

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:

- Widening the existing road to provide more space for vehicles turning left from the A38 into the A4019 and turning right from the A4019 into the A38;
- Constructing new larger traffic islands so that parallel signalised crossings for pedestrians and cyclists can be installed across the A38 north and A4019 arms of the junction and shared pedestrian/cyclist signalised crossings (i.e. toucan crossings) can be installed across the A38 south and The Wharf arms of the junction;
- Widening the existing pavements to provide a shared path for pedestrians and cyclists along the west side of the A38 and the east side of the A38 south of the A4019;
- Constructing a new segregated path where pedestrians and cyclists are separate along the north side of the A4019. This includes a traffic island on the A4019 to make space for a cycle crossing at the eastern end of the cyclist path;
- Installing new traffic lights (signals, including controller), traffic counters to count the number of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, and street lights;
- The diversion of existing utilities (e.g. power cables) affected by the scheme;
- Improving the surface of the existing roads and resurfacing the existing pavements; 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 was developed into a preliminary design. A public survey was held on this preliminary design layout plan from 7 to 28 October 2021 to receive suggestions for any further design refinements. Using feedback received, this design was refined into the current preliminary design layout plan which can be found by clicking [here](#).

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

A new segregated footway/cycleway along the A4019 and shared use paths elsewhere 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 compensation would be assessed in accordance with Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. This provides the ability for those not directly impacted by the scheme to make a claim for compensation arising from the diminution in value of their property as a result of the physical effects of the scheme (including noise, vibration and fumes). Claims can be submitted from 1 year after the opening of the scheme and assessed

in accordance with the compensation code.

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.

We held a Public Share Event on Thursday 7th October 2021 and ran an online survey from 7th to 28th October 2021, where you could make suggestions for further design refinements.

Feedback from this engagement has helped to shape the scheme, ensuring that our proposed improvements at Coombe Hill work for you and the local community. A Community Involvement Statement which includes an analysis of survey comments and our responses to them has been submitted as part of the planning application. The Community Involvement Statement, and all other application documents can be found on the planning authority's website [here](#) for you to read. There was the opportunity to submit any comments by the planning authority's deadline of Thursday 18th August 2022.

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?

We held a Public Share Event on Thursday 7th October 2021 and ran an online survey from 7th to 28th October 2021, where you could make suggestions for further design refinements. A Community Involvement Statement which includes an analysis of survey comments and our responses to them has been submitted as part of the planning application. The Community Involvement Statement, and all other application documents can be found on the planning authority's website [here](#) for you to read. There was the opportunity to submit any comments by the planning authority's deadline of Thursday 18th August 2022.

If you have any other queries 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) What type of environmental surveys will be undertaken on my land and why?

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.