



# The Road Ahead

DELIVERING  
THE SOUTHERN  
LINK ROAD

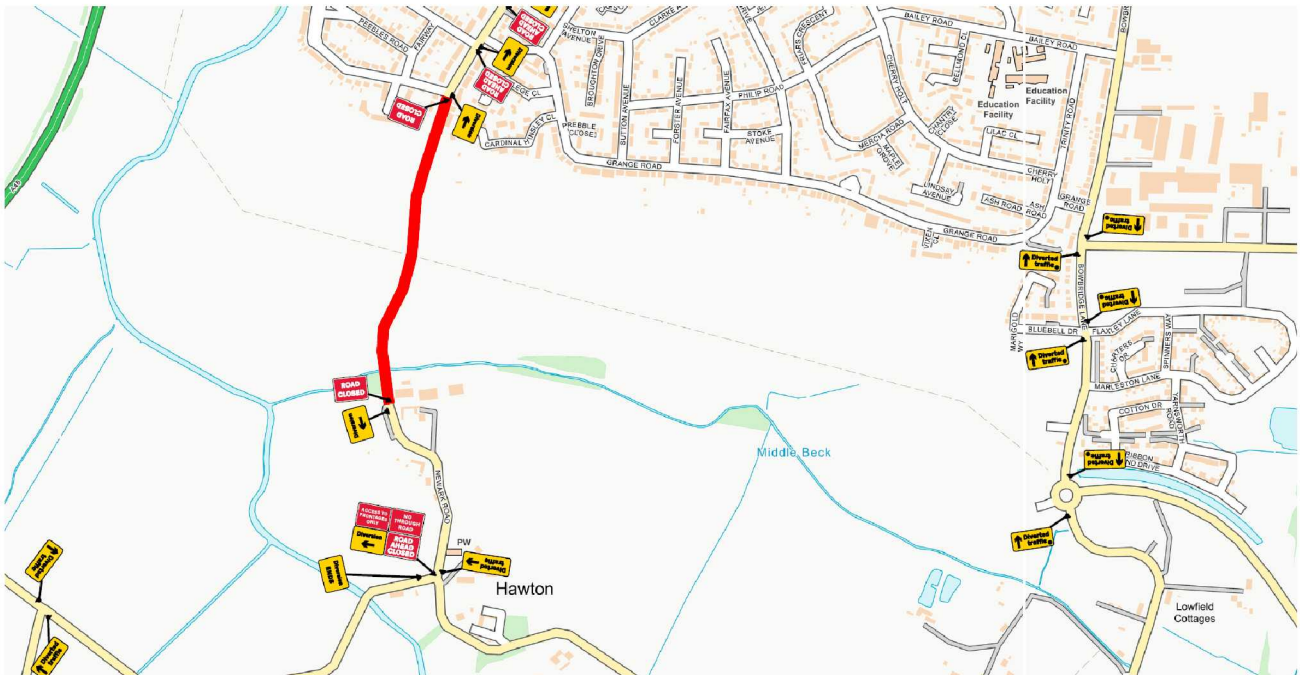
*Keeping our neighbours in the know*

Welcome to the latest edition of The Road Ahead – a newsletter to keep our neighbours informed about the construction of the Southern Link Road (SLR).

We are now well underway with the construction of the road and whilst progress since January has been hampered by the impact of flooding, we have made progress to lay asphalt on the section of the road running from Bowbridge Lane in the direction of Hawton – making it look a lot more like a road. Importantly, we now know the road closure date for Hawton Road – a significant stage for residents in the construction of the SLR:

## Hawton Road closure from 28 February

A complete closure of Hawton Road just after Riverside Road running to Hawton will take effect from the 28 February for 6 months, shown by the red line in the approved traffic management plan below. There will be signage at the roadside and a diversion in place.



## Signage

There will be closure signs running north along Hawton Road up to Boundary Road to encourage people to take the diversion or turnaround early. Access to all homes along Hawton Road will be maintained – the barrier will be positioned after the last home – in a similar position to the daytime closures that were in place during summer 2023. These will be found on the live map at <https://one.network/>

## Why is a full road closure necessary?

The new road being constructed follows a slightly different route to the original road and will be 2 metres higher where it connects to Hawton village. We will also need to divert underground services and utilities, install a new culvert near the new roundabout where the road connects into Hawton, and relocate overhead lines. The safety implications of these activities mean we are unable to maintain a pedestrian access and must fully close the road.

## What will the final layout of Hawton Road look like?

The below plan shows the new road layout, including the roundabout that will be added where Hawton Road meets the new Southern Link Road (SLR).



## What will you see happening on site when the road closes?

Once the road is closed, works will begin to remove the existing highway and earth will be transported and placed to enable the start of the national grid cable diversions. Through the spring, the deconstruction of the existing Middlebeck culvert will commence in preparation for a new culvert to be installed. Earthworks to raise the levels for the new road will continue through the spring to enable the new road to be constructed through the summer months in preparation for the reopening, which we anticipate to be in August. The works, will be visible, at times noisy, and we'll monitor these works as we're required to do so, prescribed by the planning consents.

In mid/late March we will begin our earthworks season, which means you will see more heavy vehicles moving earth around on site, transporting material from the flood compensation area south of the village. If the weather is very dry then it can be dusty but we will take measures to monitor and reduce this.

Construction of the bridges to the west of Hawton Road heading over the river Devon and flood plain are scheduled to begin in the spring (weather permitting). You'll see a piling rig on site for the foundations, and there will be periods of a 'pecking' noise during these works. Again, we will monitor this with the contractor as we're required to by the planning consents.



*Progress on the road construction with Hawton Road to the left of the picture.*



## Our eyes and ears

If you see anything that doesn't seem right then please get in touch. We instruct our contractors on how we expect them to behave and they sign up to the Considerate Constructors Scheme but we know there are occasions when this isn't adhered to.

Please note the date, time, description of person or vehicle – a photo or video is ideal. Please send it to [newark@urbanandcivic.com](mailto:newark@urbanandcivic.com) and we will follow this up.

## Supporting the Hawton community

Businesses in Hawton will continue to open as usual and we would encourage you to actively support them during this six month period. You can take the diversion via the Lord Ted roundabout and over the Farndon bridge to keep visiting and using them.

We are working with All Saints' church in Hawton to ensure that the diversion doesn't affect people's ability to attend church activities. If you don't drive or may be affected by the closure then please contact the church for more information.

## Further updates

We are updating noticeboards in key locations such as by the shops next to Riverside and in Hawton village to keep residents informed.

You can visit our our dedicated SLR webpage to keep up to date or revisit any previous newsletters, at [www.middlebecknewark.com/southern-link-road](http://www.middlebecknewark.com/southern-link-road)



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