

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements

Statutory Public Consultation

Have your say



21 February to 4 April 2018

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Statutory Public Consultation

Have your say by completing the consultation questionnaire

Highways England is the government company responsible for operating, maintaining and improving England's major A roads and motorways. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow.

This statutory public consultation about A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements will run for six weeks from **21 February to 4 April 2018**

We look forward to hearing your views.

Please read this document and give us your feedback in the questionnaire. For details about how to submit your feedback to us please read page 3.

Investing in your roads

We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and most importantly safe. That's why we're delivering £15 billion of investment on our national network – the largest investment in a generation. The A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme is part of this programme. The scheme will provide additional capacity at each junction to smooth traffic flow, improve journey times and increase safety, as well as support the level of development planned for the local area which is great news for the local and regional economy.

In this brochure we explain our proposals for the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme. We also give details of how you can give us your feedback during this second and statutory public consultation.

How to respond

The consultation about our proposals will help to inform the development of the scheme. Your comments will help us better understand the local area and any potential impacts our scheme may have on the community.

The consultation will run for six weeks from 21 February to 4 April 2018, and there are lots of ways you can tell us what you think.

Please respond by 11.45pm on 4 April 2018 using one of the following methods

- Complete the consultation questionnaire online at www.highways.gov.uk/a2be
- Attend a public consultation event and complete a questionnaire
- Complete the questionnaire included with this brochure and send to us **Freepost A2BE public consultation**

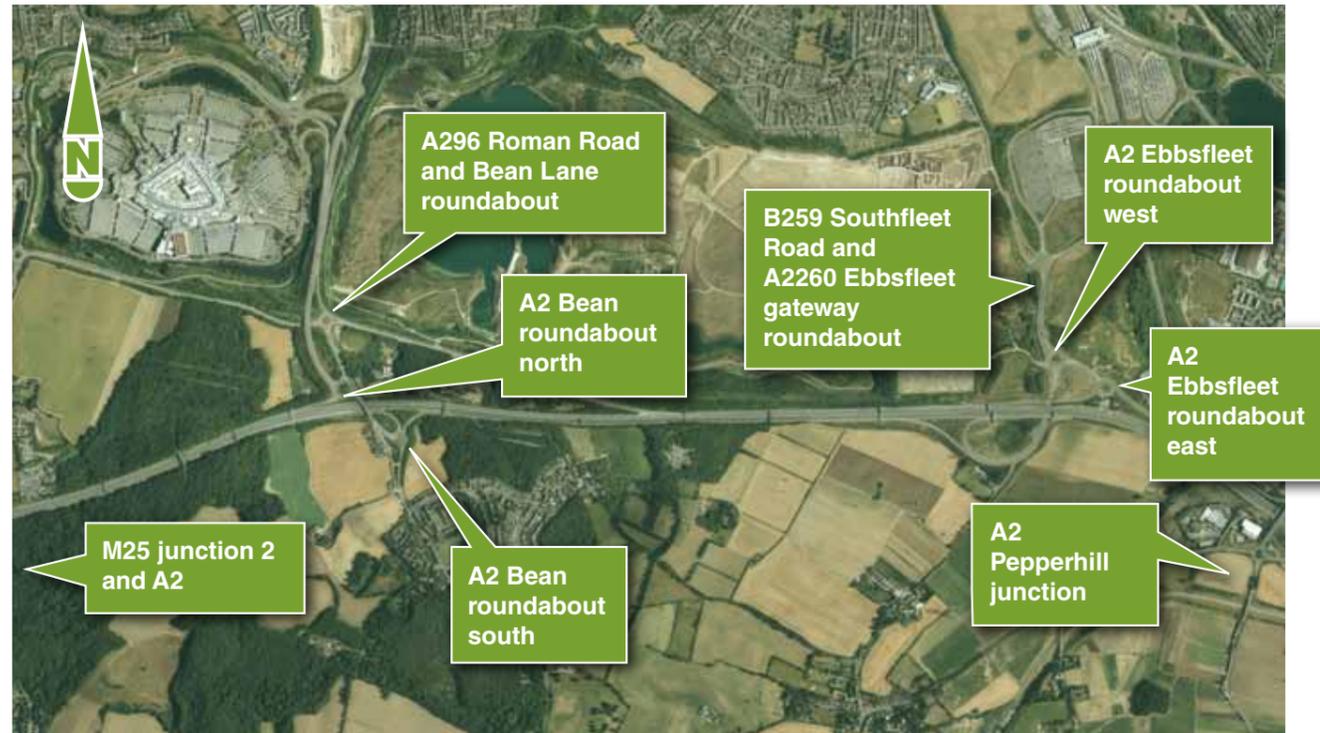
Public consultation exhibitions

One of the best ways to find out more about our proposals and have your say is to come to one of our public consultation exhibitions. Please come along and you will be able to find out more about the proposals and speak to members of the project team who will be happy to answer your questions.

Date	Location	Time
Wednesday 21 February	Heritage Community Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP	2pm – 6pm
Saturday 24 February	Bean Youth and Community Centre, High St, Bean, DA2 8AS	10am – 3pm
Saturday 3 March	Bluewater Shopping Centre, Dartford, DA9 9ST	9am – 9pm
Saturday 10 March	Eastgate, Springhead Parkway, Northfleet, DA11 8AD	10am – 3pm
Thursday 15 March	Ebbsfleet International Station, Dartford, DA10 1EB	7am – 9am / 3pm – 7pm
Saturday 17 March	Stone Pavilion, Hayes Road, Stone, DA9 9DS	10am – 2pm

Introduction

We are proposing to improve the A2 junctions at Bean and Ebbsfleet. The improvements are committed within the Government's road investment strategy and are considered necessary to support the level of development proposed for this region.



Why Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions need improving

A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are on the A2 in north Kent, roughly 1.2 miles apart. Without improvements to these junctions, significant future traffic congestion will have an adverse impact on the A2 and will constrain economic development and housing growth in the area.

- Bean junction connects the A2 to the A296 and B255, giving access to Bluewater shopping centre and the wider area.
- Ebbsfleet junction serves Ebbsfleet International Railway Station and the wider area, connecting the A2 to the A2260. It will also provide access to the new and ongoing developments.

Local developments

The junctions will serve new housing developments and employment in the local area.

- The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation was established by the Department of Communities and Local Government in April 2015 to drive delivery of a new Garden City in Ebbsfleet, North Kent. The corporation's boundary covers an area of 1,026 hectares and new communities have already formed. The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is the planning authority for the area. The corporation is tasked to deliver up to 15,000 new homes and 30,000 jobs are expected to be created. Improvement to the A2 junctions is a key deliverable for the EDC as more new homes are built.

- Additional growth in Dartford is also underway. 3,435 homes have been built in the last five years and a further 680 are under construction. Planning consent has been granted for up to 3,915 more homes (April 2017). Bean junction which is north of the A2 and east of Dartford town centre will give access to much of this housing.
- Additional growth in Gravesham is also underway. The Local Plan proposed the development of 6,170 homes between 2011 and 2028, along with the creation of a considerable number of jobs.

Preventing congestion

Traffic modelling shows that both junctions need improving. If this does not occur the road network will become more highly congested causing considerable delays and associated environmental issues. Without the scheme the following congestion is predicted:

- Bean junction (including A296): Traffic is forecast to increase by 50-60% during weekday and weekend peak periods by 2037 compared with 2014 traffic levels.
- Ebbsfleet junction: Traffic is forecast to increase by 170 – 200% during weekday peak periods by 2037 compared with 2014 traffic levels.

Scheme objectives

The objectives were developed in conjunction with the Department for Transport and local authorities. Improving the junctions will:

- Support economic and housing growth in north Kent, including Ebbsfleet Garden City
- Increase capacity of the junctions and minimise the impact on the A2
- Improve journey times
- Improve road safety
- Minimise impact on the environment
- Provide value for money

What we are doing now

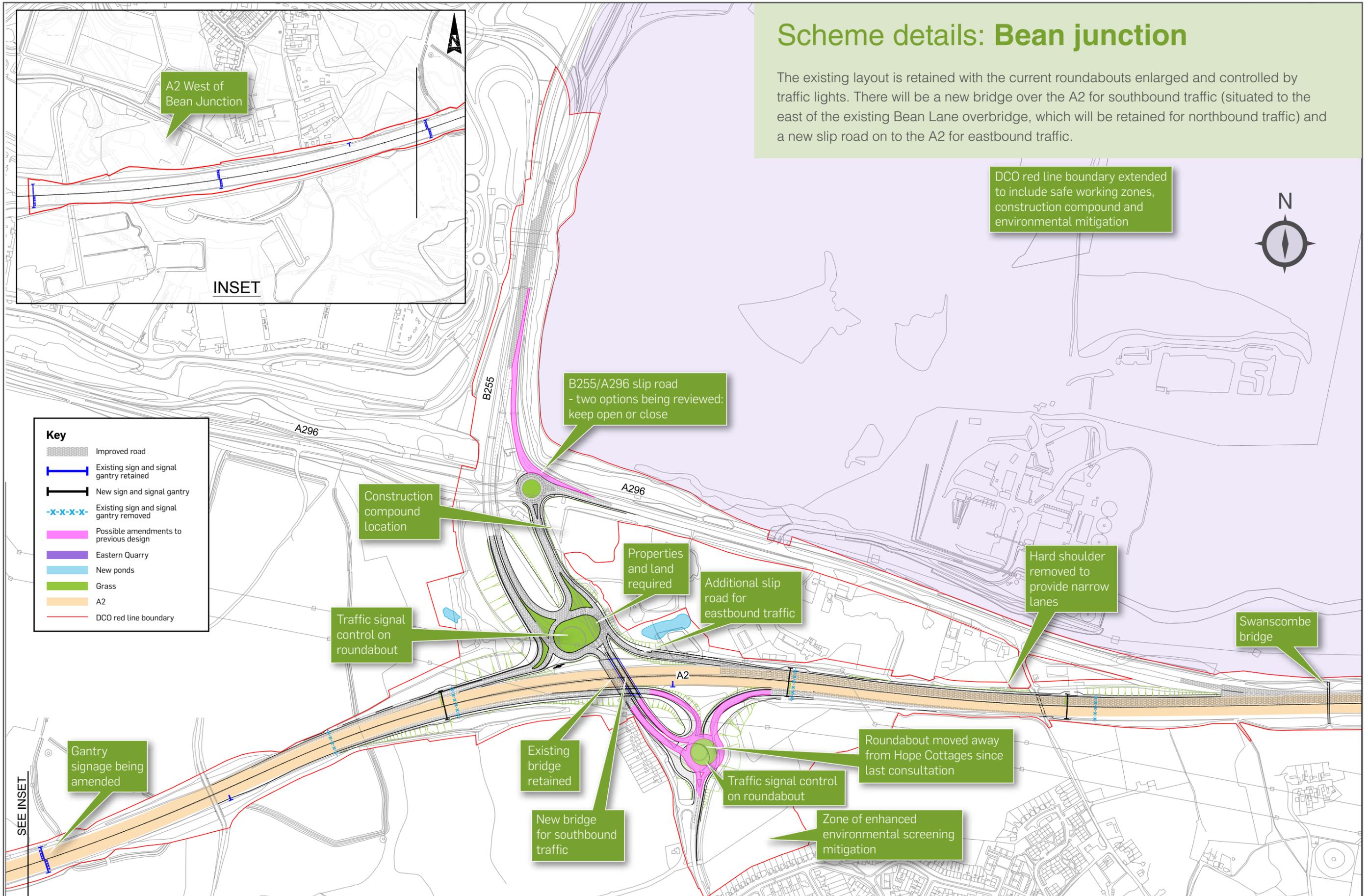
Following our previous consultation in March 2017 and the preferred route announcement in August 2017, we are now undertaking a statutory public consultation to provide an opportunity for everyone to give feedback on the more developed design. This will help to ensure that the views of stakeholders are fully considered in the next design stage.



The scheme we are consulting on

Scheme details: Bean junction

The existing layout is retained with the current roundabouts enlarged and controlled by traffic lights. There will be a new bridge over the A2 for southbound traffic (situated to the east of the existing Bean Lane overbridge, which will be retained for northbound traffic) and a new slip road on to the A2 for eastbound traffic.



Key

- Improved road
- Existing sign and signal gantry retained
- New sign and signal gantry
- Existing sign and signal gantry removed
- Possible amendments to previous design
- Eastern Quarry
- New ponds
- Grass
- A2
- DCO red line boundary

DCO red line boundary extended to include safe working zones, construction compound and environmental mitigation

B255/A296 slip road - two options being reviewed: keep open or close

Construction compound location

Properties and land required

Additional slip road for eastbound traffic

Hard shoulder removed to provide narrow lanes

Swanscombe bridge

Traffic signal control on roundabout

Gantry signage being amended

Existing bridge retained

New bridge for southbound traffic

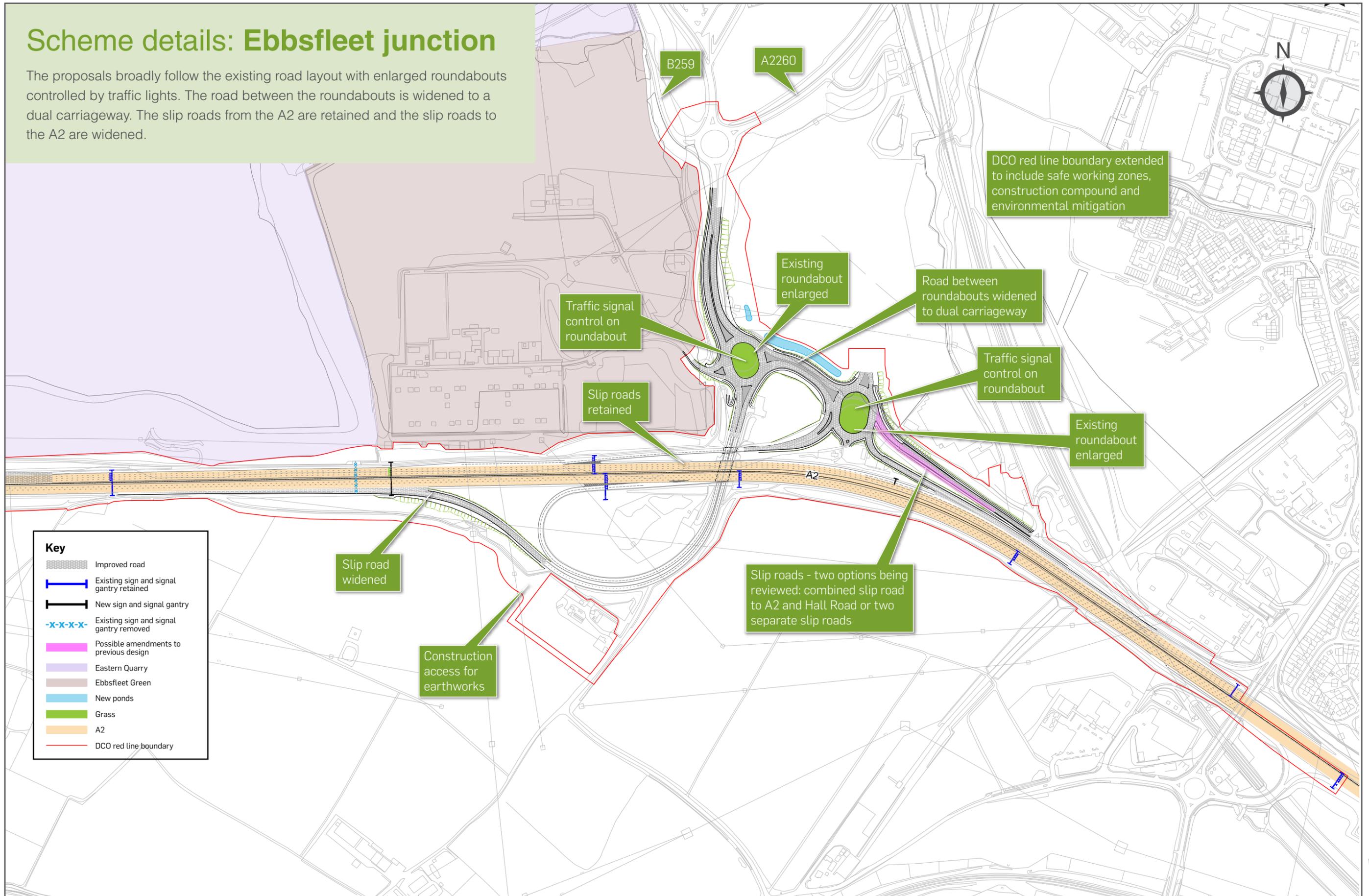
Traffic signal control on roundabout

Roundabout moved away from Hope Cottages since last consultation

Zone of enhanced environmental screening mitigation

Scheme details: Ebbsfleet junction

The proposals broadly follow the existing road layout with enlarged roundabouts controlled by traffic lights. The road between the roundabouts is widened to a dual carriageway. The slip roads from the A2 are retained and the slip roads to the A2 are widened.



How the scheme is evolving

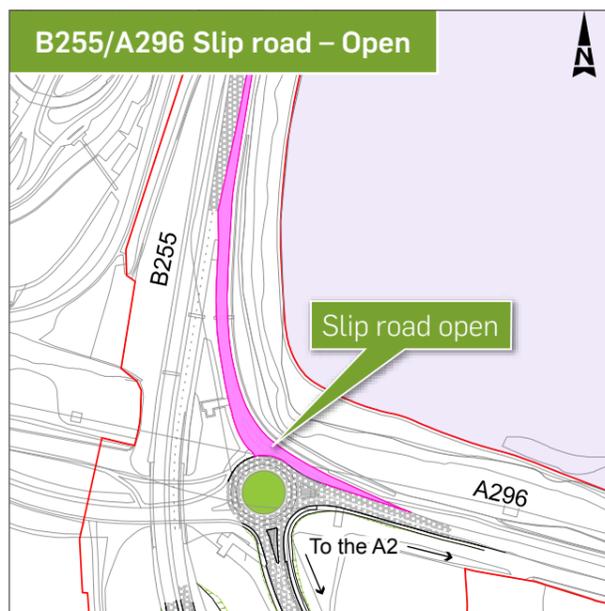
Since we announced the preferred route in August last year, the scheme is continuing to evolve.

We would like your feedback about the scheme in general, and specifically about slip roads, gantries, and pedestrian and cycling routes and the details of these are below. Please read this section before completing pages 3-5 of the questionnaire.

Slip roads

Bean junction

As a direct result of the feedback we received during the first consultation, we have been reviewing whether we can keep the B255/A296 slip road open. We are currently undertaking further assessments to find out what impact this has on the rest of the road network. We would like your feedback on the options shown below as this will help inform our final scheme layout. (See page 3 in the questionnaire).



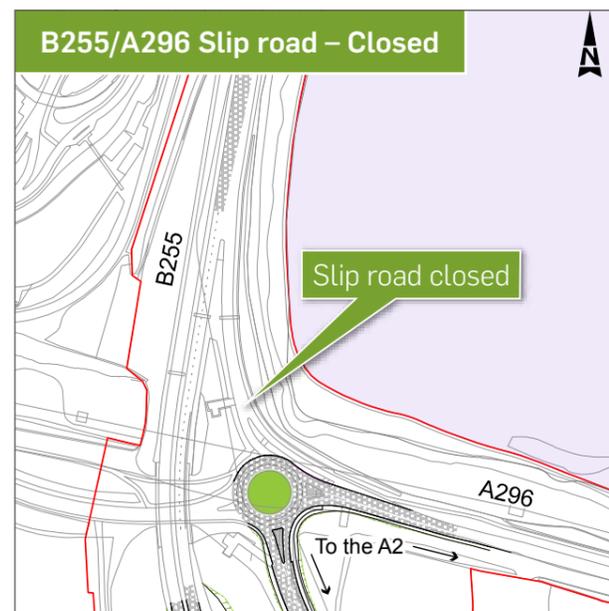
Option: Slip road open

Advantages

- Easier to leave Bluewater
- Easier to access A2
- Emergency vehicles can easily access hospital via A296 westbound
- No land take will be required

Disadvantages

- Possible conflict with lorries parked each side of the road
- A296 is a very busy road



Option: Slip road closed

Advantages

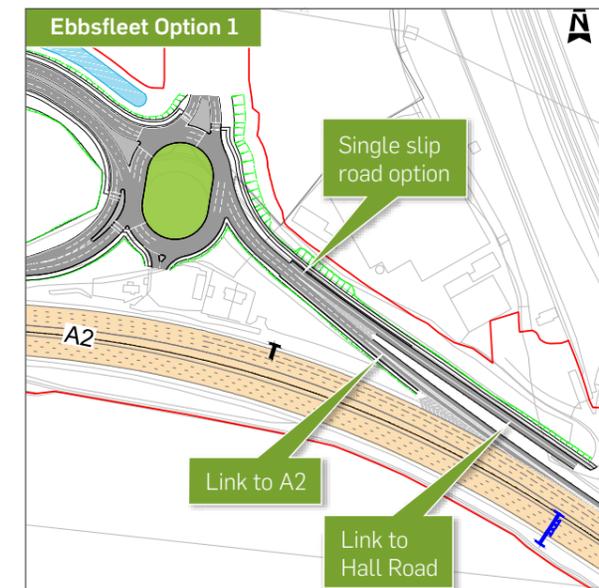
- Encourages traffic to use the A2
- New southbound bridge reduces queues
- No land take will be required

Disadvantages

- Four lanes reduced to two lanes on exit from Bluewater
- Drivers must use southern Bean roundabout to get to A2 or double back to A296
- Emergency vehicles cannot easily access hospital via A296

Ebbsfleet junction

We are looking to see if we can combine the slip road accesses to Hall Road and the A2. This would reduce the environmental impact and the number of exits at this junction. We would like your feedback on the options shown below. This will help inform our design work. (See page 4 in the questionnaire).



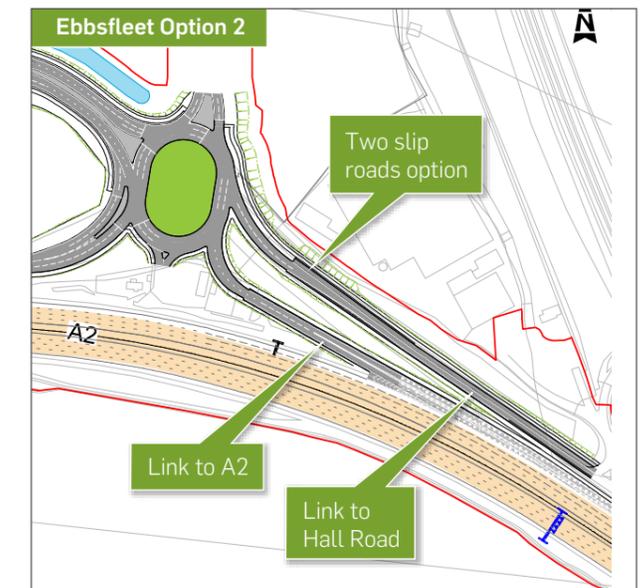
Option: Single combined slip road

Advantages

- Drivers can change onto the other slip road
- Reduces land take in the area
- May reduce environmental impact on archaeology

Disadvantages

- Traffic could weave on the slip road
- May not cope well with high traffic flow
- Does not provide resilience for the road network



Option: Two separate slip roads

Advantages

- Traffic will not weave on the slip road
- Provides resilience to road network
- Better able to cope with high traffic flow

Disadvantages

- Drivers must choose their slip road while on the roundabout
- Additional land take will be required
- May impact the archaeology in the area

Gantries

We are reviewing the location of gantries (overhead signs) as some of them will be moved to accommodate changes to the slip roads. This will also help to manage future traffic flows using new technology. We welcome your feedback on the gantry positions shown on the plans. (See page 5 in the questionnaire).

Pedestrian and cycling routes

Options are being considered for pedestrian, cycling and equestrian routes. We are in discussion with Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council to ensure our ideas are joined up and we provide the right routes. We would like to hear your views about the journeys you usually take as a pedestrian or cyclist. (See page 5 in the questionnaire).

Other important aspects we are working on are as follows.

Development Consent Order Boundary

We have established a boundary which shows the limit of all proposed land for both permanent and temporary works for which we are seeking Development Consent. This covers the following areas:

- The proposed highway works, signage and overhead gantries
- The areas that may be needed during construction for the site compound, materials storage and safe working access
- The areas for environmental mitigation such as landscape planting and drainage.

We will continue to review this during the next phase of the design development.

Environment

We have considered your feedback from the first consultation and are working with statutory consultees to enhance our knowledge about environmental considerations in this area. More details below:

Biodiversity

Surveys have been ongoing since 2014 and will continue this year. So far we have found evidence of hazel dormouse, reptiles, badgers, bats and notable plant species.

This data helps us understand the distribution of notable/protected habitats and species and identify where protection and mitigation is required.

We have been developing the proposed design to ensure there will be no direct impact on ancient woodland at Darenth Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or The Thrift. We are working to avoid impacting on ancient woodland at Bean Triangle.

Archaeology

We recognise there are cultural heritage assets nearby such as those associated with the Springhead Roman settlement. We are working closely with statutory environmental bodies with a view to avoiding significant impacts at these sites. This includes Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Team (KHCT) and Historic England, to develop our plans for archaeological investigations in the area.

Landscape

We are proposing to have an extensive area of new native woodland and species rich grassland to the south of the A2 in the area of the Bean southern roundabout and slip roads.

It is intended to replace the highway planting removed during construction and help to screen views of the scheme in the longer term from nearby residents on the northern edge of Bean and some of the properties at Hope Cottages. We also plan to retain the public right of way that crosses this area, connecting Bean Lane and The Thrift.

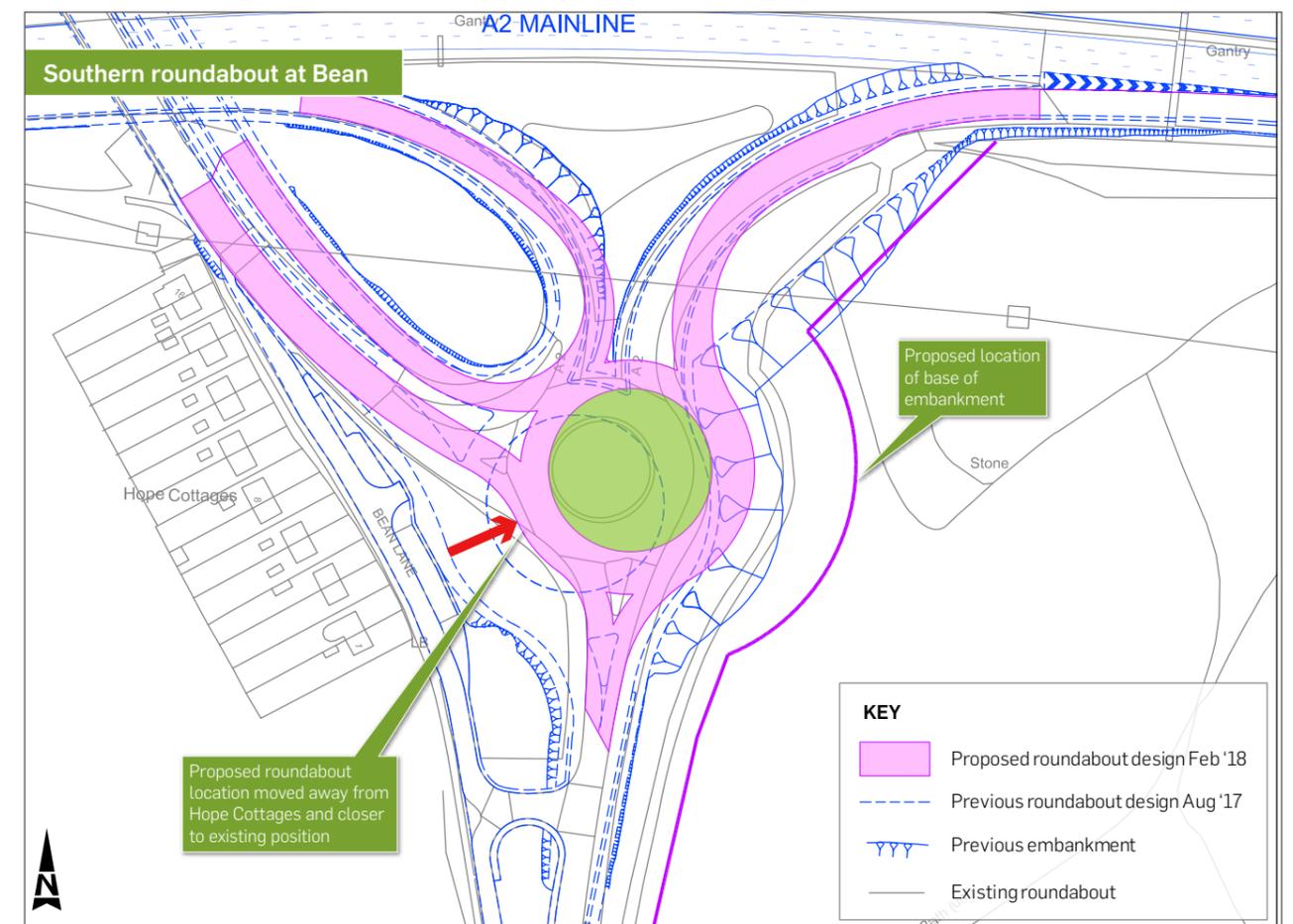
Embankments

Retaining walls and embankments will be required for the scheme. We are working to understand where these structures will be required. Investigations into ground conditions are planned for later in the year which will help inform these elements of the design.

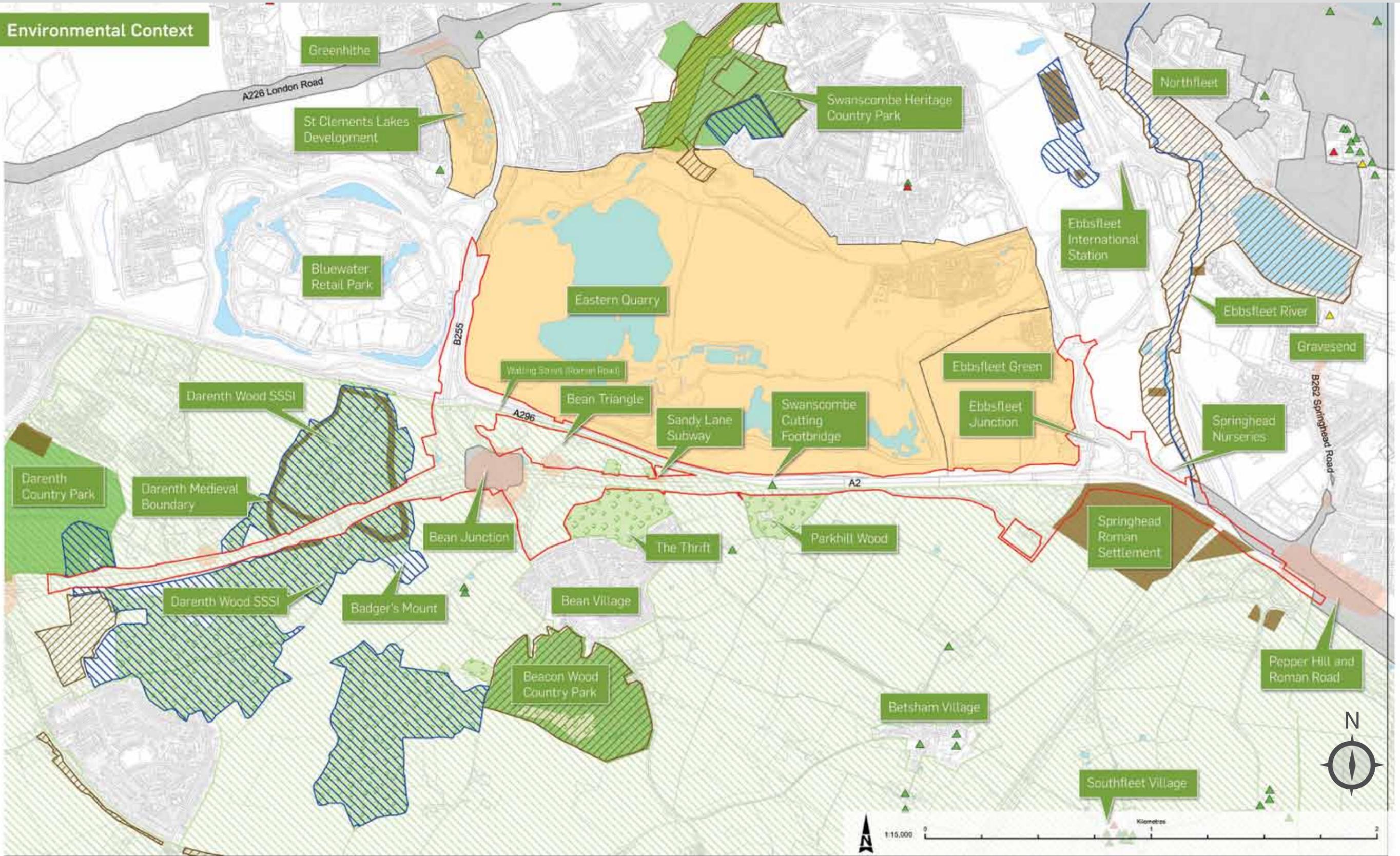
Noise and air quality

Since the preferred route announcement in August 2017 we have been working on the design to minimise the detrimental effects of air quality and noise.

An example is at the southern roundabout at Bean Junction which we are proposing to relocate by 20 metres to the east which will reduce the impacts on some of the residents of Hope Cottages. (See diagram below.)



Environmental Context



LEGEND

DCO Pre-Application Boundary	Ancient Woodland	Listed Buildings Grade I
Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC)	Country Parks	Listed Buildings Grade II*
Scheduled Monuments	Green Belt	Listed Buildings Grade II
Registered Park and Garden	Important Areas for Noise	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Air Quality Management Areas	
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	Waterbodies	
	River Network	

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Feature	Benefit/Effect
Road safety	Assessments have indicated that the scheme will improve safety and reduce accidents in which people are killed or seriously injured over a 60-year period. This is being reviewed as part of the design process.
Journey times and traffic congestion	The improvements provide additional capacity at each junction to smooth traffic flow and improve journey time reliability over a 60-year period. These figures are being reviewed to incorporate the impacts from the new Lower Thames Crossing.
Air quality	It is not anticipated that the proposed design will lead to a significant effect on air quality. At Hope Cottages we aim to minimise the increase in pollutant concentrations by moving the roundabout.
Noise	It is not anticipated that the proposed design will lead to a significant effect on noise. At Hope Cottages we aim to minimise the increase in noise by moving the roundabout.
Cultural heritage	We are seeking to avoid significant effects on cultural heritage assets, including those associated with the Springhead Roman settlement and the prehistoric period, through archaeological investigations and design development.
Landscape	We are aiming to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts through the retention of existing highway planting and the establishment of new native planting to provide screening. The proposed design will retain the 'gateway' landscape character around Ebbsfleet.
Biodiversity	No significant impacts on designated ecological sites are anticipated. We are aiming to avoid protected and notable species and improve their habitats where possible (examples include dormouse and ancient woodland).
Road drainage and the water environment	No significant impacts are anticipated. The design will incorporate sustainable drainage and other mitigation measures where practicable so there will be no increase in flood risk or impact on water quality.
Contaminated land	No significant effects are anticipated. If land contamination is identified during site investigations, the design will be developed to avoid adverse impacts on human health, controlled waters, property and ecology.
Materials and Waste	Materials will be reused within the scheme or recycled, where practicable to reduce CO2 emissions and traffic movements.
Construction duration and impacts	A construction period of up to 3 years is currently proposed. We hope to reduce this as the scheme is developed further. There will be significant traffic management (roadworks) during this period as the existing junctions are reconstructed.
Pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians	We are seeking to maintain routes for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians where practicable during construction. We aim to improve the permanent routes by installing safer crossing points that will link the existing public rights of way.
Land take	There will be significant effects at Bean Junction due to the demolition of residential properties and the land take from the horse sanctuary.
Current cost estimate	£125m
Climate change	The scheme design seeks to be resilient to climate change. Predictions of climate change impacts and assessment of emissions associated with implementation of the scheme will be included in the modelling used in the scheme development.
People and communities	The proposed scheme requires the demolition of 11 properties and some land-take at Bean Junction impacting on the horse sanctuary. Overall the scheme will improve accessibility, connectivity and reduce severance for the wider local community and facilitate the growth planned for the local area. Driver stress is likely to be reduced due to the scheme's enhanced capacity to cater for traffic, reduce queueing, congestion and risk of conflicts and collisions.

Scheme funding and delivery

The proposed scheme is being delivered by Highways England. It is funded by the Department for Transport with Section 106 contributions provided via the Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

The Kent Thameside Strategic Transport Programme consists of a number of improvement schemes (including this scheme) that will be delivered as developer contributions come forward to Gravesham Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. The programme is administered by Kent County Council.

Relationship to other local projects

Lower Thames Crossing

Highways England's Lower Thames Crossing project is a separate proposal to the Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements. However, the teams are working closely together. The Preferred Route Announcement was made on 12 April 2017. The planned route will run from the M25 near North Ockendon, cross the A13 at Orsett before crossing under the River Thames east of Tilbury and Gravesend. A new link road will then take traffic to the A2 near Shorne, close to where the route becomes the M2. The improvements at Bean and Ebbsfleet are designed to be compatible with this route.

London Resort

London Resort Company Holdings is developing a theme park at Swanscombe Peninsula. This is a privately-funded scheme which will be supported by transport infrastructure including improvements to the Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions. These improvements are separate from the current proposals being consulted on by Highways England.

At this stage, London Resort still needs to go through the statutory planning process. As we are a statutory consultee we are working with them to understand the impact of their proposals on the roads we manage and any mitigation measures required. London Resort is also engaging with local authorities and the community about the projected impact of their development on the local road network.

Bluewater

Our proposed improvements for Bean junction are designed to accommodate average future traffic flows up to 2038, including known developments at Bluewater Shopping Centre.

Where can I find documents relating to this statutory public consultation?

The following documents which support our consultation are online at:

www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Consultation brochure and questionnaire
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- Scheme Assessment Report
- Technical Assessment Report

They are also available to view free of charge during the consultation period at the inspection locations listed below:

Location	Address
Dartford Borough Council	Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council	The Groves, Swanscombe, DA10 0GA

Public consultation brochures and survey questionnaires will be available from:

Location	Address
Bean Youth and Community Centre	High Street, Bean, DA2 8AS
Greenhithe Library	London Road, Greenhithe, DA9 9EJ
Fleetdown Library	Swaledale Road, Dartford, DA2 6JZ
Longfield Library	49 Main Road, Longfield, DA3 7QT
Swan Valley Library	Swanscombe Library Discovery Centre, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe, DA10 OBZ
Temple Hill Community Centre	Temple Hill Square, Dartford, DA1 5HY
Coldharbour Road Library	3 Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, DA11 8AE
Hive House Library	Hive House, Northfleet, DA11 9DE
Gravesend Library	Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE
Gravesham Borough Council	Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU
Kent County Council	County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ
Stone Pavilion	Hayes Road, Greenhithe, DA9 9DS



How to give us your views:

- Complete the consultation questionnaire online at www.highways.gov.uk/a2be
- Attend a public consultation event and complete a questionnaire
- Complete the questionnaire included with this brochure and send to us at **Freepost A2BE public consultation**
- To help us shape the final design in preparation of our submission to the Planning Inspectorate it is important you are involved now.
The closing date for submitting your feedback is 11.45pm on 4 April 2018.

How will you use my response?

All views and comments received help us to:

- Make sure potential impacts on the community and environment have been fully considered
- Ensure the final scheme design is updated with all relevant responses where applicable
- Ensure the final environmental statement considers impacts or mitigations resulting from the consultation process
- Record how we have considered feedback to develop the scheme further within the consultation report.

All responses will be analysed by Highways England or our consultants. Your details will only be used in connection with the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements consultation process and will not be passed to any other third parties. We cannot respond individually to every comment, but we will take them all into consideration.

What happens after this public consultation?

This scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project which requires a Development Consent Order. We will make an application to the independent Planning Inspectorate. Our application will include a Consultation Report, which explains how we have had regard to consultation responses, and an Environmental Statement. After examining our Development Consent Order application, the Planning Inspectorate will present a report to the government. We will only be able to construct the scheme and compulsorily acquire land if the government approves our Development Consent Order.

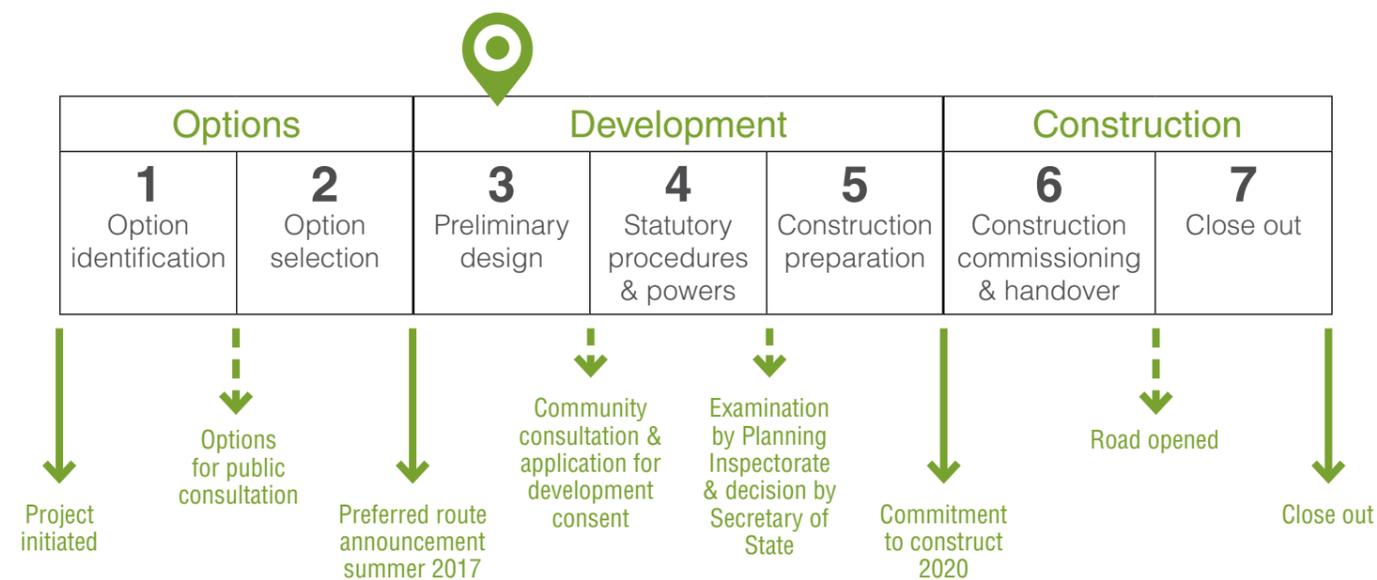
For more information about the process for proposed major infrastructure projects visit the Planning Inspectorate's website <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or **call 0303 4445000**.

A video explaining the DCO process is also available online at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Scheme milestones

- Autumn 2018: We submit a planning application (the Development Consent Order) to the Planning Inspectorate, which includes the report on the findings from this consultation
- 2018-2019: The Planning Inspectorate will evaluate the scheme
- 2019: The Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Government, which will decide whether to give the scheme consent
- 2020: If planning consent is granted then construction starts
- 2022/23: Scheme opens for traffic

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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Contact us

Please use the following methods to contact us or to respond to the public consultation:

- Complete the consultation questionnaire online at **www.highways.gov.uk/a2be**

You can also:

- Attend a public consultation event and complete a questionnaire
- Complete the questionnaire included with this brochure and send to us at: **Freepost A2BE public consultation**
- Email **A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk**
- Call **0300 123 5000** (24 hours).

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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 **PR193/17**.

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