



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**



Issue date: March 2026

Queen Eleanor Improvement Scheme – March 2026

What's Happening?

What: Installation and commissioning of new traffic signals.

This will include:

- inspecting the newly installed equipment and infrastructure.
- testing the control cabinet including power supplies and signal timings.
- adjusting each cycle of the signals to ensure the junction operates well and that there are no technical nor electrical faults.

When: 16th – 20th March 2026

Where: Queen Eleanor Interchange, Northampton

Why: Commissioning of the new traffic signals will allow the interchange to operate at full capacity, improving traffic flow and reducing waiting times.

Contact

Phone- 01604 529700
(09:00 – 17:00 Monday – Friday)

Email- queeneleanor@kier.co.uk

Emergency Phone (Out of hours) - 01604 651074

Keeping you informed

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Why does it take so long to commission new traffic signals?

Why can't we just switch the lights on straight away?

Traffic signals are safety-critical. Engineers must carefully test everything, so the junction is safe before temporary traffic management is removed.

What happens during the commissioning process?

Engineers check all the equipment i.e. 28 signal heads, poles, wiring and automatic traffic detection system - to make sure everything is installed correctly and working as expected.

The control cabinet is tested. This includes the signal timings, power supply, safety systems and communication links. Each traffic light and traffic detector is then checked individually.

The whole junction is tested running through full signal cycles. Engineers make sure all movements are safe and no conflicting signals can occur.

Why is this level of testing needed?

To prevent dangerous faults, such as two directions getting a green light at the same time. Everything must be checked and certified before the signals can open.

Is this length of commissioning normal?

Yes. It's the time needed to safely commission a modern signalised junction.

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