

Coopers Corner Enabling

Land - Statement of Strategic Public Benefit (HG4)

A. Corridor context: A21 Safety Package and RIS3 investment focus

National Highways is delivering a corridor-wide A21 Safety Package from Sevenoaks to Hastings, with published works and closures including locations in and around Hurst Green and references to Coopers Corner—confirming an active operational focus on safety at and near the junction.

The Government’s draft Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3) sets out a £24.98 billion funding commitment for the Strategic Road Network for the period 2026–2031, with a strong emphasis on safety, renewals, and targeted improvements on routes where risk is highest. This confirms that the forthcoming investment cycle will continue to prioritise safety-critical locations such as the A21.

In support of this ongoing corridor activity, National Highways has contacted us on multiple occasions to request access to HG4 for pre-construction surveys. These survey requests demonstrate both operational need and a clear expectation that the land adjacent to Coopers Corner will be required for future safety interventions.

B. The enabling contribution that only HG4 can make

- **Safeguarded land:**

HG4 will safeguard the land reasonably required to enable an agreed junction improvement option at Coopers Corner, in consultation with National Highways and the local highway authority.

- **Delivery synergy:**

Phasing can be coordinated with National Highways’ programme windows via a Construction Traffic/Phasing Plan, reducing disruption and improving deliverability alongside RIS3’s safety and renewals agenda.

- **Public interest:**

Unlocking a safer junction would improve network performance, reduce collision risk, and enhance safety for residents, schoolchildren, pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. This supports the aims of both the A21 Safety Package and the wider RIS3 safety outcomes, which emphasise prioritising the most pressing safety improvements on the SRN.

C. Recommended allocation wording

“The allocation will safeguard the land reasonably required to enable an agreed Coopers Corner junction solution, in consultation with National Highways and the local highway authority. A Construction Traffic/Phasing Plan will coordinate with programmed A21 works.”

D. Design-authority clarification

The precise geometry and design solution will be determined by National Highways and the local highway authority through the appropriate statutory processes.