

Toneway Creech Castle Improvement Scheme Project Commencement

A38 Bridgwater Road Closure

Dear Resident / Business Owner,

I am writing to you as the Public Liaison Officer for Alun Griffiths Ltd – the contractor appointed to deliver the Toneway Creech Castle Junction improvement scheme on behalf of Somerset County Council.

This is a major improvement scheme to reduce congestion and improve access to Taunton by increasing the capacity of the junction. As well as greatly improving this route for motorists, the upgrade includes much better access for pedestrians and cyclists and is a really important part of ensuring the network can cope with the ongoing development at Monkton Heathfield.

Work will begin on Monday 9th August 2021 and is expected to be complete in Summer 2022.

Extensive public consultation on the scheme took place back in 2018 which showed most who participated were supportive of the scheme's objectives. Traffic surveys show that a considerable number of cyclists use the junction, therefore one of these key objectives is to encourage walking and cycling and make the A358 Toneway much easier to get across for those on foot or bike.

The Creech Castle scheme includes road widening and very significant structural work with heavy machinery and excavations on the road. Therefore, in order to keep both the workforce and travelling public safe, it will be necessary to close Bridgwater Road north of the junction to vehicles for the duration of the scheme. Access for pedestrians and cyclists will be maintained. Please see attached plan for further details.

Other alternatives were considered – including use of temporary multi-way traffic lights instead of a road closure – but projections showed these would cause much more severe disruption with long queues on the Toneway potentially impacting on the M5.

We will also need to close the right-turn from Toneway to Bridgwater Road South (see attached plan).

Toneway Creech Castle Improvement Scheme – Project Commencement

We have already carried out some advance work to the footway / cycle way along the Bridgwater Road in order to help mitigate the impact these essential works will have.

Please be assured we understand this scheme will cause disruption and we will be working as hard as we can to minimise this. Access to your property will be maintained at all times.

We understand you may have questions about the works and have developed a webpage at travelsomerset.co.uk/toneway with more information and frequently asked questions. We would also encourage you to subscribe to our newsletters and project bulletins where we will be sharing project specific progress and essential changes to the traffic management layout. You can sign up for these on the above webpage.

You'll also find a video on this page which explains how the scheme fits into the wider context of Somerset County Council's road improvements in Taunton and across Somerset.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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TONEWAY CREECH CASTLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Temporary Traffic Management Plan for A358 Toneway and A38 Bridgwater Road

