

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements

Public consultation

Have your say



18 January to 1 March 2017

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Public consultation

Have your say by completing the consultation questionnaire

Highways England is the government company responsible for operating and maintaining England's major A roads and motorways. Formerly known as the Highways Agency, we are also responsible for delivering improvements to the existing strategic road network.



This consultation will run for 6 weeks from **18 January to 1 March 2017**.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please read this document and provide your feedback. Details on back page.

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions

The A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are situated on the A2 trunk road, approximately 1.2 miles apart (2km) within north Kent.

- **The Bean junction** connects the A296 and B255, which provides access to the Bluewater regional shopping centre, to the A2 and the wider area and is particularly busy at weekends.
- **The Ebbsfleet junction** serves the wider area and Ebbsfleet International Rail Station, connects the A2 to the A2260 and will also provide access to the new and ongoing developments.

The need for a scheme

In the coming years the Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions will serve developments such as the Ebbsfleet Garden City development.

This development will create 15,000 new homes and more than 30,000 jobs could be created. (Source: Ebbsfleet Development Corporation).

Traffic modelling has indicated that without improvements to both junctions, the road network will become highly congested resulting in considerable delays and associated environmental issues.

- **The Bean junction** proposed development will result in traffic using the A2 Bean junction (including the A296) increasing by 50-60% during weekday and weekend peak periods by 2037 compared to 2014 traffic levels.
- **The Ebbsfleet junction** proposed development will result in traffic using the A2 Ebbsfleet junction increasing between 170 – 200% during weekday peak periods by 2037 compared to 2014 traffic levels.



Objectives of the scheme

The objectives were developed in conjunction with the Department for Transport (DfT) and local authorities.

They are to provide improvements at A2 Bean and A2 Ebbsfleet junctions to:

- Support the economic and housing growth proposed for the north Kent area, including Ebbsfleet Garden City
- Increase the capacity of the junctions and minimise the impact on the A2
- Improve journey times
- Improve road safety
- Minimise impact on the environment
- Provide value for money with a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of at least 2:1. This means that for every £1 spent on the scheme at least £2 of economic benefit will be created.

Scheme details

Highways England has considered a number of options for both junctions. Following a detailed review of these proposals, Highways England has concluded that there is one option for each junction which meets the scheme objectives. Details of the proposal for each junction are as follows:

- The proposed Bean junction improvements broadly follow the existing road layout but with an additional bridge over the A2 adjacent to the existing bridge and a new slip road on to the A2 for eastbound traffic. It retains the existing junction layout but with the current roundabouts enlarged and converted to traffic signal control. A new bridge over the A2 for southbound traffic is provided to the east of the existing Bean Lane Overbridge, which is retained for northbound traffic.

- The proposed Ebbsfleet junction improvements broadly follow the existing road layout but with the existing roundabouts enlarged and with traffic signal control. Access is provided at the junctions to the new and ongoing developments. The link road between the roundabouts is widened from the existing single carriageway to a dual two lane carriageway. The existing eastbound and westbound slip roads from the A2 are retained. The eastbound and westbound slip roads to the A2 are widened.

The proposed scheme is being delivered by Highways England. It is funded by the Department for Transport with Section 106 contributions provided via the Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. The Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme consists of seven improvement schemes (including the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions) that will be delivered as developer contributions come forward to Gravesham Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. The programme is administered by Kent County Council. The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is the planning authority set up by Government to speed up delivery of up to 15,000 homes and create Ebbsfleet Garden City in north Kent.





Scheme benefits

These are as follows:

- Supports economic development, including jobs and housing growth in north Kent
- Increases capacity on the road network to accommodate future growth
- Smooths traffic and improves journey times at both junctions
- Increases capacity for all road users without endangering safety
- Improves safety for all road users

- Provides better facilities for non-motorised users (such as cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians)

- Provides better access to public transport

We want to hear your views

This consultation provides you with the opportunity to give your views on the proposed improvements to the Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions. Your feedback will assist us in planning and progressing the next stages of scheme development.



A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions

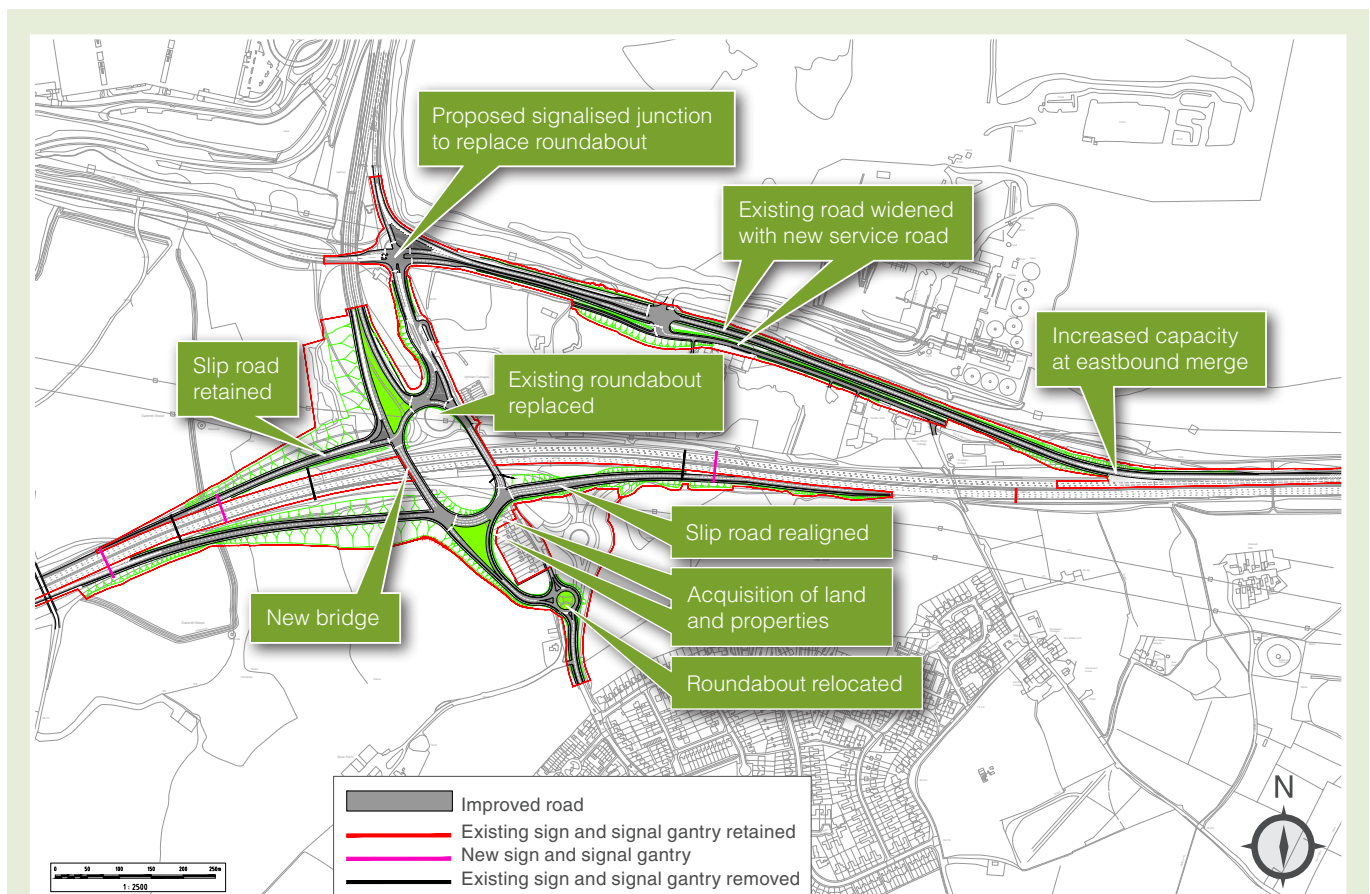
How we developed the options

A number of concept options were initially developed for both junctions. These were assessed against initial traffic forecasts, topography and environmental and physical constraints. This process resulted in a longlist of possible options, with 7 options at Bean and a single option at Ebbsfleet (Option 1b). The other concept options at Ebbsfleet were rejected as they did not provide adequate access to development areas or did not perform adequately in terms of traffic movements or did not fulfill the scheme objectives.

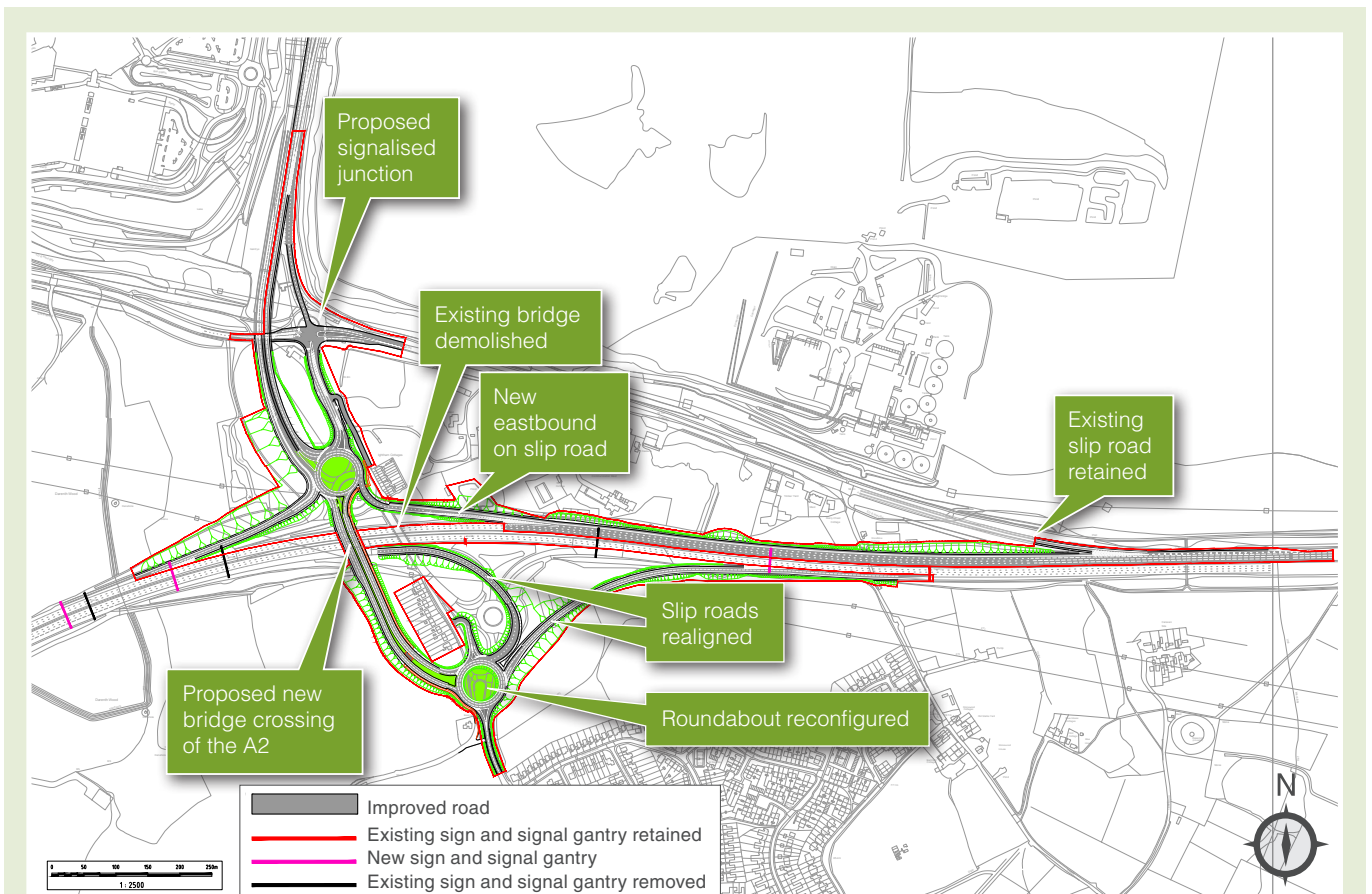
The longlist was then further assessed, culminating in a shortlist of 3 options at Bean (Options 3, 4b and 5) and the single option at Ebbsfleet. Some options on the longlist were rejected because on closer examination they did not perform well in terms of traffic movements or did not fulfill the scheme objectives.

Given the planned developments in the area, doing nothing at the 2 junctions would result in a huge increase in traffic and congestion and associated environmental problems at both junctions over the coming years.

The options on the shortlist have been appraised, resulting in a single option proposed for Bean (Option 5) and the single option proposed for Ebbsfleet (Option 1b).

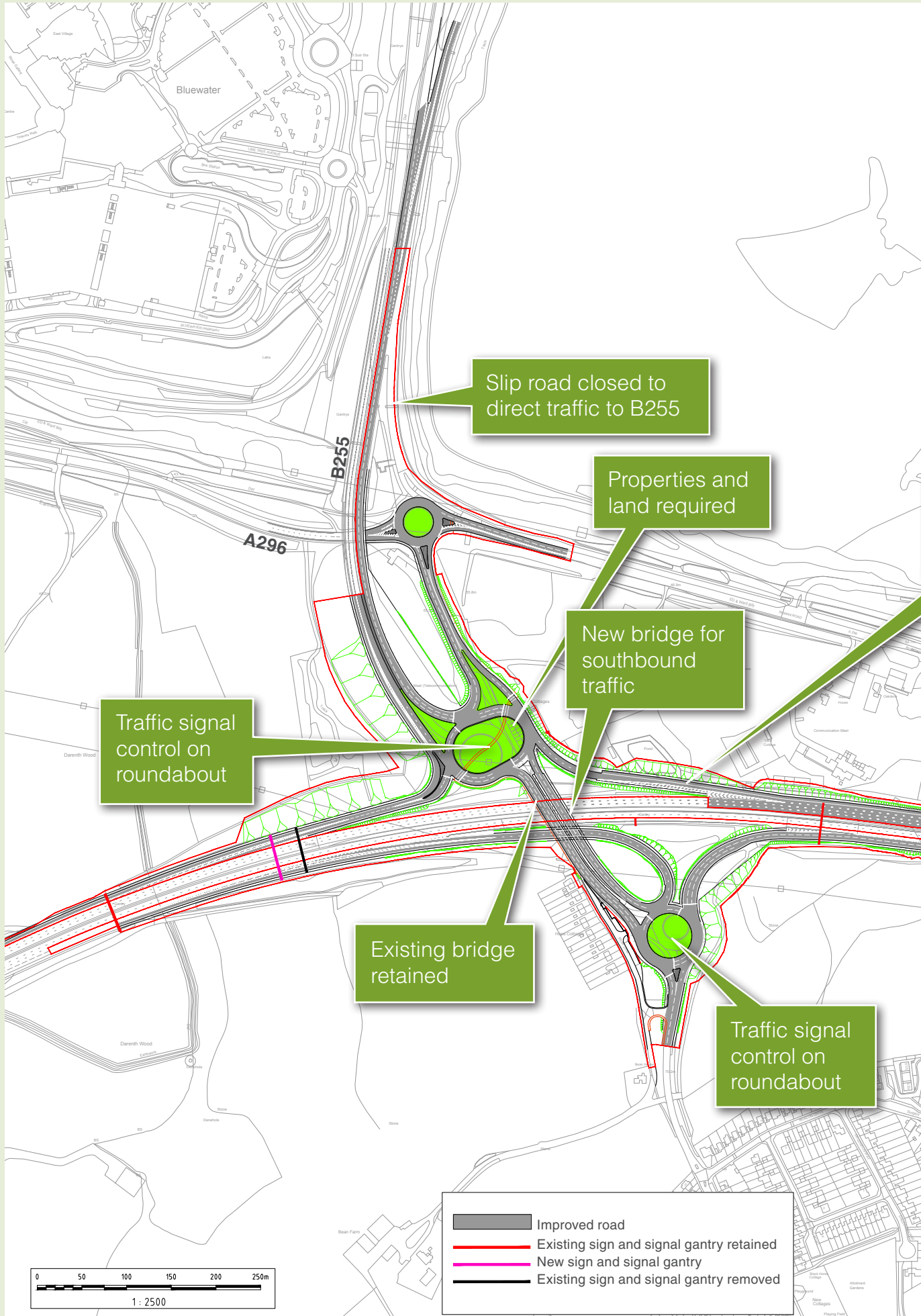


Bean Option 3 was rejected because it would have an impact on Darenth Wood SSSI ancient woodland and does not provide any additional significant benefit compared to Bean Option 5 whilst costing an additional £20m. The option also requires the acquisition of three properties and impacts on a further three. It provides low value for money with a BCR of less than 1.7:1. The cost of Bean Option 3 with Ebbsfleet Option 1b of £145m exceeds the scheme budget.



Bean Option 4b was rejected because, while it does not require the acquisition of any residential properties, it has the poorest overall performance against the assessment criteria and would have an impact on the Thrift ancient woodland. It provides very low value for money with a BCR of less than 1:1. The cost of Bean Option 4b with Ebbsfleet Option 1b is £143m which exceeds the scheme budget.

Option we want your views on

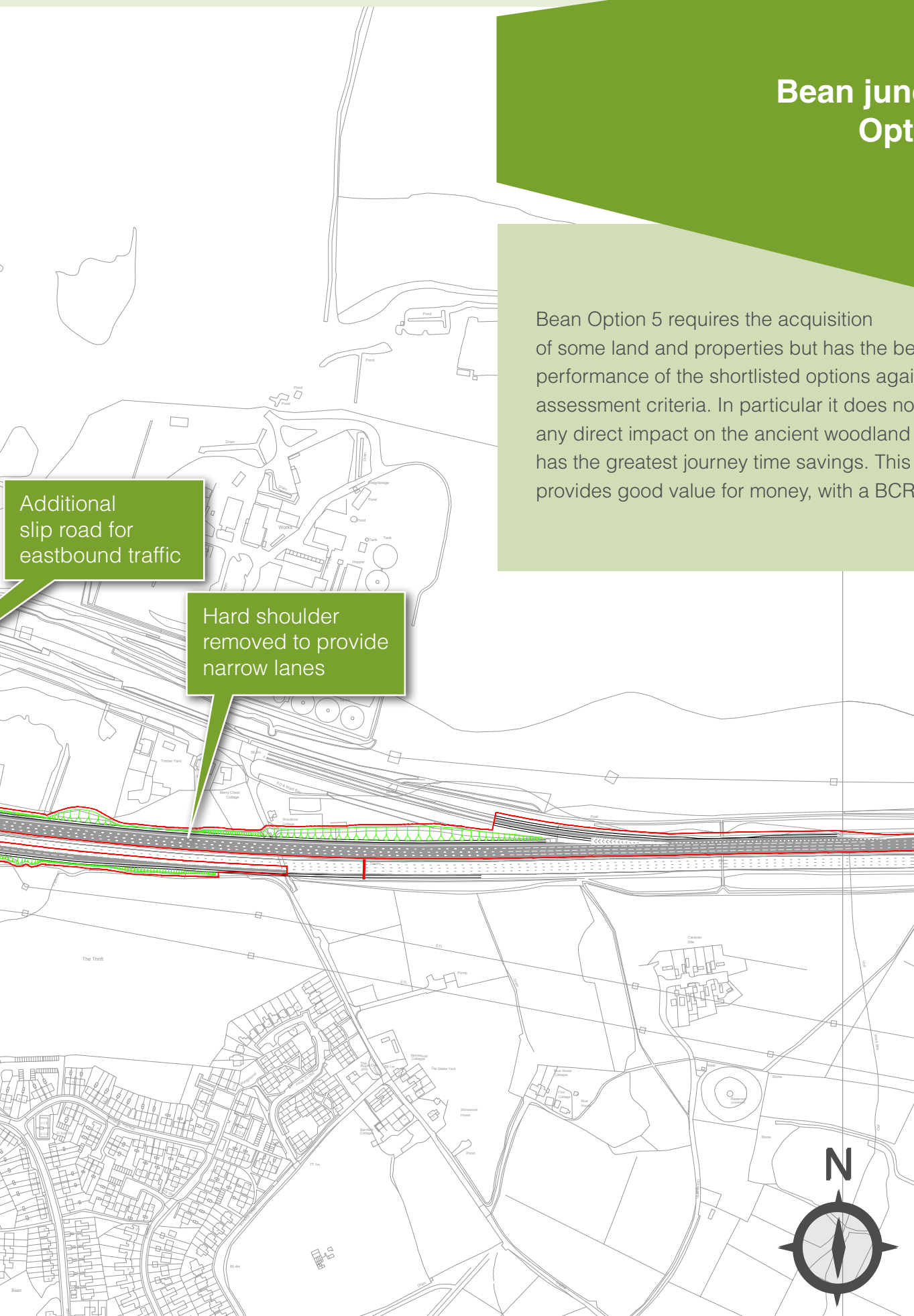


Bean junction Option 5

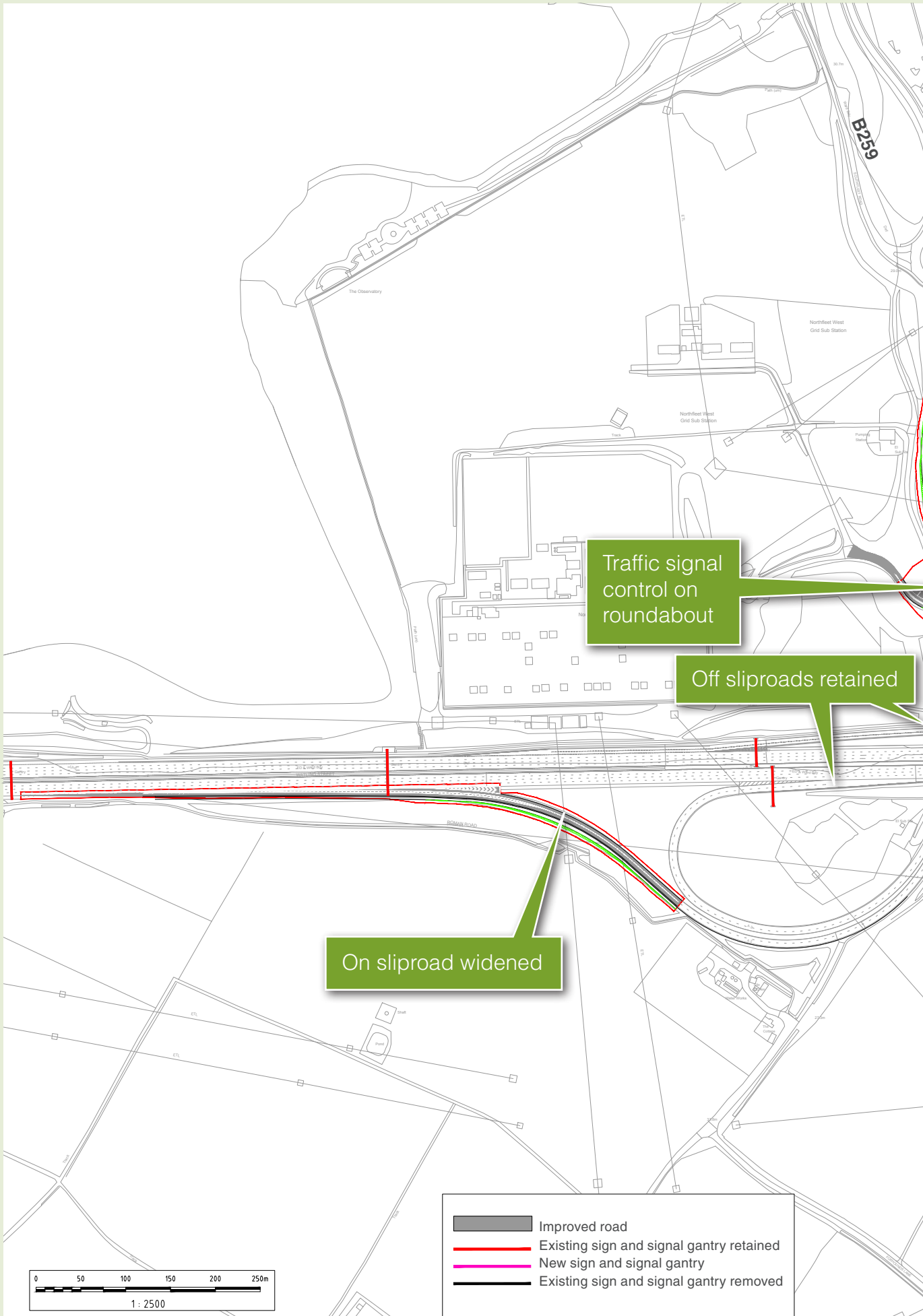
Bean Option 5 requires the acquisition of some land and properties but has the best overall performance of the shortlisted options against the assessment criteria. In particular it does not have any direct impact on the ancient woodland and has the greatest journey time savings. This option provides good value for money, with a BCR of 2.1:1.

Additional slip road for eastbound traffic

Hard shoulder removed to provide narrow lanes

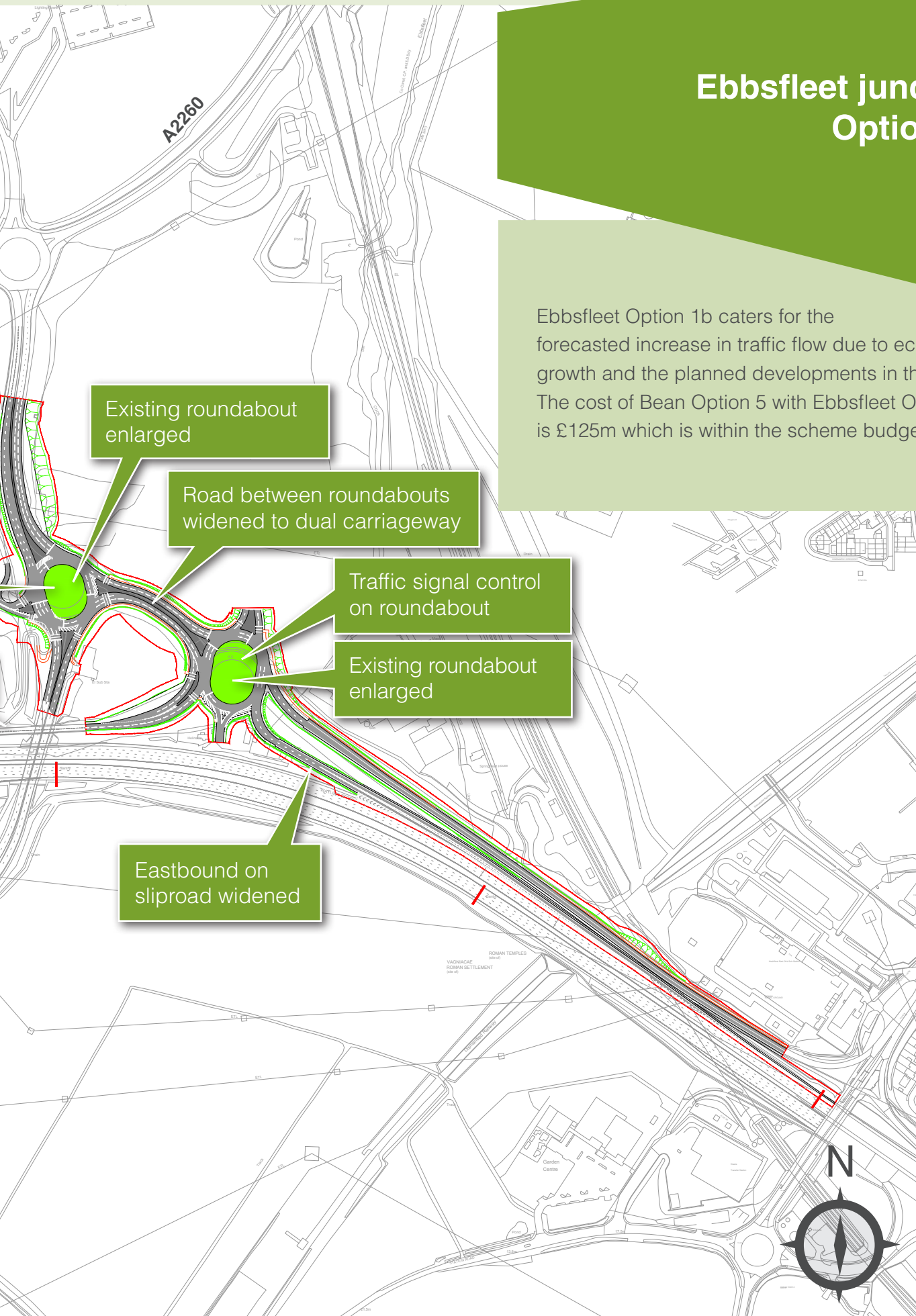


Option we want your views on



Ebbsfleet junction Option 1b

Ebbsfleet Option 1b caters for the forecasted increase in traffic flow due to economic growth and the planned developments in the area. The cost of Bean Option 5 with Ebbsfleet Option 1b is £125m which is within the scheme budget.



The performance of the proposed Bean Option 5 with the proposed Ebbsfleet Option 1b is summarised in the table below:

Benefit and impacts of the proposed scheme	Bean Option 5 with Ebbsfleet Option 1b
Economic development	Wider economic benefit of £22m (an estimate of the beneficial knock on effects on business productivity and production resulting from the implementation of the scheme over a 60-year period).
Journey time savings	£129.7m The improvements provide additional capacity at each junction to smooth traffic flow, improve journey times and journey time reliability over a 60-year period.
Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)	2.1:1 over a 60-year period.
Safety	Reduction of 11 accidents in which people are killed or seriously injured over 60-year period.
Air quality	It is unlikely that this scheme will lead to a significant impact on air quality but further assessment will be undertaken at the next stage.
Construction impact/duration	The programme allows for a construction period of 3 years but it is hoped to reduce this as the scheme is further developed. There will be significant traffic management during construction as the existing junctions are reconstructed.
Landscape and townscape impact	Overall slight impact but no direct impact on ancient woodland.
Land take – community	Acquisition of land and properties.
Non-motorised users	Existing routes will be maintained and crossing of the roads at the roundabouts will be facilitated by the introduction of traffic signals.
Scheme cost	£125m



As we are a statutory consultee, we are working with London Paramount to understand how their proposed development will impact upon the roads we manage and how any potential effects might be mitigated.

London Paramount is also engaging with the local authorities and the community regarding the impact that this development might have on the local road network.

Bluewater

The improvements that we have proposed for the Bean junction have been designed to accommodate the future traffic flows up to 2037 including known developments at the Bluewater shopping centre.

Relationship with other local projects

Highways England's proposed Lower Thames Crossing

The Lower Thames Crossing project is a separate proposal to the Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements although any decision about the Lower Thames Crossing will have an effect on future traffic on the A2. The Government is still to make a decision on the Lower Thames Crossing. The improvements at Bean and Ebbsfleet have been designed to accommodate whichever decision is made.

London Paramount Entertainment Resort

Our proposals for the Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are separate to any proposal currently being developed by the promoters of the London Paramount Entertainment Resort.

At this stage there has been no application for planning permission.

We want to hear your views

Your views are important and we would like your feedback on the proposed scheme. You can find out more about the scheme on line at www.highways.gov.uk/a2be or at the public consultation exhibitions where our project team will be on hand to answer your questions. The public exhibitions are being held as follows:

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday 18 January	Bean Youth and Community Centre High Street, Bean, DA2 8AS	17:30 - 20:00
Saturday 21 January		12:00 - 17:00
Saturday 28 January	Eastgate 141 Springhead Pkwy, Gravesend, DA11 8AD	12:00 - 17:00
Wednesday 1 February		13:00 - 20:00
Monday 20 February		13:00 - 20:00

You can also find further copies of this brochure at the following locations:

Location	Address
Bean Youth and Community Centre	High Street, Bean, DA2 8AS
Dartford Library	Central Park, Dartford, DA1 1EU
Greenhithe Library	London Road, Greenhithe, DA9 9EJ
Fleetdown Library	Swaledale Road, Dartford, DA2 6JZ
Longfield Library	49 Main Road, Longfield, Kent, DA3 7QT
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Community Hall	The Grove, Swanscombe, DA10 0GA
Swan Valley Library	Swanscombe Library Discovery Centre, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe, DA10 0BZ
Temple Hill Community Centre	Temple Hill Square, Dartford, DA1 5HY
Coldharbour Road Library	Northfleet, DA11 8AE
Hive House Library	Hive House, Northfleet, DA11 9DE
Gravesend Library	Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE
Gravesham Borough Council	Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU
Maidstone County Hall	County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ
Stone Pavilion	Hayes Road, Stone, Greenhithe, DA9 9DS



How to give us your views:

- Visit our website and fill in the online questionnaire at www.highways.gov.uk/a2be
- Email us: A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Write to us: **Freepost A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet junction improvements**
- Call **0300 123 5000** (24 hours).

The closing date for submitting feedback is **11.45pm on 1 March 2017**.

Your feedback and comments must be received by this deadline so that we can consider your response. We will not be able to respond to individual feedback but we will review and consider all comments received and acknowledge receipt of the response at the end of the consultation.

How we use your feedback

All views and comments received will help us to:

- Make sure potential impacts on the community and environment have been fully considered
- Ensure the final scheme design is updated with all relevant responses where applicable
- Ensure the final environmental statement takes into account impacts or mitigation measures that you have told us about
- Record how we have considered feedback to develop the scheme further in our consultation report

What happens after the public consultation

Following our normal procedures we will analyse all feedback and produce a consultation report which informs the preferred route. We will then develop detailed proposals for the scheme. This will include surveys and investigations to allow us to design the proposals in more detail. When the detailed designs are complete there will be another opportunity to have your say in a statutory consultation.

After this second consultation we will submit a planning application to the Planning Inspectorate. This is called the Development Consent Order process. We are required to undertake this for all projects of this nature, known as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The Development Consent Order application will be examined by the independent Planning Inspectorate, who will ask for representations from interested parties. After the examination, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Government which makes the final decision on the scheme. We will only be given consent to construct the scheme if the Development Consent Order is granted. Consent will also allow compulsory purchase of any land required.

Scheme milestones

Summer 2017

After considering your feedback alongside that of our stakeholders and partners we will produce a consultation report which will inform our decision on a preferred route.

Winter 2017/18

Statutory public consultation on the preferred route.

Summer 2018

We will submit a planning application which includes the final consultation report to the Planning Inspectorate. This is called the Development Consent Order process.

2018-2019

The Planning Inspectorate will evaluate the scheme.

2019/20

The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Government, which will decide whether to give the scheme consent.

2020

If planning consent is granted then construction starts.

2022/23

Scheme opens for traffic.

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

Contact us

Please complete the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements consultation questionnaire.

You can also contact us as follows:

- Visit our website and fill in the online questionnaire at **www.highways.gov.uk/a2be**
- Email us:
A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk
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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 **PR176/16**.

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