

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling

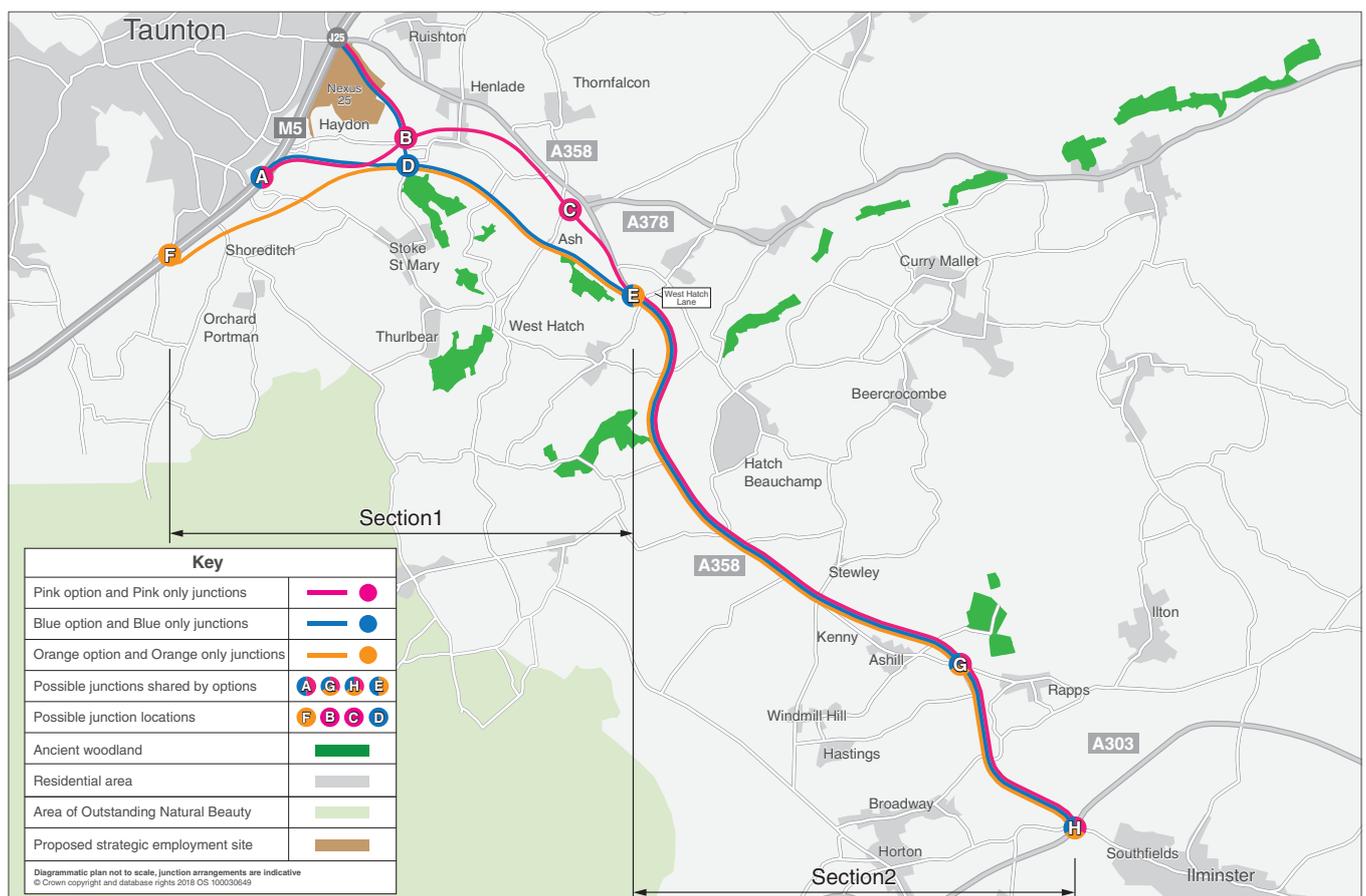
Project update: spring 2018

Welcome to the first A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme newsletter. This scheme is being developed to provide a high quality dual carriageway link between the M5 at Taunton and Southfields roundabout on the A303.

2018 public consultation

The 6-week route options consultation for the A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme closed on 27 February 2018.

At the consultation, Highways England presented 3 route options, as illustrated by the map below.





Initial facts and figures from the **2018** consultation:

- **1,772** people attended the 7 public consultation events that were held.
- During the consultation **49** individual 1-2-1 landholder meetings were held, over 4 separate days.
- There were **13** individual meetings held with parish council representatives to discuss their particular issues.
- **1,469** questionnaires were received.
- **47** other written responses were received from landholders, members of the public, key stakeholders, local authorities and parish councils.

Further details about the consultation results will be available in the *report on public consultation*, which will be published later when we make our preferred route announcement.

Reflecting on the consultation, David Stock, *Project Manager for Highways England*, said:

“During the events we heard some really interesting views and we appreciate people taking the time to join us. Meeting with local residents and communities helped to provide a good insight into their views and how they use the existing route.”

“We are now reviewing all of the responses we received, alongside the feedback we gathered in our initial round of consultation last year.”

“This will help identify the route we will take forward, which we will share with the public

later this year, alongside a full consultation feedback report.

“We would like to thank everyone who took the time to review the information we provided and to share their comments and local knowledge with us.”

Next steps

We anticipate making our preferred route announcement in the autumn this year. After that there will be a further round of public consultation where we will present a more detailed proposal for the selected route being taken forward. The outcome of that consultation will inform the application we make for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008.

A DCO is a special type of planning application, which is needed for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) like this one, which is considered by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport.

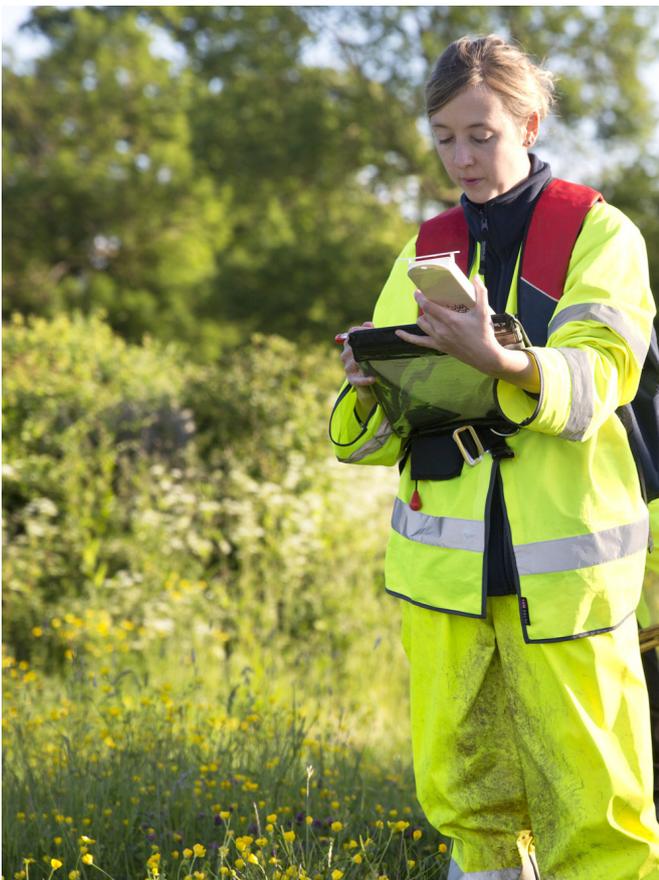
We are also developing plans to create an A358 community forum, which we anticipate starting after the preferred route announcement has been made. This forum would be a means of sharing timely and relevant information with forum members, and ensuring that the views of the community are heard, captured and considered as we plan for the statutory consultation and move forward beyond that to the submission of our DCO planning application. We will share more details about the forum in the coming months.

Ecology surveys

Dormouse, badger, newt and bat surveys will all be taking place over the coming months. These surveys are undertaken to gain a better understanding of protected species and habitats within the vicinity of the scheme. The results of them will be reported on in the environmental statement which will be produced as the scheme progresses.



Members of the project team will contact any affected landholders regarding these surveys, if they need to take place on their land. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or queries please feel free to contact the project team directly.



2018: the year of engineering

Did you know 2018 is the year of engineering? This is a Government-led initiative that Highways England is supporting. It's designed to increase the number of young people joining the engineering sector – in recognition of the fact that by 2025, the UK will need an additional 1.8 million trained engineers to close the predicted skills gap! Without more young people, the country could struggle to attract and retain the talent it needs to build and plan roads, railways and more. 2018 brings a new opportunity to make a difference, and inspire young talent to enter the world of engineering. This pioneering campaign aims to transform the way young people see engineering and boost numbers entering the profession.



Government and around 1,000 partners, including Highways England, are helping to deliver a million inspiring experiences of engineering for young people, parents and teachers. For more information visit: www.yearofengineering.gov.uk/. You can also follow year of engineering on Twitter [@YoEgovuk](https://twitter.com/YoEgovuk)

Want to find out more?

There is more information on our scheme website at: www.highways.gov.uk/Taunton-to-Southfields

Or you can email / call the project team at:
A358TauntontoSouthfields@highwaysengland.co.uk
Tel: **0300 123 5000**

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

© Crown copyright 2018.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/

write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**,
or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Mapping (where present): © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 OS 100030649. You are permitted to use this data solely to enable you to respond to, or interact with, the organisation that provided you with the data. You are not permitted to copy, sub-licence, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.

This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

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
or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR16/18**.

Highways England creative job number BRS18_0097

*Calls to 03 numbers cost no more than a national rate call to an 01 or 02 number and must count towards any inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone. Calls may be recorded or monitored.

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