

Appendix 1

Experimental A4 Bus and Cycle Lanes

Overview

We consult residents, commuters, businesses and stakeholders to understand what people think about proposed developments, changes to our roads and pavements, or other traffic-related issues.

Update 12 May 2021 – Consultation Period Extended to 31 August 2021

The easing of the Covid-19 lockdown means that traffic conditions are starting to return to normal. We are therefore extending the consultation period from 4 June 2021 until 31 August 2021. This will provide residents and people returning to places of employment an opportunity to comment on the experimental scheme when the bus and cycle lanes are fully operational in normal traffic conditions.

Why your views matter

In August 2020 we announced that we would trial dedicated bus and cycle lanes in both directions on the A4, between Huntercombe Roundabout and Sussex Place (subsequently the section between Huntercombe Roundabout and Cippenham Lane was reduced to cycle lanes only - see note below).

The overview map below shows the locations of the bus and cycle lanes along the A4:

Section 3: Cippenham Lane to Twinches Lane

Section 4: Twinches Lane to Farnham Road

Section 5.1: Farnham Road to Stoke Poges Lane

Section 5.1: Stoke Poges Lane to High Street Slough

Section 6: Wellington Street to Sussex Place

The scheme has been introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, to encourage people to travel actively and sustainably, support social distancing measures for cyclists and pedestrians, and to prepare for the borough's recovery.

Funded by central government's Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) and introduced under Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs), the scheme can run up to 18 months, with a consultation period for six months.

The experimental scheme has been in operation between 31 August and 3 December 2020, and we have been receiving consultation responses, mostly by email, during that period.

Following a review of the responses during that initial consultation, Councillors would now like to see some operational changes to the experimental bus and cycle lanes. We have therefore introduced changes from Friday 4 December 2020.

What are the changes to the scheme?

From Friday 4 December 2020:

- The experimental bus and cycle lanes now operate peak time only, from Monday to Friday during the hours of 7am-10am and 3pm-7pm (previously at all times)
- The following vehicles are now permitted to use the experimental A4 bus and cycle lanes during those times (previously buses and pedal cycles only):

buses pedal

cycles solo

motorcycles

taxis

private hire vehicles ("minicabs") operated under licences issued by Slough Borough Council

zero emission vehicles displaying green number plates under a forthcoming scheme electric

scooters hired from Neuron Mobility under a government trial scheme The benefits of the

bus and cycle lanes operating during peak time are:

Improved bus journey time reliability

Improved cycle safety

Continued social distancing between cyclists and pedestrians

Overview map



[A4 Experimental Bus and Cycle Lanes - Overview Map](#) <user_uploads/a4-experimental-bus-and-cycle-lanes---overview-map.pdf>

Further information and enquiries

Detailed plans, the Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs), and the public notices associated with this scheme are available at [Temporary A4 Bus Lane Scheme](https://www.slough.gov.uk/consultations-petitions/temporary-a4-bus-lane-scheme/1) <https://www.slough.gov.uk/consultations-petitions/temporary-a4-bus-lane-scheme/1> .

Additional information is available in our Frequently Asked Questions document.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is a dedicated bus lane needed through Slough?

The Bath Road/ A4 trial scheme includes the provision of a bus and cycle lane, replacing a single east and westbound traffic lane along most of the route. It has been designed and implemented in response to the government's initiative to get people to actively travel in the wake of the coronavirus crisis and to prepare for the Borough's recovery as lockdown is eased. This is just one, of a series of temporary changes, proposed to bring about a green restart to local travel with the Department for Transport providing funding to fast track measures.

Reducing bus journey times, making the bus service more attractive as well as facilitating active travel are fundamental components of the Local Transport Plan.

We also wish to maintain improvements to Air Quality experienced during the lockdown. Five AQMA's have indicated that in terms of NO₂ there has been a reduction of between 30%-41% and in respect of NO_x, there has been a reduction of between 45%-59% using modelled scenarios.

Removal of a single lane of most east and west bound traffic during peak hours will improve Air Quality throughout the borough. The reduction in private car use and take-up of sustainable modes including buses will support this aim.

Is it safe to use buses? Government guidance used to suggest we should avoid public transport during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We know that local bus services provide a vital means of accessing services for many of our residents. Within Slough, over a quarter of households do not have access to a car.

In line with Government guidance, face coverings must be worn, over your nose and mouth, for the full duration of journeys on the public transport network.

We have placed hand sanitisers at various locations including Slough bus station.

Operators have implemented social distancing and enhanced cleaning, and are now back to running normal frequencies.

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[A4 Experimental Bus and Cycle Lanes – Frequently Asked Questions](#) <user_uploads/a4-bus-lane-faqs-v2.2.pdf>

If you would like further information to enable you to respond to the consultation, or a copy of this consultation information in another format or language, please:

email us at TfS@slough.gov.uk (please state "A4 consultation enquiry" in the subject line), or write to us at A4 Consultation, Transport, Slough Borough Council, Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2EL (please state "A4 consultation enquiry" at the top), or call us on 01753 475111 (asking for a message to be passed to Transport for Slough)

Have your say - new consultation period

We would like to receive your views on the experimental A4 bus and cycle lanes following the above changes. The amended Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETROs) came into operation on **Friday 4 December 2020** (replacing the previous ETROs for this scheme), and a new six month consultation period started on that date, finishing on **Friday 4 June 2021**. The consultation period has now been extended to finish on **Tuesday 31 August 2021**.

We would prefer that you experience the effects of the changes to the experimental A4 bus and cycle lanes before responding, to ensure that your response fully reflects them.

How to respond

Please, if possible, give your views using the **Online Survey form** below:

If you are unable to use the online survey, please instead give your views:

by email to TfS@slough.gov.uk (please state "A4 consultation response" in the subject line), or
in writing to **A4 Consultation, Transport, Slough Borough Council, Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2EL** (please state "A4 consultation response" at the top)

Please respond by 23:59 on **Tuesday 31 August 2021**.

What about the previous consultation?

We will continue to analyse and respond to responses received during the initial consultation period between August and December 2020. If you responded then, your views will be taken into consideration. However, we would be grateful if you would respond again, following the above changes.

What happens next?

The new six month consultation period was due to finish on **Friday 4 June 2021**, and has now been extended to finish on **Tuesday 31 August 2021**. We will analyse the results of both consultation periods. We will also monitor the scheme in a number of ways.

All this information will allow us to fully understand the impact of the scheme, and will be taken into consideration in our final decision on whether to make the bus and cycle lanes permanent or to remove them.

Sections 1 and 2 - Advisory cycle lanes

Please note that the following advisory cycle lanes on the A4 in both directions between the Huntercombe Roundabout and Cippenham Lane (shown on the map above) are **not** part of this consultation:

Section 1: Huntercombe Roundabout to Station Road, Burnham

Section 2: Station Road Burnham to Cippenham Lane

About You

1 What is your name?

Please enter your name *(Required)*

2 What is your email address?

If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Please enter an email address if possible

3 If you are responding on behalf of others, what is your organisation (eg. group, society, business, ward / constituency etc.)?

If you are responding on behalf of yourself please leave this blank.

Please enter your organisation (eg. group, society, business, ward / constituency etc.)

If you responded to this question please go straight to question 12 on the next page.

4 What is your connection to the area? Are you.....

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank.

Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- a local resident
- a local business owner
- a visitor to the area
- a commuter to the area
- not local but interested in the scheme
- other (please specify)

Please specify for 'other'

5 What is your postcode?

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank.

Please enter the postcode(s) of one or more locations to where you travel and are affected by the experimental bus and cycle lanes, eg. home, business, work, school.

Please enter one or more postcodes

6 What are your usual modes of transport?

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank.

What are the modes of transport you usually use in the area affected by the experimental bus and cycle lanes?

Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Walk
- Cycle or e-scooter/scooter
- Powered two-wheeler (eg. motorbike, motor scooter)
- Car
- Bus, coach or minibus (public)
- Bus, coach or minibus (private)
- Taxi
- Private hire vehicle ("minicab")
- Other (please specify)

Please specify for 'Other'

Your journey experience and views

If you are responding on behalf of others please go straight to question 12 below to give your views on the experimental bus and cycle lanes.

If you are responding on behalf of yourself, please tell us about your experience of travelling along the A4 in Slough when the experimental bus and cycle lanes are in operation, how your choice of transport mode may be influenced by the lanes, and any views you have on them.

Questions 7 to 10 ask you to rate your experience using four main transport modes. Please only complete the questions which apply to you.

7 Have you travelled by bus / coach / minibus along the A4 in Slough when the experimental bus and cycle lanes are in operation?

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank, and go straight to question 12 below.

Please select only one item

- No
 Yes

If you answered No, please go straight to question 8 below.

If you answered Yes, please tell us about the experience of your journey(s). **On average, I have found my bus / coach / minibus journey(s) to be:**

Reliability (bus / coach / minibus):

Please select only one item

- Considerably more reliable
 Slightly more reliable
 No change
 Slightly less reliable
 Considerably less reliable

Journey time (bus / coach / minibus):

Please select only one item

- Considerably quicker
 Slightly quicker
 No change
 Slightly slower
 Considerably slower

Safety (bus / coach / minibus):

Please select only one item

- Considerably safer
 Slightly safer
 No change
 Slightly less safe
 Considerably less safe

8 Have you driven along the A4 in Slough when the experimental bus and cycle lanes are in operation?

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank, and go straight to question 12 below.

Please select only one item

- No
 Yes

If you answered No, please go straight to question 9 below.

If you answered Yes, please tell us about the experience of your journey(s). **On average, I have found my driving journey(s) to be:**

Congestion (driving):

Please select only one item

- Considerably less congested
 Slightly less congested
 No change
 Slightly more congested
 Considerably more congested

Journey time (driving):

Please select only one item

- Considerably quicker
- Slightly quicker
- No change
- Slightly slower
- Considerably slower

Safety (driving):

Please select only one item

- Considerably safer
- Slightly safer
- No change
- Slightly less safe
- Considerably less safe

9 Have you cycled / used an e-scooter along the A4 in Slough when the experimental bus and cycle lanes are in operation?

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank, and go straight to question 12 below.

Please select only one item

- No
- Yes

If you answered No, please go straight to question 10 below.

If you answered Yes, please tell us about the experience of your journey(s). **On average, I have found my cycle / e-scooter journey(s) to be:**

Congestion (cycle / e-scooter):

Please select only one item

- Considerably less congested
- Slightly less congested
- No change
- Slightly more congested
- Considerably more congested

Journey time (cycle / e-scooter):

Please select only one item

- Considerably quicker
- Slightly quicker
- No change
- Slightly slower
- Considerably slower

Quality of experience (cycle / e-scooter)

Please select only one item

- Considerably more pleasant
- Slightly more pleasant
- No change
- Slightly less pleasant
- Considerably less pleasant

Safety (cycle / e-scooter):

Please select only one item

- Considerably safer
- Slightly safer
- No change
- Slightly less safe
- Considerably less safe

10 Have you walked along the A4 in Slough when the experimental bus and cycle lanes are in operation?

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank, and go straight to question 12 below.

Please select only one item

- No
- Yes

If you answered No, please go straight to question 11 below.

If you answered Yes, please tell us about the experience of your journey(s): **On average, I have found my walking journey(s) to be:**

Quality of experience (walking):

Please select only one item

- Considerably more pleasant
- Slightly more pleasant
- No change
- Slightly less pleasant
- Considerably less pleasant

Safety (walking):

Please select only one item

- Considerably safer
- Slightly safer
- No change
- Slightly less safe
- Considerably less safe

11 As a result of your journey experience when the experimental bus and cycle lanes are in operation, are you now more likely to:

If you are responding on behalf of others please leave this blank, and go straight to question 12 below.

Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Take a bus / coach / minibus more frequently
- Take bus / coach / minibus less frequently
- Cycle / use an e-scooter more
- Cycle / use an e-scooter less
- Drive more
- Drive less
- Walk more
- Walk less
- Not change your travel habits
- Use another mode of transport more or less (please specify)

Please specify for 'Use another mode of transport more or less'

12 Please give us your views on the experimental bus and cycle lanes

Please specify any particular locations you are commenting on.

Please enter text here