

Developing the scheme

When we consulted with the local community in 2016, there was clear support for the 'Roche Route' and this option became the preferred route for the new link road.

We developed the design in more detail and produced a business case to submit to the Government, who subsequently approved provisional funding in November 2017.

Since then we have been carrying out vital investigation work to provide us with the information needed to ensure we get the design right, including:

- Surveys of existing ground
- Assessing the drainage along the route
- Used ground radar to assess what obstructions there may be under the surface
- Taking samples of the soil and analysing rock formations
- Completing noise surveys
- Surveying a wide range of wildlife along the route

All parts of the design have been assessed to ensure they comply with safety standards, and we have also looked to 'design out' high cost items. This review has resulted in the relocation of the proposed roundabout and adjustments to the heights of the embankments and cuttings.

The basic design for the new link road is now 'fixed' which is allowing us to develop all the reports and assessments we need for the final planning application.

We have also been looking at what is possible to do on the existing roads in the surrounding villages and have been discussing these initial thoughts with local representatives. We are looking for your thoughts on this at the exhibition as we really want to work with the local community to develop the plans together.

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