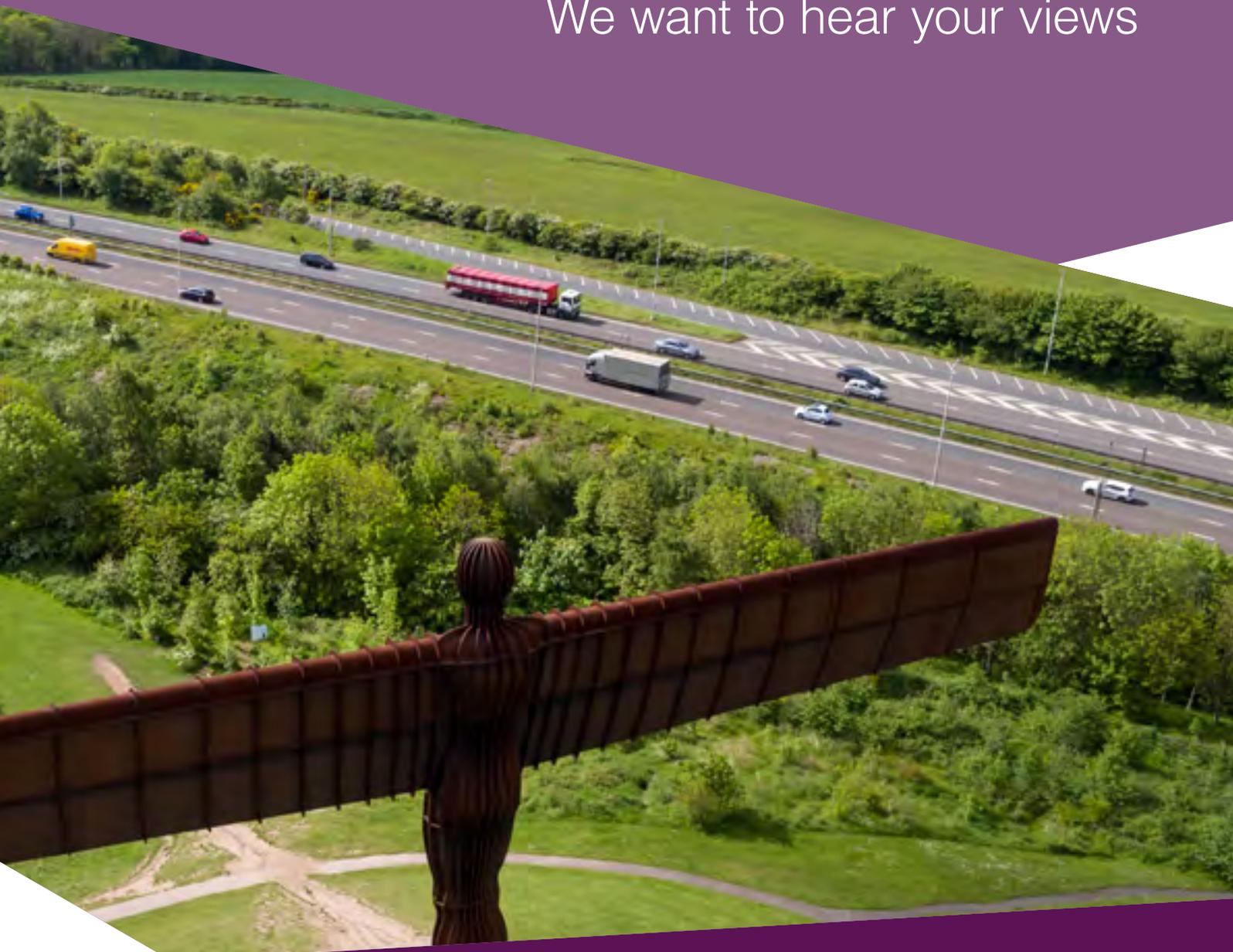


A1

Birtley to Coal House
improvement scheme

We want to hear your views



Investing in your roads

Like you, every road user wants less congested roads to enable swift, safe, comfortable and informed travel. On behalf of the government and its Road Investment Strategy (RIS), Highways England is responsible for delivering the largest investment in a generation throughout England's motorways and major A roads and the A1 between junction 65 Birtley and junction 67 Coal House is a key part of this investment.

Since Highways England was established in 2015 we have made good progress in delivering the government's five year investment strategy. The RIS commits to improve the A1 between junction 65 at Birtley and junction 67 at Coal House and we remain focused on our three imperatives to support this work. The first of these is to make journeys safer for both our customers and our workforce. The second is to improve the network to minimise delays and congestion to provide our customers with the best possible experience. Our final priority is to deliver our work in an efficient and effective way that provides value for money and minimises disruption, as well as mitigating the impact on communities.

The A1 is a critical part of both the national and local road network and the A1 Birtley to Coal House improvement scheme forms part of a wider strategy to upgrade the A1 Newcastle Gateshead Western Bypass as it is one of the most congested sections of highway in the North East. It's only set to get busier with traffic expected to grow as a result of new housing and employment developments planned for the area.

In this consultation brochure we explain our proposed improvements for the A1 between junction 65 Birtley and junction 67 Coal House and we also give details of how you can give us your feedback during our forthcoming statutory consultation.



What does this scheme deliver?

We've identified that by improving the A1 between Birtley and Coal House, our investment will provide a number of regional and local benefits. The scheme has been designed with the key following objectives in mind:

- **Supporting economic growth.** The scheme forms part of a wider government initiative for growth in the North East and aims to support economic growth by improving the road to the Newcastle and Tyneside area.
- **A safe and serviceable network.** The scheme aims to reduce accidents and improve journey time reliability which will lead to a reduction in driver stress and delays.
- **A more free-flowing network.** The traffic model used to design the scheme predicts that road users travelling through the scheme will benefit significantly from reduced journey times as a result of the proposal. Travel time savings of up to four minutes northbound and seven minutes southbound are predicted.
- **Improved environment.** The environmental effects resulting from the scheme have been considered during previous stages of development. Measures to mitigate potential effects on the local environment have been identified and will be further refined as the scheme design is finalised. Opportunities to improve the local environment are also being sought as part of the final scheme design.
- **An accessible and integrated network.** The proposed scheme will provide improved connectivity with the local road network. Access and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders will be considered as part of the scheme. We are upgrading the road to accommodate abnormal loads which will future proof the route and reduce the impact on the local road network.

What does this scheme involve?

The scheme is 4.2km in length and will include the replacement of Allerdene Railway Bridge to the immediate south of the existing structure which will tie in to the existing junction 67 Coal House roundabout. Most of the work will take place within the highway boundary; however, some additional land will be required alongside the A1 at certain points to enable us to create the additional lanes. It will provide additional capacity by widening from three to four lanes between junction 65 and 67 on the southbound carriageway and three lanes with an additional lane to help manage traffic joining and leaving the A1 between junctions on the northbound carriageway. The scheme will also look to install electronic signage to provide driver information along the road.



We want to hear your views

Following feedback from our public and stakeholders during the consultation period held in autumn 2016 and further design development, a Preferred Route Announcement was made on 24 July 2017.

We aim to complete preparation of our Development Consent Order (DCO) application, with a target submission date of winter 2018/19. Before we can submit our application, we wish to consult further on our proposals and hear any further views people may have.

What are we consulting about?

We are now progressing our initial (preliminary) design of the preferred route and we need to understand the views of anyone who has an interest in our proposals.

Your input means a lot to us

One of the best ways to have your say is to come along to one of our public exhibitions. Here you'll be able to find out more information about the scheme and speak to members of the Project Team who will be on hand to answer any of your questions.

The consultation will run for six weeks, commencing on 08 February 2018 and closing at 23.59 on 22 March 2018. This is your opportunity to get involved and share your views on our proposals. Your comments will help us make sure that we've fully understood any potential impacts on the community. We'll listen to everyone's feedback and consider these before submitting our DCO application.



Share your views at our consultation events

Friday 23 February – 1pm-8pm
Chowdene Children's Centre,
Waverley Road,
Harlow Green, NE9 7TU

Saturday 24 February – 10am-4pm
Washington Leisure Centre,
Town Centre,
Washington, NE38 7SS

Thursday 01 March – 10am-4pm
Kibblesworth Millennium Centre,
Grange Terrace, Kibblesworth,
Gateshead, NE11 0XN

Friday 02 March – 10am-1.30pm
Team Valley Trading Estate, Axis Building,
Maingate, Kingsway North,
Gateshead, NE11 0BE

Friday 02 March – 4pm-8pm
Metrocentre, intu Metrocentre,
Gateshead, NE11 9YG

Saturday 03 March – 10am-4pm
Birtley East Primary School,
Highfield, DH3 1QQ

Wednesday 07 March – 4pm-8pm
The Hub Resource Centre,
Birtley Community Partnership,
16 Harraton Terrace, Durham Road,
Birtley, DH3 2QG

How to respond

You can share your views using one of the following methods, which have been set up for the specific purpose of this consultation:

 **Online by following the links on:**
www.highways.gov.uk/a1birtleytocoalhouse

 **Email your response to:**
a1birtleytocoalhouse@highwaysengland.co.uk

 **Post your response using the freepost details provided or write to us at:**

A1 Birtley to Coal House Project Team,
Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL,
Highways England,
Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT.

 **Telephone:**
If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact a member of the Project Team using any of the previous details or by calling: **0300 470 4548** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

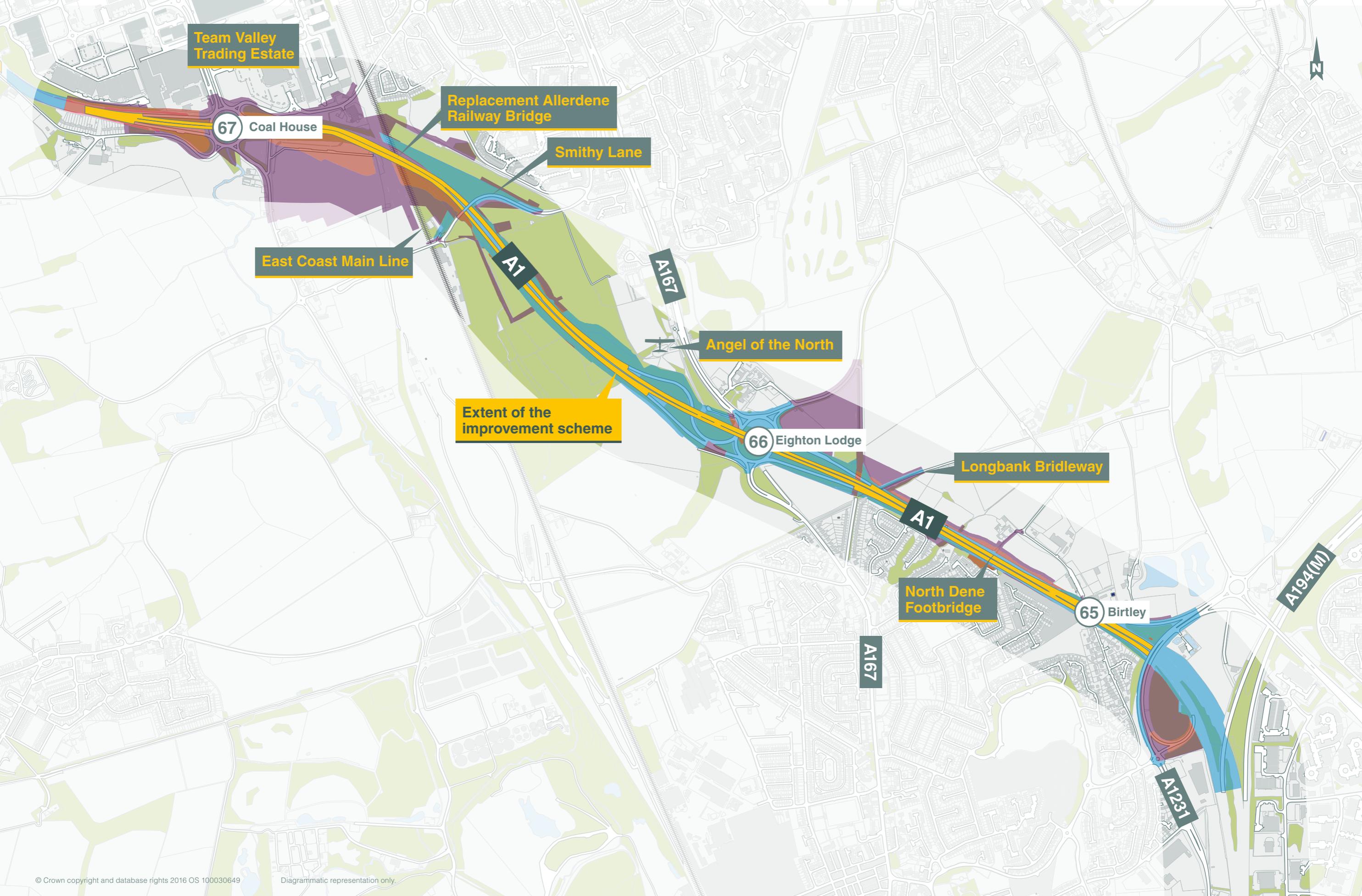
All responses to this consultation must be received no later than **23:59 22 March 2018**. Responses received after this date may not be considered.

A copy of our consultation questionnaire is available as part of this brochure or alternatively a copy can be requested by contacting a member of the Project Team.

Further copies

There are a number of venues where you can find further copies of this brochure/questionnaire and Preliminary Environmental Information Report during the consultation period. These venues are as follows:

Location	Viewing Times
Gateshead Civic Centre , Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH Tel: 0191 433 3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Monday – Friday 9am-5pm■ Saturday, Sunday–CLOSED
Birtley Library , Durham Road, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, DH3 1LE Tel: 0191 433 6101	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am-5pm■ Wednesday and Friday 9am-3.45pm■ Saturday, Sunday–CLOSED
The Hub Resource Centre , Birtley Community Partnership 16 Harraton Terrace, Durham Road Birtley, DH3 2QG Tel: 0191 492 0434	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am-3.30pm■ Wednesday 9.30am-12 noon■ Saturday, Sunday–CLOSED
Kibblesworth Millennium Centre Grange Terrace, Kibblesworth, Gateshead, NE11 0XN Tel: 0191 411 1193	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Monday and Friday 10am-3pm■ Tuesday and Wednesday 10-4pm■ Thursday 9am-5pm■ Saturday, Sunday–CLOSED
Highways England Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT Tel: 0300 470 4548	By prior arrangement: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Monday to Friday 9am-5pm■ Saturday, Sunday–CLOSED



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Diagrammatic representation only.

- Land to be used for construction, maintenance and operation currently owned by the Secretary of State for Transport
- Land to be permanently acquired for construction, maintenance and operation
- Third party land temporarily required
- Landmarks

Construction management

As part of our DCO application we will produce a Construction Environmental Management Plan. This will outline the control measures we will adopt to minimise the impact of our works on the local environment and communities during construction.

Our Project Team has been designing the scheme to ensure as far as practicable that this scheme can be delivered sufficiently, minimising the impact on the local community.



We aim to minimise disruption to road users and will put in place measures to control nuisances such as noise and dust. The work will be phased with the aim of keeping two lanes of traffic flowing in both directions on the A1 at peak times. Temporary traffic management will be installed to separate traffic and other users (e.g. pedestrians and cyclists) from the construction activities and provide safe working areas for our workers.

Construction traffic and machinery will use designated access routes to keep it separate from road users as much as possible and access to local properties and businesses will be maintained.

Some lane closures and full road closures will be required. However, any closures will be well communicated in advance, and signed diversion routes will be put in place.



Need for improvement and Non-Motorised Users

The existing Longbank Bridleway underpass will be extended and we are proposing to light the underpass. North Dene Footbridge will also be replaced to accommodate the widening of the road. Both routes will need to be closed temporarily during construction. During design development we have removed the requirement to replace Smithy Lane overbridge. We will also look to provide further enhancements to the pedestrian, cycle and equestrian network in the vicinity of the scheme.

A fly through video of the scheme is available to view at: www.highways.gov.uk/a1birtleytoalhouse.

Environmental considerations

The scheme is being designed to minimise the effect on the environment. We will complete an Environmental Impact Assessment over the summer in 2018 to evaluate the impact that our proposals may have on the environment and to influence our designs and a detailed Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application. All future findings will be published on our webpage however in the

meantime we have prepared a document called a Preliminary Environmental Information Report. This provides information on the likely environmental effects and potential mitigation measures envisaged for the proposed scheme, so that you can respond to this consultation in a well-informed way. A copy of this is available on our website: www.highways.gov.uk/a1birtleytocoalhouse.



Air quality

We will consider the health related issues of local and regional air quality and the global issue of climate change. We will also consider emissions that may arise from the project during construction and once open to traffic.



Noise and vibration

Traffic flow data and information on construction methodology will be used to assess the noise and vibration impacts of the project during construction and once open to traffic. This information will be used to identify any mitigation required both in the long and short term.



Cultural heritage

We will consider archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscapes. We will consider and manage direct impacts as well as how the project affects the settings and landscapes of important local assets e.g. Bowes Railway Scheduled Monument.



Landscape and visual amenity

We will look at the effects on the local landscape and on the quality of views from properties the wider area and around the Angel of the North.



Ecology and nature conservation

We will consider the effects on ecologically important sites including Long Acre Wood and Bowes Railway Local Wildlife Sites as well as potential effects on protected species such as bats.



Road drainage and the water environment

We will assess the effects on surface water, groundwater and flood risk during construction and operation.



Geology and soils

We will consider the disturbance of groundwater, the impact on soil quality and the disturbance of any contaminated land.



Waste and material

We will identify opportunities where possible to reduce, reuse or recycle waste.



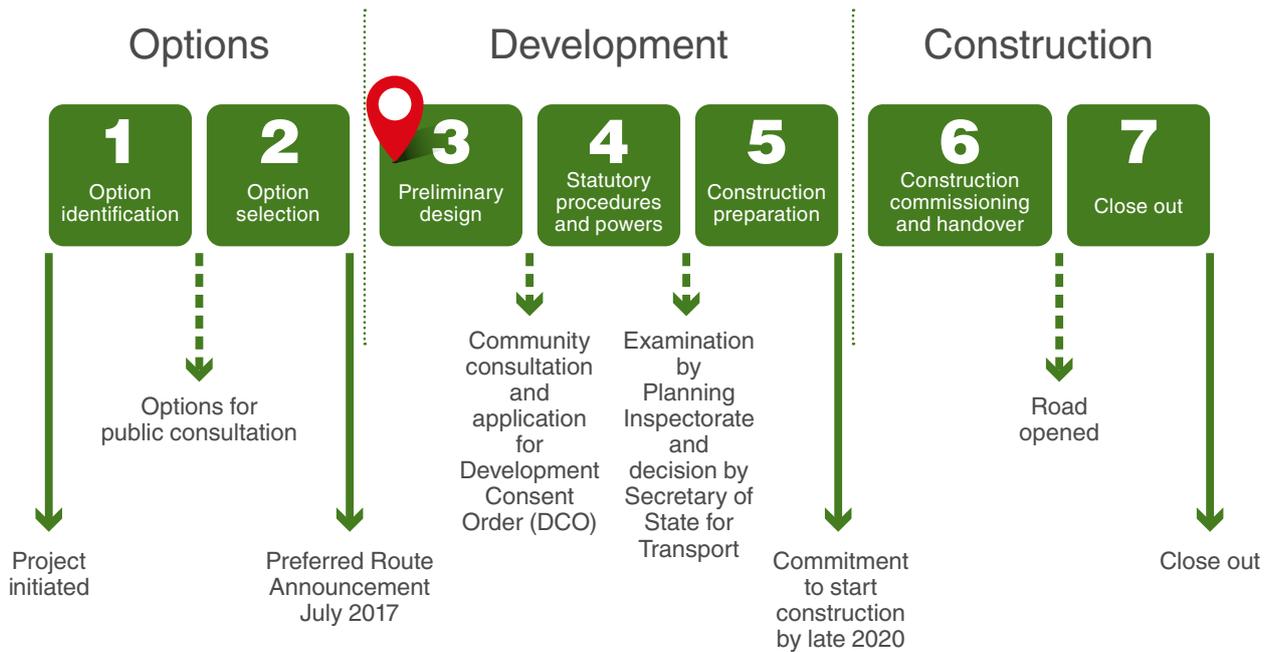
People and communities

We will consider safety, journey time, congestion and accessibility for everyone along the route, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. We will consider the effects of the scheme on local land and we are also looking at the effects on privately owned assets. We will also consider socio-economic aspects such as the effect of the scheme on local employment during construction and operation.

Next steps

Once the consultation has closed on 22 March 2018, comments received will be taken into account and will inform, if necessary and where possible, further refinements to the scheme and our approach to environmental mitigation. All responses will be analysed and compiled into a report which will set out the consultation carried out, a summary of responses

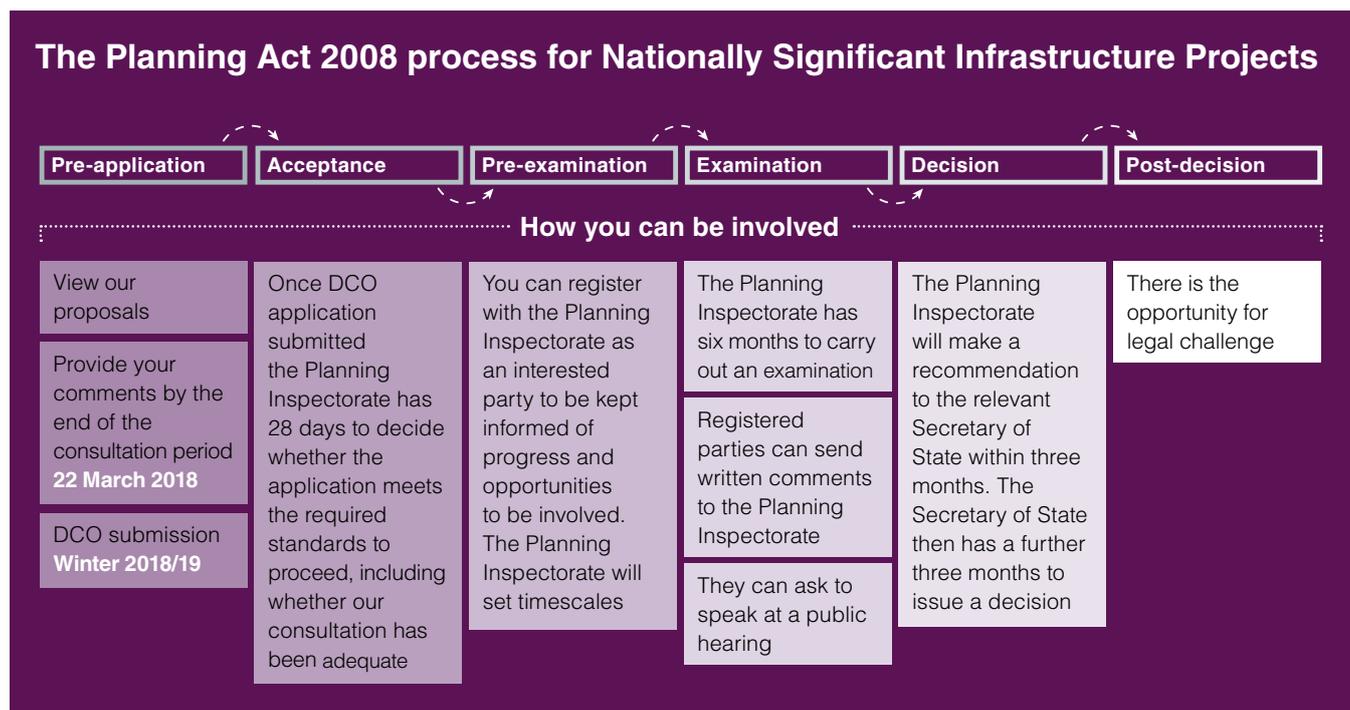
received and how those responses have influenced our proposals. A consultation report will form part of our application for a DCO and will also be available following submission of the application. We propose to submit the application for a DCO in winter 2018/19 and provided it is granted we estimate that works will commence late 2020.



Planning process

The scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. As such, we are required to make an application for a DCO in order to obtain permission to construct the scheme. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will hold an examination to consider

all relevant issues before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will make the decision on whether or not the project should go ahead. We currently intend to make our application in winter 2018/19. There are set opportunities for you to be involved in a DCO scheme.



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.gov.uk/highways

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 **PR137/17**.

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