

Hatchmere Crossroads Closure

Project: Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Programme (VAMP)

Project Number: 80063071.02

The Vyrnwy Aqueduct carries drinking water from Lake Vyrnwy in North Wales to Cheshire, Merseyside, and nearby areas. Built over 100 years ago, it is being upgraded as part of the Vyrnwy Aqueduct Modernisation Programme (VAMP) to provide cleaner, safer, and more reliable drinking water for communities for decades to come.

VAMP involves upgrading a total of 139 kilometres of pipeline between Malpas and Prescot. This upgrade covers three parallel lines of the aqueduct that deliver water to communities across Cheshire and Merseyside. For more information on the programme, visit the [VAMP website](#).

We are carrying out essential work to upgrade underground water pipes at the **crossroads of Blakemere Lane, Delamere Road, Ashton Road, and School Lane**, where some pipes need to be moved slightly into neighbouring land as part of the upgrade. This work will improve water quality and make future maintenance easier.

Road closure details

To carry out this work safely, the crossroads will be fully closed to vehicles from **Monday 30 March to Tuesday 9 June 2026**.

Why the full closure is needed

- The work involves major excavation and upgrades across the entire junction.
- The crossroads is too narrow for partial closures, and the work is complex, so it would not be safe to allow vehicles through any part of the junction.
- A full closure keeps residents, pedestrians, and workers safe while allowing the project to be completed efficiently.
- Safe diversion routes are in place for all traffic and will be clearly signposted. Drivers should allow extra travel time, particularly during peak hours, as local roads may experience increased traffic.

What to expect

- Advance signage will guide traffic along diversion routes.
- We will provide regular updates through letters, emails, and online updates.
- Our team will be available to answer questions at drop-in sessions.

Drop-in sessions

Our project team will be available to answer questions, show diversion plans, and discuss the works:

- Delamere and Oakmere Community Centre, Station Road, CW8 2HU – Tuesday 24 February 2026 | 2–4 pm;
Tuesday 28 April 2026 | 5–7 pm
- The Carriers Inn, Delamere Road, Hatchmere, Frodsham WA6 6NL – Tuesday 17 March 2026 | 4–6 pm;
Tuesday 5 May 2026 | 4–6 pm
- NCK Centre, Norley Road, Norley, Frodsham WA6 8NE – Tuesday 21 April 2026 | 2–4 pm

For those unable to attend, alternative ways to view plans and ask questions will be provided.

Contact / Queries

- Call: 0345 672 3723 (quote project number 80063071.02)
 - Visit: unitedutilities.com/vamp-live-updates
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Hatchmere Crossroads Closure - Access, Travel, and Road Closure FAQs

Q: Will pedestrian access be maintained during the road closure?

A: Yes. Pedestrian access will be maintained wherever it is safe, with temporary routes in place as the works progress.

Q: Can cyclists or horse riders still pass through the area?

A: For safety reasons, the secure working area cannot be crossed by vehicles, horses, or cyclists. Pedestrians may use temporary safe routes where available. Cyclists are asked to dismount and walk their bike along these routes to keep themselves and pedestrians safe.

Q: Will access to Delamere Forest, its car parks, and nearby businesses be affected?

A: Vehicle access to car parks near the crossroads may be affected, so please use alternative entrances and follow diversion signs. Local businesses will remain open as usual, and we encourage visitors to plan ahead and allow extra travel time.

Q: How will local bus services be affected?

A: The No. 48 bus service will divert via Norley Road and will not serve the crossroads stops. Passengers should check local timetables for updated service information.

Q: Where can I find diversion maps or updates?

A: Diversion routes and updates will be available online and on site via signage. Visit unitedutilities.com/vamp-live-updates.

Q: Will United Utilities pay compensation if I have to take a longer journey or incur extra costs because of the road closure? (Domestic customers)

A: We understand that longer journeys can be frustrating, and we're sorry for any inconvenience. While compensation is not usually provided for domestic customers, we are committed to minimising disruption by providing clear updates, managing diversion routes carefully, and supporting residents throughout the works.

Road closures are only used where essential work needs to be carried out safely. We will do our best to minimise disruption by providing advance notice, clearly signposting diversion routes, completing works as quickly as safely possible, and sharing regular updates. Business customers may have different arrangements and are encouraged to contact us directly.

