

Future **Chippenham**

Connecting our communities

Consultation on the

Future Chippenham

distributor road route options

About the project

Wiltshire Council is seeking your views on three road route options for a potential new distributor road located to the south and east of Chippenham. The road would provide a high-quality road link connecting the north east and southern parts of the town to the A350 and improvements to Junction 17 of the M4.

Initial work indicates that a distributor road could bring significant benefits; it would directly unlock land to support much needed housing development and reduce traffic congestion in the town centre, improving connectivity and travel within and

around the town. These benefits would help underpin the future sustainable growth of Chippenham and increase opportunities for residents and businesses. We have called this programme Future Chippenham.

To support the development of the scheme, the Council has been successful in securing £75 million of government funding.

We would like to hear your views to help inform a decision about which of the three route options within each zone could be taken forward to the next stage of the development process.

This document covers

- How we got to this point
- Details of the three road route options
- Explanation of the next steps
- The timeline
- Details of the consultation events and how you can get involved and provide feedback

Local Plan review

Wiltshire Council as Local Planning Authority is currently consulting on its Local Plan. The Wiltshire Local Plan review process considers the level of growth in the town through to 2036 including where new homes could be allocated, and **is an entirely separate consultation from the Future Chippenham road route options consultation featured in this leaflet.**

Any new distributor road would be subject to the outcome of a future planning application and progress of the Local Plan Review.

To find out more about the Local Plan Review and how to comment please go to the Wiltshire Council website or use the following link:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-policy-local-plan-review-consultation



Area under consideration

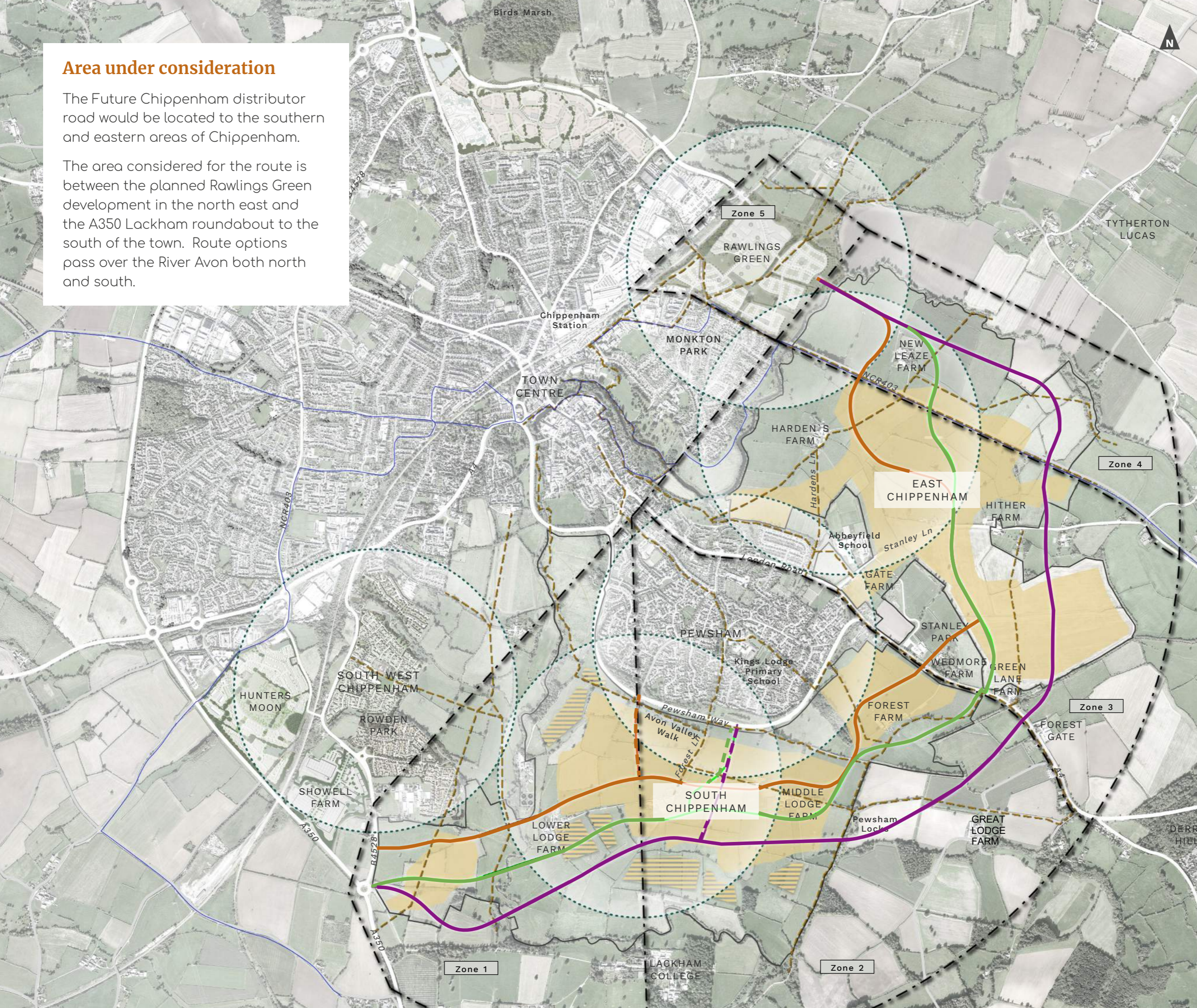
The Future Chippenham distributor road would be located to the southern and eastern areas of Chippenham.

The area considered for the route is between the planned Rawlings Green development in the north east and the A350 Lackham roundabout to the south of the town. Route options pass over the River Avon both north and south.

I. Future Chippenham Distributor Road – Options Assessment – **Transport Connectivity**

KEY

- Preferred Development Sites Boundary Identified in Local Plan Review (Regulation 18)
- Residential Area Identified in Local Plan Review (Regulation 18)
- Possible Future Development Area Identified in Local Plan Review (Regulation 18)
- Distributor Road Option A
- Distributor Road Option B
- Distributor Road Option C
- Link Road Option 1
- Link Road Option 3
- Public Footpath/Rights of Way
- Bridge/Viaduct
- National Cycle Route
- 800m/10mins Walking Radius
- Assessment Zone



Why is the road needed?

Working to deliver the vision of a more sustainable Chippenham

The adopted strategic plan for Chippenham sets out a future vision for the town that meets local needs for jobs and housing while addressing some of the longstanding challenges it faces such as town centre congestion and new developments delivered in a piecemeal way. It aims for a more self-sufficient status for the town, so that the community can meet its living, work and leisure needs locally.

Employment and housing development will be highly sustainable and balanced, with early delivery of key infrastructure and key services to support growth.

There is a goal to encourage young people to choose to stay and both live and work in the town because of the employment opportunities, access to housing and other available facilities.

The Core Strategy provides a spatial expression of the Wiltshire Community Plan 2011-2026: People, places and promises, and will be focused on delivering the three overarching priorities:

1. creating an economy that is fit for the future
2. reducing disadvantage and inequalities
3. tackling the causes and effects of climate change.

Evidence for Chippenham has indicated that one of the best options to deliver the vision for a sustainable future could be through the building of a significant new road both to relieve through traffic but also unlock potential development sites.

Infrastructure led development: The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid and Future Chippenham Project

In March 2019, Wiltshire Council submitted a bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) from Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. In November 2019, Wiltshire Council was awarded a grant of £75 million.

The grant ensures funding is available to contribute towards the cost of delivering the strategic infrastructure in and around Chippenham to support the potential longer-term growth of the area, should development come forward.

The £75 million grant will support the delivery of a new distributor road to the east and south of Chippenham, linking the A350 at the northern and southern ends of the town, as well as specific improvement to J17 on the M4.

By 2046, it is envisioned that the road could unite sustainable new communities and green spaces, including up to 7,500 homes, supported by local neighbourhood services and employment opportunities.



What are the benefits from delivery of the Future Chippenham distributor road?

By planning strategically, Future Chippenham could enable the strategic plan for Chippenham. This provides opportunities to meet the following objectives:

Strategic objectives

- unlocking land to support delivery of up to 7,500 homes up to 40% of which will be affordable, specifically planned to meet local needs including first time buyers so essential to the local economy
- improving the viability and vitality of the town by providing homes and jobs to provide increased local customers for businesses and services
- transforming the town's housing offer
- ensuring that economic development and regeneration is delivered in step with the homes to increase the self-containment of the town
- providing much better connectivity and help to reduce congestion in the town centre.

What has been completed so far

Initial road route options and link road options (connections to the existing Pewsham Way) emerged from an options generation process. An assessment of these options was then undertaken to ensure that all options presented for this public consultation are deliverable and meet the strategic scheme objectives.

The process identified three potential routes for the distributor road and two link road options and shows a potential outer, middle and inner route.

These route options have been assessed based on:

- Strategic case

- Delivery case
- Environment / Economic case
- Financial case
- Commercial case

For the purposes of this consultation the distributor road route options have been split into five zones so you can comment on sections of the road options within each zone. Further information about the Options Appraisal process can be found in the OAR Findings Summary.

Further details are available on the Future Chippenham public consultation webpage www.wiltshire.gov.uk/future-chippenham.

Economic objectives

- enabling economic development along the strategic M4 corridor
- improving access to training and employment opportunities.

Transport objectives

- providing an improved corridor for the movement of people and goods
- reducing town centre traffic congestion providing opportunities to improve reliability of transport

- enhancing transport resilience in Wiltshire by providing connectivity to the M4 Junction 17 and A350.

Environmental objectives

- minimising the impact on the quality of the environment
- improving accessibility for non-car users by promoting sustainable forms of transport
- through infrastructure led delivery seek opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of the road and scheme.



Road route options for consultation

Three potential road route options have been identified for the Future Chippenham distributor road. Two Pewsham link road options are also included in the consultation.

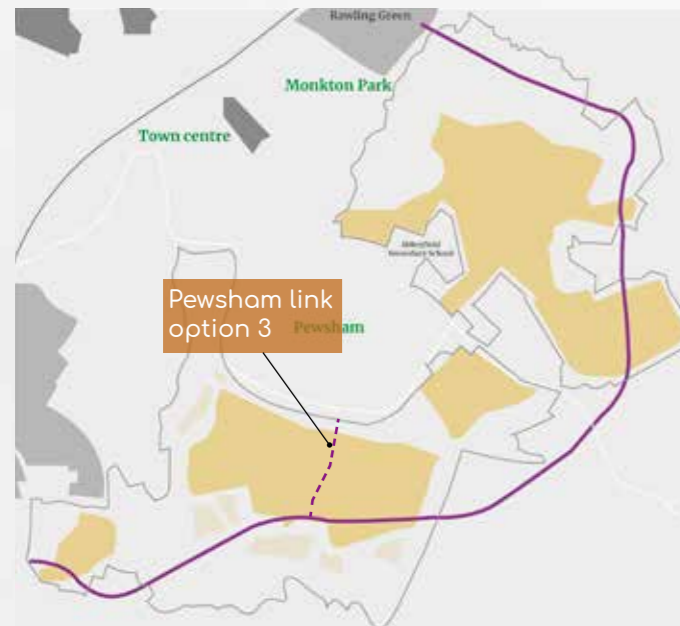
We have completed initial assessments to compare the route options.

Option A: Outer route

Option A, the outer route is 8.3km long and could function as a traditional ring road for the development area. It connects the A350 Lackham roundabout to the south of Chippenham, to the Rawlings Green development to the northeast, crossing the A4 between Forest Gate and the motorcar dealership. The outer route crosses the River Avon at two locations, requiring two bridge viaducts, one to the south spanning 468m and one to the northeast spanning 268m, ensuring river flood levels are not affected by the scheme. Further bridges will be required to cross the Wilts & Berks Canal in two locations, one near Pewsham Locks and one north of the A4 near Green Lane Farm.

Option A is the most visually prominent of the three options through the landscape following higher ground and is therefore more likely to remain within views from Derry Hill, Bencroft Hill and surrounding villages.

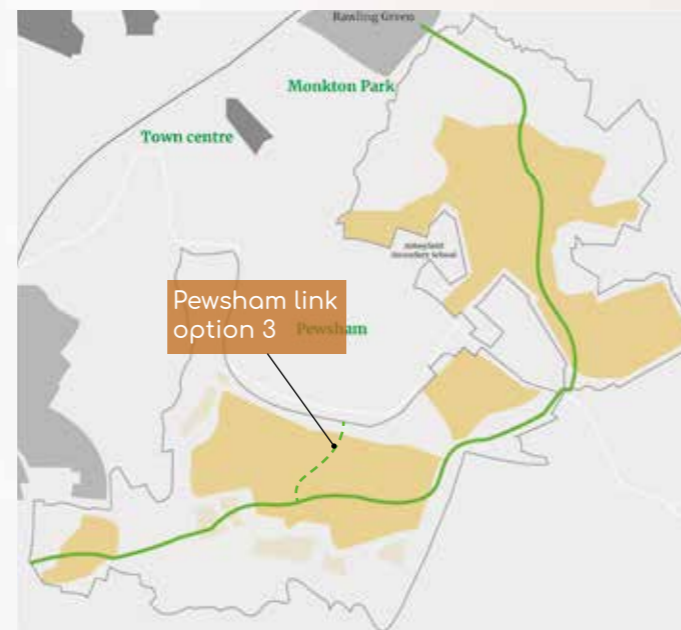
Option A - Outer route



Option B: Middle route

Option B, the middle route is 7.4km long and could function as an urban distributor road running through the development area. It connects the A350 Lackham roundabout to the south of Chippenham, to the Rawlings Green development to the northeast, crossing the A4 between Wedmore Farm and the motorcar dealership. Similar to the outer route, the middle route crosses the River Avon at two locations, requiring two bridge viaducts, one to the south spanning 444m and one to the northeast spanning 268m, ensuring river flood levels are not affected by the scheme. A further bridge is included to cross Avon Valley Walk and the historical route of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

Option B - Middle route



Option C: Inner route

Option C, the inner route is 7.3km long and similar to the middle route and could function as an urban distributor road running through the development area. It connects from the B4528 near Lackham roundabout to the south of Chippenham, to the Rawlings Green development to the northeast, crossing the A4 to the east side of Stanley Parks Sports Ground. Similar to the other routes, the inner route crosses the River Avon at two locations, requiring two bridge viaducts, one to the south spanning 336m and one to the northeast spanning 268m, ensuring river flood levels are not affected by the scheme. A further bridge is included to cross Avon Valley Walk and the historical route of the Wilts & Berks Canal.

Option C - the inner route is less visually prominent from surrounding views to the north and east than option B - the middle route.

Option C would require mitigation to Stanley Park Sports Ground and additional habitat creation to mitigate any habitat loss to Great Crested Newts.

Option C - Inner route



Pewsham link roads

An additional road linking the proposed distributor road at South Chippenham to Pewsham Way is included in the scheme extents and the HIF bid. This is to ensure connectivity between the two areas. Two route options have been progressed for the Pewsham link road.

Pewsham link option 1

Option 1 provides a link road from the proposed distributor road near Lower Lodge, traversing over the ridgeline towards Pewsham, bridging over a valley in the topography and crossing Avon Valley Walk before connecting to Pewsham Way at Canal roundabout. This brings the scheme in closer proximity to Mortimore's Wood Local Nature Reserve.

Pewsham link road option 1, connected to option C is 0.47km long.

Pewsham link option 3

Option 3 provides a link road from the proposed distributor road near Lower Lodge Farm, crossing a public footpath that links to Forest Lane, Pewsham and the Wilts & Berks canal, and follows around lower landscape levels before crossing Avon Valley walk and connecting to a new junction with Pewsham Way at a point 150m east of Forest Lane.

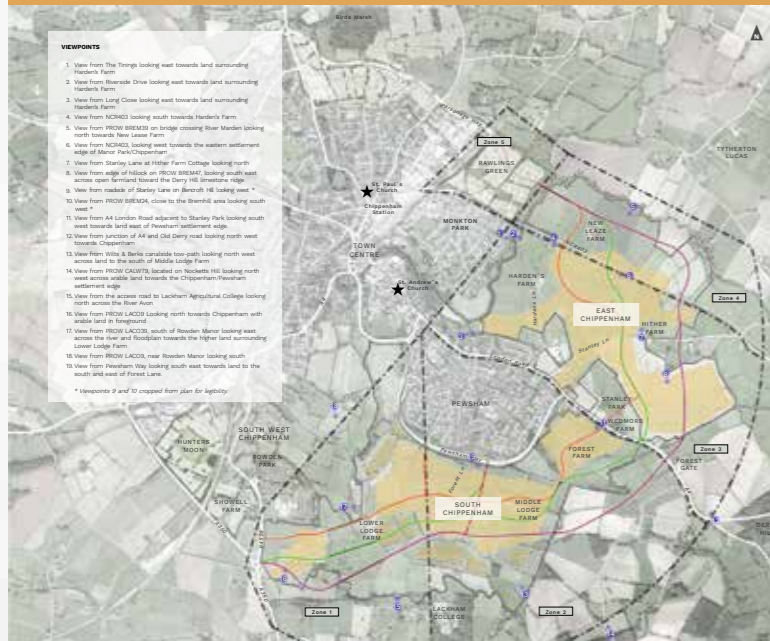
Pewsham link road option 3, connected to the option A distributor road is 0.73km long.

Pewsham link road option 3, connected to the option B distributor road is 0.64km long.

Cost and affordability

Cost estimates to deliver the distributor and link road range between £88.5 million and £120 million including risk budget estimates. The distributor and link road will be delivered with a phased programme to prioritise key sections and infrastructure to unlock development land. Any shortfall in funding would be met by contributions from developers and governed by relevant planning policy.

Landscape character and visual impact



II. Future Chippenham Distributor Road - Options Assessment - Landscape setting and Visual Impact receptors

All options have an impact on the agricultural landscape. The inner and middle route have less impact overall, although the Pewsham link road for the inner route is more visible. Earth bunds and planting would be utilised to screen views of the road.

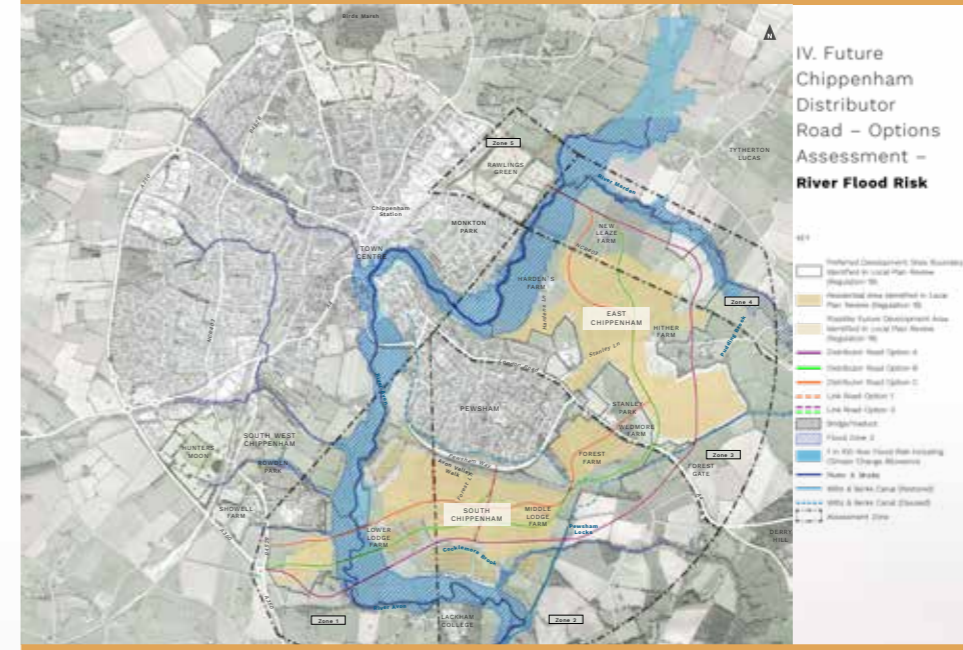
Transport and connectivity



I. Future Chippenham Distributor Road - Options Assessment - Transport Connectivity

All options provide an opportunity for increased connectivity to the existing town centre and local centres through existing footpaths and cycle routes and potential new routes. The outer route fares least against the inner and middle due to its location on the perimeter of potential development.

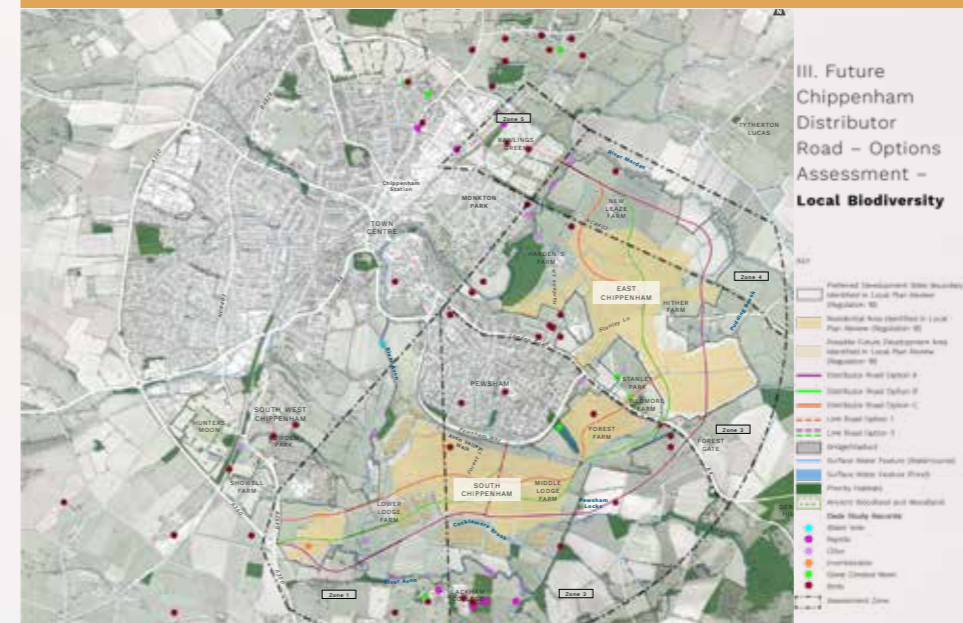
River flood risk



IV. Future Chippenham Distributor Road - Options Assessment - River Flood Risk

All three routes cross the River Avon and will require the construction of two new bridge viaducts to mitigate any increase in existing flood risk. Option A has the greatest capacity for effects on water quality due to its greater length, and location of crossing the River Avon in the south.

Local biodiversity



III. Future Chippenham Distributor Road - Options Assessment - Local Biodiversity

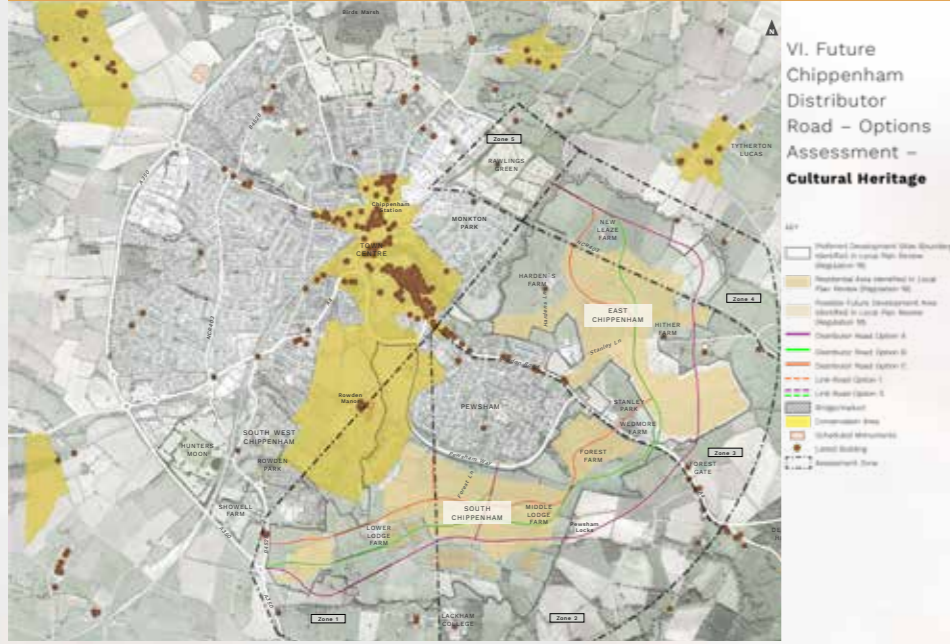
All routes would aim to minimise the impact of a distributor road on local biodiversity where possible.

At the options appraisal stage, a study of local habitat types and previous records of protected species was undertaken. Some of this information is provided below.

Through the development of the design of the preferred option, further surveys will be undertaken to increase our understanding of species currently inhabiting the site.

This will be used to create scheme specific mitigation to increase habitat connectivity across the site and improve local habitats through the sustainable integration of drainage systems, landscape planting and biodiversity measures.

Cultural heritage



There are many cultural heritage assets in the Chippenham area, including Rowden Park conservation area, the scheduled monument at Rowden Manor and numerous listed buildings including country houses, farmhouses and farm buildings, churchyards and cemeteries, mills, an old brewery, bridges, cottages and milestones.

All of the route options presented for public consultation avoid direct conflict with heritage assets.

What could the road look like?

The concept design of the route options includes:

- a 30mph speed limit single carriageway road with roundabouts
- pedestrian and cycle routes along the transport corridor
- bridges or diversions for existing footpaths
- earth mounds to reduce noise or screen the route from housing
- ponds to control water and give opportunity for habitat creation
- hedgerows, shrubs and trees planted to replace any lost during construction.

How to take part in this consultation

The consultation is open from Friday 15 January to 5 pm on Friday 12 March 2021. Information on the route options for the Future Chippenham distributor road is included in this document. Additional supporting information is available on our webpage www.wiltshire.gov.uk/future-chippenham.

You can respond to the consultation in the following ways:

- Complete the online consultation form at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/future-chippenham
- Download a consultation form from the above webpage and email to futurechippenham@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Download and post your consultation form to Future Chippenham, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Wiltshire BA14 8JN
- Attend a public consultation event (currently being held online due to COVID-19 national restrictions and in line with government recommendations on consultation)

About the events

Public webinar - Thursday 28 January, 11 am

A second webinar is being arranged for February 2021

Please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/future-chippenham to reserve your place.

Additionally, the Future Chippenham team will be providing an overview of the road route options at Area Boards, Parish and Town Councils during the consultation period.

For more information about this consultation

Email: futurechippenham@wiltshire.gov.uk

This consultation is being carried out by The Future Chippenham Project Team on behalf of Wiltshire Council



2019

March
Housing infrastructure
fund bid submission



November
Housing infrastructure
fund grant

£75m
awarded

2020

February - July
Road options
assessment



January - Present
Environmental investigation
and surveys



2021

Winter - Spring
Public consultation
on road options



Summer
Preferred route
announcement



Summer - Winter
Preliminary design of
preferred route option
and environmental design



Winter
Planning application
submitted



2022

Winter - Autumn
Detailed design
of the road

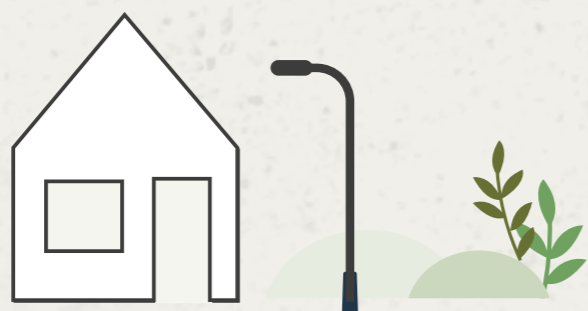


2026

Road construction
completed

Autumn 2022 - Winter 2025/26

Milestones



Future Chippenham

Connecting our communities

Contact us

Information about the Future Chippenham project can be made available on request in other languages including BSL and formats such as large print and audio.

Please contact Wiltshire Council on
0300 456 0100 or by email on
customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

