

# A19 / A1290

## Downhill Lane Junction

### Improvement scheme

**Share your views**







## Downhill Lane junction improvement scheme

Every road user wants less congested roads to enable swift, safe, comfortable and informed travel. On behalf of the government, Highways England is responsible for delivering the largest investment in a generation throughout England's motorways and major A roads.

Downhill Lane junction is a vital link between the A19 and the A1290. It's located about 5km south of the Tyne Tunnel and 1.1km south of the Testos junction. The junction is one of the main access

routes for the Nissan car plant and Washington Road, which runs east into north Sunderland.

We need to make sure that the junction will be able to cope with increasing amounts of traffic. It's predicted that in the future many more vehicles will need to use the junction due to developments that are planned in the area. Currently the junction would not be able to cope with these additional vehicles – that's why we're planning a major improvement scheme.

In this brochure we explain our proposed improvements for the A19 Downhill Lane junction and what's new since the last consultation. We also give details of how you can give us your feedback during our public consultation.

### What does this scheme involve?

We've identified that improving the junction at Downhill Lane will provide a number of benefits.

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

- **Supporting economic growth** – this will be achieved by improving the attractiveness of the area for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) and other prospective developers and businesses by improving road access. The scheme will help connect key employment sites, schools, colleges and residential areas, thereby delivering major benefits.
- **A safe and serviceable network** – the scheme aims to reduce accidents, provide safer crossings for non-motorists and improve journey time reliability, leading to a reduction in driver stress.
- **A more free-flowing network** – the traffic model used to design the scheme predicts that road users travelling through the junction will benefit significantly from reduced journey times as a result of the proposal.
- **Improved environment** – the environmental effects resulting from the scheme have been considered. Measures to mitigate potential effects on the local environment are being developed. These will be further refined as the scheme design is finalised. Opportunities to improve the local environment will be sought as part of the final scheme proposals. Further details are available in the *Preliminary Environmental Information Report*.
- **An accessible and integrated network** – the proposed scheme will provide improved connectivity with the local road network. We are investigating ways to improve facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. We will continue to work with the local access forum and user groups to develop our proposals.

## Consultation – share your views

We are proposing to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to authorise the Downhill Lane junction Improvement scheme, with a target submission date of spring 2018.

Before we submit our application, we are consulting further on the proposals. This is a statutory consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008. It provides an update to the 2016 non-statutory consultation and a further opportunity to hear any views people may have on the proposed scheme.

This is your opportunity to tell us your thoughts on the proposed scheme, including any changes that have occurred locally in the last year which may impact on our proposed design. We are keen to understand and take account of the views of all our customers, stakeholders and local communities.

We are holding two public consultation events in September 2017 (please see below for details of the events) that we would like you to attend and discuss our proposals in more detail with our project team so we can hear your views.

## Public consultation events

The public consultation events are being held as follows:

Bunny Hill Customer Service Centre		Quality Inn Hotel	
Friday 22 September	2pm – 8pm	Saturday 23 September	10am – 3pm
Bunny Hill Customer Service Centre Hylton Lane, Sunderland, SR5 4BW		Quality Inn Hotel, Witney Way, Boldon, NE35 9PE	

Since our last public consultation in 2016 we have gathered people's comments and updated our plans so this is another chance for you to share your views before we finalise our scheme.

The consultation period will run for six weeks between 11 September 2017 and 22 October 2017 and there are lots of ways you can give your feedback. You can complete the printed questionnaire included within this brochure and return it to the address in section 10, or complete an online questionnaire by visiting: [www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane).

If you are unable to attend any of our public consultation events and you have any questions that you would like to discuss further with a member of the project team, please contact us using any of the methods outlined on page 14.

Please note that all responses must be received no later than 22 October.

## Consultation materials

We have published a range of information about this project to help you fully understand the proposed scheme. Alongside this consultation brochure, we have produced the following:

- A more detailed scheme plan
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report
- Statement of Community Consultation, which sets out how we will consult with the community
- Fly through video, which shows how the scheme will look once completed

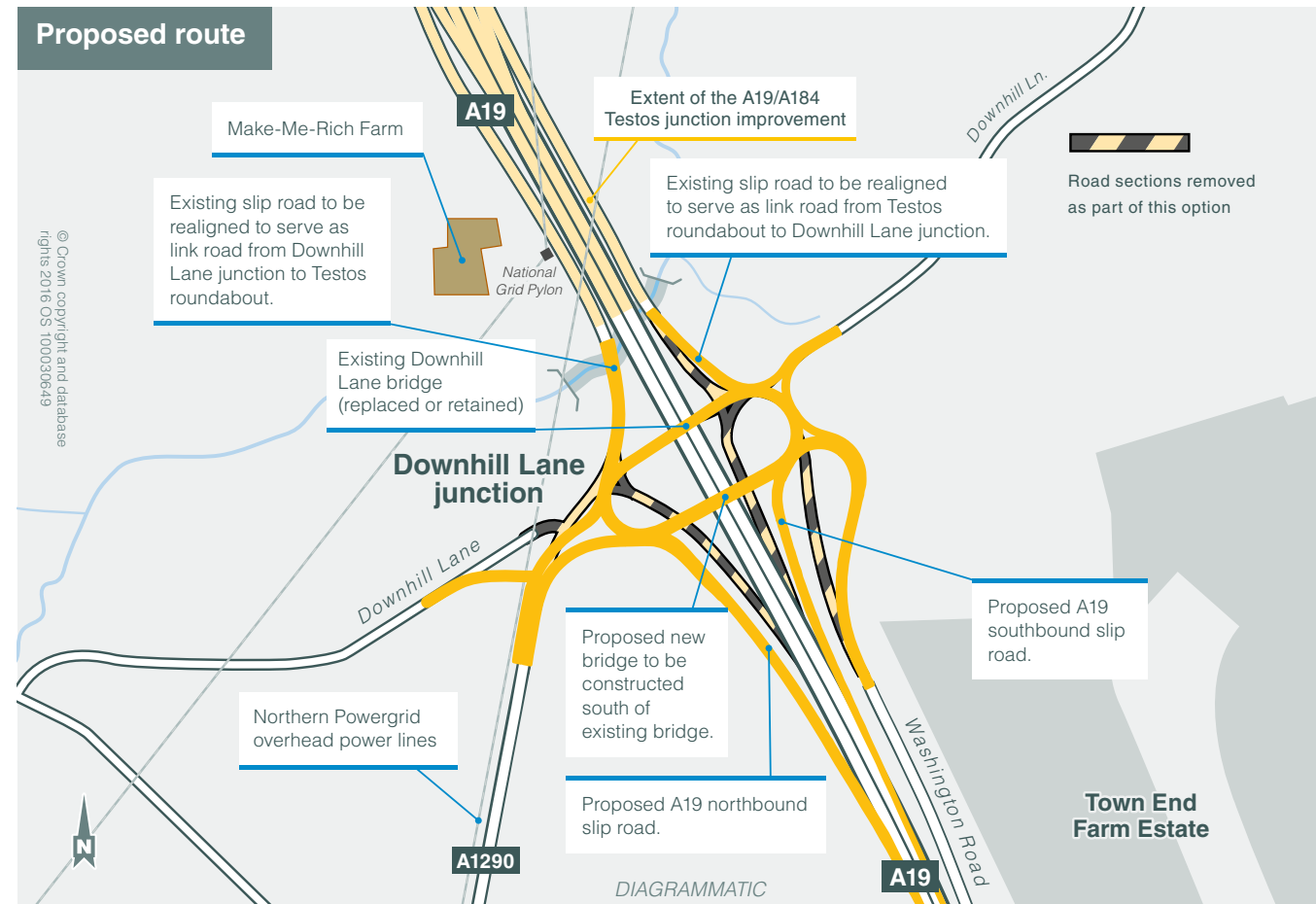
Materials can be found on our scheme web page by visiting:

[www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane)

## Preferred route

Our preferred route for the Downhill Lane junction Improvement involves a new bridge which would be constructed south of the existing bridge that will be retained or replaced. Together with the existing bridge this would form a more traditional roundabout junction layout above the A19. The existing north-bound and south-bound A19 slip roads would be realigned to tie in with the new

elevated roundabout arrangement. To the north of the junction, these would serve as link roads between Downhill Lane junction and the proposed new Testos junction roundabout. The slip roads south of the junction would also be realigned but would continue to provide direct access to and from the A19.

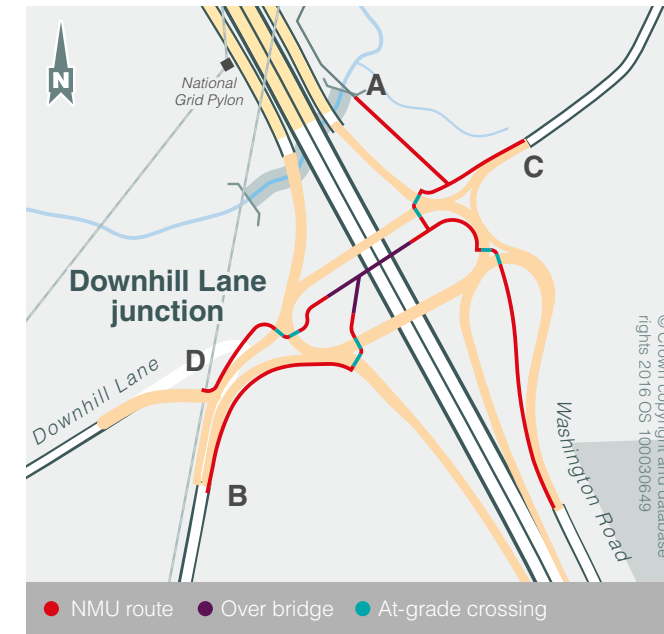


## What's changed since the last consultation?

A non-statutory consultation exercise was held at the end of 2016 on a proposed option for the Downhill Lane junction Improvement. The consultation found an overall support for the proposed option with more than 60% of respondents stating they support it. The feedback has been considered in the development of the design and a preferred route announcement was made in June 2017.

Since we last consulted with the public we have worked hard on the scheme design. We are considering two options for Non-Motorised Users (NMUs), Option 1 and Option 2A/B for a new layout which aims to improve pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian access. Please note Option 2 has a variant in that Downhill Lane could be signalised (Option 2A) or have an underpass (Option 2B).

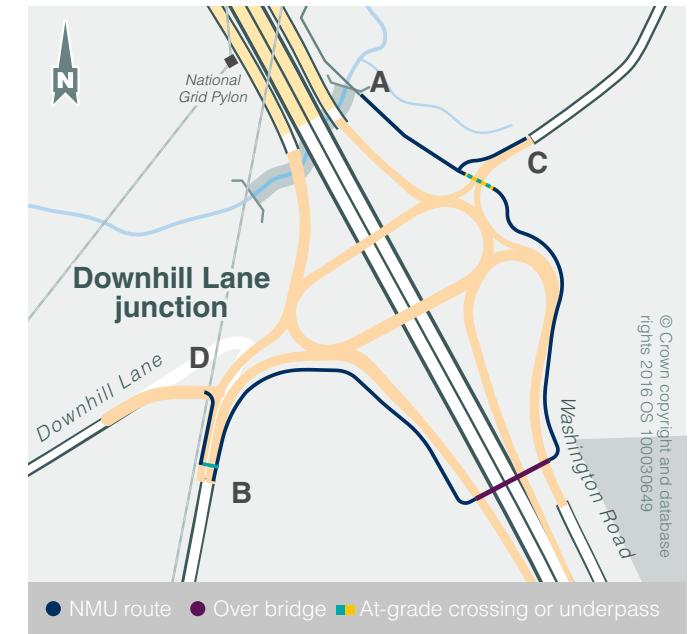
## Non motorised users



### Option 1

This option provides NMU routes through Downhill Lane junction via a combination of at-grade crossings; located at signalised points around the roundabout, and an independent NMU bridge over the A19; located within the junction roundabout. Where possible the NMU route will be taken away from the carriageway to provide separation of NMU and motorised traffic.

Pros	Cons
Independent NMU bridge facility segregates NMU and motorised users	Routes will require waiting at the at-grade crossings located at the traffic lights on the proposed roundabout
Shortest journey lengths in terms of distance	Greater number of signalised crossings compared with Options 2A / 2B
Route is visually more direct to NMU users; closer to the 'desire line'	Not fully segregated from traffic
No underpass required	Longer journey time for cyclists when compared to Option 2B due to greater number of signalised crossings



### Option 2A/2B

This option provides NMU routes around Downhill Lane junction via a separate NMU bridge over the A19 and Washington Road; located to the south of the junction, and either an at-grade signalised crossing of, or underpass beneath, Downhill Lane. Where possible the NMU route will be taken away from the carriageway to provide separation of NMU and motorised traffic. Estimates of journey times take into consideration both an at-grade signalised crossing of Downhill Lane (Option 2A) and an underpass variant (Option 2B).

Pros	Cons
Potential for routes A to B and C to B to be fully segregated from traffic	Longest journey length in terms of distance
Offers possible opportunity for adaptation to integrate with the future IAMP proposals	Route is visually less direct to NMU users; deviating from the 'desire line'
Where an underpass is used, journey time is quicker	Height required to span Washington Road and the A19 results in a tall bridge with probable significant visual impacts
	May require an underpass (Option 2B)



## Non motorised users – journey times



### Pedestrian journey time information

The times below are based on walking at an average speed of 5 km/h and an average wait time at each signalised crossing of one minute.

#### A to B New Journey Time

<b>Option 1</b>	11 minutes approx
<b>Option 2A</b> (signalised crossing at Downhill Lane)	14 minutes approx
<b>Option 2B</b> (underpass at Downhill Lane)	12 minutes approx

#### C to D New Journey Time

<b>Option 1</b>	9 minutes approx
<b>Option 2A</b> (signalised crossing at Downhill Lane)	15 minutes approx
<b>Option 2B</b> (underpass at Downhill Lane)	13 minutes approx



### Cyclist journey time information

The times below are based on cycling at an average speed of 15 km/h and an average wait time at each signalised crossing of one minute.

#### A to B New Journey Time

<b>Option 1</b>	6 minutes approx
<b>Option 2A</b> (signalised crossing at Downhill Lane)	6 minutes approx
<b>Option 2B</b> (underpass at Downhill Lane)	4 minutes approx

#### C to D New Journey Time

<b>Option 1</b>	6 minutes approx
<b>Option 2A</b> (signalised crossing at Downhill Lane)	7 minutes approx
<b>Option 2B</b> (underpass at Downhill Lane)	5 minutes approx

## Downhill Lane junction improvement Public consultation questionnaire

Please tell us your views by completing this questionnaire.

**Please return your completed questionnaire to us no later 22 October 2017.**

The return address and postage is already provided so, when you have completed this form, please follow the instructions on the rear.

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

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

1. Do you broadly support the proposals to improve the Downhill Lane junction?

Yes  No

2. Do you understand the aims of the proposals?

Yes  No

3. Do you have any comments on our proposals to improve the Downhill Lane junction?

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4. How do you normally travel on the junction?

Car  Bus  Walk  Motorbike  On a horse   
I don't use this junction  Other

5. What is your relationship to the A19 Downhill Lane junction and the surrounding area?

Tick all that apply.

I live in the local areas and use the A19 Downhill Lane junction to get to/from home   
I work in the local areas and use the A19 Downhill Lane junction to get to/from work   
I use the A19 Downhill Lane junction to get to local leisure facilities   
I don't use the junction itself but travel through it on the A19

6. How often do you use this junction?

Daily  More than once a week  weekly  more than once a month   
monthly  less than once a month

7. Which is your preferred option for non-motorised users? Please tick.

Option 1  Option 2B  Option 2A

8. Please explain your reasons for the response to Q7

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9. Do you agree that our proposed approach to environmental mitigation is sufficient?

(see the Preliminary Environmental Information Report)

Agree  Disagree  Neither agree nor disagree

10. Do you have any comments about environmental impacts and our proposed environmental mitigation?

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.....  
.....  
.....

11. Did you attend a consultation event

Yes  No

If so, which venue did you attend?

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.....

12. Do you have any other comments on the documents published with this consultation?

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.....

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

13. Your gender?

Male  Female  Prefer not to say

14. Your age?

16 – 24  25 – 34  35 – 44  45 – 54  55 – 64  65 +   
Prefer not to say

15. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes  No  Prefer not to say

Business Reply  
Licence Number  
RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL

Fold B



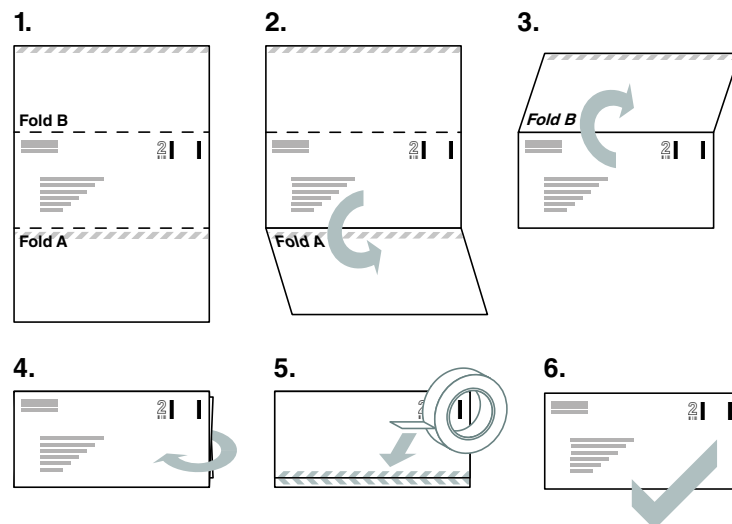
Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL  
A19 Testos and Downhill Lane project team  
3rd floor south  
Highways England  
Lateral  
8 City Walk  
Leeds  
LS11 9AT

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.



## Testos junction update

The Testos junction improvement project continues to be delivered with Downhill Lane junction, by one team. Following a review that took place in October 2016, it was concluded that the best approach for the projects would be separate DCO applications commitments made for each junction improvement.

Whilst our approach to deliver both schemes differs slightly, we are still planning to deliver the Testos and

Downhill Lane junction improvements together to minimise disruption to road users.

A statutory consultation for Testos junction was conducted between January and March 2017. Of the responses that were received, 90% were in support of the scheme. The Testos junction Improvement DCO application was submitted in July 2017 and is currently undergoing examination by the Planning Inspectorate.

## Construction Management

As part of our DCO application we will produce an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This will outline the control measures we will adopt to minimise the impact of the works on the local environment and communities during construction. The development teams have been collaborating to ensure as far as practical that the schemes can be delivered efficiently, minimising the impact on the public and key stakeholders.

We aim to minimise disruption to road users and will put in place measures to control nuisances such as noise and dust. The work will be phased with the aim of keeping two lanes of traffic flowing in both directions on the A19 at peak times. Temporary

traffic management will be installed to separate traffic and other users (e.g. pedestrians and cyclists) from the construction activities and provide safe working areas for our workers.

Construction traffic and machinery will use designated access routes to keep it separate from road users as much as possible and access to businesses will be maintained.

Some lane closures and full road closures will be required, however full closures will be communicated in advance, and signed diversion routes will be put in place. We will employ a Community Relations Manager who will keep you informed of our activities.

## Proposed land usage plan (indicative and subject to change)





# Environmental considerations

The scheme is being designed to minimise the effect on the environment. We will be completing a full statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project, which is currently in progress. A detailed Environmental Statement (ES) will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

The aims of the EIA are to work out the effects the proposed scheme would have on the environment and to influence the design in such a way as to

reduce negative environmental effects. It will also identify mitigation measures for any effects that remain. We have also prepared a document called a Preliminary Environmental Information report. This provides information on the likely environmental effects and potential mitigation measures envisaged for the proposed scheme, so that you can respond to this consultation in a well-informed way. A copy of this is available on our website: [www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane).

## The EIA covers a wide range of environmental themes:



### Air quality

We will consider the health related issues of local and regional air quality and the global issue of climate change. We will also consider emissions that may arise from the project both during construction and once it is open to traffic.



### Noise and vibration

Traffic flow data and information on construction methodology will be used to assess the noise and vibration impacts of the project during construction and once open to traffic.



### Cultural heritage

We will consider archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscapes. We will consider and manage direct impacts as well as how the project affects the settings and landscapes of potentially important local assets.



### Landscape and visual amenity

We will look at the effects on the local landscape and on the quality of views.



### Ecology and nature conservation

We will consider the effects on ecologically important sites, protected species and other sensitive species including bats, water voles and otters.



### Road drainage and the water environment

We will assess the effects on surface water, groundwater and flood risk during construction and operation.



### Geology and soils

We will consider the disturbance of groundwater, the impact on soil quality and the disturbance of any contaminated land.



### Waste and material

We will identify opportunities where possible to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.



### People and communities

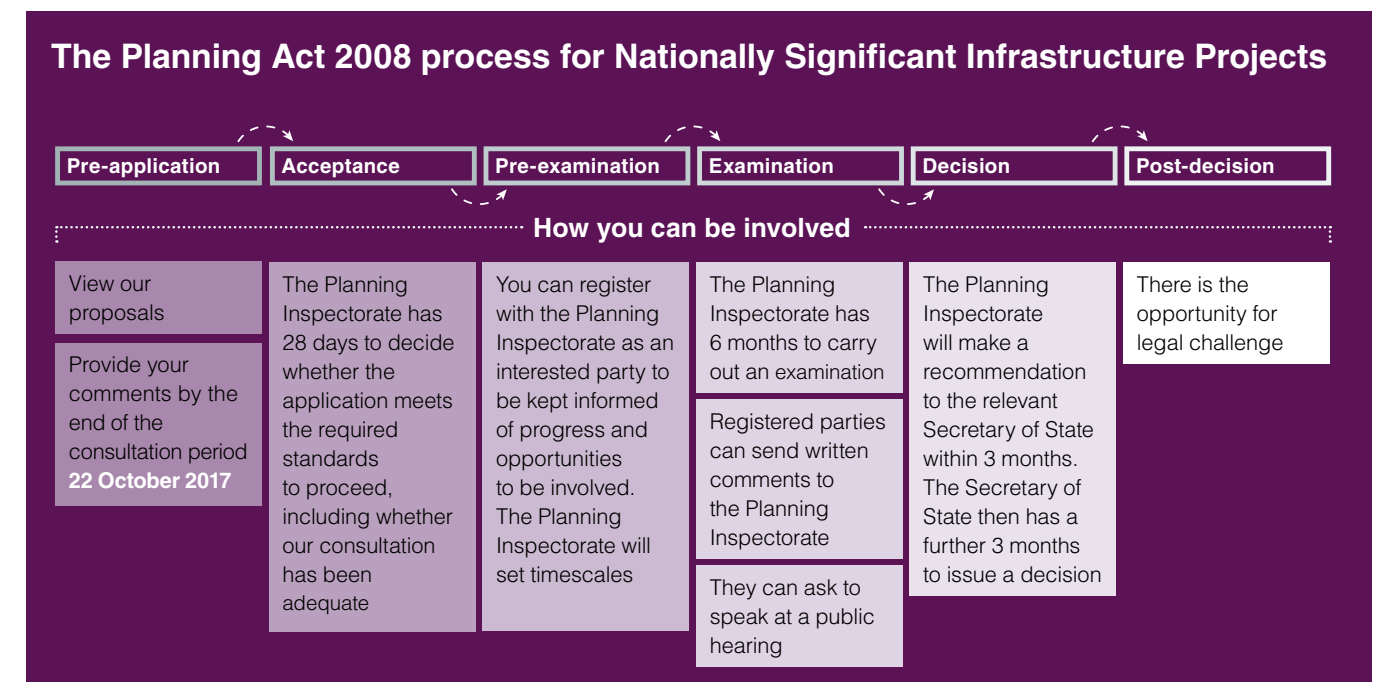
We will consider safety, journey time, congestion and accessibility for everyone along the route, including vehicle travellers, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. We will consider the effects of the scheme on land or other assets owned or used by the community. We are also looking at the effects on privately owned assets such as farmland. This topic will also cover socio-economic aspects such as the effect of the scheme on local employment during construction and operation.

# Next Steps

## The planning process

This Downhill Lane junction Improvement scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. As such, we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in order to obtain permission to construct the scheme. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application

and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will make the decision on whether or not the project should go ahead. We currently intend to submit our DCO application to the SoS for Transport in spring 2018. The process for a DCO application is set out in the diagram below, including where there is an opportunity for you to become involved in the process.



Once the consultation has closed on 22 October 2017, comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration, where appropriate. The comments received will inform, if necessary and where possible, further refinements to the Downhill Lane junction scheme and our approach to environmental mitigation. All responses will be analysed and compiled into a consultation report which will set out the consultation carried out,

a summary of responses received and how those responses have influenced our proposals. The consultation report will form part of our application for a DCO and will also be available following submission of the application.

Subject to our DCO application being approved, we estimate that construction work will start by 2019/2020.







## How to respond

Please respond using one of the following methods, which have been set up for the specific purpose of this consultation:

 **Online:** A hard copy questionnaire can be found in this document, or you can download a questionnaire and complete online at: [www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a19-testos-downhill-lane)

 **Email:** you can email your response to: [A19DownHillLane@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A19DownHillLane@highwaysengland.co.uk)

 **Post:** you can post your response and additional materials using the free-post envelope provided or write to us at:

**A19 Testos and Downhill Lane project team,**

Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL,  
Highways England, Lateral,  
8 City Wall, Leeds, LS11 9AT.

If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact the project team using any of these details or by calling: **0300 470 2683** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).



## Consultation Responses

When making comments please provide us with your name and address, or, if you prefer your comments to be anonymous, provide only your postcode. It would also help us if you would identify the nature of your interest in the project. Please note: all comments made during the consultation process, will be made public in the form of a consultation report via our scheme web page, however personal details such as addresses will not. Further consultation materials, including an electronic copy of this brochure and event boards are available online at the address on the previous page.

All responses should be returned no later than **Sunday 22 October 2017**.

There are a number of venues where you can find further copies of this brochure and supporting questionnaire during the consultation period.

**These venues are as follows:**

- **Boldon Village Hall,**  
Asda Complex/North Rd, Boldon Colliery, NE35 9AR. **Opening times:** Monday to Friday 9am to 12pm. **Tel:** 0191 536 3841
- **Bunny Hill Centre,**  
Hylton Lane, Sunderland, SR5 4BW. **Opening times:** Monday to Friday 9:30am to 5pm. **Tel:** 0191 520 5555
- **East Boldon Library,**  
Boker Lane, East Boldon, NE36 0RY. **Opening times:** Monday and Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm and 13:30pm to 5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am to 12:30pm and 13:30pm to 7pm. **Tel:** 0191 424 7853
- **Gateshead Civic Centre,**  
Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH. **Opening hours** are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. **Tel:** 0191 433 3000
- **Hebburn Library, Glen Street,**  
Hebburn, NE31 1AB. **Opening times:** Monday to Thursday 9:30am to 7pm; Friday 9:30am to 5pm; Saturday 10am to 4pm. **Tel:** 0191 424 7831
- **Hedworthfield Community Association,**  
Cornhill, Jarrow, NE32 4QD. **Opening times:** Monday to Friday 9am to 10pm; Saturday 9am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 2pm. **Tel:** 0191 519 6700
- **Jarrow Library,**  
Cambrian Street, Jarrow, NE32 3QN. **Opening times:** Monday 9:30am to 5pm; Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am to 7pm; Friday 9:30am to 5pm; Saturday 12pm to 4pm. **Tel:** 0191 489 7786
- **North Tyneside Council,**  
Planning Reception, Quadrant the Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY. **Opening times:** Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 5pm, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. **Tel:** 03454 04 05 06.
- **Quadrus Centre,**  
Woodstock Way, Boldon Business Park, Tyne & Wear, NE35 9PF. **Opening times:** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm. **Tel:** 0191 519 7202
- **The Word Library,**  
the Word, 45 Market Place, South Shields, NE33 1DX. **Opening times:** Monday to Thursday 9am to 7pm; Friday 9am to 5pm; Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. **Tel:** 0191 427 1818
- **Sunderland City Centre Customer Service Centre,**  
31-32 Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1RE. **Opening times:** Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5pm. **Tel:** 0191 520 5553
- **Washington Library,**  
Independence Square, Washington, NE38 7RZ. **Opening times:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30am to 5pm; Wednesday 9am to 7pm; Saturday 10am to 4pm. **Tel:** 0191 561 3441



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