

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Queen Eleanor Interchange Improvement Scheme- April 2025

1. How long will the works take?

Works will begin on site from Monday 31st March 2025 and should be completed by December 2025.

2. What will typical working hours be?

Our usual working hours will be 08:00-17:00. Some extended hours will be used to take advantage of the traffic management in place as well. When night closures are in place, working times will be 20:00-06:00.

3. How will this works affect me?

Whilst we have tried to mitigate the effect these works will have on the public, delays in the area are likely. We ask that you continue to adhere to the Highway Code at all times and ensure you follow the onsite signage. Our teams are working hard, so please treat them with respect.

4. Why have the traffic signals been turned off during the works?

Traffic signals have been turned off as the roundabout is functioning on one-lane only. The natural flow of the roundabout will be established with the usual give-way rules and will help with a continuous constant flow during the works.

5. Why is this scheme taking place?

Works have been planned on this Interchange for a long time to ensure the future safety of this junction. Over the years with growth in the area, this roundabout has become one of the busiest commuter routes. The works will improve capacity and carry out much-needed improvements for the benefit of motorists.

6. Can I still access the subways and footways in the area?

Yes, pedestrian access will be largely unhindered. Traffic management teams will be in the area to ensure safety and assist pedestrians during working hours (08:00-17:00). There will be a short period in the Summer 2025 when subway works are due to take place. At this time, full closures of the subway at night-time will be in place, but we will communicate this in advance.

7. Will there be any closures?

Yes, some temporary closures of the roundabout are necessary for works to take place. These will take place mainly overnight. April 1st and 2nd will be the first closures with safe diversion routes clearly signed.

8. Why can the works not be completed in a shorter time-frame?

The programme of works for this scheme is the shortest timeframe that we can reasonably and safely complete the works. We endeavour to complete the works as soon as we are able and may be working extended hours for exceptional circumstances and some night shifts to ensure this is completed as quickly as possible. Please be assured that we are working hard to fit all the complex stages of work within a tight programme whilst ensuring access to the Queen Eleanor Interchange is still maintained for all.

9. Why can you not just work overnight?

Many restrictions are in place for overnight works, which includes noise and light pollution restrictions. Some night work is scheduled where possible. Also, due to how busy this junction is, the traffic management in place is with concrete safety bollards to protect our team's safety whilst working and to complying with UK regulations related to health and safety. These bollards require a full closure to be put in place and removed safely. Once in place, they cannot be removed. To optimise the use of these temporary bollards, we may work extended hours in the daytime and some night-time work.

10. Why are there no additional traffic lights to be added to the Hardingstone Lane junction?

The new design informed by the traffic model does not include the addition of traffic lights at this section of the interchange. However, the current traffic lights system will be upgraded to new technology with automatic detection and linked to new traffic data as opposed to old and the addition of traffic loops. Therefore, an improved cycle with longer gaps in the lights will help to alleviate the pressures at these junctions.

11. What are traffic light detection loops?

Traffic loops are within the road network at certain intervals. These detect the amount of vehicles passing, wait times and queue distances. They then feed all this information back to the lights and the technology alter the light patterns accordingly depending on the data it receives. This will help to alleviate waiting times during peak times and also vehicles stopped within the roundabout itself.

12. Will there be additions of yellow box junctions within the roundabout once the scheme is complete?

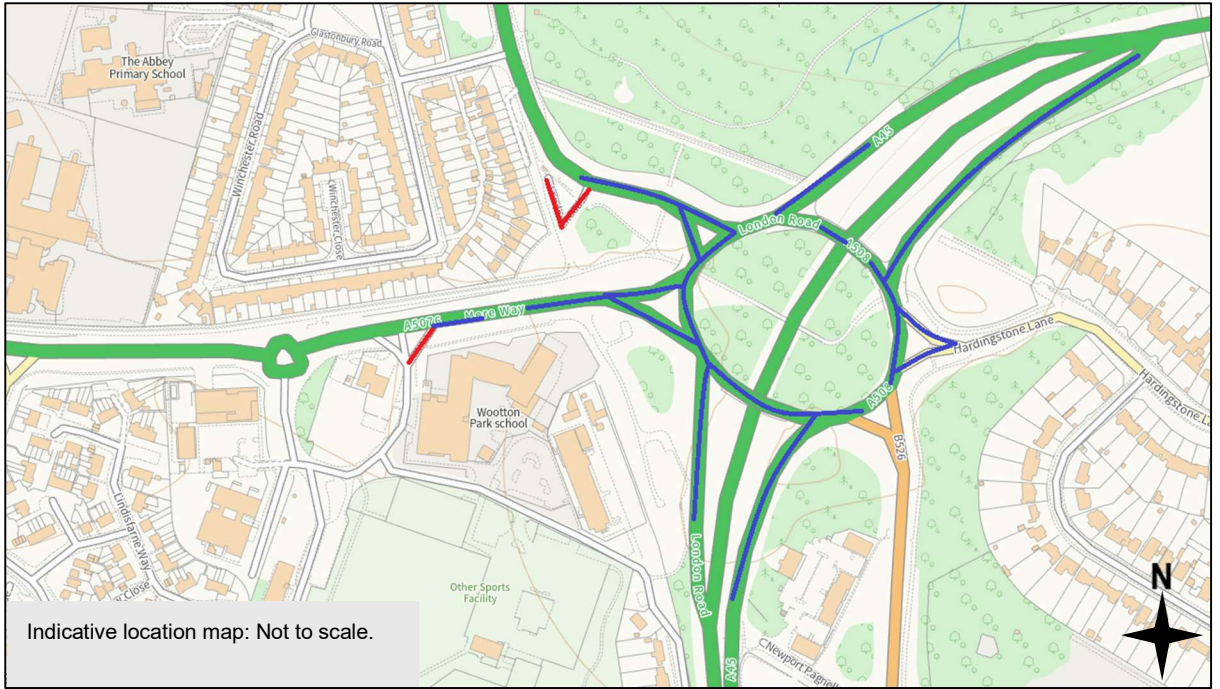
No, the design for this scheme does not include the addition of yellow box junctions, as the new traffic light technology will allow for a better flow and less waiting within the roundabout.

13. Will I still be able to access the schools and businesses in the area by foot and vehicle?

Yes, all schools, businesses, and public services will be fully accessible throughout the works. During night closures, this will be via the temporary diversion routes.

14. Why has the initial left-hand turn into Wootton Park been closed?

Careful consideration for the safety of Wootton Park School students has been made when establishing traffic management plans. The pedestrian crossing on Wootton Park is heavily used and the need to ensure students safety is imperative. Therefore, the decision was made to close this section to ensure students safety. Access to the school will still be maintained. Please turn left at the traffic lights instead. Please see image below showing which turn is closed.



Indicative location map: Not to scale.