

A38/A4019 Junction Improvements at Coombe Hill

Frequently Asked Questions

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1) Scheme overview

1A) What does the scheme involve?

The A38/A4019 junction improvements at Coombe Hill will include the following works:

- the diversion of existing utilities affected by the scheme;
- widening the existing carriageway to accommodate longer turning lanes;
- constructing new traffic islands;
- widening the existing footways to provide unsegregated shared footway/cycleways and constructing a new segregated footway/cycleway;
- installing new traffic signals (including controller), vehicle/non-motorised user counters and lighting columns;
- overlaying the existing carriageways and resurfacing the existing footways; and,
- installing new road markings and traffic signs.

1B) Isn't the upgrade to the A38/A4019 Junction at Coombe Hill included in the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme?

An upgrade to the A38/A4019 Junction at Coombe Hill was included as part of the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme package of improvements funded by Homes England.

Gloucestershire County Council has decided to take this forward through a different planning route meaning that this scheme will still be funded by Homes England but progressed separately to the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme.

1C) Where can I find out about the other transport improvements being progressed as a result of the HIF funding?

An upgrade to Arle Court Park and Ride was also included as part of the package of improvements funded by Homes England, however, Gloucestershire County Council has decided to also take this forward through a different planning route. More information about the Arle Court Transport Hub proposals can be found here gloucestershire.gov.uk/ACTH.

1E) Why is the scheme needed?

Improvements to the A38/A4019 Junction at Coombe Hill are required to improve the flow of traffic from the A38 to the A4019 and M5 Junction 10. This would also improve the resilience of the local network on occasions when the M5 is closed.

New housing and employment sites are proposed for development close to Junction 10 of the M5. To unlock these proposed housing and job opportunities, we need to ensure that there is sufficient highway capacity to accommodate the increased motorised and non-motorised traffic it will generate.

The planned housing and economic growth have been included by Cheltenham Borough, Tewkesbury Borough and Gloucester City Councils in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. More information can be found [here](#).

1F) How was the scheme option selected?

An optioneering process was followed that sifted a long list of options down to one suitable option proposal. The optioneering process included assessment against the scheme objectives and high-level engineering and environmental feasibility work.

The long list of options developed for the A38/A4019 Junction Improvements at Coombe Hill were:

- Option 1: a traffic-light controlled junction, but with some lanes leading up to the junction on A4019 and A38 (south) removed and more pedestrian crossings installed;
- Option 2: as per Option 1, but left turns from the A38 (north) to the A4019 would be 'give-way'. Both A38 arms would have pedestrian crossings installed; and
- Option 3: as per Option 2, but with traffic-light controlled left turns from the A38 (north) onto the A4019.

It was concluded that Options 1 and 2 should not be taken any further forward due to them having similar or less operational benefits and greater costs, land, and environmental impacts than Option 3.

The Option 3 concept layout is currently being developed into a preliminary design and a plan showing this design will be published on this webpage in autumn 2021.

1G) What walking, cycling and horse-riding improvements will be included as part of the scheme?

A new segregated footway/cycleway and unsegregated shared footway/cycleway will be provided as part of the A38/A4019 junction improvements at Coombe Hill. Toucan and parallel pedestrian/cyclist signalised crossings will also be provided.

2) Funding and planning

2A) Who is funding the scheme?

An upgrade to the junction between the A38 and A4019 at Coombe Hill was included as part of the package of improvements proposed for the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme, which successfully gained funding from Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) in 2020.

2B) What is Gloucestershire County Council and what is their role?

Gloucestershire County Council is the Highway Authority for Gloucestershire. Alongside day-to-day highway and maintenance work and smaller improvements schemes, Gloucestershire County Council also undertakes major projects on key parts of the road network.

The A38/A4019 Junction Improvements at Coombe Hill will be delivered by Gloucestershire County Council.

2C) What is Homes England?

Homes England is the government's housing agency. Gloucestershire County Council is working with Homes England to secure infrastructure funding. They have the appetite, influence, expertise, and resources to drive positive market change. By using their investment products to drive market change and releasing more land to developers who want to make a difference, they are making possible the new homes that England needs and helping to improve neighbourhoods and grow communities.

The Housing Infrastructure Fund is administered and monitored by Homes England. The programme is helping to deliver up to 300,000 new homes across England by providing local authorities with grant funding for new infrastructure, to unlock homes in areas of greatest housing demand.

For more information about Homes England, see [their website](#).

2D) Does the positive funding announcement guarantee that the A38/A4019 Junction Improvements at Coombe Hill will happen?

The successful funding bid announced by Homes England does not mean that the scheme will automatically go-ahead. The proposed improvements are still subject to planning permission.

2E) Is my land / property subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)?

To date, no CPOs have been made to acquire any land for this scheme. This is a lengthy, statutory process. What is right for GCC to do now for a project of this size, is to agree a resolution in principle that they can exercise these powers, if required, to deliver the scheme. It always remains the case that, where any third-party land is required to deliver highway works, the council's clear preference is a negotiated settlement route.

Landowners that might be affected were offered meetings in the lead up to non-statutory options consultation (14 October to 25 November 2020). We will continue to work closely with these people throughout the scheme's development.

2F) If the scheme does not directly impact my property but generally impacts its value negatively, will I be compensated?

In this case we would follow the Part 1 claims process for injurious affection. As stated on the Government website, the right of an owner to compensation in respect of severance and injurious affection derives from section 7 Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (CPA 1965) which states that: *"...regard shall be had not only to the value of the land to be purchased by the acquiring authority but also to the damage, if any, to be sustained by the owner of the land by reason of the severing of the land from the other land of the owner, or otherwise injuriously affecting the other land..."*.

For more information on this please see the information on the Government's website.

3) Having your say on the proposals

3A) What opportunities are there to have my say on the proposals?

A non-statutory options consultation (14 October to 25 November 2020) was the first time that the public and other stakeholders were able to view and comment on our proposals as part of the wider M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme.

Feedback from this consultation will help to shape the scheme going forward, ensuring that our proposed improvements at Coombe Hill work for you and the local community.

3C) When will we hear the outcome of the non-statutory options consultation?

Since the options consultation, we have been analysing all the comments and feedback that we received. A full report on the consultation which provides an in-depth summary of the feedback, and how this is supporting the technical work to develop and progress the A38/A4019 Junction Improvements at Coombe Hill has now been published and can be found [here](#).

3D) Is this the only opportunity we will get to comment on the proposals?

You can contact Coombehill@atkinsglobal.com at any time or leave a voicemail message on 020 7121 2220 and our team will call you back and do their best to assist you.

4) Environment, ecology, and surveys

4A) How does this scheme reflect the recent action plan set out as part of GCC's response to the UK Government Climate Emergency announcement?

We are committed to creating a sustainable future. We jointly hosted a Climate Change Summit in May 2019 with the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership, and as a result, we will be updating our Climate Change Strategy for the county. For more information, and to view our previous Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, visit [this webpage](#).

As a local authority, it is our role to ensure that anyone who lives, works or travels through Gloucestershire is prepared for the impacts of climate change; that's why it's important that we invest in, maintain and improve Gloucestershire's transport network, however, we recognise that this should not be at great expense to the local environment.

Our Local Transport Plan (LTP) is also in the process of being updated, and as part of this, we are considering decarbonising road and rail freight by 2050.

4B) I've been contacted about surveys, why do you want to survey my land?

Geotechnical surveys will be carried out at the A38/A4019 junction from mid June 2021. These surveys will mainly be undertaken within the existing highway boundary and access to undertake these surveys will only be required from one landowner. No other surveys are currently planned.

4C) What type of environmental surveys will be undertaken on my land and why?

No further ecology / environmental surveys are currently planned to be carried out at the A38/A4019 junction. Ecology/environmental surveys help us to understand what wildlife and habitats are present, and whether there are any protected species that need to be considered when developing designs.

The type of survey depends on the nature of your land, for example if it contains ponds or lakes, hedges or woodland or flowing water or rivers, surveys may include:

- Bats: A survey conducted on foot at dusk or dawn to record bat activity.
- Dormice: A survey involving the deployment of plastic/wood nest tubes in woodland hedgerow and scrub habitats, which are then checked at regular intervals for signs of dormice.
- Otter and Water Vole: A survey conducted on foot to search watercourses for signs of use by otter and water vole.
- Breeding and wintering birds: A survey conducted on foot to assess the presence of breeding and wintering birds.
- Reptiles: A survey involving the deployment of artificial refuges (usually small pieces of roofing material) in suitable grassland habitats, which are then checked to search for basking reptiles.
- Habitat suitability and eDNA: A survey conducted on foot to assess suitability of habitats for great crested newts and collect water samples from suitable waterbodies.
- Invertebrates: A walkover survey to assess habitat suitability for invertebrates.
- Hedgerows: A walkover survey to assess hedgerow habitats.
- Invasive plants: A walkover survey to search for invasive non-native species of plants.

If we have contacted you about undertaking surveys on your land, someone from our survey coordination team will be in touch ahead of surveys taking place to provide you with more details about the survey specifics and to reconfirm your consent.