

DESCRIPTION OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL (SHETLAND SPACE CENTRE) (LAUNCH EVENT TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ORDER T20/2026

The SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL has made a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to manage, control, and restrict traffic access across the Haroldswick, Norwick and Skaw areas of Unst.

This has been done in the interests of safety during a CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY licensed rocket launch from the SHETLAND SPACE CENTRE facility at Lamba Ness, Unst.

The Order shall be effective across the LAUNCH PERIOD, which runs from MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026 TO SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2026, but the restrictions and controls within the Order can only be imposed on MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, AND FRIDAYS as these are the weekdays that have been notified for potential launches.

While there will only be ONE LAUNCH during the licensed launch period there may be a number of attempts at effecting a LAUNCH EVENT.

Each LAUNCH EVENT will be notified 24 HOURS ahead of time with a PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT by 1400HRS THE DAY BEFORE a launch event day. A successful launch relies on a number of factors and so a launch event MAY BE CANCELLED AT ANY POINT following initial notification.

On any given launch event day (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) WAITING RESTRICTIONS (NO PARKING) will be put in place FROM 0800HRS across the road network beyond Brookpoint that serves as access to Haroldswick, Norwick, and Skaw. This is to prevent access routes in the area being blocked or restricted for essential traffic and the EMERGENCY SERVICES.

There will also be a ONE-WAY system in place around the BEACH ROAD area of HAROLDSWICK FROM 0800HRS to prevent the risk of congestion on narrow roads with limited passing opportunities. ALL ACCESS TO THE NORTH UNST AREA will be through the STOVE CROSSROADS (WHITE BRIG).

The road links from Northdale and Norwick directly leading to and within the LAUNCH EXCLUSION ZONE will be CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM 0800HRS. This means that there will be NO UNAUTHORISED ACCESS THROUGH HOLSEN'S ROAD TO LAMBA NESS OR SKAW on a launch event day.

FROM 1200HRS (NOON) on a launch event day, roads BEYOND HAROLDSWICK leading to CLIBBERSWICK, VALSGARTH, SAXAVORD, NORWICK, ETC will be CLOSED TO UNAUTHORISED TRAFFIC.

Access to properties beyond the FEALL CROSSROADS (NORTH UNST PUBLIC HALL) and BOOTH JUNCTION (BEACH ROAD, HAROLDSWICK) will be BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT through the REGISTRATION OF VEHICLE AND PASSENGER DETAILS with SHETLAND SPACE CENTRE.

There is no intention to restrict normal access and egress for residents and their friends and family visitors, or to curtail access for service providers and delivery companies.

However, unless other access is restricted then there is a probability that the narrow roads in the area could become blocked by additional visiting vehicles seeking viewing points for the rocket launch.

Arrangements are in place to ensure that access for livestock welfare is maintained as far as is possible and access for rental/ holiday let properties will be addressed as part of the residential access process.

Restrictions will be removed in stages following a successful launch, or a postponement/ cancellation decision, or by Midnight at the end of the Launch Event Day.

To REGISTER FOR ACCESS AUTHORISATION to a residential or business premises or for livestock welfare purposes please contact Shetland Space Centre on 01957 711711 or 07902 742574.

FOR VISITORS wishing to view the rocket launch event A DEDICATED PUBLIC VIEWING AREA has been established above Norwick. This area can only be accessed by using a dedicated Park & Ride Shuttle Service. For Disabled Person's requiring to use their own adapted vehicle for transport there are a limited number of spaces available. ALL ACCESS TO THE VIEWING AREA IS BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT with Shetland Space Centre. Details are available at <https://saxavord.com/how-to-view-test-flights/>

Roads providing ACCESS TO the northwest of Brookpoint serving Quoys, BURRAFIRTH, and HERMANESS will not be affected.

VISITORS should note that ACCESS TO AND FROM UNST relies on the Shetland Islands Council Inter-Island Ferry Service. This is a timetabled PART-DAY SERVICE WITH LIMITED CAPACITY, and ALL POTENTIAL USERS ARE RECOMMENDED TO BOOK THEIR TRAVEL in advance. Contact the Ulsta Ferry Booking Office on 01595 745804 or at ferrybooking@shetland.gov.uk seven days a week Monday to Sunday from 0745hrs until 1800hrs. Bookings can also be made online at <https://ferry.shetland.gov.uk>

For any queries on the Order or its effect please contact the Shetland Islands Council Roads Service on 01595 744866 or at roads@shetland.gov.uk during normal office hours Monday to Friday from 0900hrs until 1600hrs.

20 July 2026