

# Approach to Public Consultation

A14 Junction 55 Copdock Interchange

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# 1. Introduction

National Highways, previously called Highways England, have responsibility for operating and maintaining England's Strategic Road Network of motorways and major A roads. As well as this, we work to identify, develop and deliver essential improvements to ensure safe and reliable journeys, now and in the future.

Parts of this document such as the website and the email address still reference Highways England. This will not impact this consultation or your feedback to it.

Part of our work is to develop a continuous pipeline of improvement schemes to support our customers' and stakeholders' evolving needs and meet the future demands that our network will face. This work includes identifying current issues and researching future customer needs.

There has been £347 million of funding awarded during the Government's second Roads Period (2020-2025) for the development of future schemes, including those in the Road Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3) pipeline, for possible inclusion in RIS3 (2025-2030). The A14 J55 Copdock Interchange is a critical part of this investment and will help improve journeys along the A12 and A14 corridors and boost economic growth and development opportunities within the Ipswich area, including at the Port of Felixstowe.

Working closely with the Department for Transport (DfT), we have identified a possible 32 proposed schemes for development as part of the RIS3 pipeline. These schemes have been identified following our programme of strategic studies and route strategies, including specific areas of research and our work with stakeholders. The A14 J55 Copdock Interchange is one of 32 pipeline schemes, going through development for possible inclusion in the Government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS3). These schemes have been identified following our programme of strategic studies and route strategies, including specific areas of research and our work with stakeholders.

It is important to note that none of the schemes currently being explored as part of the pipeline are confirmed.

We'll be seeking views on our proposals to develop the A14 J55 Copdock Interchange and we want to ensure you know how we'll do this. That's why we've produced this document which outlines our approach to the consultation, including the different ways we'll collect feedback. It also provides details about how you can take part and how feedback will be used to influence our proposals.

To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way, we've developed this document in partnership with relevant local authorities including Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Babergh District Council and East Suffolk District Council.

## 2. Purpose of the Approach to Public Consultation

The Approach to Public Consultation is a public facing document which sets out how we intend to consult on our scheme through a non-statutory (options) stage.

Paper copies of this documents are available on request/or as a reference copy at our consultation events.

It covers the following:

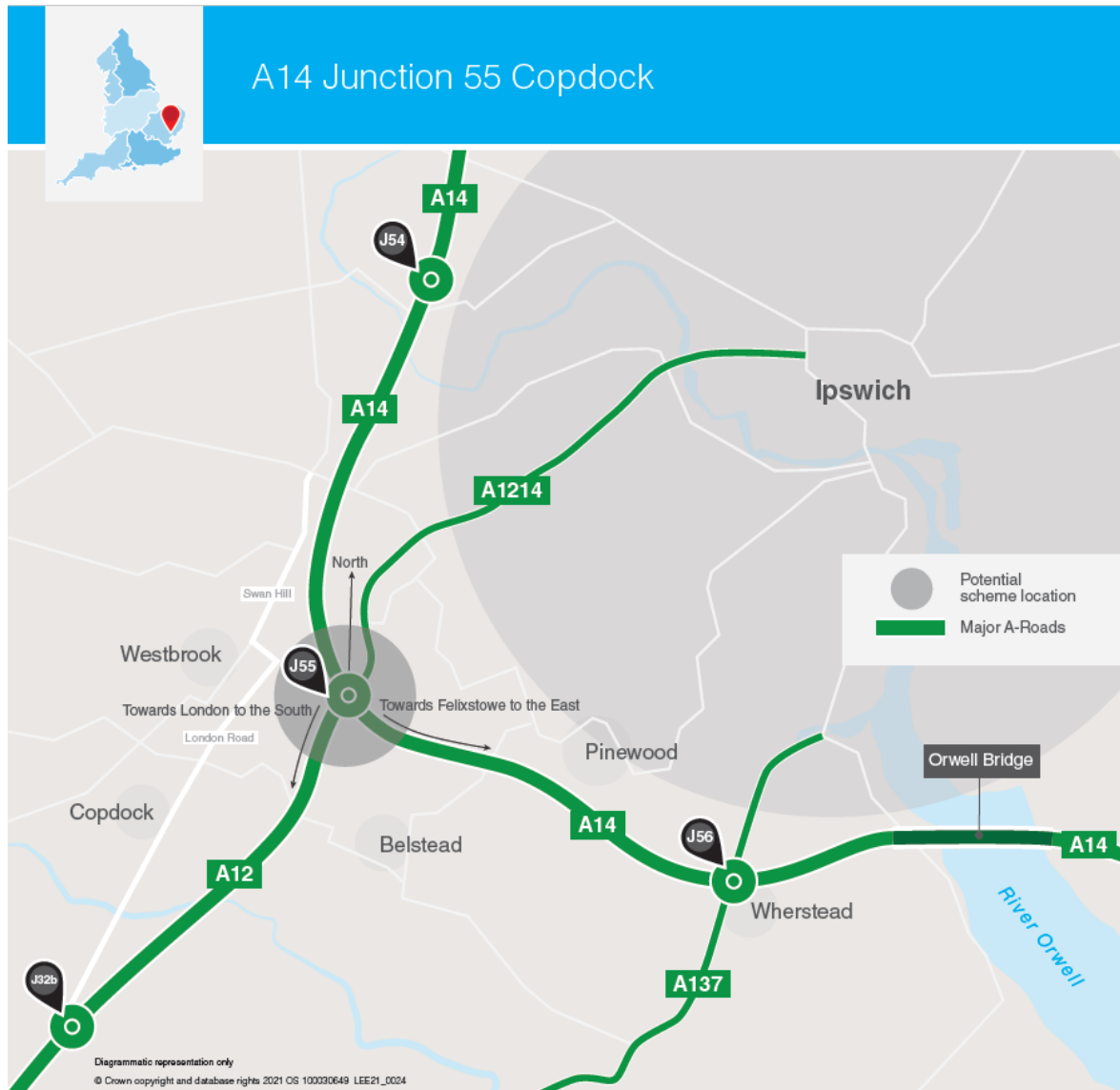
- *What is the scheme?*
- *How have we assessed environmental considerations so far?*
- *When and why are we consulting?*
- *Who are we consulting?*
- *How are we consulting?*
- *What happens to the consultation responses?*
- *Next steps*

This approach has been developed in collaboration with relevant local authorities and they have had the opportunity to provide feedback to our approach. Their feedback and suggestions have been taken into consideration and are reflected in this document.

Public consultation is an important part of the delivery of this scheme and provides you with the opportunity to influence our proposals. It also allows us the opportunity to help people fully understand the scheme and address any possible concerns.

### 3. The Scheme

The A14 Junction 55 Copdock Interchange is a grade-separated junction in Babergh District, south-west of Ipswich. It is one of the key Strategic Road Network junctions serving Ipswich via the A14, the A12 and the A1214 and is located 14 miles to the west of the Port of Felixstowe.



The junction with the A12 provides access to Colchester, Chelmsford, London, the M25 and London Stansted Airport to the south, while the A1214 is a key route for accessing Ipswich and the A14.

The current variations in journey time reliability (ie being able to accurately predict when individual vehicles will be arriving and departing) often present an unwelcome and potentially costly risk for freight moving to and from the Port of Felixstowe.

During peak periods, average speeds on the approaches to the Copdock Interchange are significantly less than the statutory limit. This results in unnecessary delays and queueing on the local road network. It is evident that the current demands on this section of the Strategic Road Network exceed the available capacity of the junction at crucial times and is likely to increase in the future. Such congestion also means significant numbers of drivers are diverting onto local roads with the associated increased risk to pedestrians and other road users.

Given these issues National Highways have identified a number of objectives and undertaken research and development work to establish potential options.

The following are the objectives for this scheme:

- Improve journey times through the junction with increased reliability and facilitate the smooth flow of traffic.
- Make the road network at the junction itself and nearby roads safer.
- Support economic growth, especially facilitating reliable access to the Port of Felixstowe and their expansion proposals.
- Deliver the best environmental outcome.
- Provide a more accessible and integrated major road network not just for drivers but also cyclists, walkers and other users of the network.
- Increase the local road network's ability to recover from disruption, including road traffic collisions and other incidents.

## 4. Environmental information

Environmental assessments have been undertaken as part of the optioneering process, and findings taken into consideration when developing the design options. We will identify opportunities to enhance the environment as part of our scheme and incorporate these, along with mitigation measures. Potential environmental impacts have been identified and mitigation measures assigned to minimise any potential environmental effects.

### 4.1. Current progress

At this initial stage of the project, the following environmental topics have been included in our environmental assessment: Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Landscape and Visual, Geology and Soils, Materials and Waste, Population and Human Health, Water Environment, Climate Change.

When a preferred option is chosen and the design is finalised, based on its potential to have an impact on environmental factors, certain environmental issues can be scoped out. However, this can only be confirmed at a later stage of the project.

It cannot be confirmed at this stage if the scheme would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However, we have produced environmental assessments to assess the benefits and effects of the proposed designs and have looked at a number of factors.

The environmental assessments provide initial environmental information available to date, along with descriptions of the likely environmental effects and mitigation measures envisaged for the scheme. Measures to avoid, reduce or offset any environmental impacts will continue to be investigated as the project progresses and will be detailed further in the Environmental Statement which will form part of our application for development consent (if the scheme is identified to require an EIA).

An Environmental Screening exercise will be undertaken during the middle of 2022 which will identify the likelihood of significant environmental impacts for each of the options. If significant impacts are anticipated for the selected option then an Environmental Impact Assessment exercise would be required as a part of the planning consent program.

## 5. When are we consulting and why?

Options for the scheme will be consulted on between 29 October and 9 December 2021.

Your comments will help us better understand the local area and any potential impacts our scheme may have on road users and the local community. We will listen to everyone's views, consider your opinions carefully and ensure they are fed back to the whole team.

This scheme will then be put forward to the Department for Transport for consideration for funding following the consultation.

If successful, a Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) will present the best potential option for consideration to be taken forward to preliminary design and planning approval. This will include the rationale for the decisions and look to respond to the consultation feedback.



## 6. Who are we consulting?

Anyone interested in this scheme is able to take part. We welcome all views and will take them into account to help shape and improve our scheme design.

We have developed a target area local to the scheme, which is likely to include those who are interested in and/or affected by our proposals. A letter will be sent to all households within this area on the launch day of consultation, informing them of the consultation, how to find more information and how to participate.

As part of the public consultation, we will be contacting various stakeholders including:

- residents in the area
- businesses in the area
- parish councils who may be affected by the scheme
- Accessibility and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion groups
- Political and statutory stakeholders

We have worked with local authorities, to identify these groups, especially those who are traditionally hard to reach to ensure that we involve all those who could be interested and/or affected by our proposals.

## 7. How are we consulting?

**We will use the following methods to promote our public consultation.**

We will be carrying out a hybrid consultation with in-person events and physical materials as well as digital engagement and opportunities to participate online. This approach has been taken as we recognise the need to provide different ways to participate in the consultation at a time when some people may be unable or do not wish to attend a public event.

Method	Detail
<b>Materials</b>	
<b>Public consultation brochure</b>	<p>A public consultation brochure has been created to provide stakeholders with the information they will need to give informed and considered feedback on the scheme options.</p> <p>This brochure will be available in several places:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online at our scheme website</li> <li>2. At our public information events</li> <li>3. At our information pick-up points at local venues</li> </ol>
<b>Scheme webpage</b>	<p>The website will be the first port of call for all scheme information. It will present a full summary of the scheme, a downloadable copy of the Public Consultation brochure and any other consultation materials and supplementary information.</p> <p>It will link to our online consultation. Any visual material will also be embedded or linked onto the website.</p> <p>Stakeholders will be encouraged to use the website, however, physical brochures will be available at the public information events and information pick up points. Other consultation material will be made available in print if requested to ensure the consultation is as accessible and inclusive as possible.</p>
<b>Supporting documents</b>	<p>The Staged Overview of Assessment Report (SOAR) will be published as a supporting document that has contributed to the design optioneering. This will be made available for people to download from the scheme website. A reference only copy of this document will also be available at the events and will be used to facilitate conversations between the project team and stakeholders.</p> <p>Reading the supporting documents will not be a requirement to providing feedback to the consultation.</p>

	<p>Instead, these will be provided to give technical context to how the options have been developed. The information presented in these reports has been summarised into the consultation brochure.</p>
<b>Events</b>	
<b>Public consultation exhibition</b>	<p>There will be four public exhibitions held at local venues where members of the team will be available to answer questions about the proposals.</p> <p>The times, dates and locations have been chosen to provide a variety of options to stakeholders and to ensure people with different working patterns or availability can still have the opportunity to attend.</p> <p>The exhibition details are listed in a table following 'How we consult?'</p>
<b>Display materials</b>	<p>Information events will have the key information on display boards around the room. It is anticipated that there will be 5 x 800mm pull up banners and 2 large boards.</p> <p>These will depict the following information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the event</li> <li>• Background to the scheme</li> <li>• Need for the scheme</li> <li>• Objectives</li> <li>• Scheme map with the options overlayed (large board) Features, benefits and impacts of each of the options</li> <li>• Environmental constraints (large board)</li> <li>• How to respond and next steps</li> </ul> <p>Digital versions of these boards will be created for the virtual event space in order to provide everyone who cannot attend an event with the same information.</p>
<b>Digital consultation platform/website</b>	<p>The scheme will use CitizenSpace as the digital consultation platform.</p> <p>CitizenSpace will host the digital questionnaire and will be linked on the website, in the consultation brochure and on the display materials.</p>
<b>Virtual event space</b>	<p>An interactive online virtual event space will be hosted on the scheme website. This will replicate the in-person exhibitions, creating a space for those who either cannot or do not wish to attend an in-person event.</p>
<b>Online webinar</b>	<p>An online webinar will be held to present the consultation material, giving an opportunity for those who cannot or do not wish to attend an in-person event, to ask questions.</p>

<p><b>Information pick up points</b></p>	<p>Physical information points are important to ensure people who struggle to access information online can view the same information as those who can. As such, copies of the brochure will be available locally at these points when the consultation is launched and on the scheme webpage.</p> <p>Please see the table below for locations of the information pick up points.</p>
<p><b>Marketing/promotion</b></p>	
<p><b>Media</b></p>	<p>The public consultation will be advertised in a number of newspapers locally.</p> <p>Adverts will be placed in local newspapers to promote the launch of the consultation and a reminder will be placed towards the middle of the consultation period.</p> <p>A press release detailing the public consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will be issued on launch day.</p>
<p><b>Social media</b></p>	<p>The public consultation will be advertised on National Highways social media including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.</p> <p>Information will also be shared with local authorities to share on their own social media accounts.</p>
<p><b>Briefings</b></p>	<p>On consultation launch date we will be providing briefings to the specified groups below.</p> <p><b>Political</b> This includes MPs and councillors from local authorities to ensure elected representatives are informed and can help with any constituent's queries that may arise from the consultation.</p> <p><b>Business</b> This will be targeted at groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, as well as local businesses so that we can obtain feedback from an economic point of view.</p> <p><b>Statutory bodies</b> These are a group of companies/organisations whose input/feedback are required as part of the planning process. These statutory bodies will be contacted to ensure we get their input.</p>
<p><b>Parish councils</b></p>	<p>Parish councils in the area will be sent all relevant information on launch day and will be encouraged to</p>

	share this information with their local communities.
<b>Other partner/stakeholder networks</b>	Other stakeholders that have been involved in the process so far will also receive all relevant information on launch day and will be encouraged to share this information with their networks.
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Consultation response</b>	<p>Responses to the consultation will be accepted at the following channels set up for the specific purpose of this consultation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Online: <a href="https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a14-j55-copdock-public-consultation">https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a14-j55-copdock-public-consultation</a> will link you to the feedback form on our consultation portal.</li> <li>2. Email: you can email a response form to: <a href="mailto:A14J55copdock@highwaysengland.co.uk">A14J55copdock@highwaysengland.co.uk</a></li> <li>3. Post: you can post your response form to: <b>Freepost COPDOCK INTERCHANGE CONSULTATION.</b></li> </ol> <p>The preferred method for feedback is via the consultation portal, however you will also be able to find a response form to email/post on the website or in the physical brochure document.</p> <p>We cannot accept responsibility for ensuring responses that are sent to any channel other than those described above are included in the consultation process. All responses must include at least your name and postcode.</p> <p>You have until 23:59 9 December 2021 to reply to this consultation via one of the channels outlined above.</p> <p>Please note the closing date for responses. Responses after this date may not be considered.</p>

<b>Physical Information points</b>	<b>In person event locations</b>
Goslings Farm Shop, Garden Centre and Cafe, High Rd, Felixstowe IP11 0RJ	Holiday Inn Ipswich Saturday 6 November 11am-6pm
Sproughton Community Shop, Tithe Barn, Lower St, Sproughton, Ipswich IP8 3AA	
Suffolk County Council, Endeavour House, 8	Capel St Mary Village Hall

Russell Rd, Ipswich IP1 2BX	Friday 12 November 2pm-8pm
Suffolk Libraries, County Library, Northgate St, Ipswich IP1 3DE	
Stoke Library, Maidenhall Approach, Ipswich IP2 8PL	Belstead Village Hall Saturday 20 November 11am-6pm
Chantry Library, Hawthorn Dr, Ipswich IP2 0QY	
Gainsborough Community Library, Clapgate Ln, Ipswich IP3 0RL	Copdock Village Hall Friday 26 November 2pm-8pm
Felixstowe Town Council, Town Hall, Undercliff Rd W, Felixstowe IP11 2AG (Also available in the Felixstowe Beach Hut)	
Capel St Mary Parish Council, 27a The Street, Capel St Mary, Ipswich. IP9 2EE (Also available in the local library)	

All in-person event locations have been chosen to ensure a wide range of people can participate in our consultation. Each venue has been risk assessed and accessibility checked to ensure they are suitable for public events, ensuring there are no barriers to access for any stakeholders.

**The Holiday Inn** has been chosen as it is located close to Ipswich town centre and is accessible by taxi or bus. It also allows residents from the Pinewood and Chantry communities to attend easily. It has good parking facilities and is also close to possibly affected businesses due to its proximity to the retail park.

**Capel St Mary Village Hall** has been chosen as is it close to the scheme and was highlighted as a suggestion through our Stakeholder Reference Group.

**Belstead Village Hall** has been chosen as it is the village closest to the scheme. This location will also enable communities to the east of the A12 to attend as well as potentially impacted landowners.

**Copdock Village Hall** was chosen as it serves a community close to the scheme who experience increased traffic on local roads as a result of congestion at the Copdock Interchange. Basing this event in Copdock not only allows for those who live in Copdock village to attend but it also is easy access for the villages of Westbrook, Sproughton and Capel St Mary.

## 8. What happens to the consultation responses?

National Highways will receive, record and analyse the responses to the consultation. We will then write a consultation report which summarises the feedback received. This report will then be made available to the public in 2022 once the consultation has concluded.

Comments, concerns and expressions of support will be passed on to the project team and included as part of the ongoing project development.

### **GDPR**

National Highways is committed to protecting your personal information. Whenever you provide such information, we are legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

### **How will National Highways use the information we collect about you?**

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for a number of purposes, including to:

- analyse your feedback to the consultation
- produce a consultation report, based on our analysis of responses (individuals will not be identified in the report)
- write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments
- keep up-to-date records of our communications with individuals and organisations
- Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by National Highways and our appointed contractors until the scheme is complete.

### **What rights do I have over my personal data?**

Under the terms of the GDPR, you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by National Highways. For more information, see our full data privacy statement: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/about-us/privacy-notice](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/about-us/privacy-notice).

## 9. Next Steps

<b>From the consultation closing date - Early 2022</b>	All responses will be analysed then summarised within the consultation report.
<b>Mid 2022</b>	The consultation report will be published and made available in a digital format on our website. Paper copies will also be available upon request via the contact details provided
<b>Summer 2022</b>	Where it is possible to do so, we will use your feedback to help influence the scheme design or to help identify ways to address concerns about the impacts of the scheme.
<b>Date subject to DfT decision</b>	If the scheme is progressed, we will announce our preferred option to take forward to the next stage of design development.

It is important to note that none of the schemes currently being explored as part of the pipeline are confirmed. This scheme will be put forward to the Department for Transport for consideration for funding following the consultation.

If successful, a Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) will present the best potential option for consideration to be taken forward to preliminary design and planning approval. This will include the rationale for the decisions and look to respond to the consultation feedback.

For more information, please visit our scheme webpage:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a14-j55-copdock-public-consultation>.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact the project team directly by emailing [A14J55copdock@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A14J55copdock@highwaysengland.co.uk)