

Big North West Upgrade

Between 2025 and 2030, United Utilities are delivering one of the biggest infrastructure upgrades in over a century, helping to create a more resilient North West.

The programme is one of the most ambitious the region has ever seen, bringing an environmental transformation that improves 500km of the region's rivers and enhances the resilience of water services whilst helping one in six families struggling with their bills.

This five year, £13bn programme addresses the challenges of climate change, population growth, and rising demand. Transformative investment in infrastructure that boosts the reliability of supply and reduces spills from storm overflows; that introduces nature-based solutions and rainwater management; that supersizes metering and slashes leakage; and investment that creates new jobs and supports local businesses.



Building a stronger network

At the heart of this upgrade is the jewel in the North West network, the 110km Haweswater Aqueduct, a vital artery supplying 570million litres of top-quality drinking water to over 2.5million customers across the region.

Over the next 8 years, the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP) - the largest ever water infrastructure scheme to be delivered in the North West - will see nearly £3 billion invested in building long-term reliability, ensuring a more resilient water supply for now and generations to come.



Working in partnership

Core to this renewal programme, construction partners Cascade Infrastructure and STRABAG UK have been appointed to design, build and deliver the project. To construct over 50km of new underground tunnels – much of them big enough to drive a vehicle through – the consortium will use state of the art boring machinery to tunnel 100m below the surface to replace six sections of the existing aqueduct in locations across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

Operational by 2033, the upgraded aqueduct will ensure we have a water system that supports the ambitions of the North West, one that safeguards drinking water supplies for generations to come and one that benefits both our communities and our environment.

Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)

Part of the Big North West Upgrade and our biggest ever investment in water and wastewater infrastructure, HARP will maintain drinking water supplies across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester for future generations.

It will see 50km of tunnels replaced within the 110km long Haweswater Aqueduct replaced by Cascade Infrastructure who have been appointed to design, build, finance and maintain the new infrastructure. STRABAG UK are delivering the design and build of the tunnels on behalf of Cascade Infrastructure.

110km
pipeline built between 1933 and 1955

570 million
litres of drinking water transported daily

2.5 million
customers supplied in Cumbria,
Lancashire and Greater Manchester

50km
of tunnels, across six sections, replaced
through HARP

HARP in your area

From our Haslingden compound, we will build a tunnel south to our treatment works in Bury.

What's been happening in your area

We've been undertaking ground investigation and survey works to inform the detailed design of the tunnels prior to the main construction works beginning.

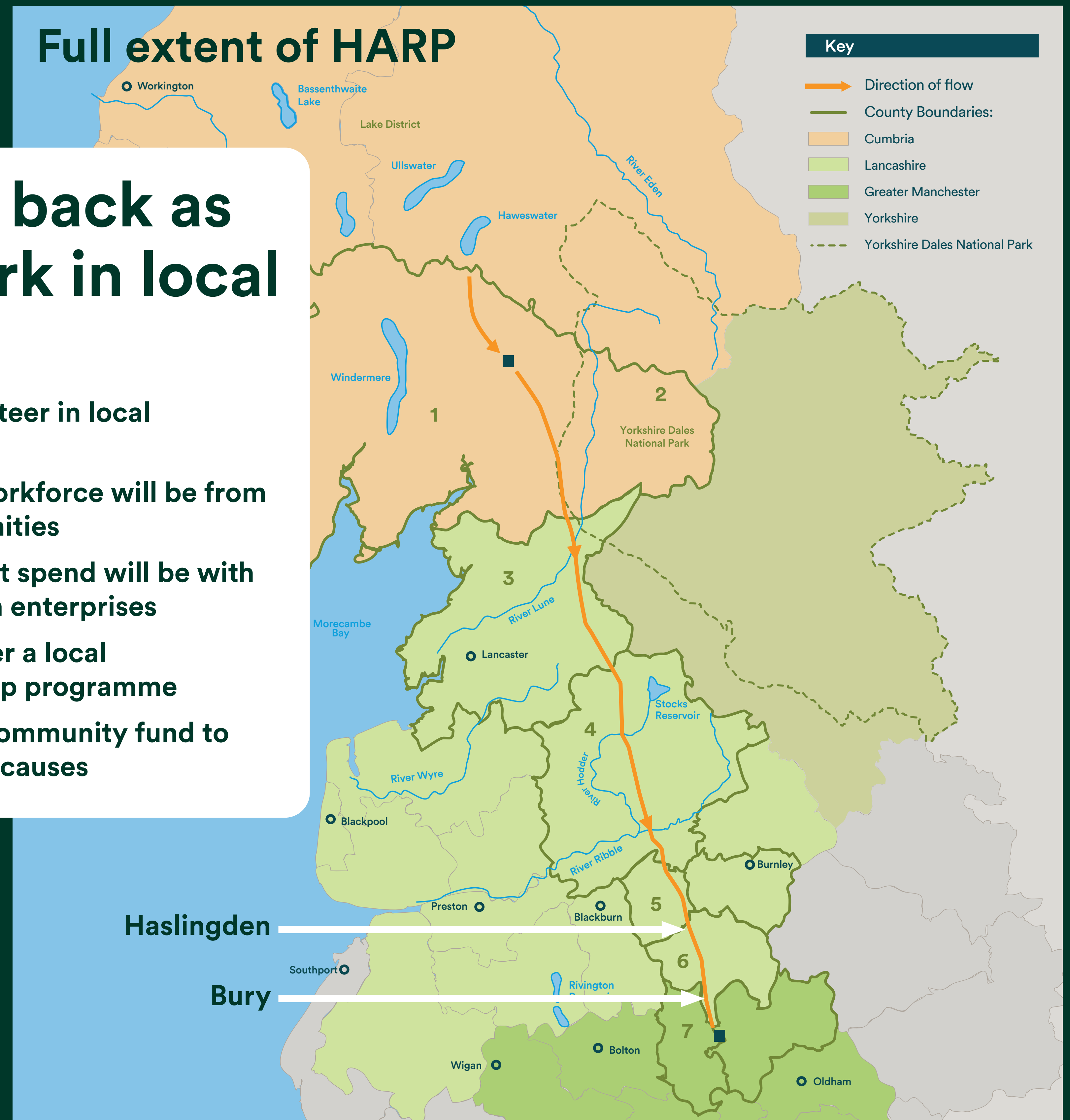
What's happening next

To keep traffic flowing whilst we deliver our works, we will carry out alteration works at the junction of Castle Hill Road with Rochdale Old Road.

We will also create a new temporary access to our Woodgate Hill Compound off Castle Hill Road.

Giving back as we work in local areas

- We will volunteer in local communities
- 30% of our workforce will be from local communities
- 25% of project spend will be with small medium enterprises
- We will deliver a local apprenticeship programme
- Launch of a community fund to support local causes



Our plans for the area

To build our compound and keep traffic flowing, we need to:

- Improve the junction where Castle Hill Road and Rochdale Old Road join
- Put in temporary parking restrictions on Sixth Avenue, and parking restrictions on the left hand side of Castle Hill Road

Building our compound

- All roads will be kept open at all times with no road closures
- We'll create a new access road onto the site from Castle Hill Road
- Deliver plant and material to site

Construction activity - 2026-2028



Earthworks, road works and site construction will start from September 2026. Shaft construction will begin in March 2027.



Construction traffic route

The roads our vehicles will use to access the Woodgate Hill site



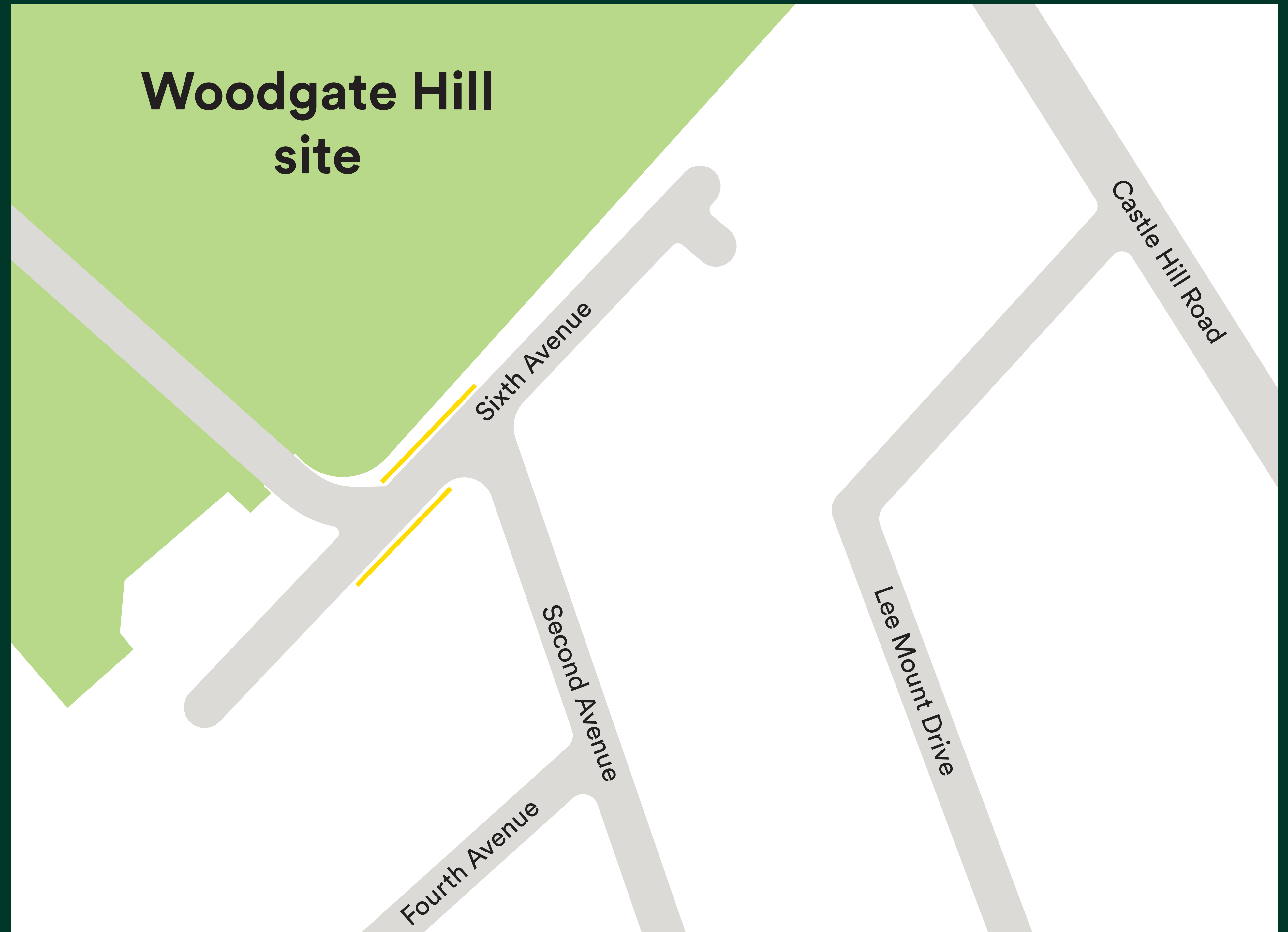
Sixth Avenue temporary parking restrictions

On Sixth Avenue we're planning to create temporary parking restrictions on both sides of the road at one end, to allow our vehicles room to access our site from the current entrance.

Parking restrictions

- Late August until Christmas 2026
- Restrictions will be in place Monday - Saturday during the day time.

— Single yellow line



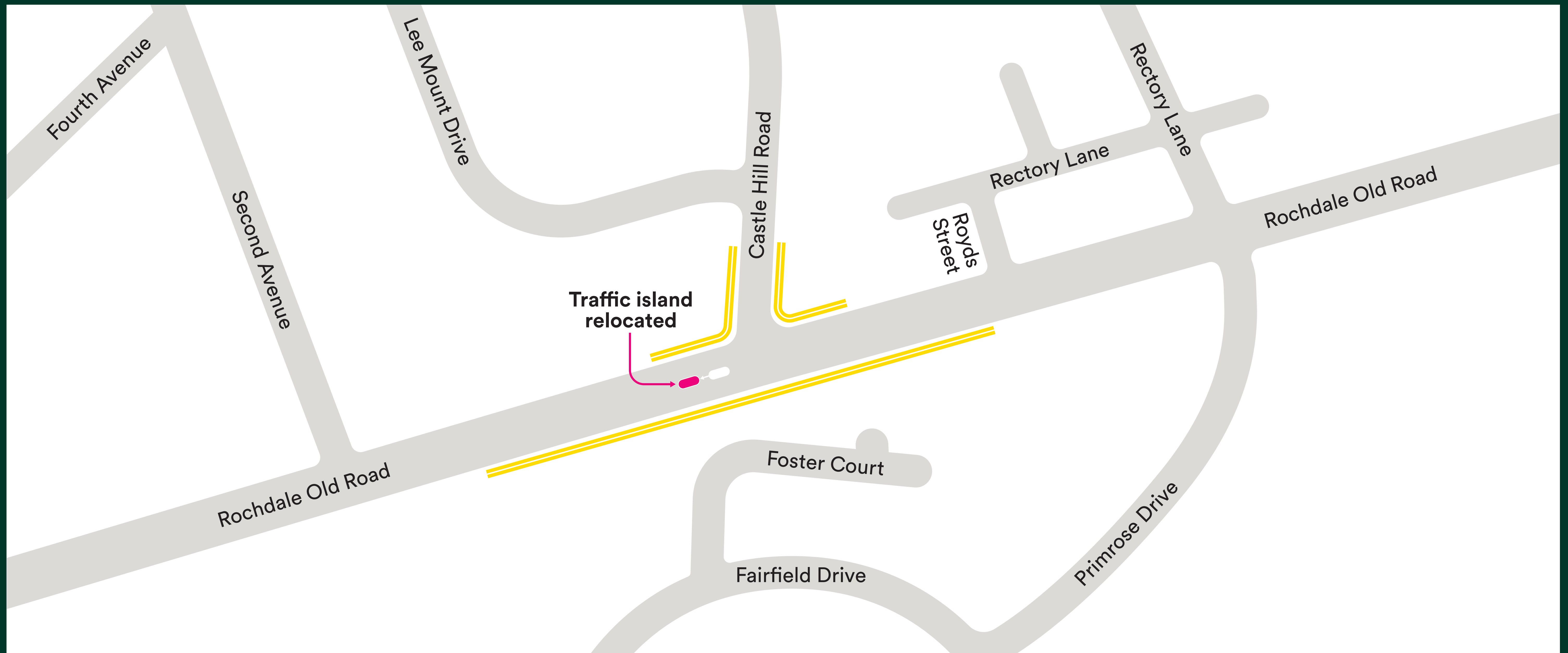
Junction improvements

What we're planning to change

We're planning to make changes to the junction of Rochdale Old Road and Castle Hill Road, so our vehicles can safely use the junction.

Parking restrictions

== Double yellow line



Castle Hill Road

Changes we're planning to make to parking arrangements

We're planning to put parking restrictions on the left hand side of Castle Hill Road.

The restrictions will start at the junction with Rochdale Old Road, and continue to our new site entrance on Castle Hill Road.

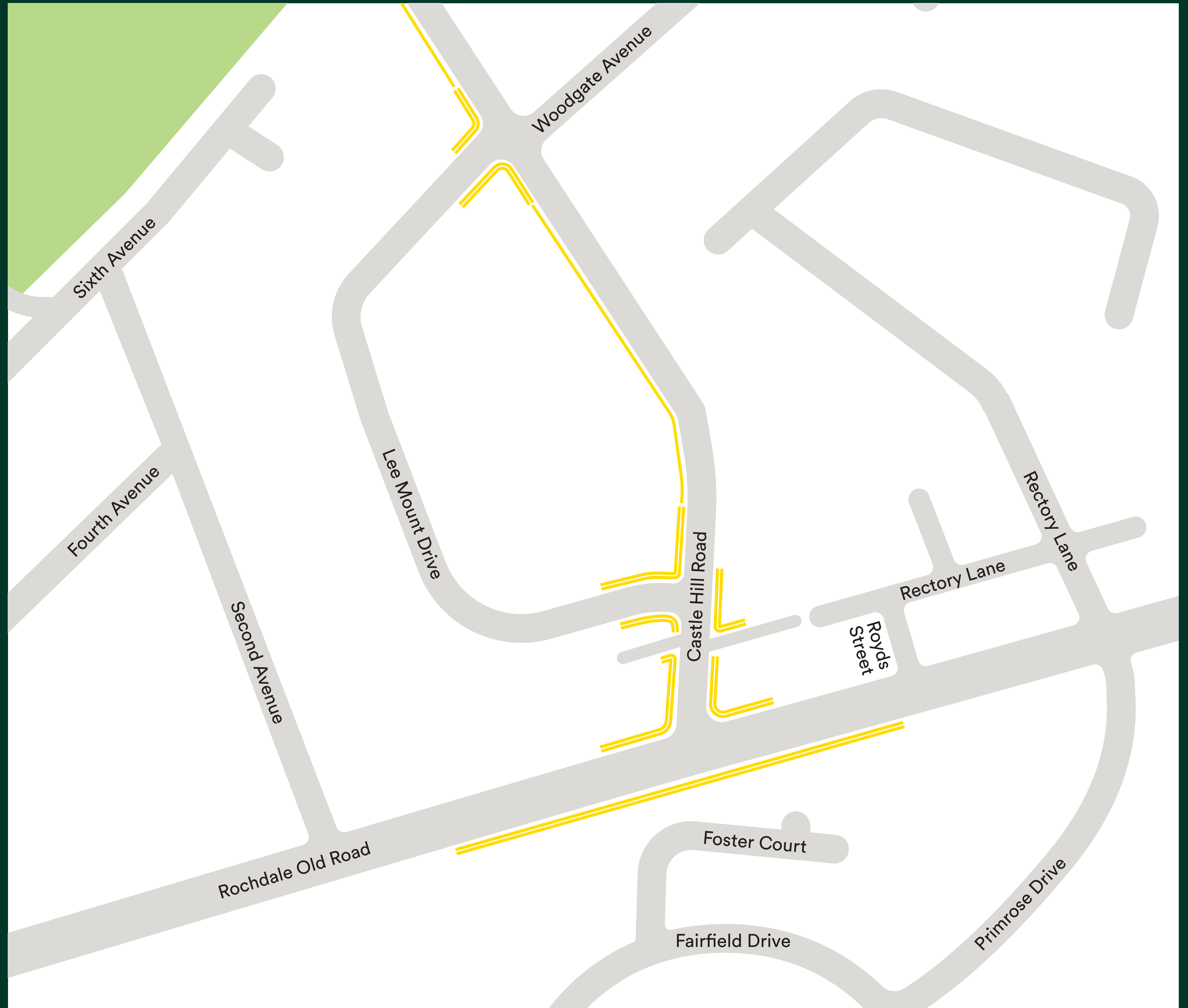
There will be double yellow lines at the junctions of Rochdale Old Road and Castle Hill Road, and at the junctions of Castle Hill Road and Lee Mount Drive.

Away from the junctions there will be a single yellow line, which will mean no parking during the restricted daytime hours, Monday to Saturday. Vehicles can park there outside these hours and all day on Sundays.

The parking restrictions would be in place for six years.

Parking restrictions

- Double yellow line
- Single yellow line



Castle Hill Road

Changes we're planning to make to parking arrangements

On Castle Hill Road next to our proposed new site entrance, there will be double yellow lines on both sides of the road, to allow larger vehicles to enter and exit the compound.

Parking restrictions

- Double yellow line
- Single yellow line



Woodgate Hill compound set up

How we will access the compound

- Initial access to the Woodgate Hill compound will be on Sixth Avenue using the UU compound access.
- Following construction, a new junction will be the main access from Castle Hill Road.

When we will start working

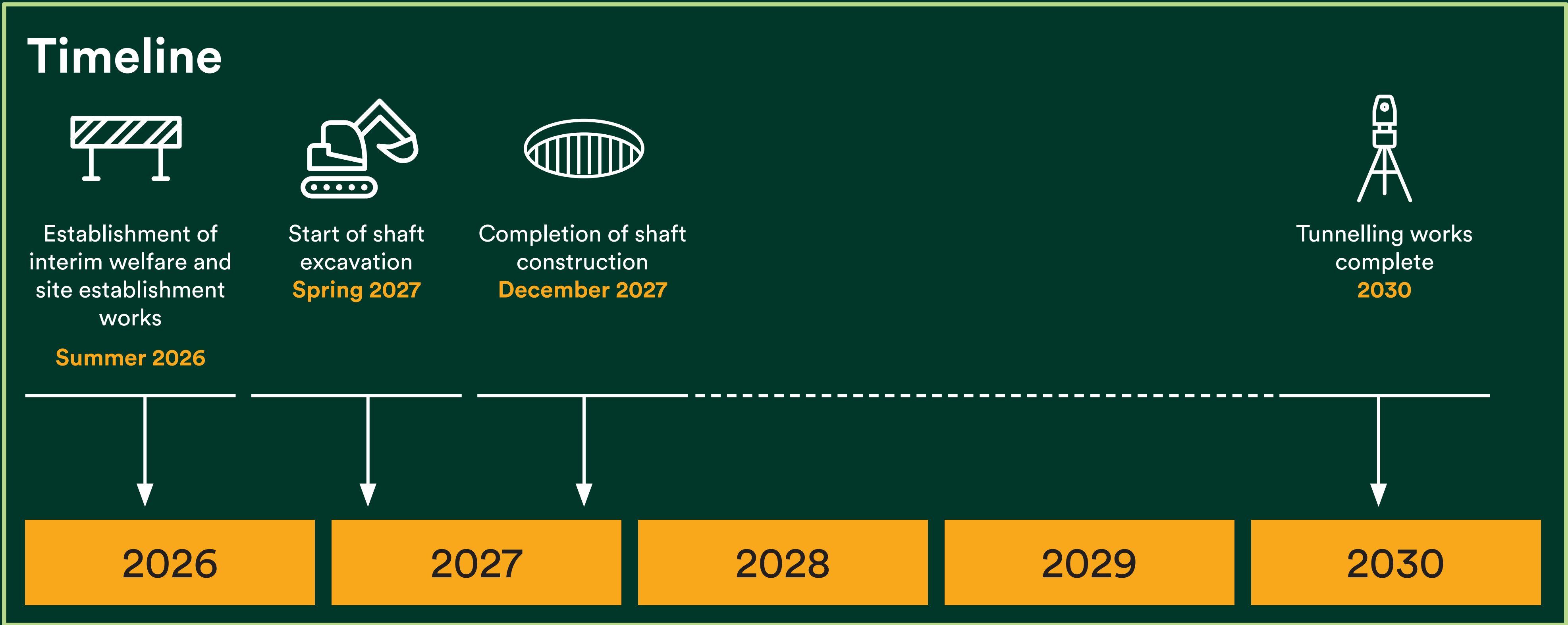
- Construction of the compound will begin late August 2026.

What we will be doing

- We will set up interim welfare units for our workforce, create internal construction roads, carry out earthworks to clear the site create the shafts where the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) will arrive from Haslingden.

How we will use the compound

- The tunnel will be constructed using a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) starting from the Haslingden Compound and tunnelling to Woodgate Hill.
- We will tunnel approximately 100 metres below the ground.
- The TBM will run 24-hours a day. This will require some activities to be carried out during the night within the site compound area. We will take all possible measures to minimise any noise from this work.
- Vehicle movements to and from site will be limited to between 7am - 7pm during the week and 7am - 1pm on Saturdays.



What to expect as we set up

- Traffic management on local roads
- HGV movements to and from site
- Plant and equipment on roads

Being a good neighbour

We have carefully planned our activities to minimise any impact on local residents, businesses and the environment, and will implement measures including:



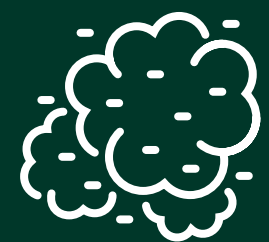
Carrying out noise, vibration and ecology surveys



Reducing our impact on air quality by ensuring all our plant complies with Stage 5 emissions standards



Ensuring safe and efficient logistics with minimal environmental impact by enforcing the National Construction Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCs) standard



Employing dust suppression measures



Managing site lighting so we don't cause disturbance



Using wheel washes to prevent muck from going on to the roads

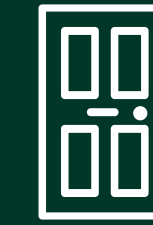


Keeping you informed

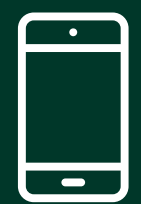
To ensure no one misses out on the latest HARP news, we'll keep you up to date in a variety of ways:



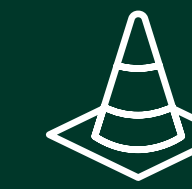
Direct mail newsletters



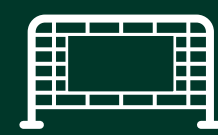
Door knocking ahead of impactful works



Social media posts aligned to construction milestones



Advance traffic notifications on roads



Sharing information on site signage and hoardings



Local press releases



Events and roadshows



Setting up dedicated Community Liaison Groups to share information and gather feedback



Updates to www.unitedutilities.com/harp-updates or scan the QR code

