

Western Relief Road A3259 Q&A



What's happening?

This is Developer works to complete the final stage of the A3259 in Monkton Heathfield - or Western Relief Road as it is known - which involves a final stretch of carriageway, installing a bridge section (pictured above) and a link to the A38 and the main road network for this growing residential area of Taunton.

Once the WWR is open further traffic calming measures can be introduced to Monkton Heathfield and traffic will be diverted away from busy residential areas.

Why didn't you do this work during lockdown?

This is developer work, planned and scheduled long before the coronavirus crisis and lockdown, and it is tied up with the ongoing residential development in this area of the town.

In fact, two thirds of the construction of the Western Relief Road was carried out throughout lockdown. Work commenced in autumn 2020 during lockdown and is due to complete in summer 2021 and is currently on schedule.

The construction started at the Western end of the site, so far about 420m of road and cycle way have been constructed and the bridge to cross Allens Brook is substantially in place.

The final section of work linking the A3259 to the network could only happen at this point because utilities needed to be diverted to enable the final section of the new road to be built. This work was carried out last winter as construction continued on the Western Relief Road and now this is completed the final stretch can be carried out.

For this last 11 weeks it is not possible to finish the road without a full-time closure for public and construction workers' safety.

It was essential to also maintain a safe route to school during this time.

What about the congestion and traffic disruption this is causing for road users and local people?

The developer has identified a diversion route around this area which is marked clearly and we would urge road users to please use this.

We understand people's concerns about congestion and the frustration delays cause but Somerset County Council's Highways team is working closely with the developer to alleviate this as much as possible and to ensure that during this busy time when there are other major infrastructure projects on the network, disruption is kept to a minimum.

Please remember people's safety

Drivers should not be using unofficial routes through residential areas – this has a knock-on effect for local people and is hazardous for pedestrians, especially children and older people.

We would remind drivers that these are safe routes for children to walk to school and currently there are reports of pupils finding it difficult to negotiate these lanes because of drivers taking short cuts.

We'd ask motorists to be mindful of this and urge residents to report speeding and inappropriate driving to the police.

The Council has already liaised with the police on this issue and will continue to work with police on enforcing the speed limit and tackling inappropriate driving.

You can report incidents to Avon and Somerset Police by calling 101 or please visit the force's website and log your incident here - [Report | Avon and Somerset Police](#).

We would advise drivers plan their journey in advance as much as possible.

Check www.travelsomerset.co.uk for updates on roadworks and information on projects.