

A1 in Northumberland: Alnwick to Ellingham Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

We operate, maintain and improve England's motorways and major A roads. The A1 in Northumberland: Alnwick to Ellingham scheme is a critical part of our ongoing investment and will improve journeys between Alnwick and Ellingham which will bring benefits to the area.

We are publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to outline our approach to consulting with the local community for the above scheme. It provides details about how you (the local community) can take part and how feedback will be used to influence the proposed design.

To make sure we approach consultation in the very best way for the local community, we've consulted on this document with Northumberland County Council.

This document also gives you background to the scheme and how our application to build it will progress.

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 this scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will examine our application and the Secretary of State will decide if the scheme should go ahead based on the recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the scheme will be submitted in November 2019. We are publishing this SoCC under section 47 (duty to consult local community) of that Act.

The best time for you to have your say to inform our final design for this scheme is now by taking part in this consultation

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

The scheme

The existing A1 is single carriageway north of Alnwick and is therefore a significant change in the standard of the route compared to the Alnwick bypass. There are limited safe overtaking opportunities and direct accesses to the road while the agricultural and slow-moving vehicles which use the road can cause delays when these cannot be passed safely by faster traffic.

The scheme will upgrade the A1 to dual carriageway. A summary of the main features of the proposals are:

- Dualling the existing A1 between the northern end of the Alnwick bypass at Denwick and the start of the dual carriageway at North Charlton;
- One new split-level junction that include a bridge over the A1 will be constructed at Charlton Mires; and
- Construction of a new overbridge over the A1.

We are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme. The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development, and therefore we are publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report as part of the consultation material. This gives information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme, such as the impacts of constructing a second carriageway to the existing A1, to assist well-informed responses to our consultation.

Additional information about the scheme, including detailed maps/plans and information about associated benefits, will be included in our consultation brochure. Copies of the brochure will be available at local deposit points detailed in this SoCC during the consultation period and on the scheme webpage. We provide a full list of consultation documents later in this SoCC.

Consulting with the community

We have already carried out one round of consultation in the vicinity of the scheme, where we sought your views on our proposed option for the scheme design, in November and December 2016

Consultees were asked for their views on proposed route options, which helped us to identify the alignment that the A1 dualling will follow.

We've now updated our design, following our preferred route announcement in September 2017, and would like your views on this updated design as part of our consultation

More details, including the results of the previous consultation and how we decided to progress the orange route option, are included in the Public Consultation Report available to download from <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/morpeth-to-ellingham-dualling/>. This document will also be available to view for the duration of the consultation period at the local deposit points

This consultation – why and when

It is important to us that our consultation will:

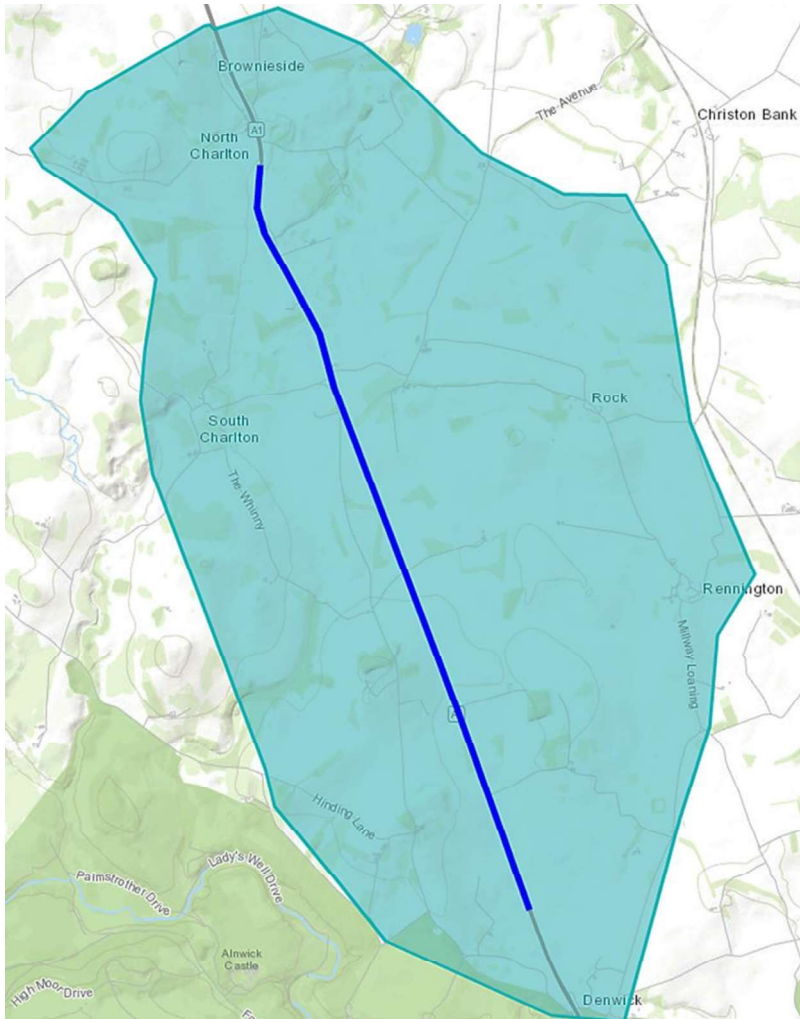
- Provide the opportunity for the community to give feedback on potential options
- Encourage the community to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and maximise any impacts
- Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of our proposals
- Enable potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, incorporated into the scheme design before the application is submitted
- Identify ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, support wider strategic or local objectives.

Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to, and consider everyone's views before we submit our DCO application.

This consultation will run from **25 February 2019** until **8 April 2019**. During the consultation period, we will be consulting on the following elements of the scheme:

- Impact on landowners in the area
- Potential provision of facilities for pedestrians and cyclists
- Noise mitigation measures
- Visual screening measures
- Water management measures (e.g. detention basins)
- Details of the access tracks being provided
- Potential environmental mitigation

Working with Northumberland County Council we have developed a consultation target area for the distribution of our consultation materials. This is based on who we think will be affected by our proposed design. We'll let people living and working in this area know about our consultation by posting information in advance.



Who can take part?

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 DCO application.

How will we consult?

We will use the following methods to promote our public consultation:

Method	Detail										
Consultation events	<p>Consultation events at local venues where members of the team will be available to answer questions about the proposals. Visitors to the consultation events will be able to submit their consultation responses if they choose to.</p>										
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Dates and times</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rennington Village Hall Rennington, Northumberland, NE66 3RR</td> <td>Thursday 7 March 2019 3pm to 8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rennington Village Hall Rennington, Northumberland, NE66 3RR</td> <td>Saturday 16 March 2019 10am to 3pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Willowburn Leisure Centre Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2JH</td> <td>Wednesday 20 March 2019 3pm to 8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Willowburn Leisure Centre Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2JH</td> <td>Saturday 30 March 2019 10am to 3pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Dates and times	Rennington Village Hall Rennington, Northumberland, NE66 3RR	Thursday 7 March 2019 3pm to 8pm	Rennington Village Hall Rennington, Northumberland, NE66 3RR	Saturday 16 March 2019 10am to 3pm	Willowburn Leisure Centre Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2JH	Wednesday 20 March 2019 3pm to 8pm	Willowburn Leisure Centre Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2JH	Saturday 30 March 2019 10am to 3pm
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Scheme webpage	<p>A full summary of the scheme, this SoCC, the consultation brochure, online response form, Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary, and a plan showing the extent of the scheme (red line boundary) will be available at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland</p>										
Consultation brochure	<p>The consultation brochure contains details of the scheme and consultation events. We will deliver this to those living within the extent of the scheme (red line boundary) i.e.: those whose land may be needed permanently or temporarily for the scheme.</p> <p>A letter will be sent to local people within the vicinity of the scheme, but will not be directly affected (no land-take) by the scheme.</p> <p>Copies of both these documents will also be available to view at local deposit points. The suite of documents will include a Preliminary Environmental Information Report and a non-technical summary (more details below) which will set out environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures - all of which we'd like your views on.</p>										
Council and community / area forum briefings	<p>Where possible, we'll speak to local Council forums and community/area forums affected or in the vicinity of the scheme when invited. If you wish to speak to us about this, contact the project team using the details provided below.</p>										
Stakeholder briefings	<p>Where possible we'll happily attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposals when invited. If you wish to speak to us about this, contact the project team using the details provided below.</p>										

Establishing stakeholder groups	If we find, working with local parish councils and community forums that there would be benefit in establishing a stakeholder group, we'll invite nominated local community representatives to discuss our proposal. If a similar stakeholder group already exists, or is established by the local authority, we'll attend when invited. If you wish to speak to us about this, contact the project team using the details provided below.
Statutory notices	Statutory notices to publicise the proposed application and the SoCC will be issued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed DCO application - once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in local circulating newspapers - Northumberland Gazette and Newcastle Journal. • Publicising the SoCC - once in local circulating newspapers - Northumberland Gazette and Newcastle Journal
Media	We will also advertise the public consultation by placing media adverts in the Northumberland Gazette. Adverts will promote the launch of the consultation period and including details of consultation events. Press releases detailing the consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will also be issued.
Social Media	The public consultation will be advertised on our regional Twitter feed.

In the case of circumstances where an event needs to be cancelled, for example, severe weather conditions, it may be substituted with a similar event, subject to availability of a suitable venue. This will be advertised locally and via the scheme webpage.

How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form will be available to help you provide comments in writing by:

- Completing the online response form at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland
- Attending a consultation event where you can meet the project team and complete a paper copy
- Picking up a hard copy at one of the local deposit points, which can be returned using the instructions provided.

Alternatively, you can email A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk or write to us at:
RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL,
A1 in Northumberland project team
3rd Floor South, Highways England
Lateral, 8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

All responses must be received by the end of **Monday 8 April 2019**.

Information available at and details of local display/deposit locations

The documents listed below will be made available for your information to help inform your consultation response. They will be available to view free of charge at the deposit point locations during the consultation period.

- Consultation brochure and response form
- Scheme/Route map showing the full area and boundaries of the scheme
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report non-technical summary
- Previous consultation report
- Development Consent Order leaflet, explaining the planning process in more detail

Location	Opening times
Alnwick Library Green Batt, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1TU ☎: 01670 622156 ✉: alnwick.library@northumberland.gov.uk	Monday 9am - 6pm Tuesday 9am - 5.30pm Thursday 9am - 5.30pm Friday 9am - 6pm Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Wooler Library Cheviot Centre, Padgepool Place, Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6BL ☎: 01668 282123 ✉: wooler.library@northumberland.gov.uk	Monday 10am - 4.30pm Tuesday 10am - 4.30pm Wednesday 10am - 4.30pm Thursday 10am - 4.30pm Friday 10am - 4.30pm Saturday 10am - 1pm
Amble Library Middleton Street, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0ET ☎: 01665 710419 ✉: amble.library@northumberland.gov.uk	Monday 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 7pm Wednesday 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 7pm Friday 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Willowburn Leisure Centre Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2JH ☎: 01670 620200	Monday to Friday 8am – 10pm Saturday 8am – 8pm Sunday 8am – 8pm
WSP Amber Court, William Armstrong Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YQ ☎: 0191 226 2000	By <u>prior appointment only</u> : Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday Closed

Next steps

We will record and carefully consider all responses received during the consultation. We will take them into account in finalising our application before we submit it to the Planning Inspectorate.

We will explain our consideration of the consultation responses in a Consultation Report. This will include a description of how our application was informed by the responses received, and outline any changes made as a result of consultation. The Consultation Report forms part of our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination. This must include their determination of whether our consultation has complied with the contents of this SoCC.

For more information visit our scheme webpage where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact us by calling 0300 470 4585, emailing A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk or writing to us at: RSAS – ZGKK – CSUL, A1 in Northumberland project team, 3rd Floor South, Highways England, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT

Your data, your rights

On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your 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 by the project team will be processed and retained by

Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete. In some instances consultation responses may also be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Under the GDPR regulations you have the following rights:

- Right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- Right for the rectification of errors
- Right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- Right to restrict processing or to object to processing

■ 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 tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your 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