

National Highways

Planning Act 2008

A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme

Planning Inspectorate Reference: TR010060

Notice Publicising consultation on proposed changes to an accepted application for a Development Consent Order

On 12 September 2022, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, accepted an application by **NATIONAL HIGHWAYS COMPANY LIMITED** (formerly known as Highways England) of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ (the Applicant) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme (accepted Application). The Planning Inspectorate appointed a panel of Examining Inspectors (the Examining Authority) who issued a Rule 6 Letter on 13 December 2022 and the Examination opened on 12 January 2023 with the preliminary meeting.

If the Secretary of State decides to grant development consent for the accepted Application, the DCO would authorise the A12 Chelmsford to A120 widening scheme in Essex, England.

The accepted Application's main proposals are, in summary:

- Creation of two bypasses, one between junctions 22 to 23 and another between junctions 24 to 25.
- Widening of the dual carriageway from two to three lanes in each direction from Hatfield Peverel to Marks Tey.
- Improvements to junctions 19 and 25.
- Construction of new junctions 21, 22 and 24 providing access to the A12 both northbound and southbound.
- Removal of existing junctions 20a, 20b and 23.
- Provide new and improve existing walking, cycling and horse riding routes.
- Provide new access to local roads and improve existing access to the proposed junctions.
- Provide environmental mitigation.
- Improve the safety performance of the road especially at the junctions and slip roads.
- Provide utility diversions where necessary.
- Remove all direct private access onto the A12 and redirect access via local roads and junctions.

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- Temporary construction areas and access roads, together with works to secure vehicular and/or pedestrian means of access including the creation of new tracks, footpaths, and/ or widening, upgrades, creation of bell mouths, creation of temporary slip roads and improvements to existing tracks, footpaths and roads.
 - Permanent and/or temporary compulsory acquisition (if required) of land and/or rights for the scheme.
 - Overriding easements and other rights over or affecting land for the scheme
 - the application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the scheme including, amongst others, legislation relating to compulsory purchase.
 - Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits or consents as necessary and/or convenient.

The accepted Application includes changes to a number of existing utilities. These changes include the diversion of two high pressure gas pipelines operated by Cadent Gas Limited. The first high pressure gas pipeline is located between Springfield in Chelmsford and Little Braxted running along the southern side of the A12 within the local authority areas of Chelmsford and Braintree. The second is located between the Witham Bypass and Little Braxted running along the south of the A12 also in the local authority area of Braintree (the Diversions). To the extent that the Diversions satisfy the criteria to be considered NSIPs under section 20 of the Planning Act 2008, the Diversions will be treated as NSIPs in their own right.

Even though the Diversions may be treated as NSIPs in their own right, they form part of the accepted Application which is currently being examined by the Planning Inspectorate. To the extent the diversions are NSIPs in their own right they have also been considered against the relevant Energy National Policy Statements within the accepted application.

Further details of the accepted Application can be found on the Planning Inspectorate scheme webpage: [A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/A12-Chelmsford-to-A120-Widening-Scheme/)

Consultation on proposed changes to the accepted Application

Notice is hereby given that the Applicant is proposing to seek approval to amend the accepted Application to make the following design changes. The proposed changes have arisen primarily as part of the accepted Application's continuing development through detailed design and the Applicant's continued engagement with stakeholders and interested parties. The changes being sought by the Applicant to the accepted Application are:

Junction 19 – redesign of north bound on slip road

The accepted Application included a proposed northbound slip road for traffic from the Beaulieu Park distributor road to join the A12 via the existing A130. The new design has the northbound slip road for traffic from the Beaulieu Park distributor road joining the A12 itself via its own slip road. This will be far enough from the existing slip road to ensure that overall the new design will improve safety for road users. There are no changes to the arrangement for walkers, cyclists or horse riders as a result of this refinement.

Exclusion of Anglian Water pumping station from land proposed for compulsory acquisition at Hatfield Peverel

In the accepted Application the Applicant sought to compulsorily acquire land in this location to allow for ecological mitigation. The purpose of this ecological mitigation area is to provide habitat for reptiles. Part of this land comprises land that has been allocated for a small pumping station to be operated by Anglian Water Limited. This land will no longer be subject to compulsory or temporary acquisition powers and as such the ecological mitigation area will be reduced.

Changes to the provision of replacement land at Whetmead and additional consequential changes reflecting change of ownership for open space in the Witham area

The Applicant has been made aware of change in ownership of parts of the open space land impacted by the accepted Application. The request for certification therefore needs to change to reflect the changed land ownership. The Applicant has also taken the opportunity to slightly alter the replacement land proposed to be provided to Witham Town Council. The land now proposed is near to the existing Whetmead Local Nature Reserve. No additional land is required, however the purposes for which the land is being used has changed.

Junction 24/Inworth Road B1023 - Removal of the segregated left turn lane

The design submitted in the accepted Application consisted of a segregated left turn lane (SLTL) for traffic from Inworth Village at the B1023 roundabout. A SLTL is used to provide a link for traffic turning left at roundabouts which bypasses the roundabout itself. The new design will remove the SLTL from the arrangement of the B1023 Roundabout. Traffic from Inworth Village will instead join the link road to junction 24 by utilising the B1023 Roundabout. This will require traffic to give way to traffic already on the roundabout.

Drainage works associated with B1023 Kelvedon Road at Inworth

As a result of additional information available to the project such as site surveys and investigations, it is now proposed to reduce the amount of flood compensation and attenuation pond works alongside the B1023. As a result of the new design, there has been a reduction in the number of drainage ponds from **four** down to **two**. Further the number of flood mitigation areas has reduced from **seven** down to **four**, and of those four two have also reduced in size.

Junction 25 - Removal of the signalised crossroads and partial signalisation of the existing roundabout at A120/Junction 25

The new design maintains the Old Rectory roundabout, which will become a partially signalised roundabout. This will maximise the existing infrastructure in the design and minimise tree loss within the Old Rectory roundabout island.

The accepted Application is Environmental Impact Assessment development (EIA development), as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement was submitted as part of the Application.

The Applicant considers that none of the proposed changes, either individually or cumulatively would have the potential to give rise to any new likely significant effects beyond those reported in the environmental statement. The Applicant further confirms that the only change to the significant effects reported in the environmental statement is beneficial and is the removal of 7 significant adverse effects as a result of the changes at Junction 25.

The Applicant is not seeking to acquire additional land and the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010 are not engaged.

The consultation on the proposed changes to the accepted Application will run from Thursday 13 April 2023 to Sunday 14 May 2023.

The proposed changes to the accepted Application are summarised in the Development Consent Order Change Application Consultation brochure.

The brochure should be read alongside the full suite of consultation documents which can be viewed online on the homepage of the Applicant's website at www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A12. The consultation documents are:

- Development Consent Order Change Application Consultation brochure
- Map Book 1: Junction 19 Slip Road
- Map Book 2: Anglian Water Pumping Station (Bury Lane, Hatfield Peverel)
- Map Book 3: Replacement Land, Witham
- Map Book 4: B1023 Flood Mitigation and Drainage
- Map Book 5: B1023 Roundabout
- Map Book 6: Junction 25
- Junction 19 Slip Road Technical Note
- Anglian Water Pumping Station (Bury Lane, Hatfield Peverel) Technical Note
- B1023 Roundabout Technical Note
- Flood Mitigation and Drainage Technical Note
- Junction 25 Technical Note
- Replacement Land Statement
- Schedule of Changes to draft DCO, Book of Reference and Statement of Reasons
- A copy of the updated draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum

The consultation documents will be available to view and download free of charge for the duration of the consultation period between 13 April 2023 and 14 May 2023. The documents can be accessed on the homepage of the Applicant's A12 Project page: www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A12.

A paper copy of the consultation documents can be supplied, but there will be a reasonable charge for paper copies to cover the cost of printing and postage up to a charge of £50 for a complete set of documents. Please contact the Applicant using the

email address, postal address or telephone number provided below if you would like to request a consultation document.

The Applicant will be hosting a series of webinars about the proposed changes on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 19 April 2023 – 2pm – 3:30pm**
- **Friday 21 April 2023 – 10am – 11:30am**
- **Tuesday 2 May 2023 – 6:30pm – 8pm**

These will be online events where you can drop into a session at any time during the allocated slot. Technical experts will talk you through the Applicant's proposed updates and answer any specific questions. If you would like to attend one of these, please sign up on the Applicant's website at www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A12. You can also get in touch with the Applicant's project team at A12chelmsfordA120wide@highwaysengland.co.uk or by calling **0300 123 5000**.

A complete set of the Consultation documents for the proposed changes to the accepted Application which is currently being examined by the Examining Authority and the examination documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification and register as a library member in order to use a computer at these locations.

Venue and address	Opening hours
Chelmsford Library County Hall Market Road Chelmsford CM1 1QH	Monday 9am to 5.30pm Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm Wednesday 9am to 5.30pm Thursday 09.30am to 7.00pm Friday 9am to 5.30pm Saturday 9am to 5.00pm Sunday Closed
Maldon Library Carmelite House White Horse Lane Maldon CM9 5FW	Monday 9am to 7pm Tuesday 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday Closed Thursday 9am to 5:30pm Friday 9am to 5:30pm Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday Closed

<p>Braintree Library 5 Fairfield Road Braintree CM7 3YL</p>	<p>Monday 9am to 7pm Tuesday 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday 9am to 5:30pm Thursday 9am to 5:30pm Friday 9am to 5:30pm Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday Closed</p>
<p>Colchester Library Trinity Square Colchester CO1 1JB</p>	<p>Monday 9am to 5:30pm Tuesday 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday 9am to 7pm Thursday 9am to 5:30pm Friday 9am to 5:30pm Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday 1pm to 4pm</p>
<p>Kelvedon Library Aylett's Foundation School Maldon Road Kelvedon CO5 9BA</p>	<p>Monday 2pm to 5:30pm Tuesday Closed Wednesday Closed Thursday 9am to 1pm Friday Closed Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday Closed</p>
<p>Springfield Library St Augustine's Way Chelmsford CM1 6GX</p>	<p>Monday Closed Tuesday 10am to 5pm Wednesday Closed Thursday 10am to 5pm Friday 10am to 5pm Saturday 10am to 1pm Sunday Closed</p>
<p>Tiptree Library Rectory Road Tiptree CO5 0SX</p>	<p>Monday Closed Tuesday 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday Closed Thursday 2pm to 7pm Friday Closed Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday Closed</p>
<p>Witham Library 18 Newland Street Witham CM8 2AQ</p>	<p>Monday 9am to 5:30pm Tuesday 9am to 5:30pm Wednesday 9am to 7pm Thursday 9am to 5:30pm Friday 9am to 5:30pm Saturday 9am to 5pm Sunday Closed</p>

Please contact the Applicant using the email address, telephone or postal address provided below to respond to the consultation.

- **Email:** A12chelmsfordA120wide@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **Telephone:** 0300 123 5000
- **Post:** FREEPOST A12 widening

Any person may comment on the proposed changes to the accepted Application. Responses must be received no later than 23.59pm on **14 May 2023**. A consultation response form is available as part of the consultation materials available online. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only.

Responses must be received no later than 11:59pm on the 14 May 2023.

The Applicant will consider and respond to all comments received before submitting the application for the proposed changes to the accepted Application. Responses will be summarised and responded to in a Consultation Report that will be submitted with the change application. The Applicant will also submit a copy of the original responses with the change application. The Examining Authority will take the responses into consideration when deciding whether the proposed changes can be accepted and incorporated into the accepted Application. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the proposed changes to the accepted Application, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

Yours Sincerely



Tracey Harvey,
A12 Senior Project Manager,
National Highways,
13 April 2023