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

At Old Scotch Road, from our Stangana compound, we will bore a tunnel 6km north towards our Beela compound.

What's been happening in your area

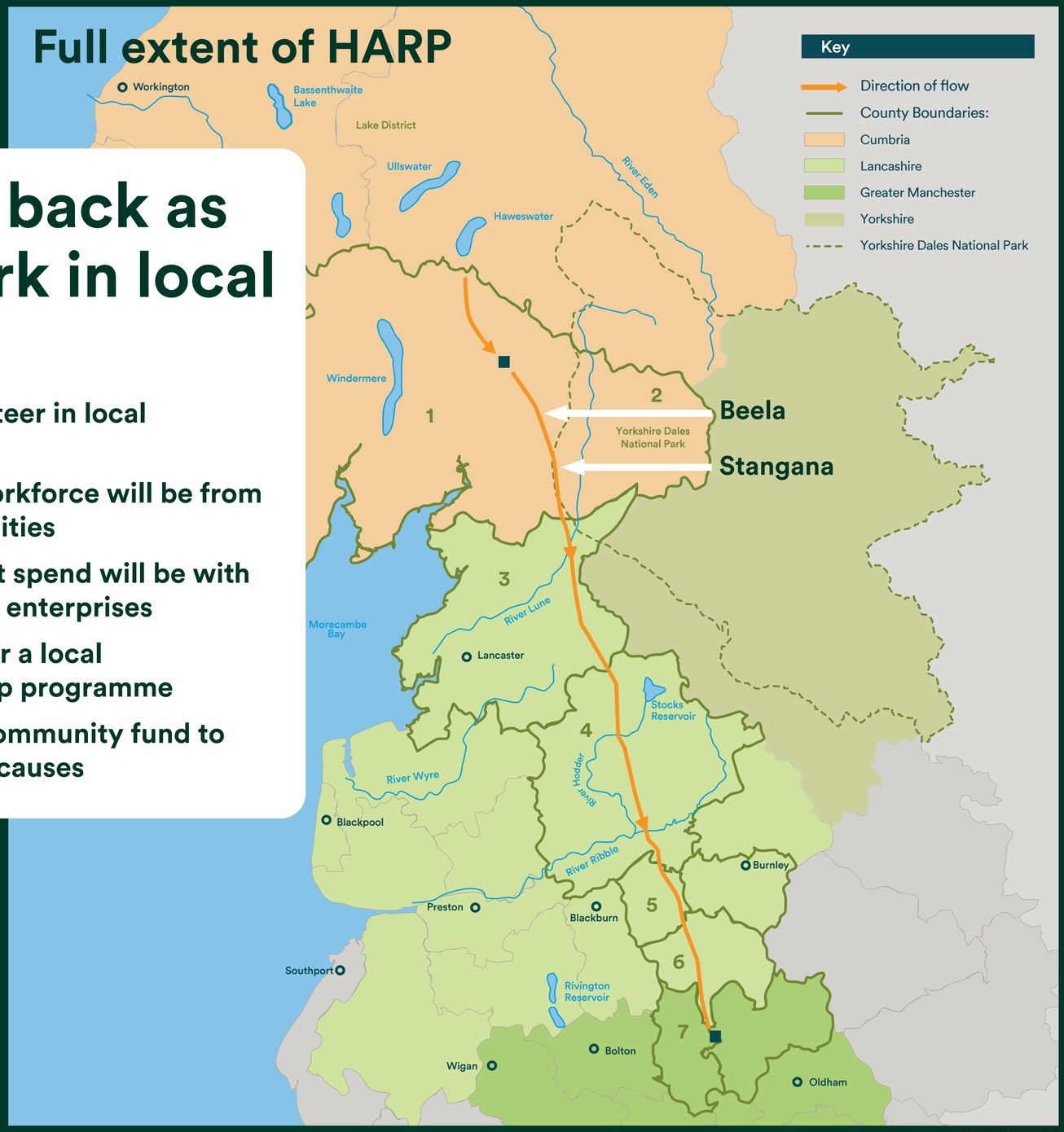
We've been undertaking ground investigation and survey works to inform the detailed design of the tunnels prior to the main construction works beginning.

What's happening next

We're planning to make changes and improvements to Old Scotch Road starting in January 2027, to enable our construction traffic to use the route safely along with all other existing road users.

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**



Old Scotch Road

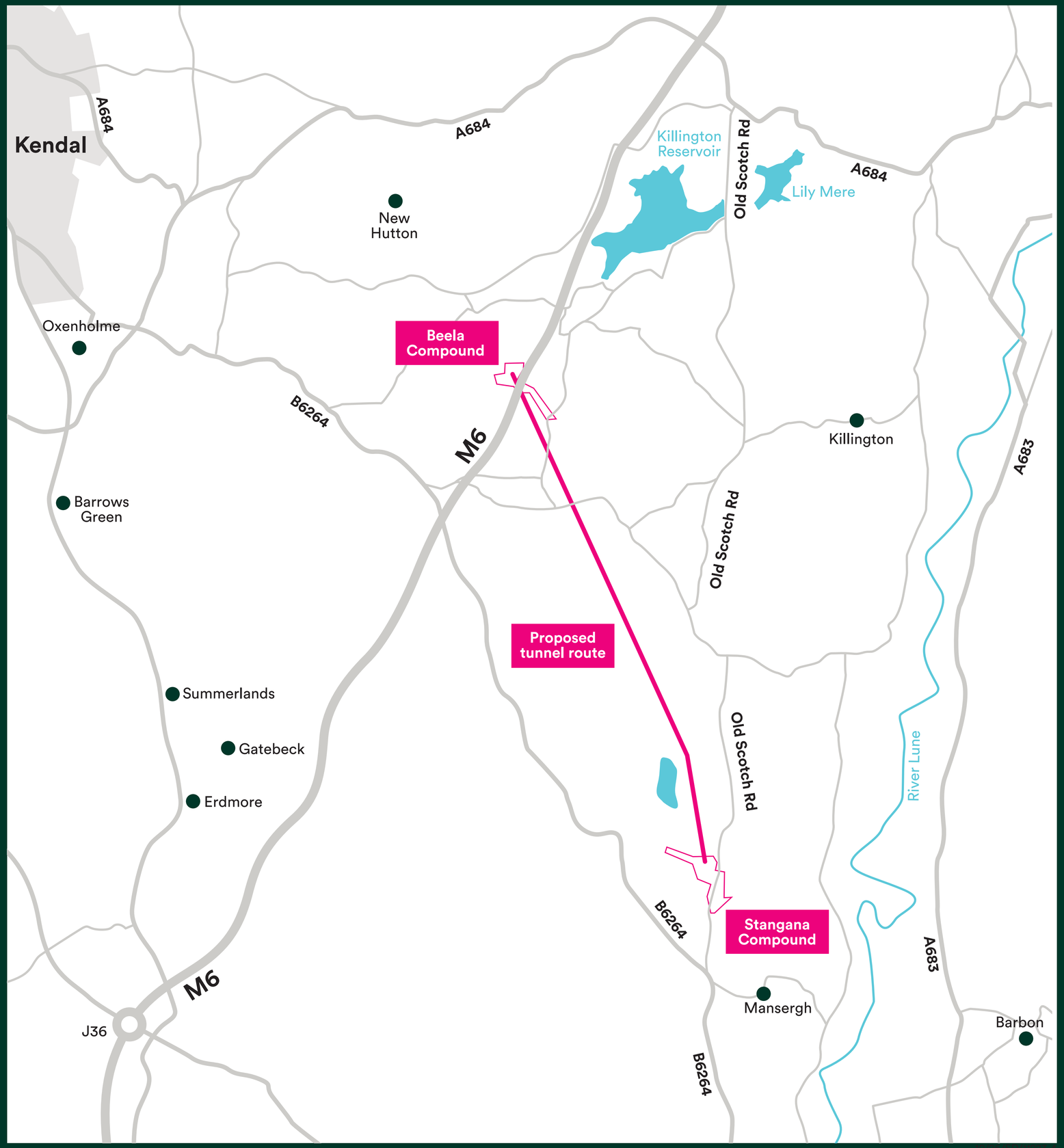
Our plans for the area

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

- Make improvements to Old Scotch Road and create passing places to enable all traffic to use the route safely
- We plan to widen the road in 36 places and create 43 passing places

Building our compound

- Construction of a secure compound, with access off Old Scotch Road to the East.
- Shaft constructed to allow for construction of tunnel.
- Construction of the compound will begin Spring 2028

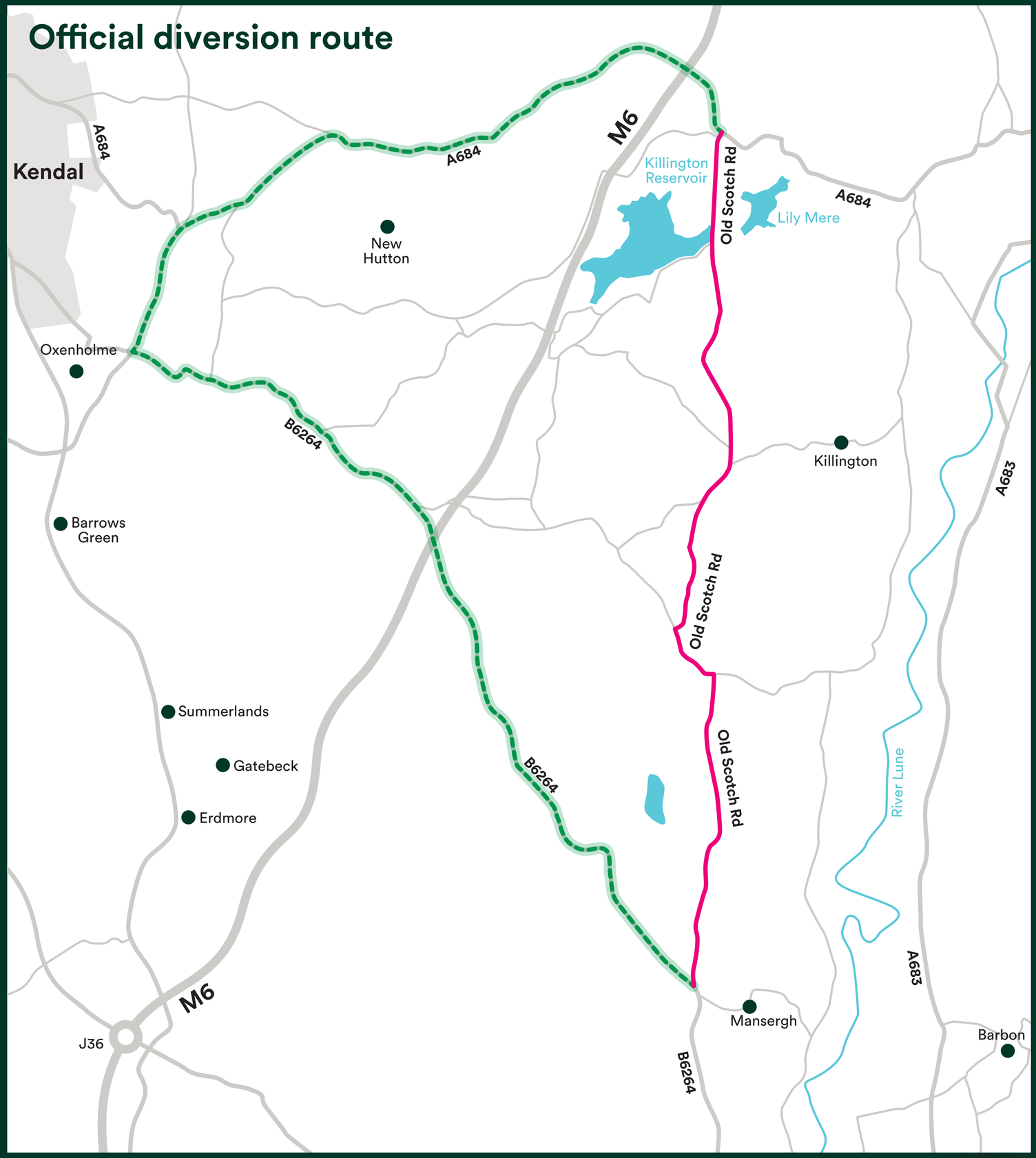


Old Scotch Road

A rolling closure with local access

We will:

- Start January 2027
- Take up to 12 months
- The work will be completed in four phases on a rolling closure programme – work will not move to a new phase until the phase before is complete
- The road will be closed to through traffic. There will be an official diversion and a local diversion
- In addition, we're planning to allow access on the closed sections where possible for local traffic only

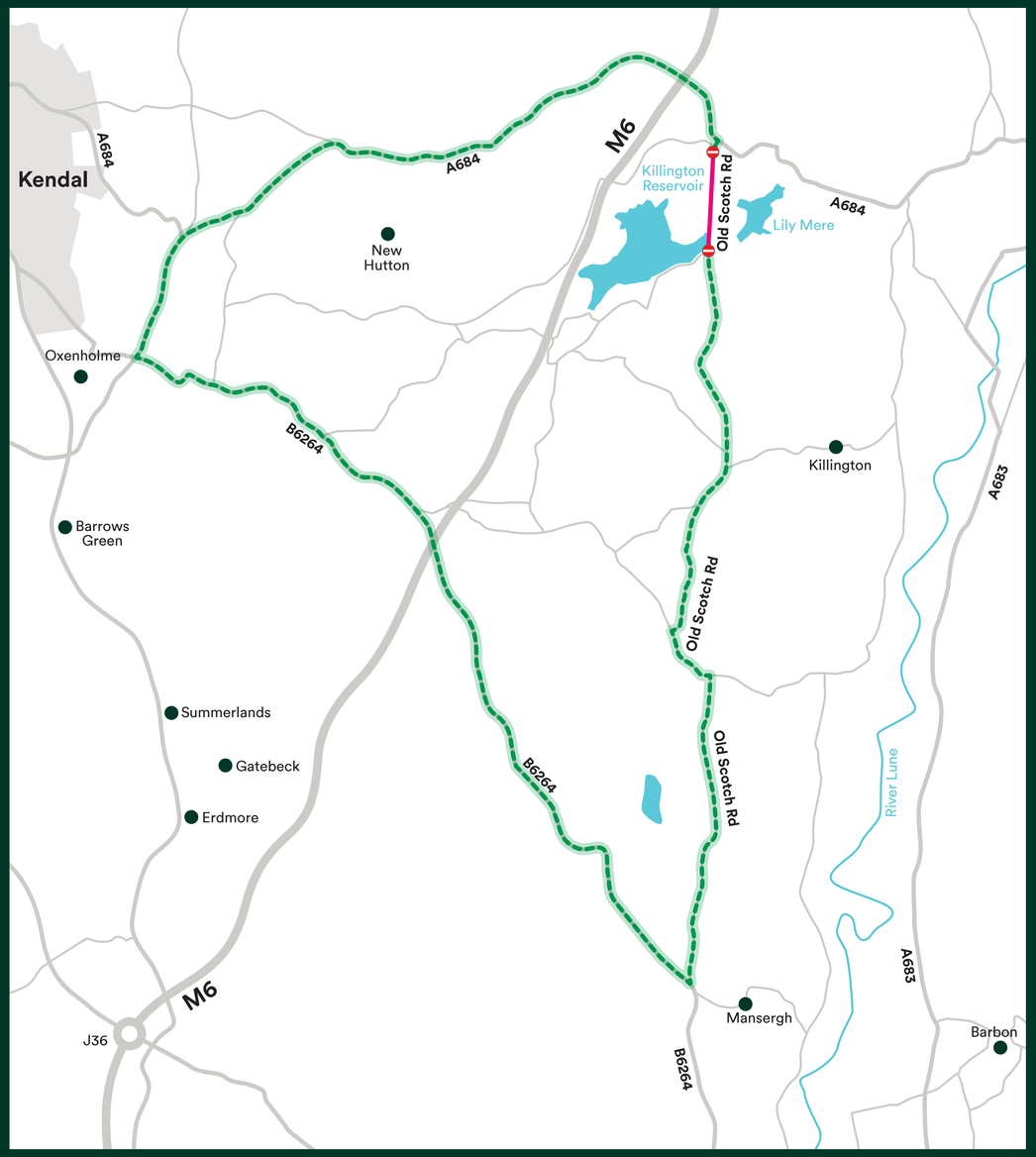


Local Options – Phase 1

Where work is taking place from January to March 2027

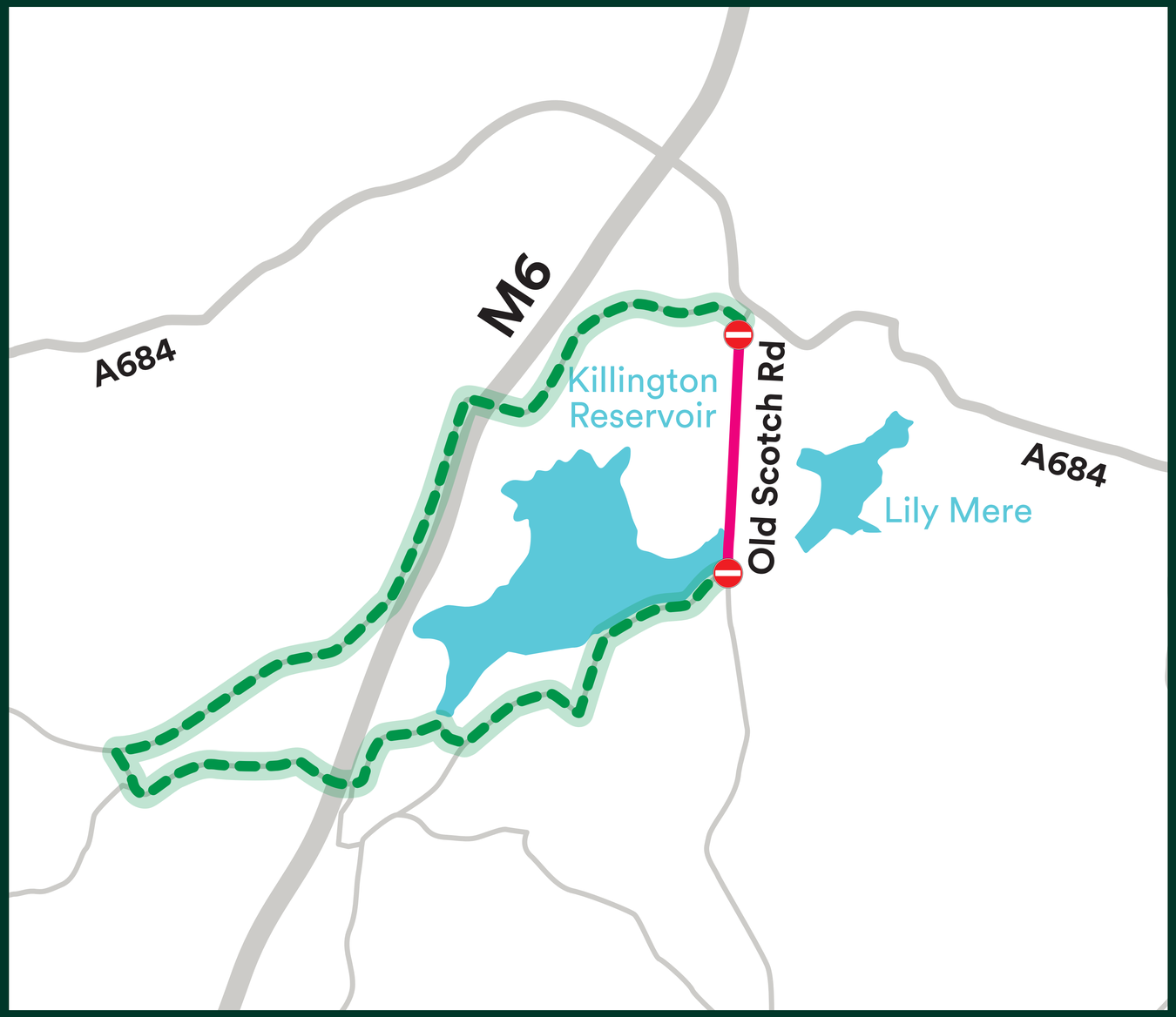
KEY

- Diversion route
- Road closed



Official diversion

17.7 miles / 34 mins



Local traffic diversion

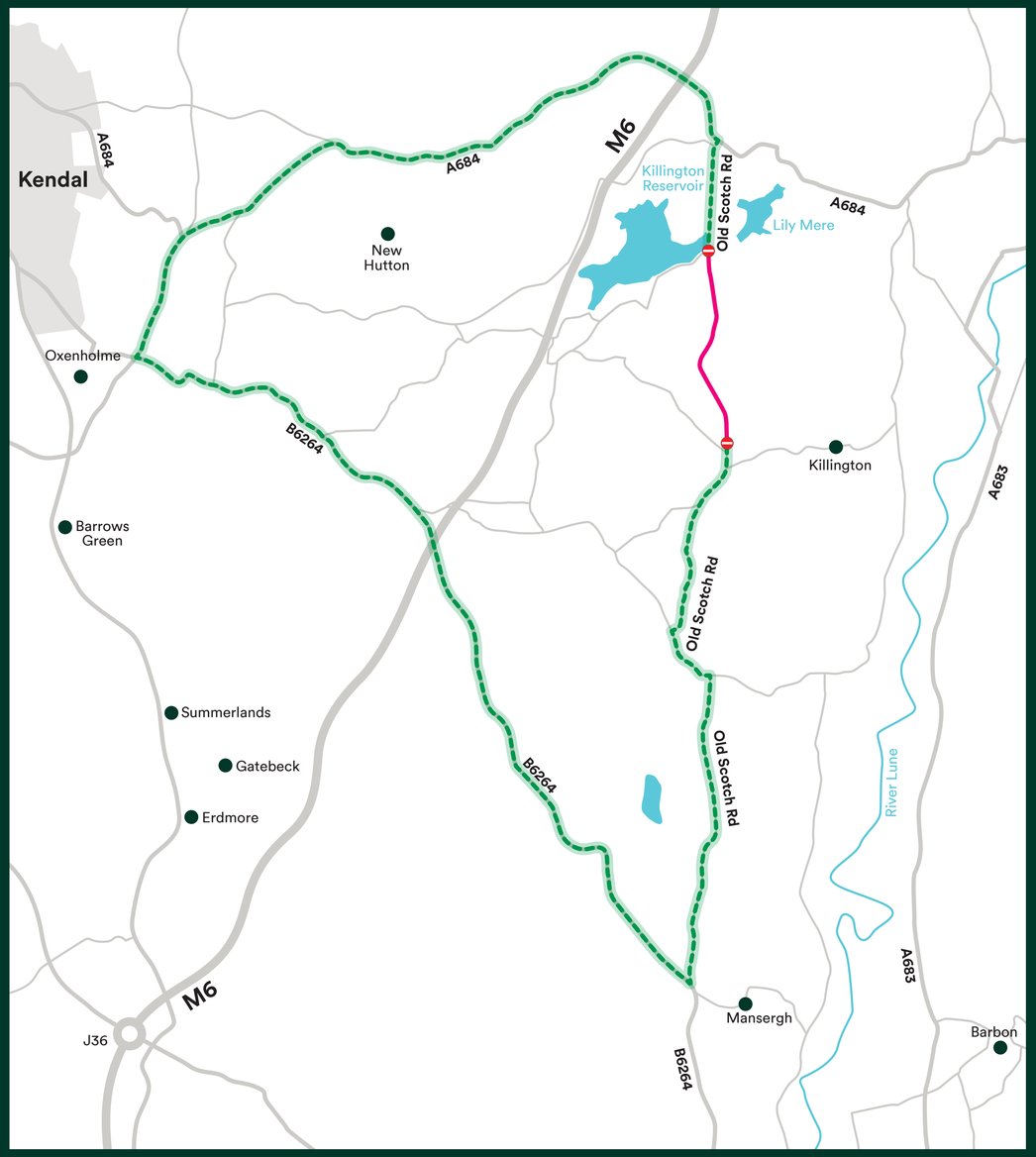
4.4 miles / 12 mins

Local Options – Phase 2

Work is taking place from March 2027 to May 2027

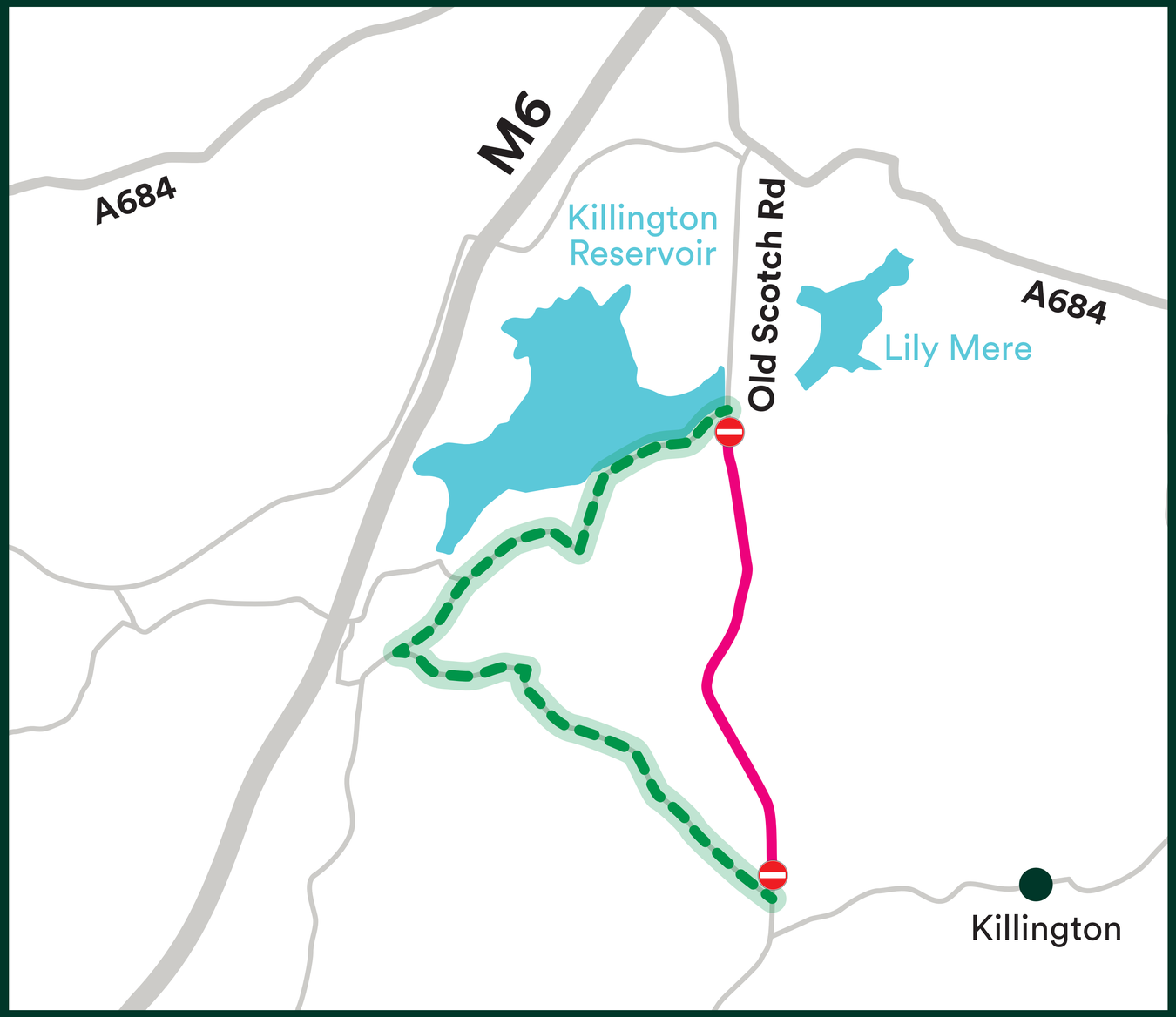
KEY

- Diversion route
- Road closed



Official diversion

16.3 miles / 30 mins

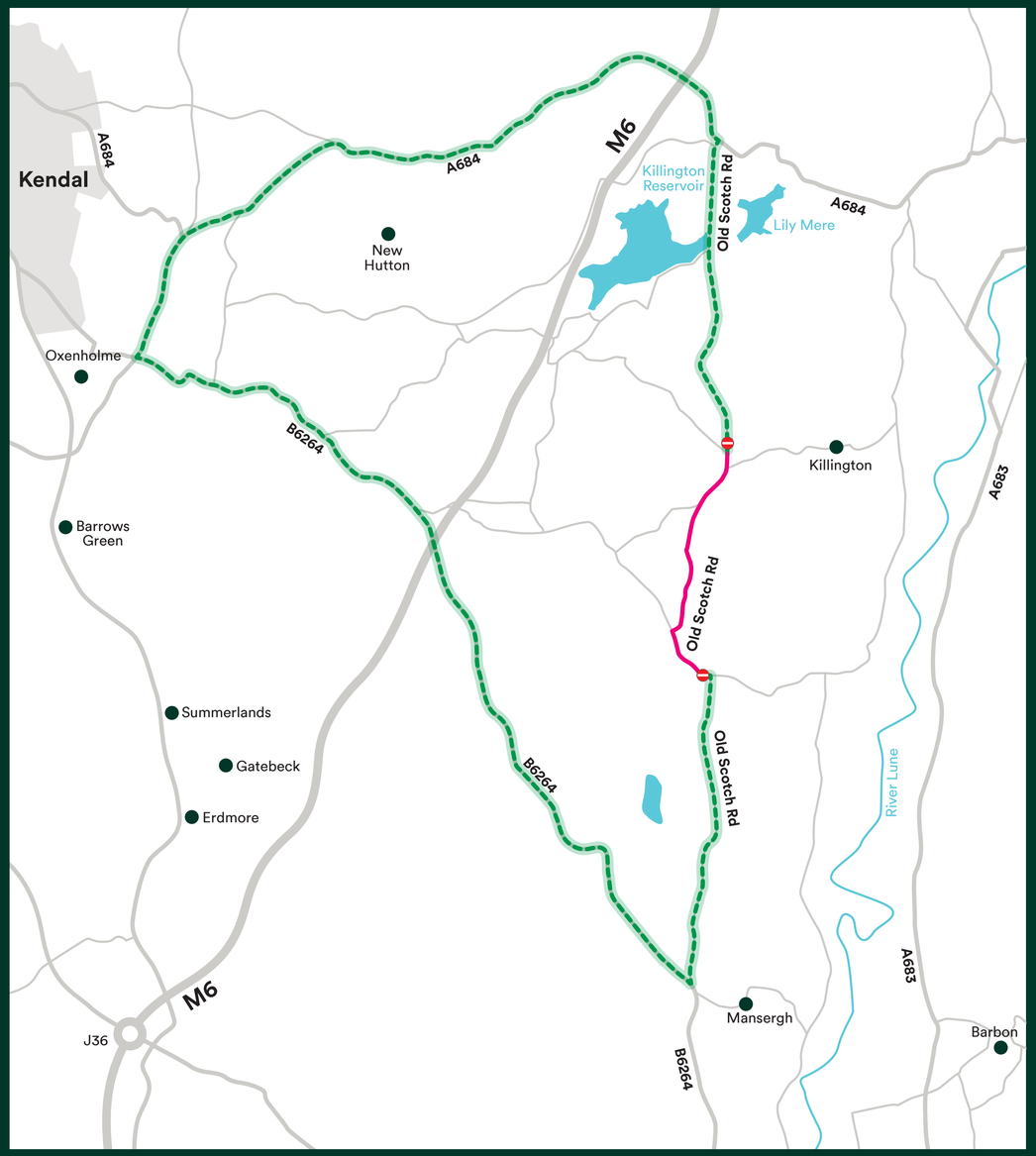


Local traffic diversion

2.7 miles / 7 mins

Local Options – Phase 3

Work is taking place from May 2027 to October 2027



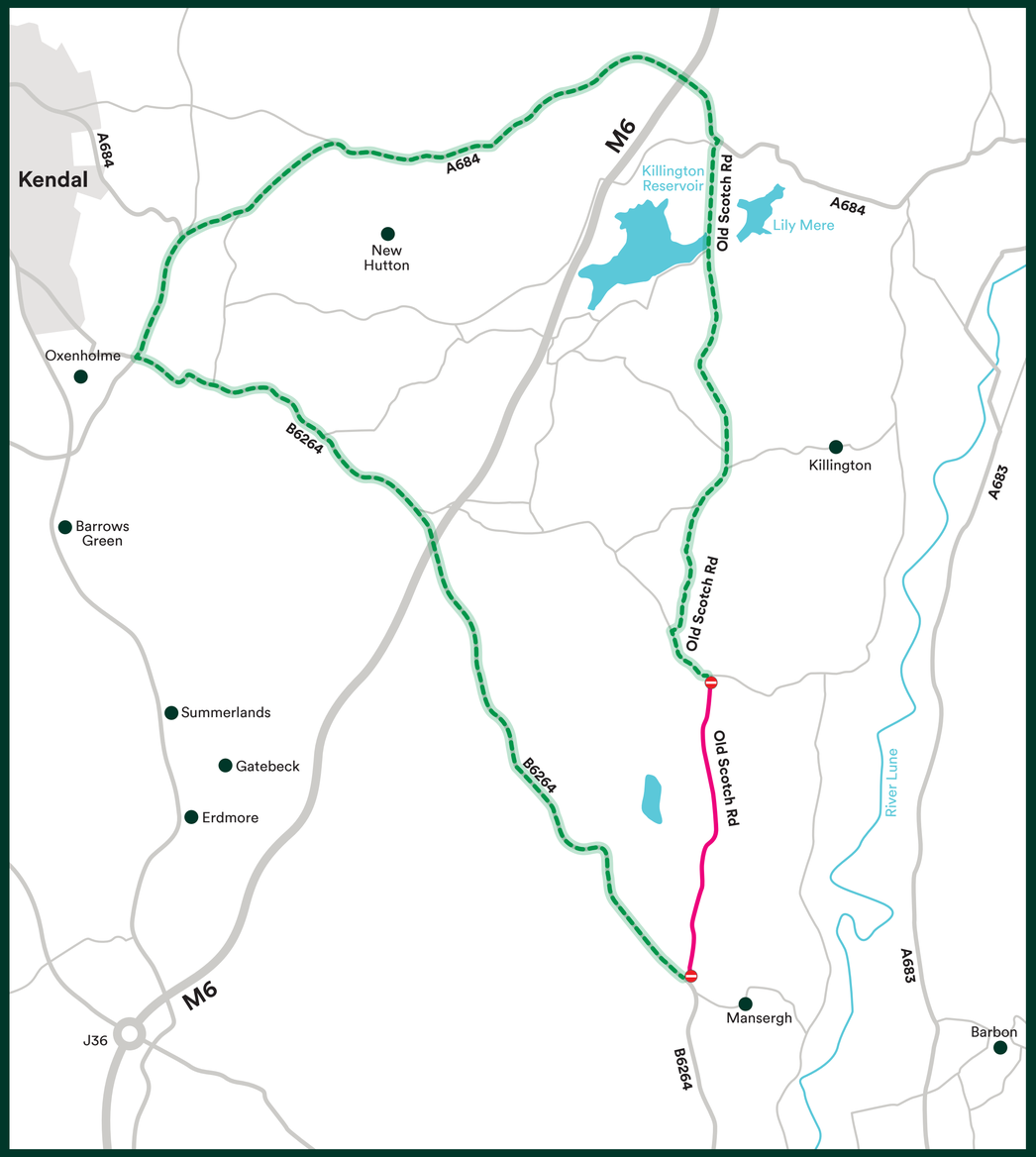
Local options still being assessed

Local Options – Phase 4

Work is taking place from October 2027 to December 2027

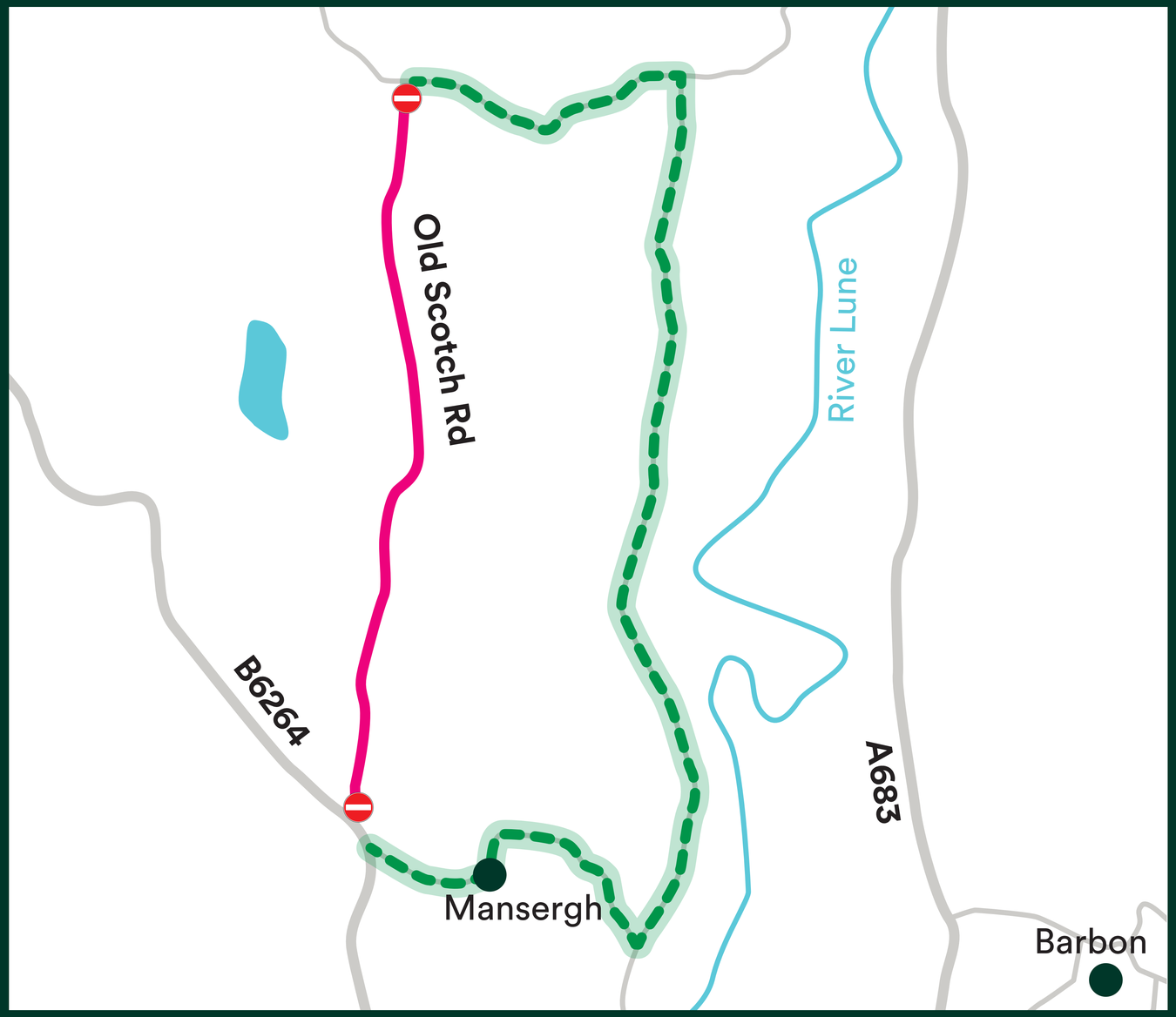
KEY

- Diversion route
- Road closed



Official diversion

15.8 miles / 29 mins



Local traffic diversion

4.6 miles / 12 mins

Stangana compound set up

How we will access the compound

- Access will be from Old Scotch Road.

When we will start working

- Construction of the compound will begin in Spring 2028.

What we will be doing

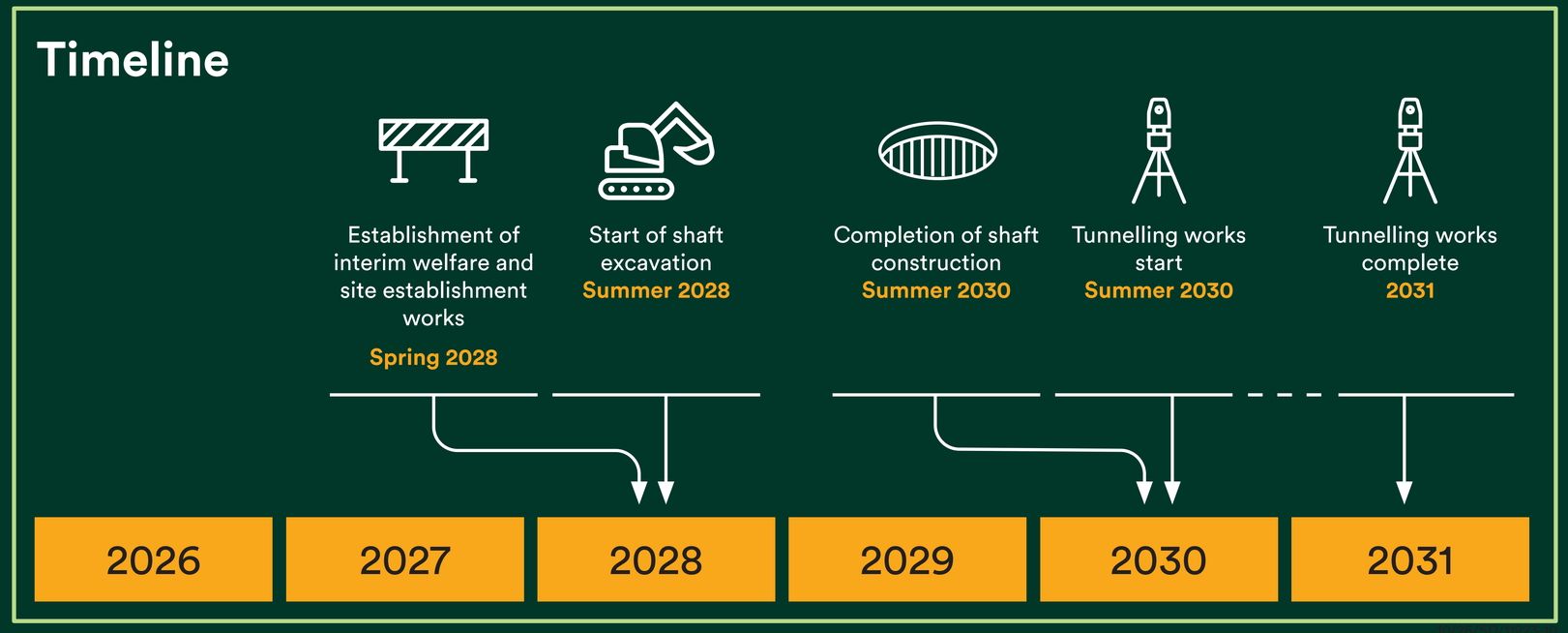
- We will set up interim welfare units for our workforce, create internal haul roads to travel around the site, carry out earthworks to clear the site and create the shafts where the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) will arrive from summer 2030.

How we will use the compound

- The tunnels will be constructed using TBMs starting Summer 2030.
- 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 weekdays 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 and machinary 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
- Local press releases
- Sharing information on site signage and hoardings
- Setting up dedicated Community Liaison Groups to share information and gather feedback
- Events and roadshows
- Updates to **www.unitedutilities.com/harp-updates** or scan the QR code