. Sometimes this means that the diversion can appear longer, but that is to ensure traffic continues to flow without causing any further disruption.

I thank everybody for their patience as we take the measures needed to ensure our engineers can carry out these works as safely, and as swiftly, as possible.

Gas stays ON for the duration of work. The only interruption to supply will be to properties that take a direct feed from the pipes being replaced (in the immediate local area). Supply to these properties will be disconnected for a short while (it will be back on the same day it goes off), as the property gets connected into the new pipe. Advance notice will be given, and more information will be provided to these properties.

If you smell gas, always ring the National Gas Emergency Service immediately on 0800 111 999*, day or night. Do not assume it is related to this work; it may not be and needs to be checked.

Project Summary

Phase One - Church Hill from junction with Park Lane to junction with Coggeshall Road

Start date: 26 January 2026

Duration: Approximately two weeks

Details of work: Road closure in place with traffic lights on Coggeshall Road/ Upper Holt St

Phase Two and Three - Coggeshall Road to junction with tennis courts

Start date: 16 February 2026

Duration: Approximately two to three weeks

Details of work: Road closure (on Upper Holt Street)

Phases Four to Six – Lower Holt Street from junction with Upper Holt Street to junction with Colneford Park / Colneford Hill

Start date: 2 March 2026

Duration: Approximately three to four weeks

Phase Seven – Colneford Park Road to junction with Colchester Road

Start date: 9 March 2026

Duration: Approximately two weeks

*Please note that dates and duration are subject to change.

Update: 30 January 2026

It has been a busy first week of work in Earls Colne, and we appreciate everyone's patience as our engineers carry out this essential work. The team will continue working over the weekend as we look to make good progress on phase one of the project.

We also wanted to say a big thank you to all the residents (and four-legged friends) who stopped by at the gazebo event today to learn more about the scheme and how it all works. The customer team thoroughly enjoyed speaking with so many people, listening to any concerns, and answering your questions.

If you were unable to attend today's event, we want to remind you that there is an online meeting planned for 5:30pm on Wednesday 4 February.

To join the meeting please

visit <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/36561389257495?p=XqzqYWzI2IW9zJnSRe>

Meeting ID: 365 613 892 574 95

Passcode: sw3P23Ue

We look forward to seeing many of you on the call on Wednesday and will continue to provide updates on this webpage when they are available.

Meeting with Cadent and Traffic Management at White Colne 'Pop-Up' Gazebo

30th January 2026

Cadent set up an open public information session White Colne staffed by:-
Will Harvey, Traffic Management Contract Manager
Lydia Caroline, Cadent Customer Services Lead
Gary Tidman, Project Manager Costain/Cadent
Kelsy Mills, Cadent Customer Services
Site Works Manager Cadent

A total of eight members of the public visited the 'pop-up' whilst I was there all expressing concern as to lack of access to Earls Colne, access to private property, and access to parking and effect on local business. No one raised the issue of buses or school transport whilst I was there.

I spoke to the Site Manager who was somewhat guarded in his response and relied heavily on the fact that this was planned work that they had been instructed must be done. The question regarding allowing buses through was countered with the fact that it was dangerous to pedestrians and a near miss had been recorded on one of the days when buses had been allowed through. His main interest appeared to be getting this upgrade of the gas distribution pipes completed as quickly and safely as possible. On the positive side he did mention the possibility of weekend working to achieve this.

On speaking to the Traffic Contract Manager it was clear that the Diversions were down to Highways. Since the road is an A road (A1124) then all official diversions must also be on same grade roads i.e. roads. The diversion approved by Highways is A1124 to A12 to A120 to A131i i.e. Earls Colne to Stanway to Marks Tey to Braintree to Halstead. This is clearly shown on the plan TMO/40265 . There is no official diversion up Coggeshall Road let alone any of the small country lanes like Curds Road, Mill Road or Colne Park Road. I obtained a copy of this plan.

The current working plan is to run 'rolling road closures' through Upper and Lower Holt Street, Colneford Hill and Colne Park Road. At the moment these are programmed as closures with controlled access to residents only, they are not planned as through routes traffic light controlled or otherwise. At the moment this work is scheduled to finish by 13th April. To the best of my recollection the main in Colchester Road was replaced sometime during 2010 to 2013. This means that White Colne will be without public transport during this period if buses are not allowed through the planned works. I think this is something we should take up with Councillor Siddall even though it is too late to change the approved plans he should be made aware of consequences of such actions.

We are now in a position where the continuation of a bus service during the period of the gasworks and road closure is uncertain. If the gas main is at the side of the road then controlled access to limited vehicles e.g. buses may be possible but at the moment unlikely. So yes we are effectively isolated unless we have access to our own transport. Konnect and Flagfinders (The School Bus) and seem to play it day by day according to what they are told

by Connect and the Traffic Management Company. They both put the changes to their timetable on line together with any updates which is OK for those of us who use them but we know this is not the case for everyone. Coming back from the meeting I met a lady at the Kings Head bus stop who was unsure of when or if the next bus to Colchester was coming. Perhaps as a local council we should be more proactive and do our best to mitigate the problems that are going to occur if the road is closed with no through traffic allowed once the work starts at Upper Holt Street. These are my ideas but I am sure that my fellow councillors have suggestions.

- Write / email Essex County Council with regard to Demand Responsive Transport (DaRT) which is not available to the areas of White Colne served by the 88 Bus route. State that during the period the Roadworks are in operation White Colne is not served by the 88 Bus route and can this rule be relaxed for the whole of the village.
- Write/email Konnect and ask them to advise us what alternative route they have planned for the 88, 88B and 82 routes should the road be closed at Upper Holt Street, Lower Holt Street or Colneford Hill with no through access allowed for buses.
- Write to / email Flagfinders with the same query

Once we have this information we know what obstacles we face I expect the Bus Companies will state the alternative route will be via Great Tey, A120 and then Coggeshall Road and Essex Dart will take too long to come to a decision. If I am proved wrong then we need to let people know bearing in mind they all do not use the internet.

- My idea is that we produce a laminated information sheet changes to bus routes etc to be placed in each of the Notice Boards and both of the bus shelters. (Do we possess a laminator?) This would need to be updated fairly routinely and need volunteers.
- Do we know of people who routinely drive to Colchester and would be prepared to offer a lift? Can we include this as a question on the laminated sheet?
- Do we know of who routinely rely on the 88 bus to get to Colchester? Perhaps we should include this as a question on the laminated sheet?
- Can we link those who need lifts with those who can give lifts or does this open us to liability in event of accidents, criminal activity, how would the individuals be vetted?

We only have a couple of weeks before the road closures occur is an emergency meeting needed to discuss this matter or can it be done by e-mail between us?

Cllr John Wilson

PLEASE NOTE :
 a. All Traffic Management to comply with current chapter 8 and Safety at Street Works and RoadWorks (A code of practice);
 b. All road markings and signage to conform to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.
 This Drawing has been produced for the specific client and project as defined in drawing and customer details and is not intended for any other purpose.

Drawing checked via email by: TG

TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNS:- 159



and Vice Versa

A131,
 A120,
 A12,

Main Diversion Route;

Date	23.04.25	Date	17.09.25
Drawn by	J.W	Revised by	J.W
Revision number	02	Revision number	02

Drawn/Revised

Key

- Sign Diagram
- Advances Location
- Road Closure Location
- Access Only
- Diversion Route
- 12AB Install Signs

Planner: Jasmine Woods
 Email: jasmine.woods@tmohighways.co.uk

Drawing Details:
 TM Type: Road closure
 Location: CHURCH HILL,
 EARLS COLNE,
 CO6 2RG

Customer Details:

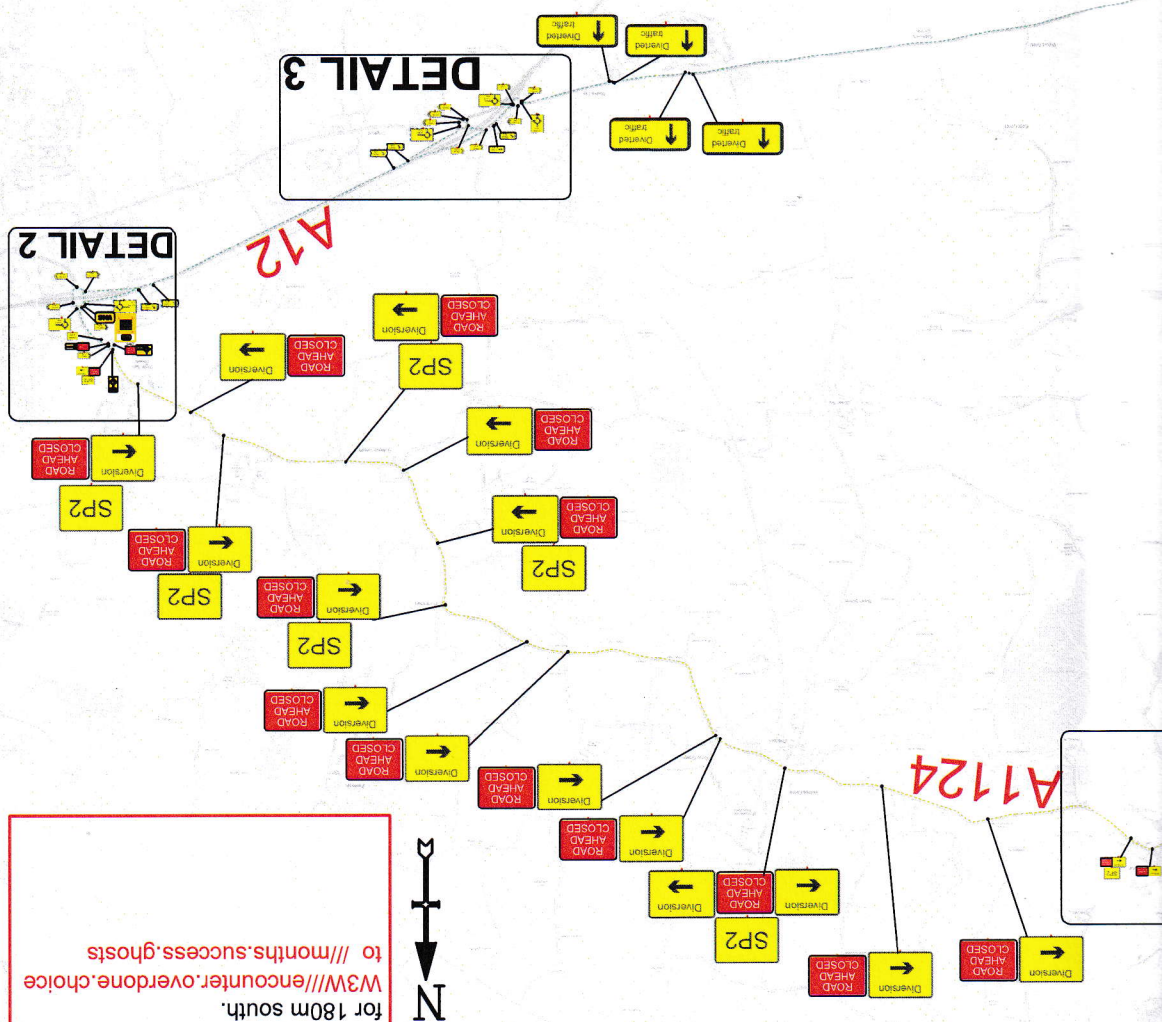
Customer Ref: EAGA245069
 Agent: Neil Morbey

TMO Highways

Building 1, Roy Humphrey Site
 A140, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8AW
 Tel: 01379 676462

TMO-PL-009rev21 Review due - 01/12/25

Service road from Upper Holt Street to B1024 to be coned off



Closure details:
 Church Hill closed south of the junction with Park Lane, closed for 180m south.
 W3W/encounter, overdone, choice to ///months.success.ghosts

GOOGLE	Y
DRIVEN	Y

RED IPV REQUIRED

VMS

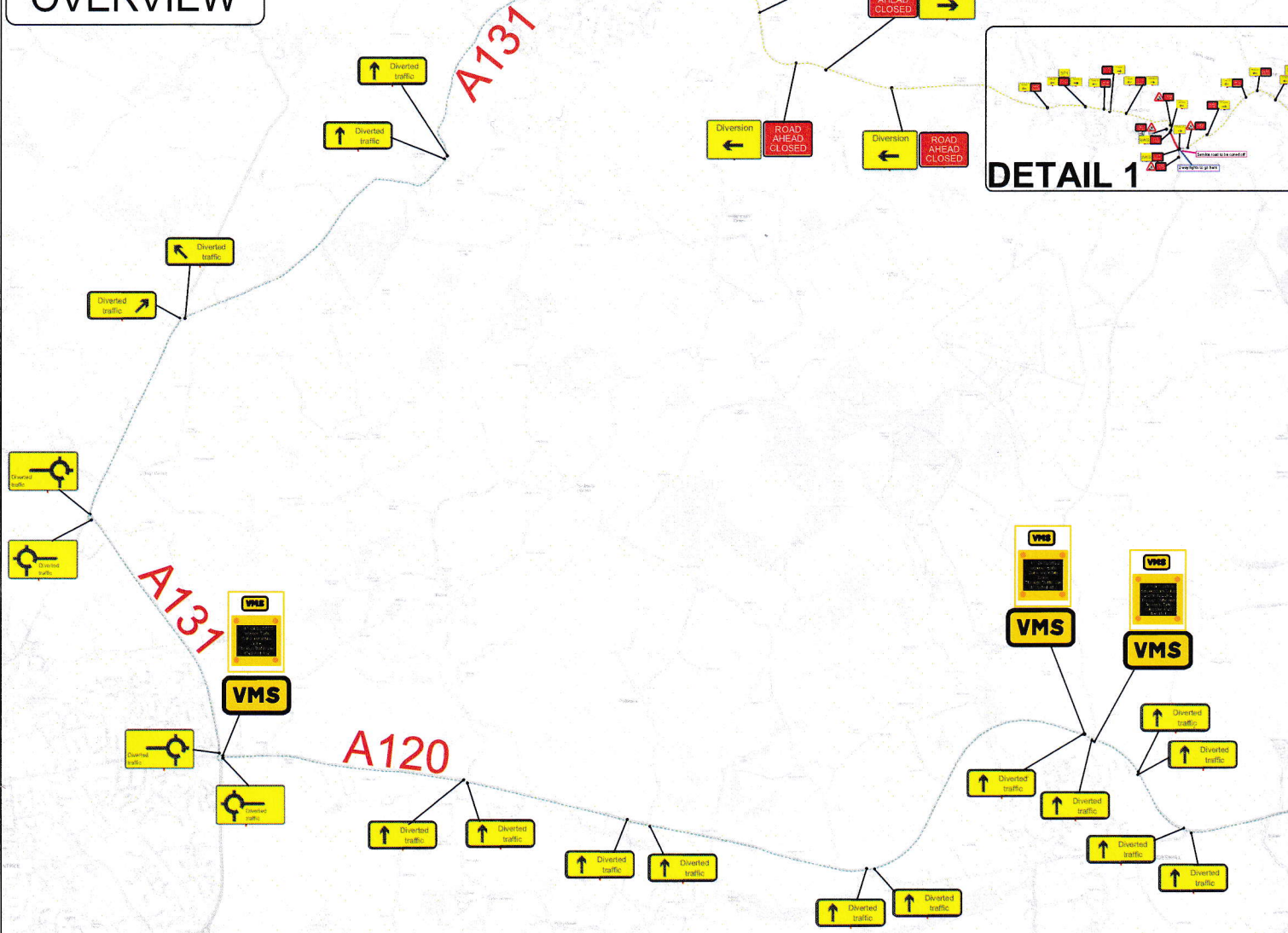
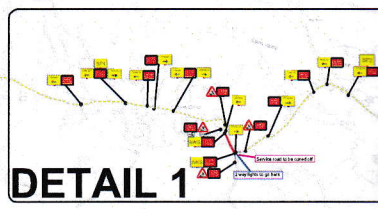
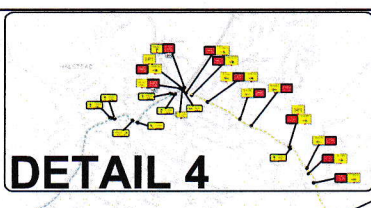
A1124 CLOSED
 Between Earls Colne and White Colne.
 Through Traffic And Access to Earls Colne Use A120, A131 And A12

VMS

A1124 CLOSED
 Between Earls Colne and White Colne.
 Through Traffic And Access to Earls Colne Use A120 And A131

TMO/40265
 PHASE 2
 OVERVIEW

2W LIGHTS REQUIRE



SP1 x 4 1050

**A1124 CLOSED
 At Earls Colne
 Access As Far As
 Earls Colne village only
 Through Traffic
 Follow Diversion**

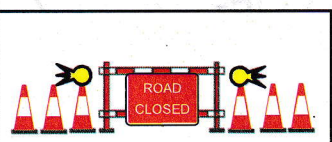
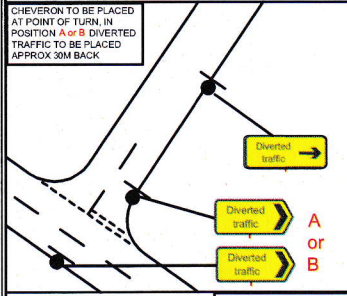
SP2 x 7 1050

**A1124 CLOSED
 At Earls Colne
 Access As Far As
 White Colne village only
 Through Traffic
 Follow Diversion**

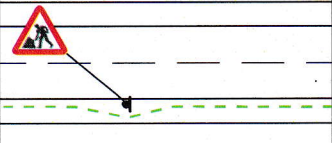
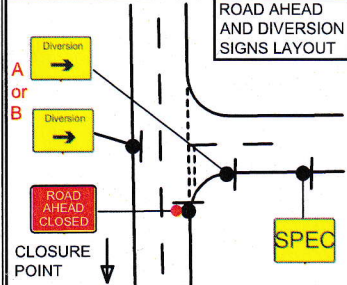
VMS

A1124 CLOSED
 between Earls
 Colne and White
 Colne.
 Through Traffic Use
 A120 And A12

DIVERTED TRAFFIC AND ROAD AHEAD CLOSED LAYOUT



CLOSURE SIGNS TO BE PLACED WITH PED BARRIER BEHIND THE SIGN WITH 3 CONES EITHER SIDE AND A LAMP ON THE INNER 2



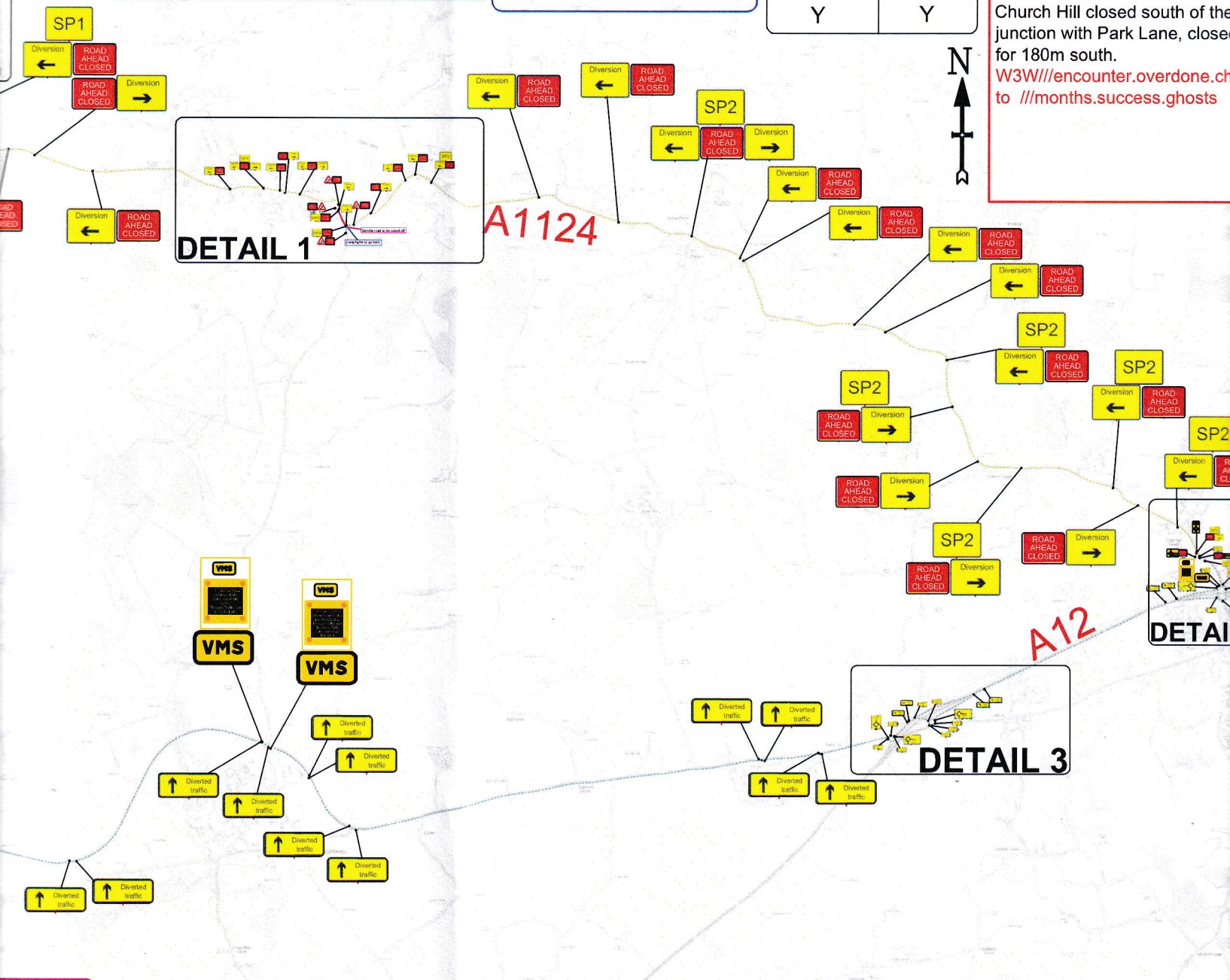
ANY SIGNS THAT ARE PLACED ON THE FOOTPATH MUST BE PLACED LEAVING A MINIMUM OF 1 METER CLEARANCE FOR PASSING PEDESTRIANS

2W LIGHTS REQUIRED

IPV REQUIRED

SURVEYED	GOOGLE DRIVEN
Y	Y

Closure details:
 Church Hill closed south of the junction with Park Lane, closed for 180m south.
W3W:///encounter.overdone.ch
to:///months.success.ghosts



1050
 CLOSED Colne
 Far As Village only
 Traffic version

VMS
 A1124 CLOSED between Earls Colne and White Colne. Through Traffic Use A120 And A12

VMS
 A1124 CLOSED between Earls Colne and White Colne. Through Traffic And Access to Earls Colne Use A120 And A131

VMS
 A1124 CLOSED between Earls Colne and White Colne. Through Traffic And Access to Earls Colne Use A120, A131 And A12

Service road from Upper Holywell Street to B1024 to be coned

Gas Mains Replacement

30.01.2026 18:09

Good evening,

I met Cllr Wilson this morning at the Cadent gazebo event in White Colne and promised that I'd send over the link to the dedicated webpage for the works.

You can find all the information at [Earls Colne Gas Mains Replacement - Cadent Gas Ltd](#) and we'll be adding updates as they come through.

Any issues or questions, please contact customercareeastern@cadentgas.com.

Many thanks

Simon Hutchinson
Communications Business Partner – East of England
Cadent Gas
Web: cadentgas.com

For out of hours press officer: 0845 366 6769

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