

## **TESCO ROUNDABOUT ROADWORKS AND DIVERSION ROUTES (With thanks to Gary Stanley – Crediton Matters Facebook Group)**

### WHO IS DOING THE WORK?

The work is being carried out by **I-Civils on behalf of Tesco**.

Tesco currently owns much of Joseph Locke Way, including the road from the bus gate on Joseph Locke Way, towards the main A377 roundabout.

The work includes:

- The main A377 roundabout
- The smaller roundabout outside The Red Deer
- Joseph Locke Way

The purpose is to bring the roads up to the required standard so that **Devon County Council can adopt Joseph Locke Way later this year**.

### WHY HAS THE INFORMATION BEEN SO CONFUSING?

I-Civils originally sent a letter to residents of Tarka Way.

That letter caused confusion, so I-Civils gave me a second letter and asked me to share it. Unfortunately, that did not clear things up as much as intended.

Crediton Town Council then shared some maps it had been given.

Those maps caused even more confusion, although that was not the Town Council's fault.

I then created an interactive map to try to make everything clearer, having first run it past I-Civils for accuracy. You can view it here:

 <https://diversion.crediton.uk>

Whether I succeeded is another matter, but the routes are all shown there.

### WHY DOES THE MAIN DIVERSION GO VIA BICKLEIGH?

The official diversion to Exeter goes via Bickleigh because an official diversion route must be suitable for **all traffic types**, including:

- Cars
- Motorcycles
- Buses
- Coaches
- HGVs

That is why the official route cannot simply send everyone down narrow country lanes.

## WHY ARE SOME BACK ROADS BECOMING ONE-WAY?

Two routes are being made temporarily one-way:

- Hookway towards Fordton
- Shobrooke towards Newton St Cyres

This is because the organisers expect many drivers to ignore the Bickleigh diversion and use the back roads instead.

In technical terms, they expect people to say: “Sod going all the way to Bickleigh and around.”

## HOW DO I GET FROM CREDITON TO TESCO OR REDLANDS?

The official answer from I-Civils and Tesco is:

➡ Use the **orange route — Route 6** on my map.

## HOW DO I GET HOME FROM TESCO OR REDLANDS?

The official answer is:

➡ Use the **cyan route — Route 7** on my map.

Yes, the routes are ridiculous.

Yes, they involve going a long way around.

Yes, I agree with you.

However, as things currently stand, those are the official routes.

## WHY CAN'T I JUST DRIVE PAST THE TRAIN STATION?

This is the question I am asked most often.

People want to know whether they can use Joseph Locke Way past the railway station and go through the bus gate to reach Tesco or Redlands.

This is the **purple route — Route 5** on my map.

Here are the facts as they have been explained to me by I-Civils and Devon County Council:

- The short section of road directly outside the railway station belongs to **Network Rail**.
- This road leads to the **bus-only gate**.
- After the bus gate, the rest of Joseph Locke Way belongs to **Tesco**, up to the A377 roundabout.
- Devon County Council does not currently own either section.

You could try using this route, but you could also be fined for driving through the bus gate.

Devon County Council says it remains **restricted access**.

I-Civils and Tesco will not advise people to use it, and the restriction is **not being temporarily removed during the roadworks**.

There are no automatic enforcement cameras on the bus gate, so you would not automatically receive a fine. However, if the police were present and chose to enforce the restriction, they could issue penalties to unauthorised drivers using it.

Therefore, I cannot advise or encourage anyone to use that route.

Whether you decide to take the risk is entirely your responsibility.

WHAT ABOUT BUSES?

I have been told that Stagecoach buses, which already travel past the railway station and Redlands on their way to or from Exeter, will continue to use that route (obviously, the bus gate doesn't affect them, they are buses after all).

They may still be delayed by the temporary traffic lights and the work around the roundabout.

As with everything else, this could change, but that is the current position.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE INFORMATION?

I have attached all the official letters and maps provided by the different organisations involved.

Some of the writing on the official maps is extremely difficult to read. Please do not blame me for that — I did not design them.

My interactive map is here:

 <https://diversion.crediton.uk>

There is also an information board near the exit from Tesco, although it appears (to me) to be less helpful than the information in this post. There should also be an information board in the library, but I have not seen this to confirm it exists.

FINALLY...

The basic answers are:

**Going to Tesco or Redlands:** Orange Route 6.

**Coming home:** Cyan Route 7.

**Driving through the bus gate:** Still restricted and potentially punishable by a fine.

**Official Exeter diversion:** Via Bickleigh.

That is the situation unless something officially changes.