

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme

Supplementary consultation
24 May to 26 June 2022



Welcome



Thank you for taking an interest in this supplementary consultation on the A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme.

We're looking to upgrade approximately 8.5 miles (13.6 km) of road to a high-quality and high-performing dual carriageway. This would make journeys safer, quicker and more reliable for the wide variety of people who use the road.

The upgraded A358 would improve safety, create opportunities, keep people connected, future-proof the route and facilitate a growth in jobs, investment and housing.

We've made some changes to the preliminary design since our public consultation in 2021. We want to know your thoughts on these changes before we submit our planning application to the Planning Inspectorate.

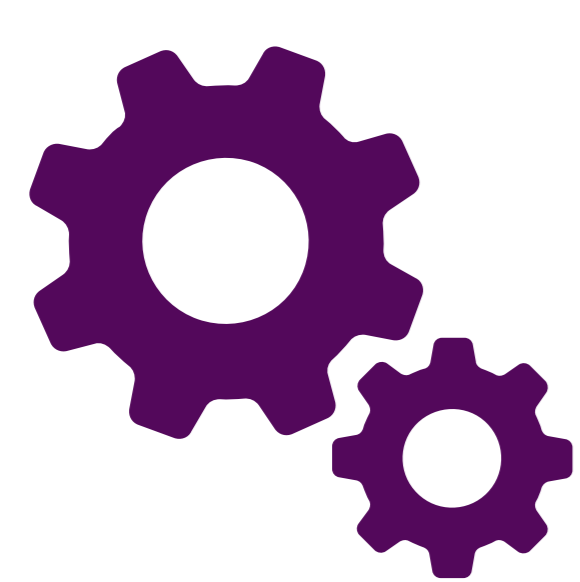
We encourage you to read the information on display today alongside our *Consultation booklet*. You can then provide your thoughts by completing a *Feedback questionnaire*.

**It's important that you respond by
23:59 Sunday 26 June 2022.**

Responses received after the consultation closes may not be considered.

Developing proposals

We'd like to thank everyone who took part in our public consultation in 2021. Since then, we have:



been carefully considering more than 900 responses received



carried out further surveys, traffic impact and environmental assessments



refined our proposals with local people and communities in mind

We are now consulting on some of these changes.

You can find out more about the 2021 statutory consultation in the *Public consultation summary report*. Or you can see an overview of the feedback received and our response in our *Responding to feedback from 2021 public consultation booklet*.

These documents are available via our website at:
www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields

What we're consulting on

Our revised proposals

We want to hear your thoughts on some of the changes we've made since our last public consultation. The changes we've made to our preliminary design would improve safety and access to local roads and reduce the impact on communities, the environment and the local landscape. These changes relate to the following broad categories:



Transport, traffic and access



Walking, cycling, horse-riding and disabled user access



Environmental mitigation

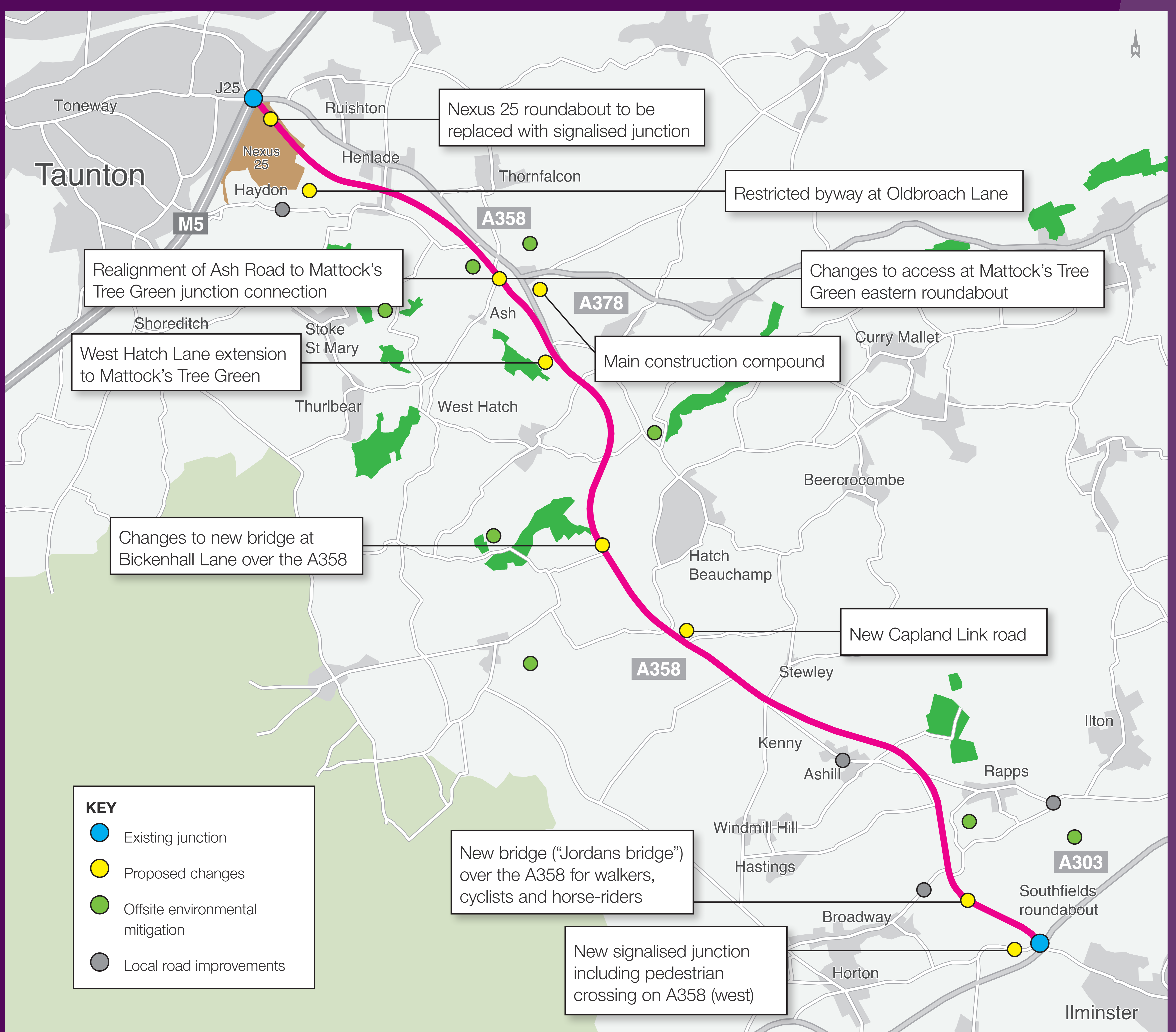


Location of main construction compound

We've also made some smaller changes along the route. All design changes we've made since the 2021 public consultation are set out in our *Summary of changes booklet*. These smaller changes are not the focus of the consultation, but you can comment on them if you wish to.

If you submitted a response to our 2021 public consultation you do not need to resubmit your feedback as part of this consultation, unless you have something new to add to it, in light of the new information that's being shared.

Proposed changes map



Environment

Following the results of further ecological surveys and feedback from the 2021 public consultation, we've amended our biodiversity mitigation to reflect the updated habitat and species data and to improve habitat function and connectivity within the wider landscape.

Offsite mitigation areas

- We've identified a number of offsite areas for habitat creation. Areas of woodland planting and grassland creation or enhancement are proposed in eight locations.
- These are shown on the 'Proposed changes map'.

Hedgerow improvements

- Our proposed mitigation would focus on enhancing the existing hedgerow network.
- In addition, we would create new hedgerows across the length of the scheme where feasible.
- This would safeguard dormice throughout construction and in the long term.

Woodland management

- We would look to install dormouse boxes in several areas of existing woodland.
- Woodland management, such as coppicing to allow development of ground level vegetation, is also proposed.



Next steps

Once the consultation has closed at 23:59 on Sunday 26 June, we will review all comments and suggestions that have been received during this period. We will take the time to consider your feedback when making further refinements to our proposed design and developing our planned mitigation measures.

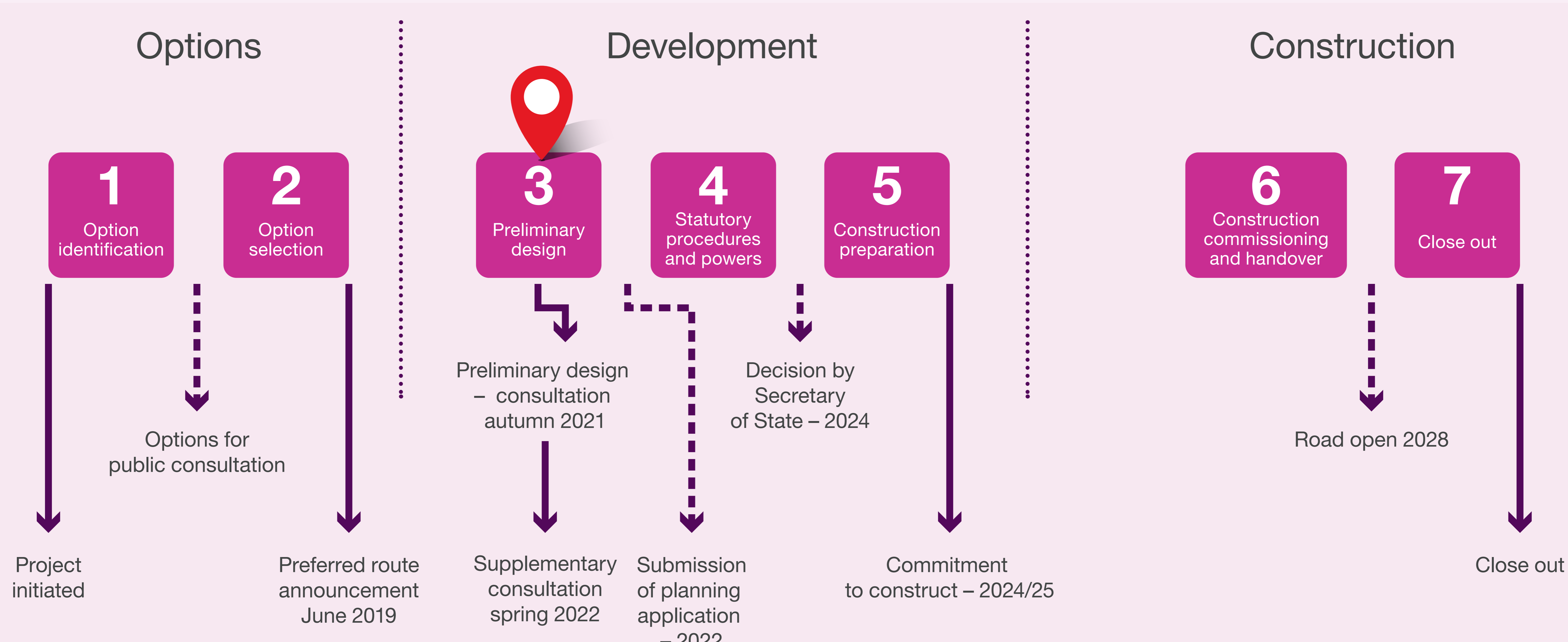
We will set out a summary of the responses in a consultation report, which will also describe how your feedback has shaped and influenced our proposals.

This will form part of our DCO application, which we expect to submit later in 2022.

If our application is accepted for examination, the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) will examine the application through written representation and public hearings. They will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will decide on whether or not the project will go ahead.

If granted, works would start in 2024/25.

This process is explained in the timeline below.





Giving us your feedback

Please complete a feedback questionnaire.

You can hand it in at a public event or take it home and return it to:



FREEPOST
A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELDS
Note: the address must be written in capitals and you do not need a stamp



You can complete a questionnaire online via:
www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields



You can also email your feedback to us at:
A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk

It's important that you respond by **23:59 on Sunday 26 June 2022**. Responses received after the consultation closes may not be considered.

Contact us

If you have any further questions or would like to find out more, please contact us by:



Phone: 0300 123 5000



Email: A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk