



Information update - U209 works

13/03/2026

We are currently carrying out drilling works beneath the U209. During this operation, we have experienced some unexpected drilling fluid breakouts at the surface within fields above the drill path. Although these are being closely monitored, there is a possibility that a breakout could occur in the road verge or on the road itself. If drilling fluid were to reach the road surface, it could make the U209 unsafe for road users.

To ensure public safety, we have applied for, and received, an emergency road closure authorisation from East Lothian Council. We do not intend to close the road unless absolutely necessary. However, if any drilling fluid reaches the U209, we will be required to close the road to carry out a clean up and return the surface to a safe condition.

It is difficult to predict whether a breakout will occur or how long a clean up may take. In most cases, if required, the clean up would last only a few hours, but it may take longer depending on the extent of the breakout.

If we do need to activate the road closure, we will notify the community as soon as possible. Diversion signage will be put in place and a plan showing the closure is attached for information. Signs will be positioned in advance and laid flat so they can be installed quickly if required.

Please be assured that the drilling fluid is an inert clay material and does not pose an environmental risk to the local area. Any breakout will be contained and managed to ensure there is no risk of the material entering nearby watercourses.

This drilling operation is expected to continue until late April or early May.

We will keep the community updated and if a closure becomes necessary, we will work as quickly as possible to minimise disruption. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.