



A38 Chelston Link Refurbishment

Scheme Update

Newsletter 4 - August 2025

The government-funded Somerset Council Highways Chelston Link scheme began on the 15th of June to replace this poorly draining, uneven, unsightly, deteriorating 51-year-old concrete road and motorway junction built in 1974. Heidelberg, our principal contractor, has made incredible progress on the scheme already which is **running on programme**. The meticulous planning for this scheme has also ensured minimal traffic delays which has and will continue to be monitored.

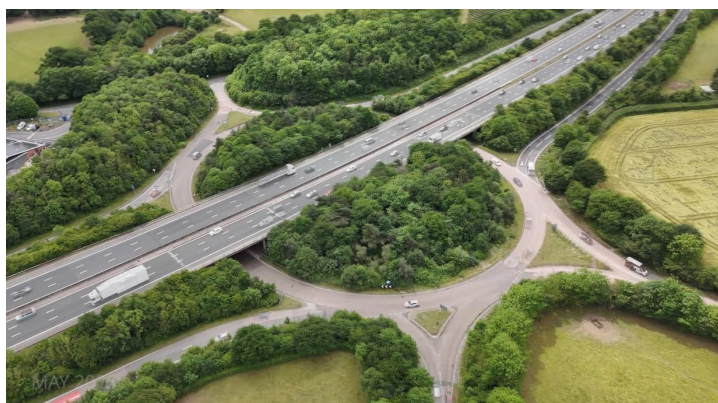
Construction progress



Around the roundabout and along the Chelston Link Road all the existing concrete carriageways has now been rubblized and forms part of the sub-base for the new road surface. Half of the roundabout is complete including new kerbing and drainage, with just the final asphalt layer and road markings. This half is being utilised by our works equipment to support the other half of the roundabout.

As mentioned previously, due to the height of the motorway above the J26 roundabout, this section has involved removing the existing concrete carriageway and sub-base to a depth of around one meter deep, and full-depth reconstruction. The centre of the roundabout has been cordoned off to protect the ecology within. Vegetation has been cut back along the lay-bys and litter cleared. Work along the link road is progressing well: with the new drainage installed, new kerbing in place, and the new layers of the road being laid. Vegetation has been cut back creating a more level surface to the side of the link road.

Benefits upon completion of the scheme will include: a new smoother quieter road surface, that is much easier to maintain in the future, with new road markings, and improved drainage and aesthetic appearance.



Community Engagement

Thanks also to the invitations to interact with so many community groups including: Bishops Hull, West Buckland, Nynehead Parish Councils and Wellington Without, and Wellington Town Council for the invitation to speak to so many community members.

Traffic Management

Core Highways have worked incredibly hard in setting up and maintaining the necessary traffic management to cater for this scheme requiring a FULL CLOSURE of Junction 26 and part of the A38 link road (from J26 to Foxmoor Business Park) from the 15th of June to late September. Access has been clearly marked and maintained to Foxmoor Business Park from the Chelston roundabout, and the traffic island at the business park entrance has been adapted to support this from the beginning of the project, with traffic flowing easily. Due to the link road being single lanes during the works, access onto the roundabout has had to be adapted accordingly to single lanes. Short-cut routes through unsuitable roads have been signed.

Chelston link carriageway road works:

Chelston link carriageway works are ongoing. We are utilising the weekend period to minimise inconvenience to Foxmoor Business Park users.

PLEASE NOTE: Access is being given to Foxmoor Business Park users 24/7. There may be a slight delay where for safety reasons our Traffic Management Team may need to escort you through. Please be patient as we will allow access.

Traffic management signage has been placed in the surrounding areas and adapted only when necessary, since the scheme started, taking into consideration safety and the knock-on effects to others in making changes.

The Taunton Dean service station gates have been reinstated for authorised personnel access only and cameras now being used to monitor these. National Highways have supported motorway signs also regarding the closure of J26.

Business rates

As the Highways Authority, we have a statutory duty to maintain the roads and unfortunately this inevitably can lead to some disruption which we of course have a duty to minimise as much as possible. Please visit the Council's website and check the list of criteria that needs to be met in order for either relief to be awarded to their account. Businesses can make an online application if required:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/claim-a-business-rate-relief-or-exemption/>

Businesses may also contact the Valuation Office Agency in order to apply for a temporary reduction in their Rateable Value. This can be done via the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) website:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-business-rate-relief>

More Information



All enquiries are now directed solely to our **Public Liaison Officer, Syed Shah**, please call Syed on **07717 844 042**, in the first instance as many enquiries can often be quickly answered by calling alternatively email syed.shah@somerset.gov.uk to subscribe to the newsletters/further information

A dedicated webpage has been set up to provide an overview, FAQs and updates:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/major-refurbishment-of-junction-26-and-chelston-link-road/>

PLEASE NOTE: All information in this newsletter has been agreed with the scheme management team. The Public Liaison Officer has been appointed to be the sole person responsible for communicating this and to update the public along with X and Facebook @travelsomerset accordingly.