

# A585

## Windy Harbour to Skippool improvement scheme

Preferred route  
announcement



## Introduction

**Highways England operates, maintains and improves England’s motorways and major A-roads, the strategic road network. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe. That’s why we’re delivering £15 billion of investment on our network – the largest investment in a generation. The A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool scheme is a critical part of this investment. The A585 is the main transport link to the northern part of the Fylde peninsula and it plays a huge part in supporting the local economy.**

In this brochure we explain the preferred route for the A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool scheme, how we have assessed the options and carried out public consultation. We also give details of what will happen next.

## Why is the scheme needed?

The 4.5km section of the A585 between Windy Harbour junction and Skippool junction is a severe bottle-neck, affecting people’s journeys between the M55 and the northern part of the Fylde peninsula. Journey times and safety need improving since it’s among the worst 10% of routes in the North West (South Pennines Route Strategy Evidence Report). We also need to improve capacity on the route to support employment, economic development and growth opportunities.

### The scheme’s objectives

Making improvements to this section of road will lead to a number of benefits. The scheme will:

- Reduce congestion especially around Little Singleton, Shard Road and Skippool junctions
- Make journey times more reliable
- Support the economic growth potential in both Wyre and Fylde
- Support planned residential developments in the local area
- Improve the safety of non-motorised users around the existing A585

## Public consultation

We held a 6 week public consultation from 5 September to 17 October 2016, where we presented 2 options for improving the road:

- **Option 1** – A southern bypass to the south of the current route. This includes upgrading a section of road from Windy Harbour junction to a dual-carriageway, then moving on to a new stretch of road with a junction at Garstang New Road, bypassing Little Singleton and creating a new junction with the A586 Garstang Road East, before tying back into the existing road at a new junction east of Skippool.
- **Option 2** – Improvements to the existing road which includes upgrading a section of road east of Little Singleton to a dual-carriageway; creating a one-way gyratory at Little Singleton and junction improvements at the existing Shard Road junction.

We held 3 consultation events, where each option was displayed and the project team were available to discuss the scheme with members of the public.

We gathered responses to the consultation through a number of channels. Questionnaires made available in hard copy format, and online. Members of the public were also able to provide written responses, sending them by post or email to the project team.

## Responses to the public consultation

We received a total of 574 completed questionnaires and 37 written responses from the public.

93% of those people who responded to the consultation agreed or strongly agreed that something needs to be done to improve the route.

78% of people indicated a preference for the bypass to be provided while 12% stated that they would prefer improvements were made to the existing road.

When asked for their feedback about the connection with Garstang New Road, 49% of respondents stated they preferred option 1a, which provides a junction with the road, compared to 29% who preferred option 1b, where part of Garstang New Road is closed.

During the consultation, the project team received feedback stating that people would like to see a link to Shard Road incorporated into the scheme. We will look closely at this suggestion, conducting a study on it, during the next stage of the project.

## Comments from the local council

We received comments from Fylde Council and Wyre Council as well as Lancashire County Council. They are all supportive of the southern bypass option.

## Preferred route

We have selected Option 1, the southern bypass, for improving the A585 between Windy Harbour and Skippool.

While it is the most expensive option, the southern bypass does more to reduce congestion, reduce journey time and improve safety overall. It will better support the proposed developments further north on the Fylde peninsula, by increasing the overall capacity of the road. Option 1 also provides the most improvements to pedestrians and cyclists, as it will take traffic away from the existing A585.

In taking the scheme through to the next stage of its development we will look at whether a link to Shard Road is needed or is feasible, and we will decide whether or not to include a junction with Garstang New Road.



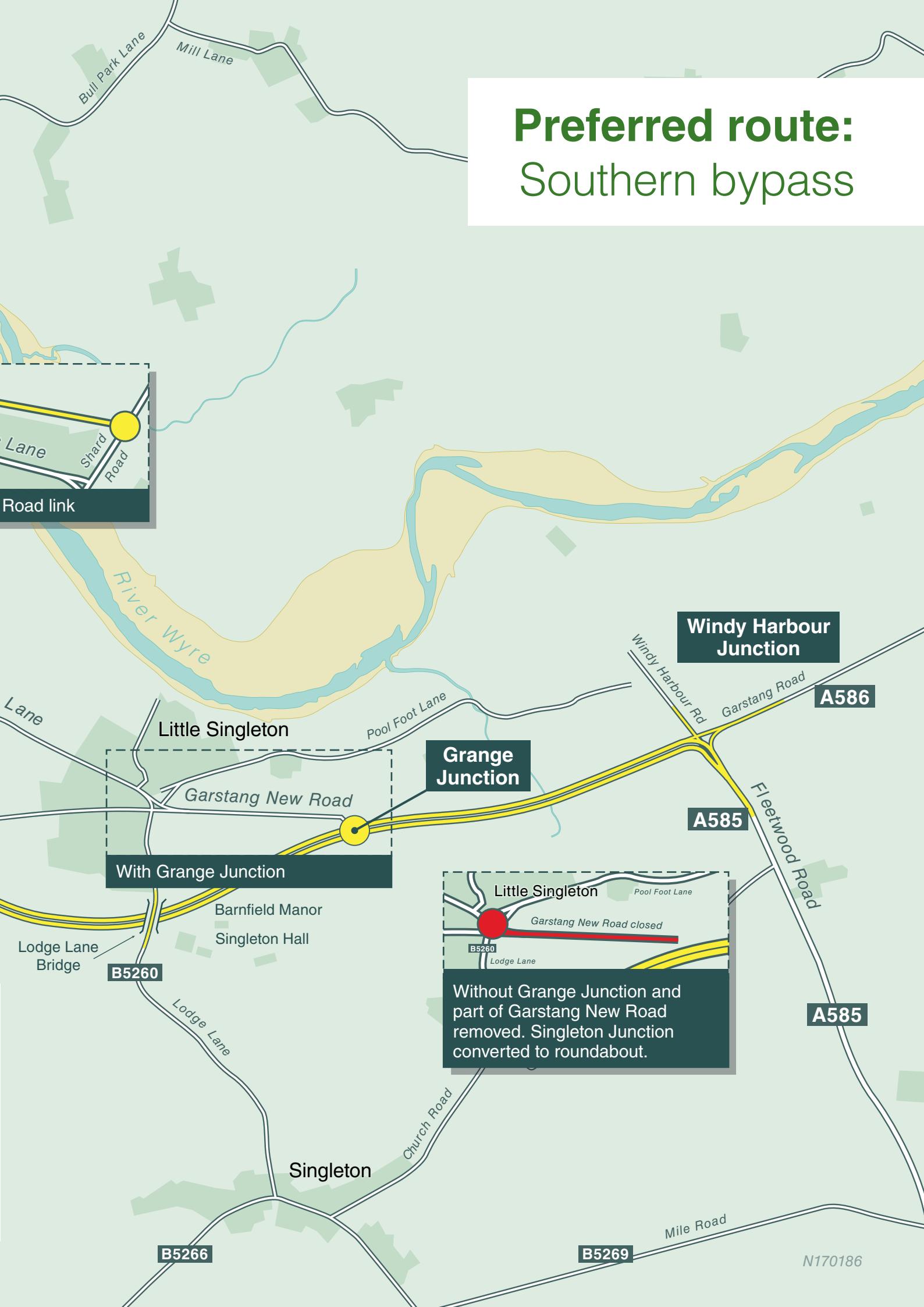


As part of this announcement we have included the potential addition of a link to Shard Road (see upper insets). We will give the link further consideration in the next stage of this project, when we will also decide whether to include a junction with Garstang New Road (see lower insets). The form of the junctions on the bypass have not been finalised.



DIAGRAMMATIC

# Preferred route: Southern bypass

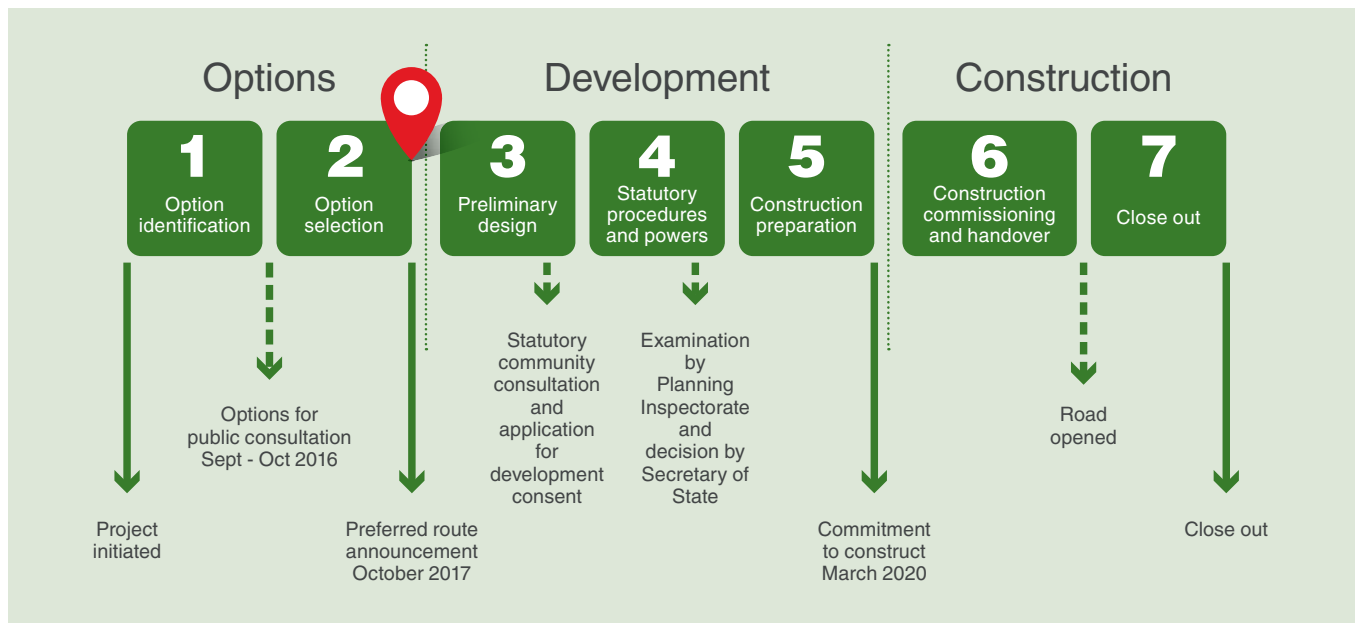


## What happens next?

We will continue to carry out surveys and investigations to allow us to make informed decisions including on whether to proceed with the addition of a link to Shard Road and the potential inclusion of the Grange junction and the Lodge Lane land bridge.

We will be consulting widely before we submit our application for a Development Consent Order, giving everyone the opportunity to have a further say on the proposed scheme when the detailed design is available.

The timeline below shows what will happen at each stage of the scheme. We currently expect work to start on site by March 2020.



## Development Consent Order application

This scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order so we can obtain permission to construct the scheme. We will make the application to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application in public hearings and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide on whether or not the project will go ahead.

Find out more about the Development Consent Order process on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk>

## Further Information

Visit our website for more information about the scheme [www.highways.gov.uk/a585windyharbour-skipool](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a585windyharbour-skipool). You can also register for email updates about the scheme on there.

If you have any questions, you can contact us in the following ways:

- Telephone: 0300 470 2770 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)
- Email: [A585WindyHarbourToSkipool@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A585WindyHarbourToSkipool@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- By post, writing to: A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool, Highways England, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD.



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