

# A595

## Whitehaven Study

Public consultation

**Share your views**

November - December 2018

## Investing in your roads

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe.

In this brochure we explain our findings on the issues along the A595 around Whitehaven and potential improvements for this section of the route. We also give details of how you can give us your feedback during our public consultation.

### How to respond

We're holding a public consultation to hear your views on the existing road and our proposals on how to improve the route around Whitehaven. We would also like to take the opportunity to gather feedback and information on the section of the A595 to Sellafield to feed into our long term strategy for the route.

You can help us improve the route by identifying any problems, including providing your views on the potential solutions we've identified. Your comments will help us better understand the local area and transport issues along the route. We will listen to everyone's feedback and we'll consider these during the development of any improvements.

**The consultation will run for 6 weeks, between 7 November and 19 December 2018.** There are lots of ways you can tell us what you think. Why not come along to one of our consultation events or you can write to us by post or email. Details of how you can respond are below.

**Please respond using one of the following methods by 19 December 2018:**

- Online – complete the response form online at: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A595whitehaven](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A595whitehaven)
- Complete the consultation response form in this brochure and return it using the freepost address provided

- Email your response to:  
[A595Whitehaven@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A595Whitehaven@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- Post – write to us at:  
**Business Reply Plus  
Licence Number  
RTZS–CEET–CSXR**

**All responses should be returned by  
19 December 2018**

### Consultation events

One of the best ways to find out more about our proposals and have your say is to come to one of our consultation events. Here you'll be able to find out more about the work undertaken and speak to members of the project team who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

- **Saturday 17 November, 10.00 – 16.00**  
Beacon Museum, The Beacon Portal,  
West Strand, Whitehaven, CA28 7LY
- **Wednesday 28 November, 14.00 – 19.00**  
Beacon Museum, The Beacon Portal,  
West Strand, Whitehaven, CA28 7LY
- **Thursday 29 November, 10.00 – 14.00**  
Ingwell Hall (Gunson Room), Ingwell Drive,  
Westlakes Science and Technology Park,  
Moor Row, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA24 3JZ

All the information will be available on our website:  
[www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A595whitehaven](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A595whitehaven)

## Work done so far

The first Road Investment Strategy covered investment in England's motorways and major roads during the 2015 to 2020 road period. This was the initial step in a long-term programme to improve England's motorways and major roads. We are repeating this process and work is now underway to develop the second Road Investment Strategy – known as RIS 2 – covering the second road period, post 2020.

As part of this work we have looked at constraints, opportunities and reliability of routes in Cumbria. We've also looked at their ability to cope with events such as accidents or extreme weather.

- **2015 - The North Pennines Route Strategy (NPRS)** studied east- west corridors (A69, A66/A595 and the A590). Network resilience and capacity constraints were identified between Howgate roundabout and Sellafield (our study route) especially near Whitehaven. The NPRS also determined that future development may worsen conditions in this area.
- **2016 - The West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study** examined existing and future constraints, as well as route reliability and resilience on the A595, A66 and A590 routes. Again, capacity, safety and reliability issues were identified along the A595, many clustered around Whitehaven and towards Sellafield to the south (our study route).
- **Further work** by Highways England, Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has examined the issues on the A595 around Whitehaven, including consideration of potential transport improvements that could be delivered in the second roads period post 2020.

## Why we are looking at improving the A595 near Whitehaven

Cumbria is home to a number of important industries, employing thousands of people in the region.

Altogether, the nuclear and energy sectors, and their suppliers, employ around 27,000 people, with a significant proportion in West Cumbria. This includes Sellafield, the largest nuclear site in Europe, where there are over 10,000 on-site and associated local areas.

In the future, Cumbria is expected to attract over £60 billion of investment along the coast.

This includes a new nuclear power station at Moorside, plans for a new National Grid network in the county, and proposals for a new mine close to Whitehaven.

To support this investment and boost the economy, the current road network will need to improve. See the map on the next page.

The A595 is an important route and caters for freight, local and agricultural traffic. The A595 is a single carriageway through the study area with a lack of overtaking opportunities. The A595 in West Cumbria serves several towns and villages, with several sections where the road passes directly in front of residential properties. There are many junctions along the route through the study area, which is approximately 7.3km in length.

### Capacity and connectivity

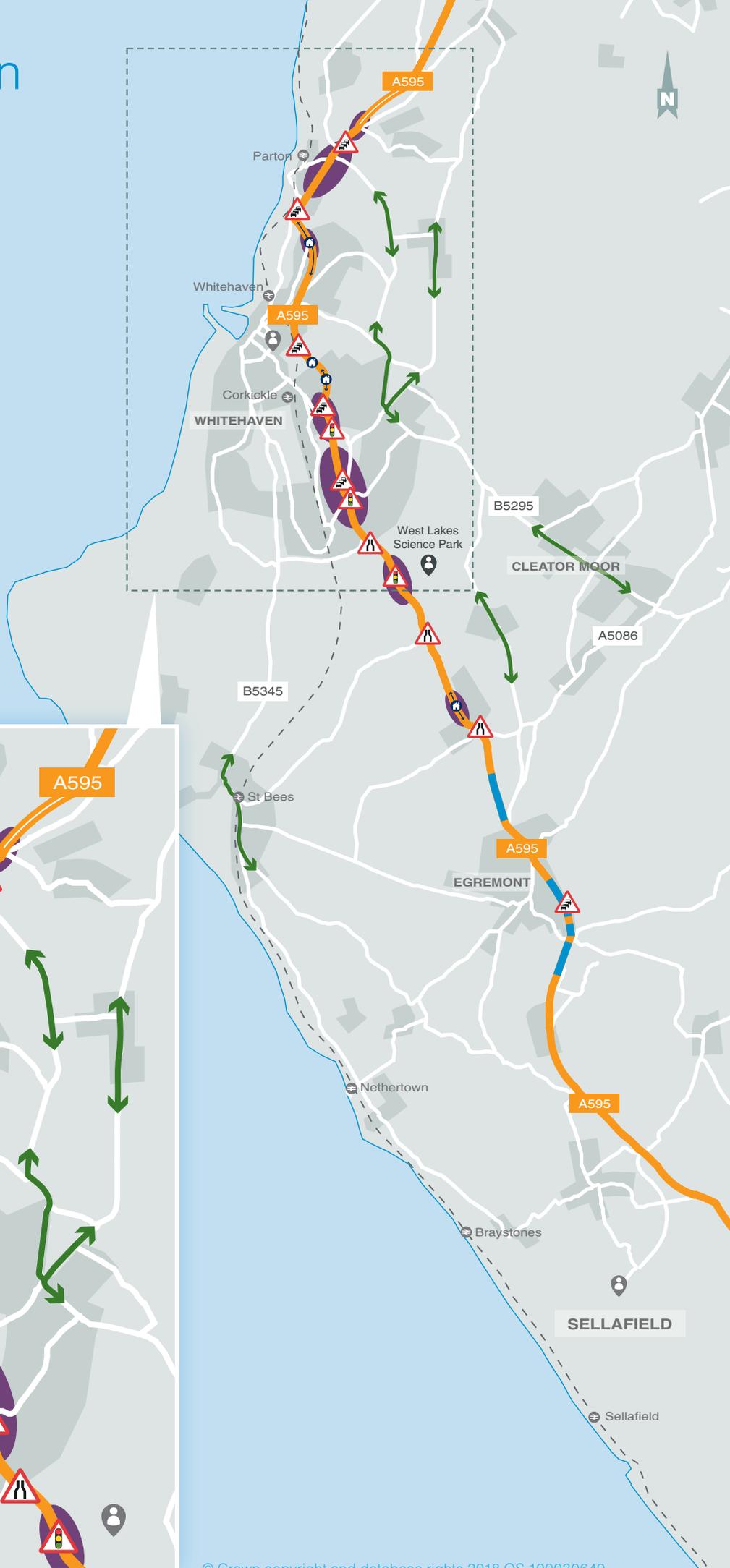
The A595 between Howgate roundabout and Sellafield experiences congestion, poor journey times and delays. The route is one of the worst performing strategic roads in the country for delays. This also results in poor journey times to and from the M6 which is the only motorway within Cumbria.

Congestion and poor journey times on the A595 can lead to motorists taking short cuts on local rural roads, causing further congestion and environmental impacts for those living nearby.

# A595 Whitehaven

## The study area

-  A595
-  A595 dual carriageway
-  Congestion hotspots
-  Controlled crossings
-  Narrow road width
-  Accident clusters
-  Rat running
-  Residential frontage
-  2+1 Lanes
-  Major employment locations



# A595

## Whitehaven Study

Consultation response form

**Share your views**

Return by 19 December 2018

# A595 Whitehaven

## Consultation response form

We want to understand your views about the problems and issues along the current A595 route and potential future improvements.

Please share your views with us by completing this response form here or online at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A595whitehaven](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A595whitehaven)

If you're returning this form to us by post, please follow the folding instructions on the back page then pop it in the post – no stamp is required.

The consultation period ends on 19 December, so please ensure your comments arrive with us in time, to help us consider your comments when developing a package of improvements to take forward for further development.

Please submit your completed response form to reach us no later than 19 December 2018.

**Please provide your name, address and email address.** If you'd prefer your comments to be anonymous, please just let us have your postcode (first five characters), so we can understand where you live in relation to the scheme.

Name: .....

Address: .....

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..... Postcode: .....

Email: .....

**If you are responding on behalf of an organisation,** please provide your name, your organisation's name and its address:

Your name: .....

Organisation: .....

Organisation address: .....

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..... Postcode: .....

By completing this response form, you have indicated that you have an interest in future improvements along the A595. It would help us if you could identify the nature of your interest below (please tick all that apply).

- Local resident (live within 5 miles of the A595 in the study area)
- Local business (business address within 5 miles of the A595 in the study area)
- Regular user of the A595 in a private vehicle (for example commuter/leisure)
- Regular user of the A595 in a commercial vehicle (for example haulage)
- Other (please state):

.....

You can respond to as many or little questions as you like, to help us understand the nature of your response.

1. Do you agree that improvements to the A595 are needed?  
Please tick one and please give a reason for your answer.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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2. Do you agree with the problems and issues identified along the route?  
Please tick one and please give a reason for your answer.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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3. Please use the space below to provide us with detail around any additional problems and issues you are aware of from your local knowledge within the study area.

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4. What do you feel are the root causes behind the problems and issues identified?

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5. What do you feel are the priority locations on the route which are in need of improvement?

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6. Based on your local knowledge of the route and the information presented in the brochure, what do you feel should be the key objectives of any future improvements to the route?

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Improvements to the route could provide the below types of key benefits:

- Improvements to journey times
- Improvements to air quality and noise along the current route
- Improvements to journey time reliability
- Improvements to safety
- Localised relief from traffic
- Better resilience of the route, for example shorter diversions or ability for traffic to continue moving in the event of incidents such as accidents or road works
- Improvements to severance within residential areas and better access and connectivity between communities and amenities

7. What specific benefits do you feel improvements should deliver, and what benefits are most important to you?

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11. What other improvements would you like to see on the route in the future?

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12. Are there any specific constraints we need to be aware of along the route and in the local area? This could include known environment constraints or information around future developments etc. This information will help inform the design of any improvements going forward.

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This section is optional, but we would be grateful if you'd tell us a little bit about yourself.  
**We won't share this information or use it for any other purpose.**

13. Did you attend one of the consultation events?

Yes                                       No

14. Were the visual displays at the consultation events informative and easy to understand?

Yes                                       No

15. Do you have any comments on the venues selected for the consultation events, in particular accessibility?

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16. How did you hear that the consultation was happening?

Letter  Flyer

Poster – where did you see it?  
.....

Press release or media ad in a newspaper – name of newspaper?  
.....

Council website – which council?  
.....

TV/Radio – name of station/programme?  
.....

Scheme web-page or a direct email from Highways England

Other (please specify)  
.....

17. Which communication channel(s) have you used to find out more about the proposed scheme? Please tick all that apply.

Scheme web-page  Council website  Local press

Consultation event  Other (please specify)  
.....

## 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.

### 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](mailto:DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**Thank you for taking the time to provide your opinions.  
The deadline for your responses is 19 December 2018.**

Fold B

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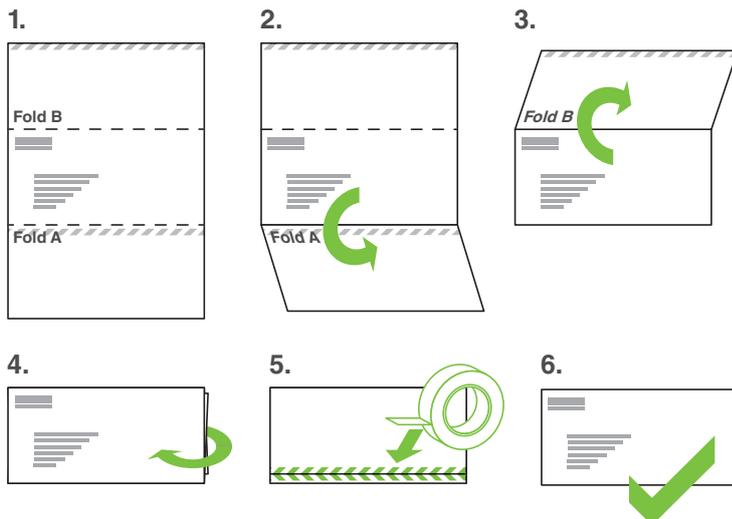
WSP  
Amber Court  
William Armstrong Drive  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
Tyne and Wear  
NE4 7YQ

Fold A

### Folding instructions

Once you've completed the questionnaire please follow these instructions before returning it to us:

1. With the return address facing you...
2. fold the bottom part backwards along Fold A
3. fold the top part backwards along Fold B
4. turn the folded questionnaire over, and...
5. secure it by sticking clear tape along the length of hatched area.
6. There's no need for a stamp, just pop it in the post.



Large numbers of HGVs use the A595 through the study area, with over 1,000 per day recorded at Brantsy Road. Through the study area, HGVs comprise between 4% and 5% of all traffic flow, which is relatively high compared to the national average of 2.5% for urban A-roads.

### **Reliability**

Journeys on the route are unreliable. There is also a lack of alternative routes in the event of disruptions. Closure of the A595 results in long diversions along routes which can't cope with increased traffic.

### **Safety**

There are a number of safety issues on the route, with the number of people killed or seriously injured being higher than the UK average for all A roads. The A595 through Whitehaven has an accident rate almost 37% higher than that for the rest of Cumbria. Furthermore, a lack of safe overtaking opportunities can lead to driver frustration and risk-taking, further jeopardising safety.

The A595 varies significantly from dual carriageway to wide single carriageway sections with climbing lanes, and narrow sections where the road fronts onto properties. This can lead to potential driver confusion and fatigue due to the differences in road layout and speed limits.

There is a lack of safe crossing facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders which leads to severance of local communities and leisure routes within the study area. This means that the A595 effectively 'severs' connections between communities and amenities.

### **Economic growth and development**

Significant traffic is generated from major employers along the study route, including Sellafield and Westlakes Science Park. Many people work in Whitehaven town centre, which provides services and amenities for the surrounding communities.

There is significant economic growth planned within Cumbria. This includes a large pipeline of investment including Moorside nuclear project which could create up to 20,000 jobs over the lifetime of the project. This will be the largest-ever private sector investment in Cumbria, and the resulting jobs created will result in significant demand on the route and more congestion.

### **Sustainable transport options**

There is also a lack of suitable alternative transport meaning people rely on their vehicles. The pedestrian and cycling routes don't provide convenient connections between residential and employment areas. Moreover, there are limited public transport services that represent a viable alternative for a large proportion of journeys using the A595. However there are proposed improvements to the Cumbrian Coastal Railway line that may increase the potential for commuting by train.

### **Environment**

We need to balance the need to solve many of the identified issues on the A595 with consideration for the environment. As part of our future works, we would carry out an environmental impact assessment and take steps to ensure impacts on the environment are minimal.

## Potential Improvements on the A595

A number of improvements have been identified that could address the key problems. Initial work has been done to determine whether these improvements would provide benefits and to consider the type of solutions that may be considered for the second roads period post 2020.

### Improvements to the existing A595 through Whitehaven

As part of our work we have considered whether major improvements could be made to remove junctions on the current A595 through Whitehaven. It was identified that this would not solve all of the issues. These options have been discounted at this point however, smaller improvements may be taken forward.

### Whitehaven Relief Road

Proposals for a bypass of Whitehaven have previously been considered in the past and are highlighted in the Copeland Local Plan, the Cumbria Infrastructure Plan and the West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study.

Our work to date has found that a Whitehaven Relief Road would contribute to solving the identified transport issues and bring benefits to drivers, the local community and the Cumbrian economy.

The existing A595 route through Whitehaven experiences slow peak speeds and congestion during peak hour periods. A new route would provide an improved alternative route for long-distance traffic whilst also freeing-up road space to support local movement.

A north-south corridor east of Whitehaven, running broadly between Howgate junction and Westlakes Science and Technology Park, has been identified for a potential new route. If this solution is taken forward for further development, detailed work will need to be carried out to

consider potential route alignments. This will help us identify a preferred route which will optimise benefits and keep environmental impacts to a minimum.

### Improvements between Westlakes Science and Technology Park and Sellafield.

Improvements around Whitehaven itself are our priority. That said, as part of this consultation we will be looking to understand whether there are potential improvements we could make in the future on the A595 south of Westlakes Science and Technology Park to Sellafield, and your views on this are welcome.

## Next steps

Once the consultation period has closed on 19 December we'll analyse all responses and compile them into a consultation report summarising the feedback received.

We will use the feedback received to inform what improvements we should take forward for further development and assessment work. We will also use any feedback received about the local area to identify any specific constraints we need to be aware of along the route and within the wider study area. This could include known environmental constraints or information around future developments. This information will help inform the design of any improvements.

Once we have reviewed the design, we will carry out another round of public consultation in the future. There would also be a considerable amount of investigation work, including environmental impact studies, wildlife surveys and detailed traffic modelling.



If you have any queries about the work undertaken and potential improvements please contact the project team directly by emailing [A595Whitehaven@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A595Whitehaven@highwaysengland.co.uk) or writing to: Highways England Strategy and Planning, 3rd Floor North, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT

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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For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or call **0300 123 5000\***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR153/18**.

Highways England creative job number MCR18\_0217

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Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources when issued directly by Highways England.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ  
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363