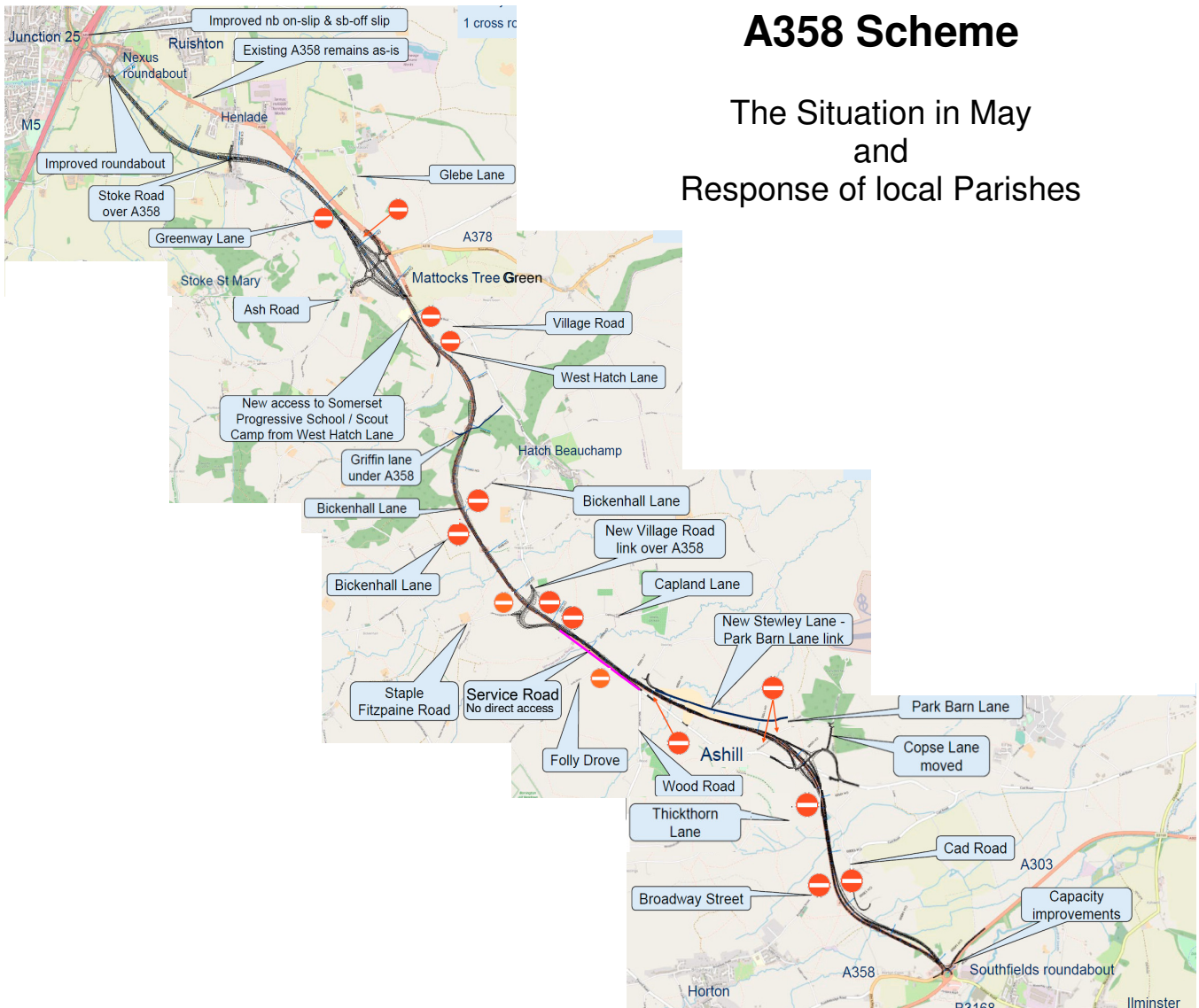


A358 Scheme

The Situation in May and Response of local Parishes



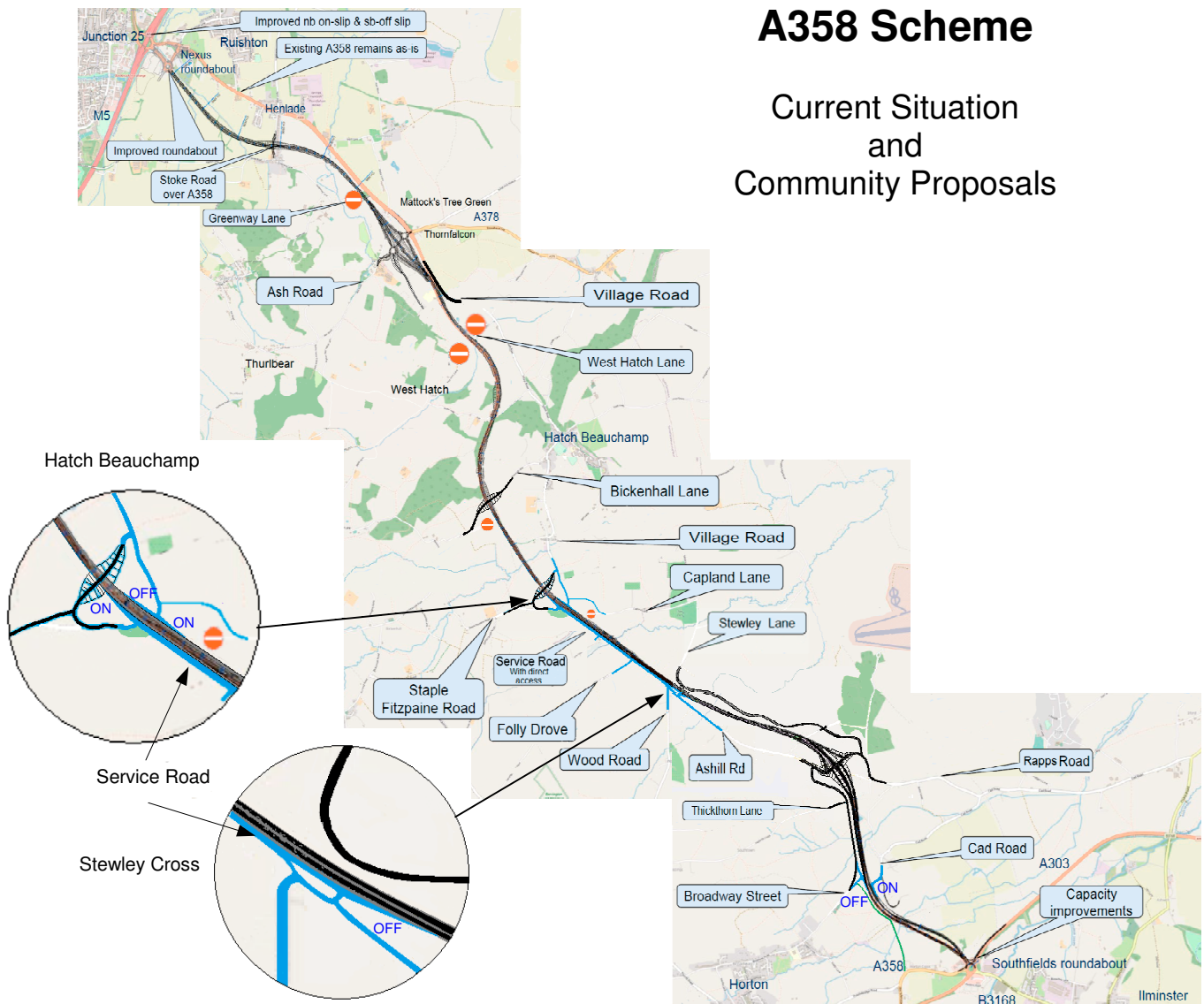
National Highways wishes to turn our local road, the A358, into an Expressway, rather than a normal dual carriageway that would be perfectly adequate for this 9-mile link road. As a result the local community was faced with the prospect of closure of the majority of local connections to our A358, with all local traffic diverted through country lanes and roads to either Mattocks Tree Green junction or Ashill junction. This means that most local traffic will have to drive through either Hatch Beauchamp or Ashill, reducing safety within these villages. This Expressway does not solve the cause of congestion – the roundabouts at Southfields and Taunton – yet National Highways persists with this costly vanity project rather than build a standard dual carriageway that would cost less and have less impact on our landscape and environment.

Local Parish Councils have worked together to develop proposals to improve connectivity to the new A358. Our proposals use as much of the existing local network as possible, connecting to the dualled A358 with junctions similar to those along the A303 and within the Sparkford-Ilchester scheme. Twelve local Parish Councils support these proposals, and we are confident more will join.

Our proposals safeguard the well-being, prosperity and safety of communities living and working alongside a dualled A358, without any degradation to its performance or safety. National Highways are currently conducting Statutory Consultations, where your views can influence the outcome of the scheme design. Please tell National Highways that YOU support and need the local Community Proposals.

A358 Scheme

Current Situation and Community Proposals



To date National Highways (NH) has adopted our proposals to:

- Link Hatch Beauchamp Village Road to existing Thornfalcon junction.
- Link Ash Road to Somerset Progressive School and Business Park.
- Cease considering Griffin Lane a major local road.
- Resite the Hatch Beauchamp bridge 250m Northwest.
- Connect Broadway Road and Thickthorn Lane to Ashill junction.

Parish Proposals (in Blue) that need to be adopted:

- Use existing Thornfalcon junction and modify Mattock's Tree Green junction to reduce damage to landscape and to prevent rat-runs through Stoke St Mary, Henlade and Creech St Michael.
- Use existing Staple Fitzpaine Road junction as junction to service road, with an on-slip onto westbound carriageway.
- Use existing Village Road with off/on-slip roads to access eastbound carriageway.
- Link Capland Lane to Village Road.
- Extend service road to Stewley Cross, with off-slip from westbound carriageway.
- On-slip at Cad Road onto A358.
- Off-slip onto Broadway Street.
- Southfields roundabout to be grade separated free flowing junction. Without that National Highways should adopt Parish Council's alternative layout for the roundabout.