



Improving the A358 road between Taunton and Southfields roundabout

Information booklet



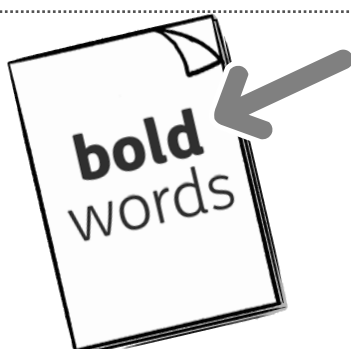
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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



National Highways is looking at improving the A358 road between Junction 25 on the M5 by Taunton and the Southfields roundabout on the A303 just outside Ilminster.



National Highways is responsible for looking after main roads and motorways for the government.



We want to make the old A358 into a **dual carriageway**.

A **dual carriageway** is where there is a strip of grass and crash barriers in between the 2 sides of the road.



What do you think?

Please tell us what you think about these ideas by answering the questions in the separate booklet:

Questions for you to answer



We need your answers by Monday, 22 November 2021.

Why improve this road?



The South West of England

Business in the South West of England is not doing as well as other parts of the country.



We think that improving some of the roads would help.



We are planning to make several improvements to the A358 and A303 to help traffic move between the M3 and M5.



We want there to be better connections between areas in the South West, with less traffic and delays.

The A358 between Taunton and Southfields roundabout

This road is used by local people.



There is a lot of traffic at certain times of the day.



At the moment, the road has lots of smaller local roads joining it, which can be dangerous and cause traffic hold-ups.



Removing these would reduce incidents and hold-ups.



The new dual carriageway would keep traffic away from the local roads.

How a better road would help

Businesses



The road would help businesses by:

- helping people get to the Nexus 25 employment site at junction 25 on the M5 Motorway.



- having fewer traffic hold-ups. This would help businesses and encourage tourists.



- creating jobs.

People and communities

The road would help people and communities by:



- helping people travel between the towns and villages.



- having fewer traffic hold-ups.



- letting vehicles leave the main road without having to queue to get onto the smaller local roads.



- reducing traffic through local villages.



- improving the quality of the air in local villages and towns.

The project

There are 4 sections to this project:



- Section 1: M5 junction 25 to Mattock's Tree Green junction



- Section 2: Mattock's Tree Green junction to Griffin Lane



- Section 3: Griffin Lane to Ashill junction



- Section 4: Ashill junction to Southfields roundabout



We want to know what you think about each section.

Section 1: M5 junction 25 to Mattock's Tree Green junction



1. The roundabout at junction 25 on the M25

We would improve the roundabout, and make the A358 into a dual carriageway.



2. Nexus 25 roundabout

We would increase the size of the roundabout so that traffic could move between the new Nexus 25 employment site and the new dual carriageway.



3. Broughton Brook

The new road would then go across Broughton Brook.



4. The existing A358

We would keep the existing A358 to connect villages like Henlade and Thornfalcon.



5. New bridge

We would build a new bridge to take Stoke Road over the new dual carriageway.



6. Henlade

There will be less traffic going through Henlade, which should make the air quality better.



7. Greenway Lane

We would close the junction between Greenway Lane and the A358 at Henlade.

Section 2: Mattock's Tree Green junction to Griffin Lane



1. Between Henlade and Mattock's Tree Hill

The new road would go next to the existing road.



The new road would go down into a **cutting** so it doesn't spoil the view so much at Mattock's Tree Hill.



A **cutting** is where the land has been dug into to let the road pass at a lower level than ground level.

2. New junction at Mattock's Tree Hill

We plan to build a new large junction between the new A358 and other local roads.



This will include a bridge and 2 small roundabouts.

3. New road

We plan a new small road which connects the new junction with:

- Somerset Progressive School
- the Huish Woods Scout Campsite
- local businesses at Nightingale Farm Units.



4. Village Road

We will make Village Road go to the new junction at Mattock's Tree Hill.



This would help people who live in Hatch Beauchamp get to the new junction.

5. Ash Road

The junction between Ash Road and the existing A358 would stay open so people can get to their houses.



But Ash Road would close after the houses.

6. West Hatch Lane

We would close the junction between West Hatch Lane and the A358.



7. Between West Hatch Lane and Griffin Lane

The new road will go along the same route as the existing A358.





8. Griffin Lane bridge

We would keep Griffin Lane bridge which would go over one side of the new dual carriageway.

We would also build a new bridge next to it for the other side of the new dual carriageway.



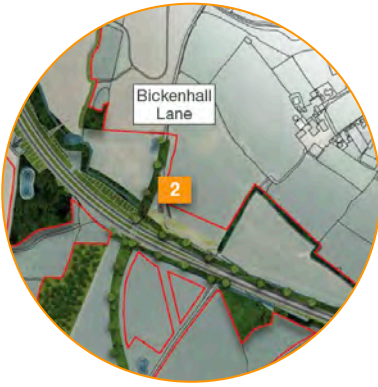
We would keep a local road so you can get to nearby farms.

Section 3: Griffin Lane to Ashill junction



1. Griffin Lane to Capland

The new road would go along the same route as the existing road between Griffin Lane and Capland.



2. Bickenhall Lane

We would build a new bridge to cross the new road.

Bickenhall Lane would carry on being a local road.

You would not be able to get onto the new A358 from Bickenhall Lane.

3. Village Road south of Hatch Beauchamp

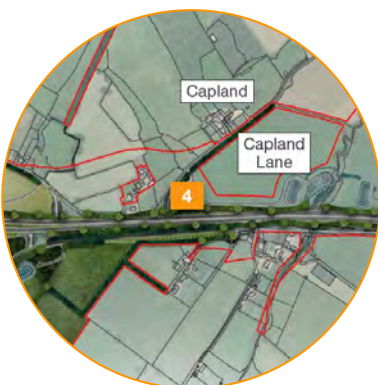


We would build a new bridge to take Village Road over the new dual carriageway.

We would close the junction between Village Road and Staple Fitzpaine Road and the existing A358.

4. Capland Lane

We would close the junction between Capland Lane and the existing A358.



You would not be able to get onto the new dual carriageway from Capland Lane.



We have 3 options for this area.
Please tell us what you think about these options in the questionnaire.

Option 1: Build a new road to connect Capland Lane and Village Road.

This would take you from Hatch Beauchamp to Strewley.



It would mean you could get to other villages if there is flooding on Stock's Lane.

Option 2: Keep the route using Stewley Lane and Stock's Lane, but improve them so they don't flood so much.

This would affect homes and farmland less, but mean people have longer journeys.



Option 3: Keep the route using Stewley Lane and Stock's Lane, but don't do any work to prevent flooding.

As Option 2, but there might sometimes be flooding.

5. Between Capland and Stewley



The new dual carriageway would go around Ashill.

The existing A358 would become a local road.

Section 4: Ashill junction to Southfields roundabout



1. From Stewley

From Stewley the new dual carriageway would go along the same route as the existing A358 to the Southfields roundabout.



2. Ashill

At Ashill we would build a new junction between the new dual carriageway and local roads.

3. New road between Stewley and the Ashill Junction

We would build a new road near the new dual carriageway to connect Stewley with the Ashill junction.



This would let people get onto the new dual carriageway.

We would close the junctions between Stewley Lane, Ashill Road and Park Barn Lane with the A358.

4. Broadway Street and Thickthorn Lane

We would build a new road next to the new dual carriageway so you can get from Broadway Street and Thickthorn Lane to the Ashill junction.



We would close the junctions between Cad Road and Broadway Street with the A358.



5. Southfields roundabout

We would improve Southfields roundabout so more traffic can use it safely.



6. Access track

We would make a track near the Southfields roundabout to help:

- our workers when they need to come and repair the road
- local farmers access their fields.



Better for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and disabled people



We want to make sure our improvements make things better for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and disabled people.



We are working with local councils to work out the best ways to change the footpaths, cycle ways and riding tracks.



We are talking to local walking, cycling and horse riding groups so we know what they think.



We would work to make new paths and tracks accessible to disabled people.



We would try to keep as many of the old paths and tracks as we can.



We plan to make some of the old local roads into a cycle route from Henlade to the Southfields roundabout.

Planning the building work



We plan to start the building work in 2024 to 2025. It would be finished in 2028.

There would be 2 stages:



- Stage 1. We would build the new road next to the old road. You would still be able to use the existing road, although it may sometimes be closed at night.



- Stage 2. We would start to build the new road on top of the existing road.



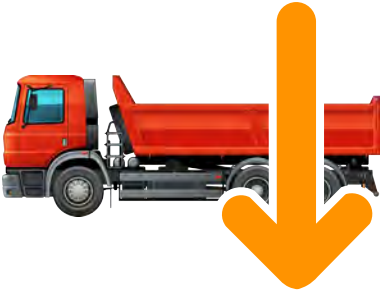
We would keep local communities up to date with our plans to build the road.

Building the road

We would:



- reuse any earth that we dig up to improve how the land looks.



- make sure we drive lorries on local roads as little as possible.



- keep our workers safe.



- reduce the noise of building work for local people.



- look at ways to reduce traffic through local villages as we build the new road.



- have a person you can talk to about issues for local people while the road is being built.

Builders' compounds

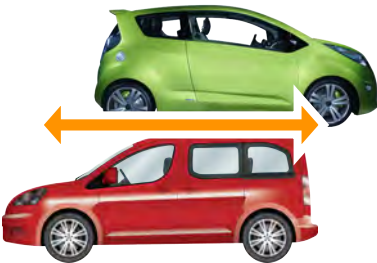


We would have some areas to keep equipment and builders' materials, called 'builders' compounds'.



We would try to keep these from disturbing local people as much as we can.

Traffic while we are building the road



We would try to keep traffic flowing in both directions along the A358 as we build the new road.



There may have to be road closures for short periods of time.

The environment



We have written a report which explains how this project would affect the environment.



The report explains:

- how we are looking at each different aspect of the environment.



- how we think the project would affect each different aspect of the environment.



- what we plan to do so the environment is not harmed so much.

We are looking at how the project would affect:



- the quality of the air.
- the change to the climate.
- historical places.
- the landscape and views.
- wildlife.
- the soil.
- people and their health.
- streams and water.



We are looking at how the materials we use to build the road would affect the environment.



We are looking at how the noise and vibration from the building work would affect people and the environment.

What do you think?



We want to know what you think.

Please tell us by answering the questions in the separate questionnaire.

We need your answers by Monday, 22 November 2021.

Find out more

You can get more information from our website:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/south-west/a358-taunton-to-southfields

Other ways to have your say

You can also have your say by:

- phone: 0300 123 5000
- email: A358TauntontoSouthfields@highwaysengland.co.uk





- coming to one of our public consultation events:

- Tuesday, 19 October 2021

2pm to 8pm

Taunton Racecourse, Orchard Portman, Taunton TA3 7BL



- Saturday, 23 October 2021

11am to 6pm

Monks Yard (Conference Room), Horton Cross Farm, Horton Cross, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 9PT



- Saturday, 3 November 2021

11am to 6pm

Holiday Inn Taunton, Deane Gate Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2UA