

A428

Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we carrying out this supplementary consultation?

We are seeking your feedback on changes to the scheme. We have listened to your comments and have continued discussions on the scheme with affected and interested parties. As a result, and through further design development and environmental assessment, we've identified a series of changes to the scheme. The changes proposed will help maximise environmental benefits and minimise the impact of the scheme on people and the environment as much as possible.

What are the main proposed changes to the scheme?

You can find out more about the proposed changes in the supplementary consultation booklet by clicking the link beside this document, or in the virtual consultation room.

Changes to the development boundary (known as the Order limits)

The development boundary identifies the area in which we are seeking permission to construct, operate and maintain the scheme. Within this boundary, some land along the route of the new dual carriageway will be needed permanently. Other areas may only be needed temporarily or may be subject to rights, for example for construction compounds, storage sites or to divert utilities such as power lines or gas pipes.

One example of why we have extended the development boundary in some areas is to include four borrow pits in the scheme. The boundary has also been reduced in areas where it has become clear that this land is no longer needed. As a result, there are some changes to the land rights being sought.

Changes to the design of the scheme since the 2019 consultation.

This includes proposed changes to the flood storage areas, landscaping and local access amongst others.

What are borrow pits and why are they now included?

We are proposing to introduce four borrow pits, two at the eastern end of the scheme (Caxton Gibbet) and two at the western end (near Black Cat roundabout). One of the main environmental benefits of the borrow pits is sourcing materials on site, rather than importing the materials. Sourcing materials on site reduces construction traffic on the highway network and reduces carbon emissions. We have also located the borrow pit sites close to where the material is needed. Although using borrow pits will reduce some of the environmental impacts associated with construction of the scheme, it is likely to temporarily increase environmental impacts in the local area.

Find out more about borrow pits in our factsheet.

How will the responses to the supplementary consultation be used?

The outcome of this supplementary consultation will be included in our Consultation Report which will set out the whole consultation process that has supported the development of the scheme. This report will explain the main themes, any issues raised in your feedback, and whether and how we have changed the proposals in response to your comments. The report will be published as part of our application for development consent which will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate later in the year.

Accessing our consultation

How can I access the documents?

- Go to our virtual consultation room: **www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A428**
- Request documents on USB or in printed version by contacting us:



0300 123 500 (24 hours)



info@a428.co.uk



**FREEPOST, A428 Black
Cat to Caxton Gibbet**

How can I respond to the supplementary consultation?

Respond to the supplementary consultation:

- online - using the response form on our website or virtual consultation room: **www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A428**
- by emailing **info@a428.co.uk**
- Submit the response form or write to us with your comments at: FREEPOST, A428 Consultation (you do not need a stamp). Remember to write down the question that your comments relate to.

What is a virtual consultation and how does it work?

In our virtual consultation room you can view the material in a similar way as you would at a traditional public event. The materials are available 24/7 and our team will be available at specific times to answer your questions and discuss our plans in more detail. At all other times you can leave a question and one of our team will get back to you.

Simply click the green button called “Submit response” in the virtual consultation room to access the online response form.

Why are we using virtual consultation?

Due to COVID-19, we are living through a period of significant change with all of us having to get used to new ways of doing things. Social distancing means we're introducing new and innovative ways to view and participate in the supplementary consultation through a virtual consultation room. We recognise that not everybody has been able to attend our public events in the past and while this tool has not been designed to replace them entirely on future projects, we hope this 24/7 virtual consultation room proves to be useful, especially while it is more difficult to meet face-to-face.

What materials can I access within the virtual consultation room?

In the virtual consultation room, you can find out more about our proposals and give us your feedback through:

- Information boards
- Consultation booklet
- A video explaining the proposed changes
- A fact sheet on borrow pits
- Map books outlining our detailed plans
- A full-length map of the scheme
- A guide to the plans
- This FAQ document
- Web chats with our team
- An online response form

How do I speak to someone about the supplementary consultation?

- Call us. Our team will be available to answer your questions on 0800 640 4956 during the following times:
 - Monday 29 June 2020 from 15:00 to 19:00
 - Monday 13 July 2020 from 10:00 to 14:00
- Put your questions to our team in our web chat in the virtual consultation room. These take place on:
 - Thursday 2 July 2020 from 10:00 to 14:00
 - Thursday 16 July 2020 from 15:00 to 19:00

How does the Live Chat function work?

Submit your questions on the webchat found in the right hand corner of the consultation room and our team will respond.

At all other times you can leave a question and one of our team will get back to you by email.

Can I access the documents again once the supplementary consultation has closed?

Yes. The documents will be available on our website: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A428.

How long is the supplementary consultation open for?

Our supplementary consultation is open for 5 weeks from **Wednesday 24 June to 23:59 Tuesday 28 July**.

Impacts of the proposed changes

Will you make further changes to the scheme in light of this supplementary consultation?

We will review feedback from supplementary consultation which will be considered in our final design of the scheme and may result in further changes to the scheme.

When will you be submitting your application for Development Consent Order?

We'll be submitting our application for development consent later this year.

In terms of the proposed changes, how will you manage the impact of construction on the local area?

A number of mitigation measures will help reduce, remediate or compensate for effects during construction. These detailed measures will be set out in the first iteration of the Environmental Management Plan submitted with the application for development consent. Mitigation measures may, for example, include the use of temporary bunding or provision of temporary access for businesses or properties.

We are committed to keeping disruption and inconvenience during construction to a minimum. However, there may be times when we need to use road closures, for example, to work on bridges or for the safety of our construction team. We will ensure businesses and the wider community have advance warning of any disruption to help minimise impacts and we will continue to work with local authorities and affected parties on our plans.

Work will mostly be limited to normal working hours. During the winter some work may take place after dark and require construction lighting including infrequent overnight work. We will look to mitigate the impact of any other effects through landscaping or other physical measures deemed necessary as described in the first iteration of the Environmental Management Plan.

What's the overall impact on walkers, cyclists and horse riders from these proposed changes?

We're improving safety and facilities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. We are proposing to improve the routes of shared footways/cycleways and enhance bridleway designs. These changes include improving safety at a bridleway crossing by adding a horse holding area and increasing headroom in a bridleway underpass, removing the need to dismount.

The changes have been made by working closely with and listening to suggestions from representatives of walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

What are the financial impacts of the proposed changes to the scheme?

As part of our proposals, we will be introducing four borrow pits, which allows us to source material on site, rather than purchasing and importing material from elsewhere.

We are also proposing to realign the access road to Kelpie Marina to mitigate the impact on a high-pressure gas main, and remove the need for any diversion. This will provide significant cost savings to the scheme and reduce disruption to residents.

How will the scheme lead to the better management of existing environmental sites?

Using the following practices, we will be improving the management of existing environmental sites:

- Improving the biodiversity of some of the brooks crossed by the scheme to benefit mammals, fish and other aquatic species.
- Designing culvert and underpass structures to let mammals safely pass beneath roads along watercourses.
- Designing changes to watercourses in a way that is sensitive to aquatic habitats and species.
- Changing the profile of areas of land in a way that provides opportunities to slow down the movement of water during floods
- Planting trees and hedgerows to help integrate the scheme into the local landscape and maintain connectivity for wildlife.

What is being done to mitigate adverse effects on cultural heritage and archaeology?

We're mitigating adverse effects on archaeology and built heritage by:

- Identifying areas where we can minimise impacts on archaeology by directing construction activities away from areas of potential buried archaeological interest.

- Identifying areas where archaeology is present so, where archaeological interest features cannot be avoided, there is time to adequately record heritage assets prior to the construction work beginning.
- Agreeing research goals in advance to inform how detailed mitigation will take place.
- Reduced utility diversions to avoid areas of extensive archaeology.

Where built heritage is being affected, we are, in consultation with key stakeholders providing evidence of the quality of the building and what mitigation is available for structures affected.

My land or property is affected by the proposed changes to the scheme. Where can I get more information?

There is more information about the compulsory acquisition process and when compensation may be available in the Highways England publications shown below.

Your property and blight

Information for property owners within the development boundary

Your property and discretionary purchase

Information for those who live outside the development boundary but may need to sell their property

Your property and compulsory purchase

How compulsory purchase works

For copies, visit www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A428 or contact:



0300 123 5000 (24 hours)



info@a428.co.uk



FREEPOST, A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet