

A339 Improvements

The works will take place in three phases:

Phase 1 – Construction of new link road

📅 **October 2020 – December 2020**

The first phase will involve the contractor setting up the site compound in a field south of Castle School. They will then construct the new link road from the A339 to join with the recently completed road adjacent to the new Highwood Copse School. Whilst the road will be constructed it will remain closed to the public but will be utilised by the contractor to access the compound area.

Phase 2 – A339 West side

📅 **December 2020 – Late Summer/Autumn 2021**

Significant utility diversion works are required for a number of providers throughout the entire length of works from south of the HWRC to Pinchington Lane Roundabout. These works will be carried out in conjunction with the widening of the A339 carriageway on the West side. There will also be major highway drainage works and ducting for the new signalised junction. Further works will include a new verge, short section of footway, new road signs, new street lighting and alterations to the HWRC entrance/exit.

Phase 3 – A339 East side and Central area works

📅 **Late Summer/Autumn 2021 – Spring 2022**

As with Phase 2 there will also be significant utility diversion works required for a number of providers throughout the entire length of works on the A339 East side from Pinchington Lane Roundabout to south of Deadman's Lane. The carriageway will be widened in this section as well as the construction of a new shared use footway/cycleway. Construction of the central island to house the new pedestrian crossing will also take place as well as major highway drainage works. Other works will include ducting for the new traffic signals, new road signs and new street lighting.

Resurfacing

Some parts of the A339 will need to be resurfaced as part of the project. This work is highly likely to be done at night to reduce disruption but will be subject to conditions due to the residential dwellings with close proximity of the works.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What is the thinking behind the proposals and how did they come about?

Planning permission was granted for this scheme in association with the permission for the new Highwood Copse School. A condition attached to the planning permission secures these improvements to the A339 and their delivery prior to the operation of the school reaching a certain level. As the school intake of pupils gradually increases year on year the need for capacity improvements along this section of the A339 are required so as to maintain flow and safety.

A new signalised junction will be created on the A339 linking to the new school road. The junction will allow drivers to manoeuvre in all directions whilst also creating a pedestrian/cyclist crossing on the A339 allowing users to access the school.

Q Does this scheme have anything to do with the proposed housing development south of Newbury (Sandleford)?

The link road and new junction will initially be solely for access to the new Highwood Copse School and they were granted permission via the same planning application as the school.

However, the junction and link road have the potential to provide a necessary access route to housing in that area if an appropriate scheme comes forward for a residential development on the adjacent site.

Q Once the scheme is complete will it take longer to drive into and out of Newbury?

As with all new junctions there may be times where you have to wait on a red light and your journey could be delayed slightly. The A339 will have priority and will be on a green light until a vehicle triggers the sensors to exit the new link road.

Q Will the queue from the new junction block back to Pinchington Lane roundabout or Swan roundabout?

The new junction will include sensors within the carriageway on all approaches so as to manage any potential queueing traffic and alert the signals if the queue starts to back up toward both Pinchington Lane and Swan roundabouts.

Q Can I still access the Household Waste Recycling Centre at all times during the works taking place?

Work around and across the entrance/exit to the HWRC will be undertaken outside of operational hours and therefore it is not envisaged there will be any impact to the HWRC. However, with all major works such as these if anything unforeseen is discovered then there may be periods where access is temporarily limited.

Q Why is the scheme taking a year and half to complete?

Given the A339 being the main arterial route in to and out of Newbury from the south, there are limitations on the amount of work that can be undertaken at one time so as traffic flow is maintained at all times. The scheme also includes a number of major utility diversions on both sides of the A339 which have added further months on to the programme of works.

Q To what extent will there be vegetation and tree clearance?

As the A339 is being widened on both sides there are a number of trees and vegetation that need removing/cutting back. An independent tree/vegetation survey was undertaken and identified a few large trees on the east side that require removal due to being at the end of their life or would be in the way of improvement works. The existing vegetation adjacent to Tesco's and Premier Inn will also be cut back.

On the West side the existing bund and tree planting within College land will be removed.

Q Where will the money come from?

Funding for the scheme is from the Governments Local Growth Fund via the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) along with West Berkshire Council Capital funding and developer contributions.