

A1 in Northumberland Morpeth to Felton scheme

Targeted consultation

Share your views



7 January 2019 to 4 February 2019



In summer 2018 we held a public consultation on our plans to improve the A1 in Northumberland between Morpeth and Felton.

Since then, we have analysed the consultation feedback received, refined our design and completed the environmental assessments. Using the results of the environmental assessments we have now established what mitigation measures are required to minimise the impact of the scheme on the environment.

The environmental assessments show that two additional areas are required for essential environmental mitigation, which extend beyond the boundary of the current scheme proposals, set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) published for the public consultation held in summer 2018.

This targeted consultation is seeking your views on the additional areas required for the essential environmental mitigation.






For more information about the previous consultation, please visit our webpage:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland

We'd like to hear what you think about the two additional areas proposed for the essential environmental mitigation. The targeted consultation period starts on **Monday 7 January 2019 and closes on Monday 4 February 2019** and is open to everyone. We look forward to hearing your views.

How to respond

Please respond using one of the following methods by **Monday 4 February 2019**

-  **Online: complete the response form online at**
highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a8313b2ba8313b2b
-  **Email us at:**
A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk
-  **Complete the consultation response form in this brochure:**
Return it using the freepost provided
-  **Call us on:**
0300 470 4585
-  **Post: Write to us at:**
Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL
A1 in Northumberland project team
3rd floor south, Highways England,
Lateral, 8 City Walk
Leeds, LS11 9AT

Proposed additional areas for environmental mitigation

Area 1

Great crested newt mitigation habitat



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The great crested newt is a European protected species. The animals, their eggs, breeding ponds and resting places are protected by law.

Both juvenile and adult newts (outside the breeding season) live in terrestrial habitats with suitable shelter; such as scrub, rough grass and woodland. At the northern end of the scheme, the woodland area adjacent to the River Coquet will be partially lost during construction. To offset this loss, a great crested newt habitat will be created.

We are proposing to convert an area of species-poor, grazed grassland immediately adjacent to the area of woodland to be lost, into an area of species rich, rough grassland, which is more favourable for great crested newts. The new habitat will be created immediately adjacent to an area of habitat currently suitable for great crested newts and in close proximity to a known breeding pond, providing landscape integration and connectivity.



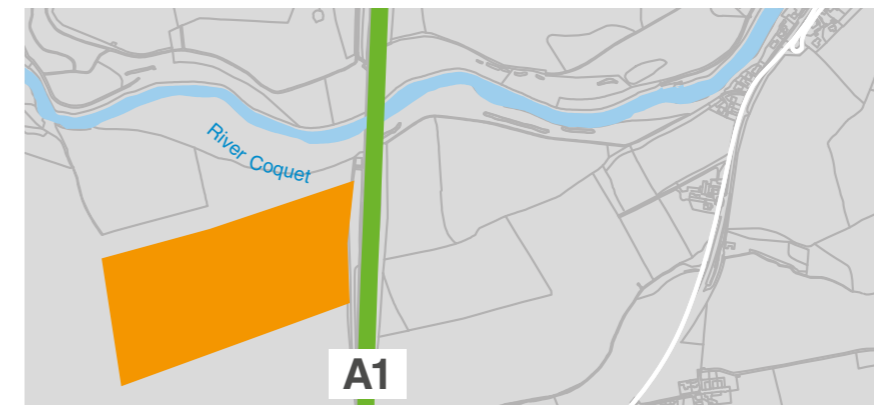
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Area 2

Proposed woodland planting area



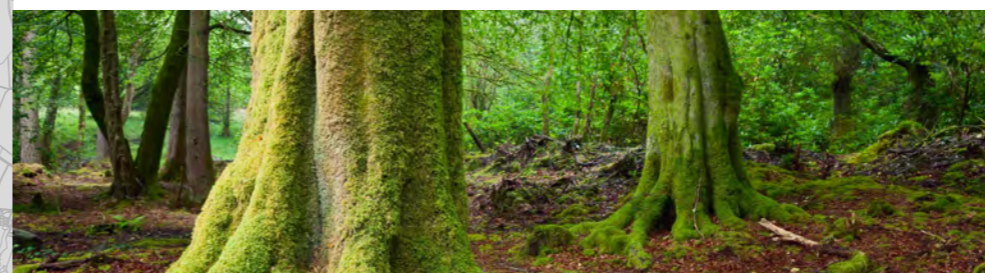
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At the northern end of the scheme, the woodland adjacent to the River Coquet is classified as ancient semi-natural woodland. A small part of this ancient woodland will be lost during construction and the erection of the second road bridge over the River Coquet. To offset this loss, additional trees will be planted adjacent to the ancient woodland. The area proposed has been discussed and agreed with Natural England.

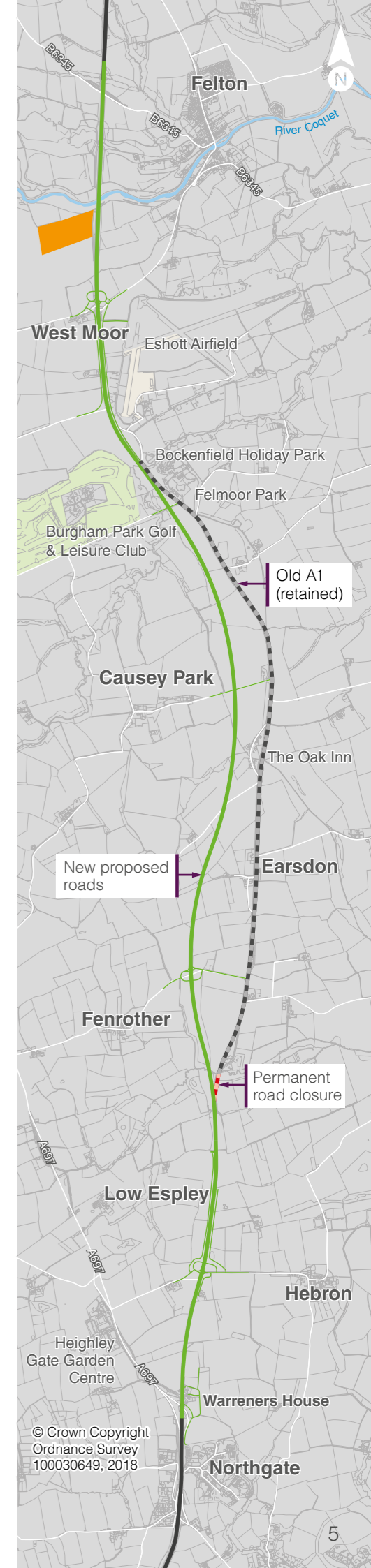
The proposed planting will comprise a mix which includes the same tree varieties currently recorded within the area. However, this is not a direct like-for-like replacement, for each 1m² of ancient woodland lost, 9m² will be planted in its place. In addition to the manual planting of the area, a management plan for the new woodland will be produced, ensuring its long-term maintenance and management.

Planting adjacent to the ancient woodland will allow natural seed dispersal and plant colonisation to occur within the area. Due to the period of time required to establish ancient woodland, a species-rich wildflower seed mix local to the area will be sown during early plant establishment. This mix will establish a ground layer of value to a wide range of wildlife. This will then be replaced in future years once the trees are established with a ground flora mix more characteristic to ancient woodland, including native bluebells, primroses and wood anemone.

In addition to the above, where possible, key ground flora within the area of ancient woodland to be lost will be relocated to either the area of ancient woodland to be retained or to the new woodland.



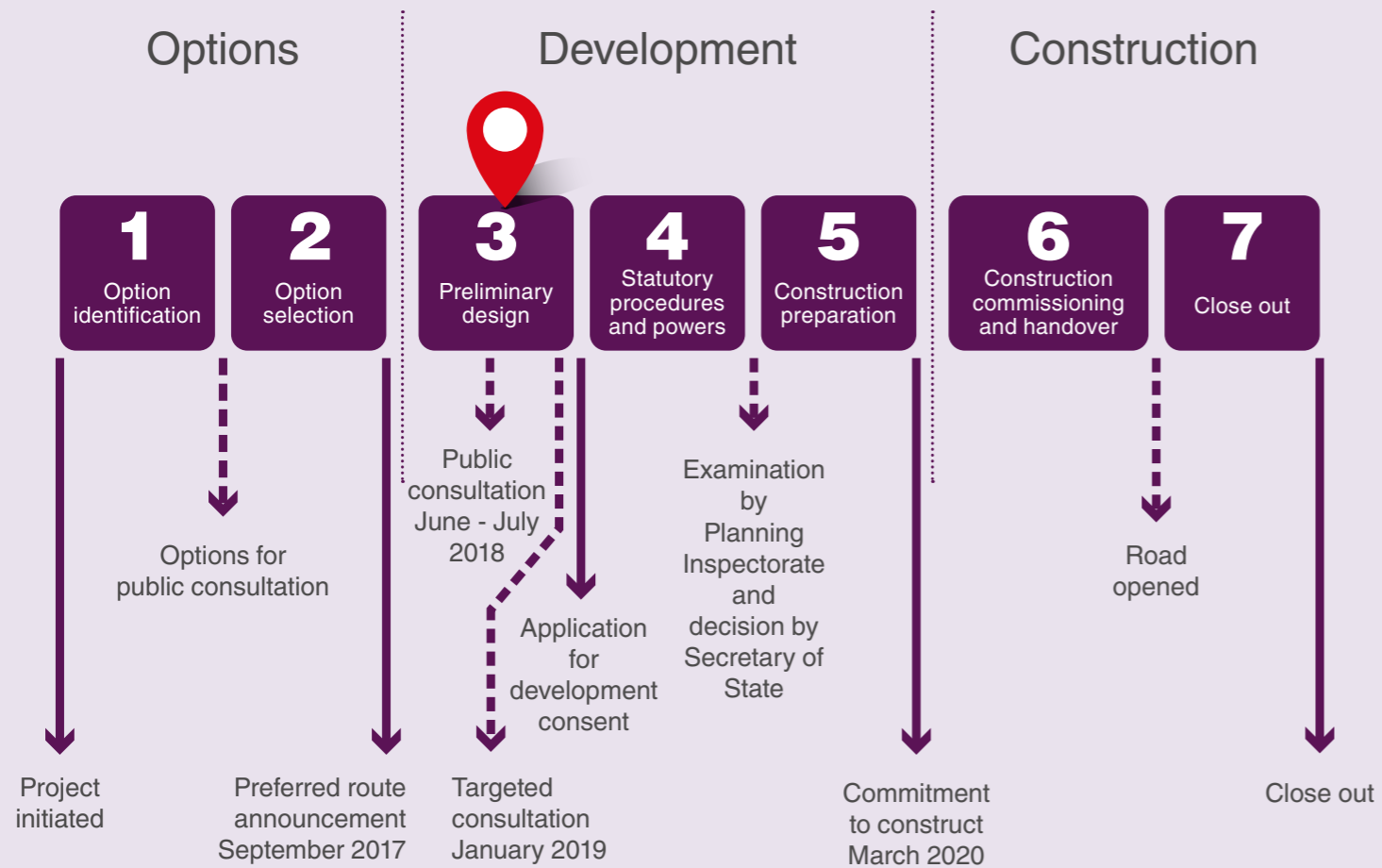
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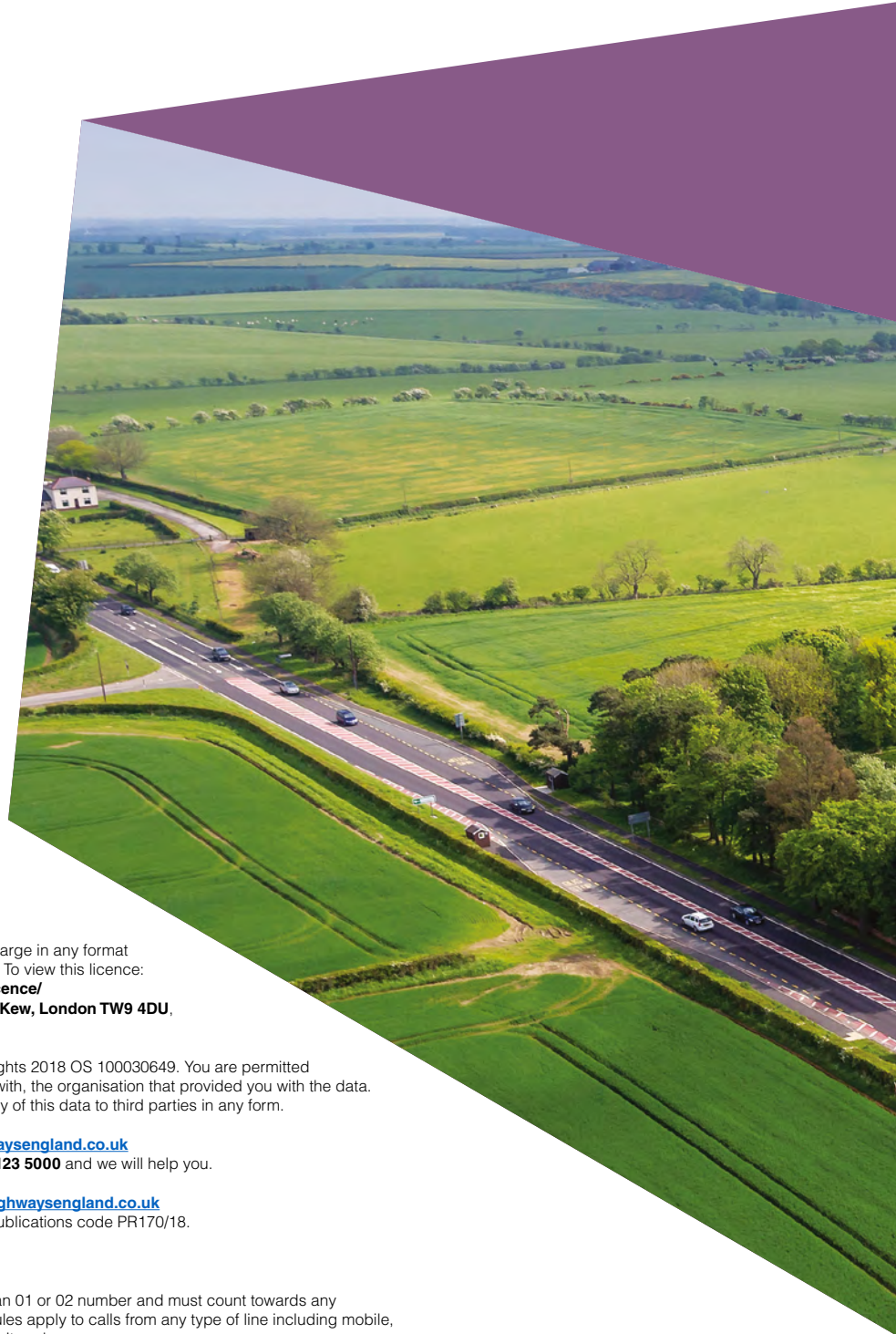
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Next steps

Once the consultation has closed on Monday **4 February 2019** we will review all the suggestions and comments received. A summary of the responses received and a description on how our proposals have been informed by them, will be included in the consultation report. The report will form part of our planning application and will also be available to the public following submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate.



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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