

A428

Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements

Statement of Community Consultation



June 2019

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Highways England operates, maintains and improves England's motorways and major A-roads. This is often referred to as the strategic road network (SRN). The A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements scheme (the Scheme) is part of our ongoing investment to improve customer satisfaction on both a regional and national scale. The Scheme will improve road safety and, by reducing congestion on the road network, it will also improve journeys between Milton Keynes and Cambridge, which will be beneficial to the local and regional economy.
- 1.2 We are publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to outline our approach to consulting with the local community on the Scheme. It provides details about how you (the local community) can take part and how feedback will be used to influence our proposed design.
- 1.3 To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way for the local community, we have consulted on this document with Bedford Borough Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Milton Keynes Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, which are the local authorities in the areas where the Scheme is proposed to be built and/or may significantly impact.
- 1.4 This document also gives you the background to the Scheme and how our application to construct it will progress.

2 Our application

- 2.1 The Scheme is being developed under the Planning Act 2008 and we are making this SoCC available under Section 47 (duty to consult local community) of that Act.
- 2.2 Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the Scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the body of evidence presented in our DCO application. The Secretary of State will then decide on whether the Scheme should go ahead, based on a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the Scheme will be submitted in early 2020.
- 2.3 The Scheme is considered to be a nationally significant infrastructure project and will therefore be determined with regard to the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS), which will be a key consideration for the Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State when assessing our DCO application. The NNNPS sets out the need and the policy framework for considering nationally significant infrastructure projects on the road network and is the National Policy Statement against which decisions on major road projects will be made.
- 2.4 When we submit our DCO application, one of the key areas the Planning Inspectorate must consider is whether our pre-application consultation has been adequate. The best time for you to have your say to inform our final design on the Scheme is now, by taking part in our pre-application statutory consultation.

2.5 During the Planning Inspectorate’s pre-examination stage, those with an interest in or concern about the Scheme can register to participate in the examination by submitting written comments. During the examination period, the Planning Inspectorate is likely to hold hearings to examine some issues in greater depth. Following the examination, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will then determine the application.

2.6 You can find more information about the infrastructure planning process, the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on the National Infrastructure Planning website (<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>), or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

How the planning process works

Here are the steps that show the journey from this consultation to a DCO decision.



3 The Scheme

- 3.1 The A428 between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet is the only stretch of single carriageway along the route between the M1 near Milton Keynes and Cambridge. The A428 provides a vital link between the M1 and the M11, connecting the communities of Bedford, St Neots, Cambridge and Cambourne. The A428 is an important route in an area of the country where there is the potential for considerable growth in housing and employment.
- 3.2 Those that use the A428 regularly experience congestion and delays: journey times are inconsistent and there are often delays during rush hour. This is particularly problematic at the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet roundabouts and means that many people frequently face long queues on the main roads such as the A1 and the A421.
- 3.3 The situation is made worse by the lack of available diversion routes, meaning that accidents can result in disruption over a wide area. Rat running on local roads through surrounding villages is also a problem, with drivers keen to find alternative routes to avoid congestion on the A428 and at Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet junction.
- 3.4 The Scheme will upgrade the route between the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet. A new 10 mile dual carriageway will connect the Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet junction. The existing A428 between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet will be de-trunked and retained for local traffic, public transport, and walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The main aspects of the Scheme are:

New roads, junctions and bridges

- A new dual carriageway connecting Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet roundabout to ease congestion on existing local roads
- A new three tier junction at Black Cat roundabout which will allow traffic to flow freely on the A1 by travelling under the junction and on the new dual carriageway over the junction
- New junctions at Caxton Gibbet and Cambridge Road, connecting the new dual carriageway to the existing A428
- Alternative access for side roads at Chawston, Wyboston and Eltisley. Wyboston and Chawston will be connected by the new Roxton Road Link
- New bridges crossing over the new dual carriageway at Roxton Road, Barford Road and Toseland Road
- New bridges over the River Great Ouse and East Coast Main Line railway

Retention of existing roads and access

- Retention of the existing A428 between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet for local traffic and public transport
- Retention of all existing bus stops
- Direct access to the A1 from some roads will be removed as part of safety considerations (details of the roads to be removed can be found in the consultation material)

Walkers, Cyclists and Horse riders

- Enhanced routes for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders that maintain links with the existing public rights of way

Environment

- Environmental mitigation including planting to provide screening for new infrastructure

Other

- Temporary construction areas and access roads, together with works to secure vehicular and/or pedestrian means of access including the creation of new tracks, footpaths, and/or widening, upgrades, creation of bell mouths, creation of temporary slip roads and improvements to existing tracks, footpaths and roads
- The permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights for the scheme
- Overriding easements and other rights over or affecting land for the scheme
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the scheme including, amongst others, legislation relating to compulsory purchase
- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits or consents as necessary and/or convenient

3.5 The new dual carriageway and its junctions will have a higher capacity than the existing A428, meaning that traffic can flow more freely. This will reduce congestion and ultimately create a more reliable route between the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet junctions. The Scheme will also increase resilience, meaning that the road network is better able to cope with accidents and disruption. It will improve safety at junctions, side roads and private accesses by reducing traffic flows on the existing A428, and it will improve safety on the A1 by removing existing substandard side road junctions and private accesses onto the carriageway.

3.6 The new road will also complement the development of a new high quality link road between Milton Keynes and Oxford, transforming connections and supporting housing and job growth across the wider region. With the new A14, it will form part of a key strategic route to the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich.

3.7 Due to its potential environmental impacts, the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017. This means that as part of the DCO application, we will be producing an Environmental Statement that will give information about the likely significant effects of the Scheme and the measures proposed to mitigate any negative effects.

3.8 In advance of preparation of the Environmental Statement, we have published a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report and Non-Technical Summary of the PEI Report as part of the pre-application consultation material. This document will provide information gathered to date about what the potential environmental effects of the Scheme will be and an overview of the types of mitigation proposed.

It will sit alongside an EIA Scoping Report, which outlines what we propose to survey and how we propose to assess the effects of the Scheme on the environment.

- 3.9 As part of the pre-application consultation, the general public and statutory consultees will be able to comment on the contents of the PEI Report.
- 3.10 Additional information about the Scheme, including maps, plans and anticipated benefits, is included in our public consultation booklet. Summary information about the Scheme, including information about how to respond to the consultation and consultation events, is included in a letter sent to local residents. More information about the distribution of these documents is included in section 7 of this SoCC.

4 Previous consultations

- 4.1 We have already carried out one round of consultation in the vicinity of the Scheme, a non-statutory consultation on our proposed options for the Scheme design in March and April 2017.
- 4.2 Consultees were asked for their views on the need to improve the journey between the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet roundabouts in order to reduce congestion problems. Consultees were also invited to comment on the three options for the route of the new dual carriageway and three options for the Black Cat roundabout.
- 4.3 Full details about the results of this consultation are available in the Report on Public Consultation, and information about why we decided to progress with our chosen options is included in the Preferred Route Announcement booklet. Both of these documents are available to download from our Scheme website <http://highwaysengland.co.uk/A428>, on request from Highways England and will also be available to view for the duration of the consultation period at the deposit locations detailed in this SoCC.

5 Current consultation - why and when

- 5.1 It is important to us that our consultation will:
- Enable members of the public to influence details of the Scheme
 - Provide the opportunity to give feedback on the Scheme
 - Encourage the community to help shape the Scheme to maximise local benefits and minimise any downsides
 - Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of the Scheme
 - Enable potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, built into the Scheme before our DCO application is submitted
 - Identify ways in which the Scheme supports wider strategic or local objectives
- 5.2 Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to and consider everyone's views and opinions before we submit our DCO application.

5.3 The consultation will run from 3 June until 28 July 2019. During the consultation period, we will provide information about and seek feedback on various features of the Scheme including:

- Detailed alignment of the route
- Plans for walkers, cyclists and horse riders
- Plans for environmental mitigation

5.4 Working with Bedford Borough Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Milton Keynes Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, we have developed a primary consultation zone (shown in Appendix A). This is based on who we think will be most affected by our proposals, but we will also promote the consultation beyond this area (please see table in section 7 of this SoCC). We will inform people living in this area about our consultation by posting them information about how they can participate, and we will also contact business premises within the zone in the same way. We will also update our Scheme website, where many people, including residents, are signed up for alerts, with this information.

6 Who can take part?

6.1 Anyone who is interested in the Scheme is welcome to take part. We welcome all views and will take them into account before we submit our final design.

7 How will we consult?

7.1 We will use the methods outlined on the following pages to promote our public consultation.

Method	Detail																		
<p>Consultation events</p>	<p>Consultation events will be held at local venues and members of the team will be available to answer questions about the Scheme. Visitors to the consultation events will be able to submit their consultation responses at the events if they choose to. Our planned consultation events are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="603 450 1401 1601"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="603 450 1002 490">Location</th> <th data-bbox="1002 450 1401 490">Date and time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 490 1002 674">Wyboston Training Centre (Oakley Suite), Wyboston Lakes, Great North Road, Wyboston, Bedfordshire MK44 3AL</td> <td data-bbox="1002 490 1401 674">Thursday 13 June 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 674 1002 819">St Neots Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2BH</td> <td data-bbox="1002 674 1401 819">Friday 21 June 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 819 1002 936">Wyboston Village Hall, Wyboston, Bedford MK44 3AG</td> <td data-bbox="1002 819 1401 936">Monday 24 June 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 936 1002 1081">Newton Primary School, Caxton End, Eltisley, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 6TL</td> <td data-bbox="1002 936 1401 1081">Saturday 29 June 2019 10:00 to 16:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1081 1002 1234">Stuart Memorial Hall, Church Street, Tempsford, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2AW</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1081 1401 1234">Tuesday 2 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1234 1002 1344">Yelling Village Hall, High Street, St Neots, PE19 6SB</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1234 1401 1344">Thursday 11 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1344 1002 1489">Doubletree by Hilton, Cambridge Belfry, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1344 1401 1489">Monday 15 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="603 1489 1002 1601">Roxton Village Hall, High Street, Roxton MK44 3EA</td> <td data-bbox="1002 1489 1401 1601">Thursday 18 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>We will also be holding pop-up style events at the following shopping centres:</p> <ul data-bbox="628 1749 1428 1825" style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre:MK, 24 Silbury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 3ES • Harpur Centre, Horne Lane, Bedford, MK40 1TJ <p>Consultation events (including the dates and times of the pop-up style events) will be publicised in the local media, on social media and through posters in local venues. Details of consultation events will also be available on our Scheme website.</p>	Location	Date and time	Wyboston Training Centre (Oakley Suite), Wyboston Lakes, Great North Road, Wyboston, Bedfordshire MK44 3AL	Thursday 13 June 2019 12:00 to 20:00	St Neots Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 2BH	Friday 21 June 2019 12:00 to 20:00	Wyboston Village Hall, Wyboston, Bedford MK44 3AG	Monday 24 June 2019 12:00 to 20:00	Newton Primary School, Caxton End, Eltisley, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 6TL	Saturday 29 June 2019 10:00 to 16:00	Stuart Memorial Hall, Church Street, Tempsford, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2AW	Tuesday 2 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00	Yelling Village Hall, High Street, St Neots, PE19 6SB	Thursday 11 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00	Doubletree by Hilton, Cambridge Belfry, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW	Monday 15 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00	Roxton Village Hall, High Street, Roxton MK44 3EA	Thursday 18 July 2019 12:00 to 20:00
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Method	Detail
Scheme website	<p>A full summary of the Scheme, this SoCC, the consultation booklet, the consultation response form, the PEI Report, Non-Technical Summary of the PEI Report, and a Scheme/route map showing the full extent of the Scheme and the land needed to construct it will be available on our Scheme website highwaysengland.co.uk/a428 during the consultation period.</p> <p>In order to establish our Scheme website as the key source of information about the Scheme, we will send letters and emails to the local authorities and parish councils we consult on the Scheme, encouraging them to display a link on their website directing people to our Scheme website. This will reduce the risk of key messages being misreported on other sites, integrate the website more widely and offer the potential for faster and more reliable information distribution going forward. The consultation will also be referenced on the Planning Inspectorate’s website. Our Scheme website will also be accessible via the Planning Inspectorate’s website.</p>
Consultation booklet and letters	<p>The consultation booklet will contain details of the Scheme and consultation events (including pop-up style events). It will be available online on our Scheme website, at events and at the deposit locations listed in section 9 of this SoCC, and will be sent to those directly affected by the Scheme (i.e. those properties within the red line boundary).</p> <p>In addition to the above, we will post information about the Scheme and consultation events to those living in the primary consultation zone (please see Appendix A and rationale in section 5 of this SoCC).</p>
Council and community / area forum briefings	<p>Where possible and when invited, we will speak to local council forums and community / area forums, including parish councils, affected by or in the vicinity of the Scheme.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>Where possible and when invited, we will brief local stakeholders affected by the Scheme.</p>
Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the proposed DCO application and this SoCC will be published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed DCO application publicity notice (Section 48 Notice) – once in The Times, The Guardian and the London Gazette and for at least two successive weeks in local newspapers (for example, the Bedford Times and Citizen, Hunts Post and Cambridge News) • The SoCC notice (Section 47(6)(a) Notice) – once in local newspapers (for example, Bedford Times and Citizen, Hunts Post and Cambridge News)

Method	Detail
Media adverts, press releases and posters	<p>We will also advertise the public consultation by placing media adverts in local newspapers (for example, Bedford Times and Citizen, Hunts Post and Cambridge News). These adverts will promote the consultation and will include details of consultation events. Press releases detailing the consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will be issued.</p> <p>We will send posters publicising the consultation to the parish councils we consult. We will ask them to issue the posters through their established networks (including notice boards, newsletters, meetings and websites).</p>
Social media	<p>The public consultation will be advertised on Highways England's Twitter feed (@HighwaysEngland), which will be used to announce the start of the consultation, publicise the exhibitions and encourage responses to the consultation.</p>
Hard to reach groups	<p>We have identified a range of community organisations with a potential interest in the Scheme, including representatives of local 'hard to reach' groups. To ensure these 'hard to reach' groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear. Additionally, we will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the contact telephone number and email address for the Scheme are prominent on all published material, enabling individuals to contact the team with questions and requests. • That the consultation booklet and feedback form can be made available in alternative forms on request including large print and languages other than English. • Information about the consultation is sent directly to addresses within the primary consultation zone. • Representatives of 'hard to reach groups' will be sent details about the consultation. <p>Where possible we will aim to hold events at venues that are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport. For anyone with specific additional requirements in relation to consultation events, please email info@a428.co.uk or call 0300 123 5000.</p>

7.2 Any activity(ies) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control (such as severe weather conditions) will, where possible, be substituted with similar activity(ies) and advertised in local newspapers where possible (via a press release and adverts) circulating in the vicinity of the Scheme, as well as on social media.

Our Scheme website will also be updated to explain any changes or new arrangements.

8 How to respond to the consultation

8.1 A consultation response form has been made available to help you provide comments on the Scheme. All consultation responses must be made in writing. Consultation responses can be provided by:

- Completing the online response form on our Scheme website: highwaysengland.co.uk/a428
- Attending a consultation event where you can meet the project team and complete a paper copy response form
- Picking up a paper copy response form at one of our deposit locations which can then be returned via freepost to FREEPOST, A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
- Emailing info@a428.co.uk
- Writing to us at FREEPOST, A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

8.2 All responses must be received by **23.59 on 28 July 2019**.

9 Information available at and details of local deposit locations

To help inform consultation responses, the below items will be made available to view free of charge at a number of deposit locations during the consultation period:

- This SoCC
- Public consultation booklet and response form
- Scheme/route map showing the full extent of the Scheme and the land needed to construct it
- PEI Report and Non-Technical Summary
- Section 48 Notice, which will publicise our pre-application statutory consultation for the Scheme
- Previous public consultation reports and/or public consultation summary documents

The deposit locations are listed on the following pages.

Deposit location	Opening times
Bedford Borough Council Cauldwell Street Bedford MK42 9AP	Monday to Thursday 8:45 – 17:00 Friday 8:45 – 16:45 Saturday and Sunday Closed
Cambourne Library Sackville House Sackville Way Cambridge CB23 6HD	Monday 9.00 – 17.00 Tuesday 9.00 – 13.00 Wednesday Closed Thursday 16:00 – 19:00 Friday 9:00 – 17:00 Saturday 9:00 – 13:00 Sunday Closed
Huntingdonshire District Council St Marys Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN	Monday to Thursday 8:45 – 17:00 Friday 8:45 – 16:30 Saturday and Sunday Closed
Huntingdonshire District Council St Neots Customer Service Centre The Priory Centre St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2BH	Monday to Friday 9.30 – 15:30 Saturday and Sunday Closed
Milton Keynes Central Library 555 Silbury Blvd Milton Keynes MK9 3HL	Monday to Wednesday 9:00 – 18:00 Thursday 9:00 – 20:00 Friday 9:00 – 18:00 Saturday 9:00 – 17:00 Sunday Closed
Papworth Library Pendril Court Ermine Street North Papworth Everard Cambridgeshire CB23 3UY	Monday Closed Tuesday 10.00 – 13.00, 14.00 – 17.00 Wednesday 10.00 – 13.00 Thursday 14.00 – 17.00 Friday Closed Saturday 10.00 – 13.00 Sunday Closed
Sandy Library Market Square Sandy SG19 1EH	Monday Closed Tuesday to Friday 9:00 – 18:00 Saturday 9:00 – 16:00 Sunday Closed
South Cambridgeshire District Council South Cambridgeshire Hall Cambourne Business Park Cambourne Cambridgeshire CB23 6EA	Monday to Friday 8.00 – 17.30 Saturday and Sunday Closed

Deposit location	Opening times
St Neots Library 1 Priory Lane St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2BH	Monday 9.30 – 17.00 Tuesday 9.30 – 17.00 Wednesday 13.30 – 19.00 Thursday 9.30 – 17.00 Friday 9.30 – 17.00 Saturday 9.30 – 16.00 Sunday Closed

The opening times of these organisations are dependent on and are governed by them and may be subject to change. If in doubt, please phone ahead before visiting a location.

10 Next steps

10.1 We will collect and analyse all responses to the consultation before submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. We will record and carefully consider all responses received during the consultation period. The responses to consultation will be taken into account when we finalise our DCO application before we submit it to the Planning Inspectorate.

10.2 To allow time to analyse all the responses, feedback must be received by **23:59 on 28 July 2019**.

10.3 We will summarise responses in a Consultation Report which will include a description of how our DCO application was informed by the responses, including those from informal pre-application engagement and consultation, and outline any changes made as a result. If our Scheme changes significantly following this consultation we may carry out additional targeted consultation activities, the outcomes of which will also be included in the Consultation Report. The Consultation Report will form part of our submission to the Planning Inspectorate, as required by Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008.

10.4 The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the DCO application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether our consultation has been adequate.

10.5 To find out more about the Scheme or to obtain copies of consultation documents:

- Visit our Scheme website highwaysengland.co.uk/a428, where you can also sign up to receive alerts whenever the website is updated
- Email info@a428.co.uk
- Phone 0300 123 5000
- Write to FREEPOST, A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

11 Data protection and you

The following data privacy notice will be published alongside our consultation materials when we ask for information from consultees:

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force. This legislation requires Highways England to explain to consultees, stakeholders and customers how their personal data will be used and stored.

Highways England adheres to the Government's Consultation Principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

Personal data collected for the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements scheme will be processed and retained by Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete.

Under the GDPR regulations you have the right to request the following information from us:

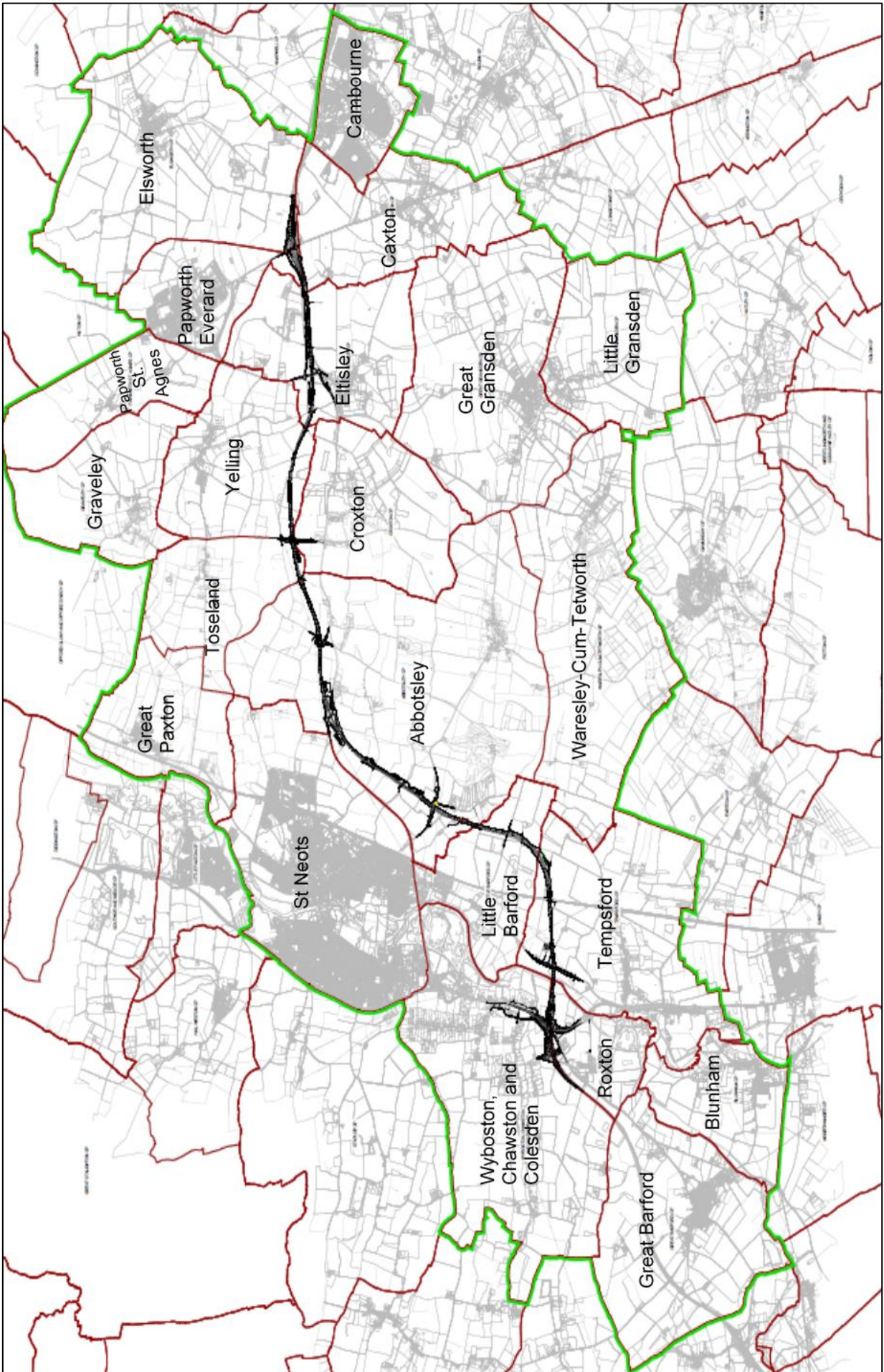
1. Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
2. Right for the rectification of errors
3. Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
4. Right to restrict processing or to object to processing
5. Right to data portability

If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will provide you with information about what that other purpose is. This will be done prior to any further processing taking place. The extra information will include any relevant further information as referred to above, including the right to object to that further processing.

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.

If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact DataProtectionAdvice@Highwaysengland.co.uk.

12 Appendix A: Primary consultation zone



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.highwaysengland.co.uk

For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

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 **PR253/18**.

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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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