

A1

Scotswood to North Brunton
improvement scheme



Introduction

Highways England is a Government run company. We are responsible for the operation, maintenance and improvements to England's motorways and major A roads. This includes delivery of the Government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS) commitments, published in 2014 by the Department for Transport.

The RIS outlines how the Government plans to invest in the Strategic Road Network (motorways and major A roads) in England between 2015 and 2020. The RIS made a commitment to make improvements to the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton, as well as further improvements to the A1 Newcastle Gateshead western bypass between Birtley and Coal House and Coal House and the Metro Centre. Work completed on the A1 Coal House to Metro Centre in summer 2016 and a consultation was held for plans to upgrade the Birtley to Coal House section in autumn 2016. We are now seeking your views on the proposed upgrade to the A1 between junction 74, Scotswood and junction 79, North Brunton.

The A1 Newcastle Gateshead western bypass currently experiences delays, journey time reliability issues and accident problems. These are forecast to worsen in the future as a result of traffic growth from development sites in the region. These will have a direct impact on traffic conditions once they have been developed. If we don't act, the issues on this section of the A1 will get worse and have a negative impact on the growth of the local and regional economy.



We want to hear your views

During July and August 2017 we are holding a number of public information exhibitions. This is your opportunity to meet the project team, give us your views and discuss any concerns you may have as well as provide us with your local knowledge that may help us to improve the design.

It is important that we hear these, as well as the views from local government and businesses, to help us refine our proposal as we take it forward to the next stage of design.

Details of our public exhibitions are listed to the right. The events will allow us to show you the scheme layout, how it will benefit the area and the reasons why we are carrying out the improvements.

Have your say

If you are not able to attend an event, please complete the questionnaire included with this brochure or online at:

www.highways.gov.uk/a1scotswood

Public engagement events:

- 1. 10 July – 11am to 6:30pm**
Kingston Park Community Centre, 102 Brunton Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 2SW
- 2. 12 July – 10am to 6:30pm**
Fawdon Community Centre, Fawdon Park Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE3 2PL
- 3. 13 July – 10:30am to 5:30pm**
Outer West Library, Denton way, Denton Park, NE5 2QZ
- 4. 14 July – 10am to 6:30pm**
Holiday Inn Gosforth, Great North Road, Seaton Burn, Newcastle, NE13 6BP
- 5. 18 July – 10am to 6:30pm**
Blakelaw Community Centre, Binswood Avenue, NE5 3PN
- 6. 19 July – 11:30am to 6:30pm**
Lemington Resource Centre, Tyne View, Newcastle, NE15 8RZ
- 7. 27 July – 10:30am to 7pm**
Newcastle Airport
- 8. 28 July – 10:30am to 7pm**
Intu MetroCentre
- 9. 3 August – 10:30am to 7pm**
Team Valley, UK Land Estates, Axis Building, Maingate, Kingsway North, Gateshead, NE11 0BE
- 10. 4 August – 10:30am to 7pm**
Washington Services A1(M) between junctions 64 and 65

Regional and local benefits

The scheme has been designed with the following key objectives in mind:

Supporting economic growth

The scheme will help connect key employment sites, schools, colleges and residential areas, thereby delivering major benefits. It will support Newcastle City Council's growth aspirations and provide better links to local services such as Newcastle Airport, Newcastle City Centre and the Metro Centre.

A safe and serviceable network

The scheme aims to improve safety through reduced accidents and improve journey quality, through improved journey time reliability, leading to a reduction in driver stress.

Improved environment

The environmental effects resulting from the scheme have been considered during the options identification stage. Opportunities to provide enhancements and to mitigate effects on the local environment will be further developed as the design progresses.

An accessible and integrated network

The proposed scheme will provide improved connectivity with the local road network. We are investigating the ways to maintain or improve existing facilities for pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and disabled users. We are working with Newcastle City Council and Nexus to support transport improvements in and around Newcastle.

What have we done to date? The proposed option

Following The A1 Newcastle to Gateshead western bypass feasibility study, the A1 Scotswood to North Brunton scheme was announced by the government in autumn 2014.

In line with the objectives on previous page, we have been exploring potential design options and considering their value for money, impact on the environment and impact on the local community.

Maintenance and improvement of the A1 is the responsibility of Highways England. We have, however, engaged regularly with Newcastle City Council to discuss this planned improvement and ensure the work aligns with the local road network and will continue to meet regularly and ensure their feedback is incorporated into our final proposals.

Two options were brought forward from the feasibility study to be considered, these were:

Option A

Narrow lanes widening: widening to three narrow lanes within the existing highway boundary, retaining all existing bridges and structures.

Option B

Standard widening: widening to three standard width lanes and replacing all existing bridges and structures – this option would require us to purchase a lot of additional land and would have a greater impact on the local community.

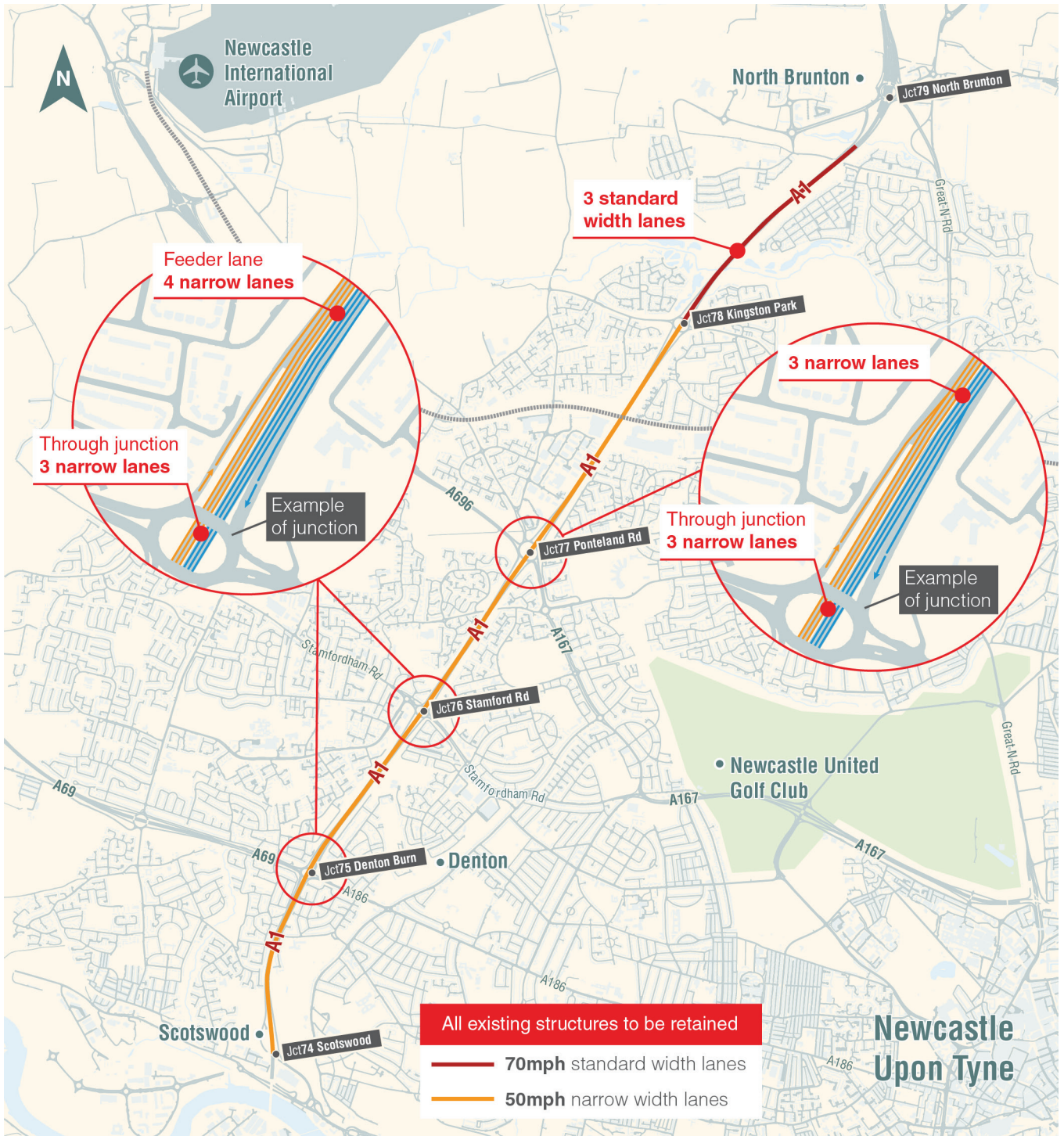
Following an assessment in 2016 it was found that standard widening would cost significantly more, £574.5million compared to £149.5million (figure correct as of April 2017) and therefore could not demonstrate the same level of value for money as option A for narrow lanes. It also would have had a much greater impact on both the local community and environment due to the land required to construct this.

Based on this assessment we are now progressing with option A, as;

- It is the most cost effective option, providing similar or greater benefits to other options, but at a lower cost,
- It is currently assessed as requiring no land outside of the highway boundary, maximising the use of the existing carriageway and minimising the impact on the surrounding community and environment,
- It requires the shortest build time and it is the simplest option to construct, meaning a safer environment for both our workforce and road users. The scheme has lower environmental impact and reduced disruption during construction phase.

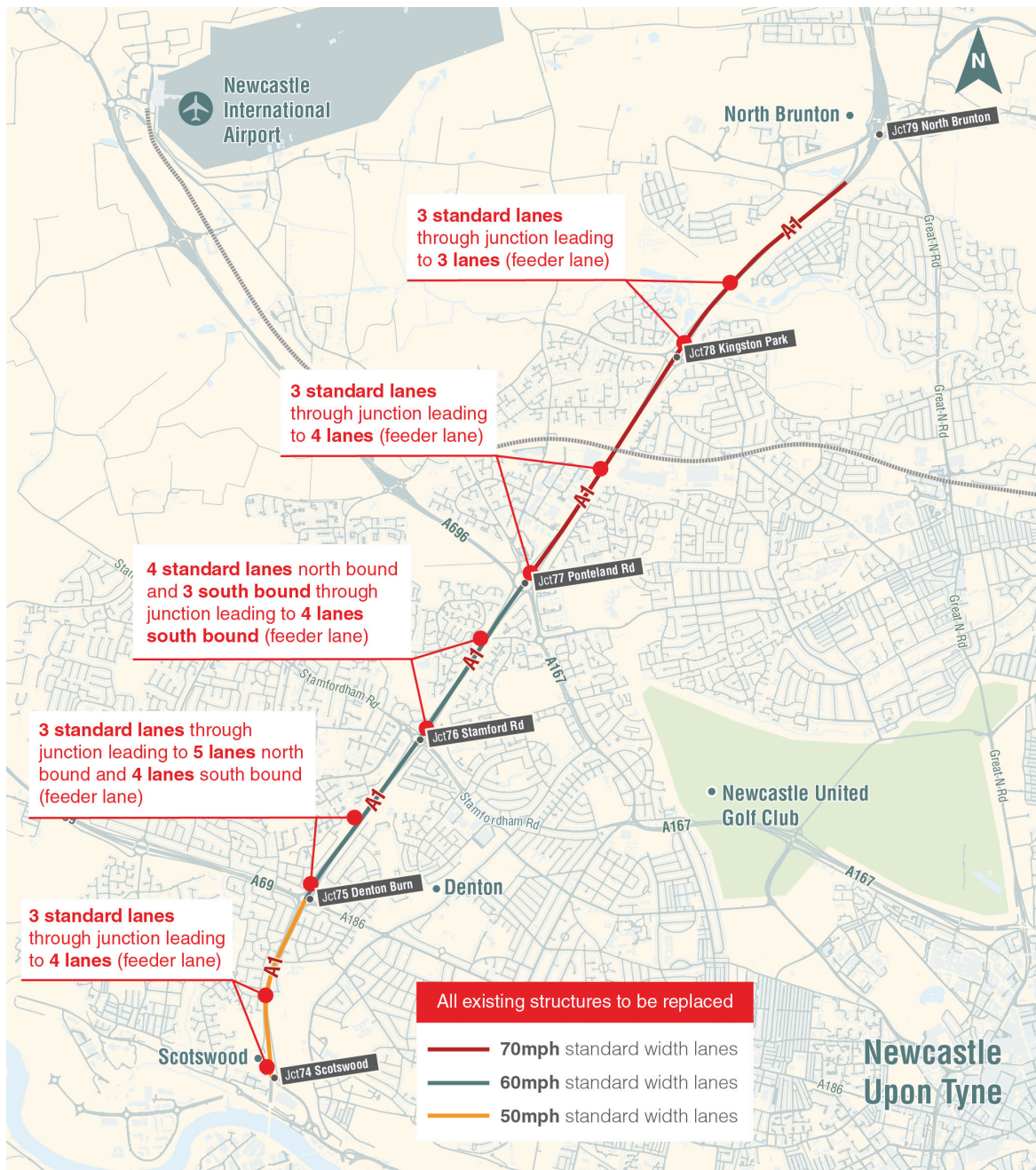
The table below illustrates the key impacts of the preferred option:

Feature	Proposed option
Air quality	The assessment of air quality is currently being undertaken. Upon conclusion we will report back on our assessment.
Noise and vibration	During construction, it is possible that significant construction noise levels could occur at some locations for short durations, although adverse impacts could be minimised through good construction practice. A noise assessment is currently being undertaken to establish predicted noise levels once the road is opened. It is anticipated that the use of low-noise surfacing will have positive impact on noise.
Landscape and visual impact	The scheme is proposed to be constructed within the highway boundary with minimal widening in the verge. This is anticipated not to have any significant landscape and visual impacts.
Drainage and the water environment	As part of the proposed scheme the drainage system will be assessed and upgraded where necessary. The scheme is anticipated to not have any significant impact on the water environment.
Geology and soils	The proposed scheme requires minimal widening in the verge with potential earthworks and/or retaining walls. It is anticipated that due to the historic coal mining/workings in the area some grouting works will be required.
Materials	We aim to minimise waste and the amount of material going to landfill through good design, good construction practice, the use of recycled materials where possible and effective management of waste.
Cultural heritage	The current scheme proposal does not have any impact on the cultural heritage sites along the route such as Hadrian's Wall.



Feature	Proposed option
Nature conservation	There are currently surveys that are being undertaken to understand the ecological habitats in the area. With the proposed minimal widening, it is anticipated that the proposed scheme has minimal impact on natural conservation.
Land take	Our proposed option does not require us to purchase or affect any private land. It is proposed that all work will be carried out within the existing highway boundary, which includes embankments, retaining walls and trees at the side of the carriageway.
Construction impacts	Our proposed option has been subject to an initial review of the construction impacts and is considered the least complex option to build. Further work will be carried out in the next stage of design development to ensure minimal disruption to traffic during the construction work.
Cost	Our proposed option is the lowest cost option and represents good value for money.
Average peak time journey change	Our proposed option is forecast to provide increased capacity on the A1 mainline and improve slip road layout. It is anticipated that flow of traffic and journey times will be improved.

Option previously considered



Reasons for rejecting this option

Following an assessment in 2015/2016, the standard lane widening option B was discounted for the following reasons:

- It would require significant additional land
- It would require demolition and reconstruction all bridges, walls, gantries and footbridges
- It would require significant widening of the existing carriageway
- There would be considerable buildability issues
- High costs associated with diverting water, electricity and gas mains
- Higher scheme cost overall

Improving the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton

Please tell us your views by completing
this questionnaire here or online at:
www.highways.gov.uk/a1scotswood

If you're returning this to us by post, please follow the folding instructions on the back page of the questionnaire and pop it in the post. Please submit your completed questionnaire by 31 August 2017.

Please provide us with your name and address. If you'd prefer for your comments to be anonymous, please just provide your postcode.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>

If you want to be kept informed by email about the project please give us your email address below:

Email	<input type="text"/>
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If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please name the organisation, your role within it and how the views of members were gathered.

Organisation name	<input type="text"/>
Your role	<input type="text"/>

1. To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with the need for improvements on the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton?

<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Agree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Disagree	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Don't know	<input type="radio"/>				

2. I support the proposed improvement option for the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton

<input type="radio"/> Strongly agree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Agree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Disagree	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> Don't know	<input type="radio"/>				

Please provide more details below on why you are in support, or not in support, of this option.

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the A1 between Scotswood to North Brunton?

Please consider journey time, roadworks management, information, safety, surface and debris when considering your response.

4. How do you normally travel on the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton?

Tick all that apply.

Driver of a car / van	<input type="checkbox"/>	On foot	<input type="checkbox"/>
Passenger in a car / van	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle	<input type="checkbox"/>
HGV	<input type="checkbox"/>	On a horse	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus	<input type="checkbox"/>	I don't travel on this section	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motorcycle	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (please state)	<input type="text"/>		

5. Why do you use the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton?

Tick all that apply.

I live in the local area and use the A1 to get to / from home	<input type="checkbox"/>
I work in the local area and use the A1 to get to / from work	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use the A1 to get to local leisure facilities, for example the library or swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use the A1 to travel longer distances, for example between Newcastle and Northumberland	<input type="checkbox"/>
I travel along the A1 for business	<input type="checkbox"/>
I use the A1 to visit local attractions, such as Hadrian's Wall	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="text"/>

6. How often do you use the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton?

At least five days a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once or twice a year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three or four times a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Less often than once a year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once or twice a week	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
Once or twice a month	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Public exhibitions

7. Did you attend a public exhibition?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. How did you hear about the public exhibitions?

Tick all that apply.

Website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brochure through post	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newspaper article	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please state)	<input type="text"/>
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8. Do you have any further comments about the project or the engagement process?

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Information to help our analysis

This section is optional but we'd be grateful if you'd tell us a little about yourself so that we understand more about the communities we serve. We will not share your personal information nor will we contact you or use it for any other purpose.

Age

16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	55-64	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	65+	<input type="checkbox"/>
35-44	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
45-54	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Gender

Male	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-binary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Fold B

Business Reply
Licence Number
RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL



Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL
A1 Scotswood to North Brunton Project Team
3rd floor south
Highways England
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

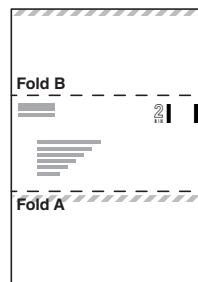
Fold A

Folding instructions

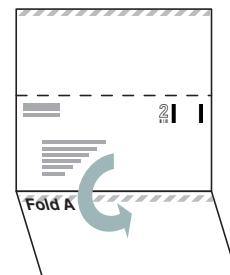
Once you've completed the questionnaire please follow these instructions before returning it to us:

1. With the return address facing you...
2. fold the bottom part backwards along Fold A;
3. fold the top part backwards along Fold B;
4. turn the folded questionnaire over; and
5. secure it by sticking clear tape along the length of hatched area.
6. There's no need for a stamp, just pop it in the post.

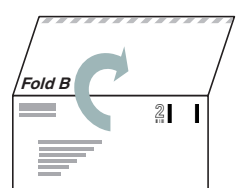
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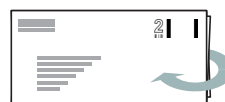
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3.



4.



5.



6.



What happens next?

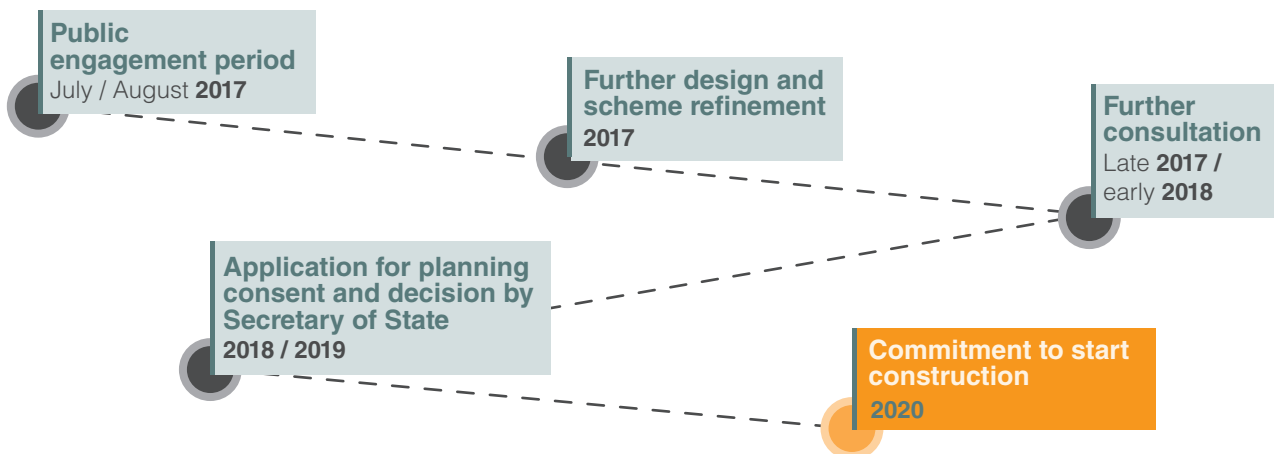
Please provide your feedback by Friday 31 August 2017 either through attending one of the public or by visiting: www.highways.gov.uk/a1scotswood

Following this, all responses will be analysed and compiled into a report which summarises the feedback. This will be published on the schemes' website. We will then refine the design, incorporating the comments provided where practicable and complete our environmental assessment work. We will then undertake further consultation before seeking planning consent to build the scheme.

Subject to securing the necessary planning consent, construction of the scheme is expected to commence March 2020.



Timeline



Keeping in touch



Online

Follow the links on:

www.highways.gov.uk/a1scotswood



Email

You can email your response to:

A1Scotswood.toNorthBrunton@highwaysengland.co.uk



Post

You can post your response to us using the pre-paid envelope provided.



If you have any queries about this project please contact us calling **0300 123 5000**

Responses

All responses should be returned by **31 August 2017**.

When making comments please provide us with your name and address, or, if you prefer your comments to be anonymous, provide only your postcode.

Further materials, including an electronic copy of this brochure and our public exhibition boards are available online or by contacting us using the details above.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.



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This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

If you have any enquiries about this publication email info@highwaysengland.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR02/17**.

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*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

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