

Testos Roundabout Improvement **A19**

Preferred route announcement



Introduction

During 2009, the Highways Agency held a public consultation exercise to seek the views of local residents, businesses and other key stakeholders on our proposals to improve the A19/A184 junction. However the proposals were then suspended due to a lack of funding.

In the autumn statement 2013 the Minister included the A19 Testos as a potential scheme to be developed further and in March 2014 we carried out a targeted exercise to validate the outcome of the 2009 consultation.

This leaflet summarises the consultation results and presents the preferred route, announced by the Secretary of State on 03 June 2014

Scheme objectives

The scheme objectives are to;

- Improve road safety at the junction
- Relieve congestion associated with the roundabout layout
- Minimise the environmental impact of the proposals



Public consultation

The Agency held several public consultation events between March and June 2009. We held 6 exhibitions and distributed in excess of 26,000 leaflets containing a questionnaire to residents and businesses in the local area.

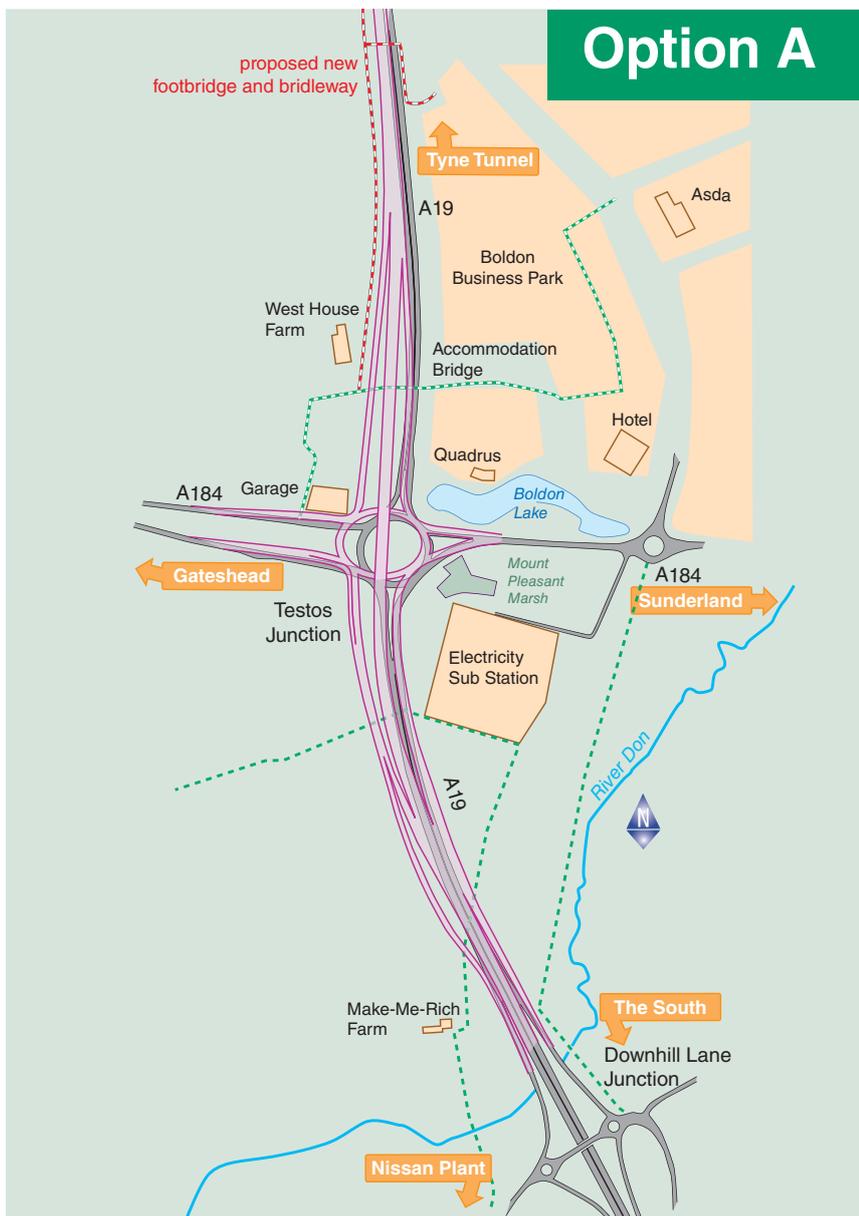
We also sought the views of other key stakeholder groups, including local councils, environmental groups and non-motorised user groups.

Three options were presented to the public

Preferred option – Option A

The preferred option is an improvement scheme following the existing A19. It involves raising the A19 carriageway above the existing ground level on an embankment and carrying it over the existing roundabout, slightly to the west, via two bridges.

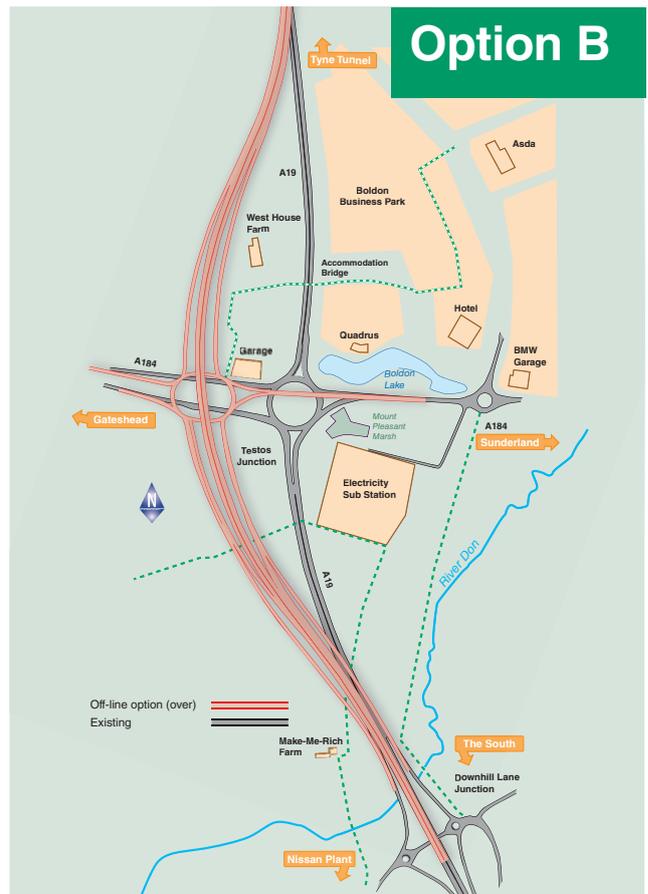
New connector roads are required between Testos Junction and the next junction to the south, at Downhill Lane, because of the short distance between them.



Recommended options

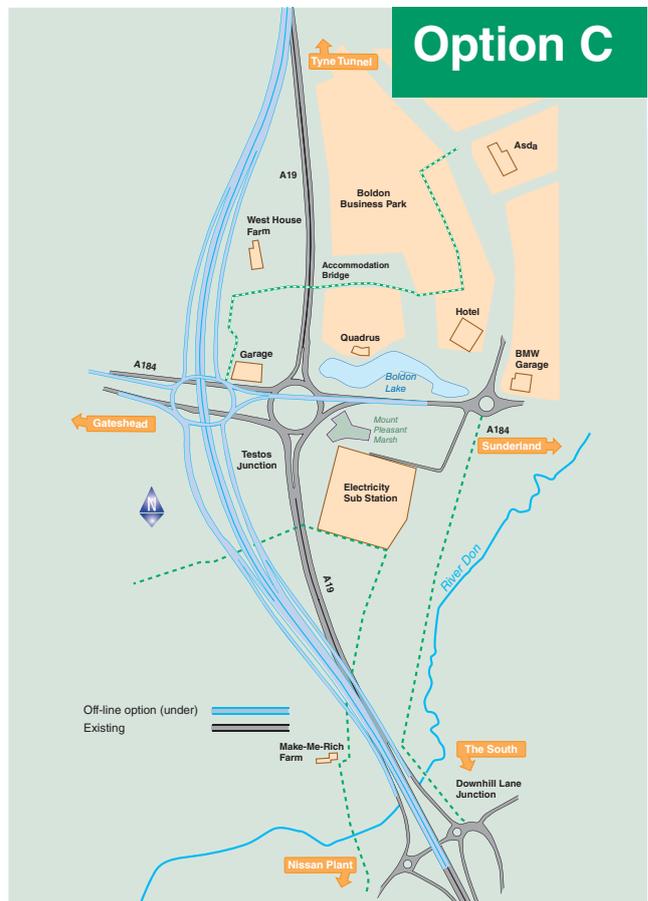
Option B

Option B is a similar layout to option A with the roundabout located approximately 300m west of the existing one.



Option C

Option C also locates the roundabout approximately 300m west of the existing one, but has the A19 passing beneath a raised roundabout.



Responses to the public consultation

A total of 393 people attended the public consultation exhibitions held in 2009. We received 885 completed questionnaires during the consultation period. From the consultation 85% of respondents believed that there was a need to improve the junction and 66% were very comfortable with the preferred option.



Validation exercise

In February 2014 we issued letters and information leaflets to key stakeholders, including Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils, Nissan and affected landowners and tenants.

86% of responses were positive and we consider that this validates the results of the 2009 public consultation.

Decision of the Secretary of State for Transport

The Secretary of State for Transport has considered the views expressed by the public and agrees that Option A should be the preferred route, confirming that the improvements to the Testos Junction should be;

- an improvement scheme at the current junction
- raising the existing A19 carriageway using an embankment and two bridge structures to carry it above the existing roundabout
- providing access to Downhill Lane using two parallel link roads connecting to the south facing slip roads

What happens next

Option A will be designated as the preferred route for upgrading the A19/A184 Testos Junction.

The preferred route announcement will allow the land in the vicinity of the scheme to be protected from development.

The scheme is considered to be a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and will, therefore, be considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

Further public and stakeholder consultation will be completed to aid the design of the preferred route in more detail to identify the land that will need to be acquired to construct the scheme. Scheme development will involve the design of the new layout, drainage requirements, pedestrian, cyclist and equestrian access and appropriate environmental mitigation measures.

Once this consultation and preferred route development work has been completed, the Planning Inspectorate procedure requires the preparation and publication of a draft development consent order and draft environmental statement. A further round of consultation will then take place on these published documents.

This consultation will give the public and key stakeholders a further opportunity to consider and comment on the more detailed proposals. The Planning Inspectorate will then consider all comments before coming to a final decision.

It is hoped that subject to successful approval by the Planning Inspectorate, and the availability of funding, construction work on the scheme could commence in the latter part of 2016/17 financial year.

Further Information

Copies of the plan showing the preferred route will be given to the Local Authority for planning and development purposes.

We have also prepared a report which summarises the responses to the Public Consultation.

Further scheme details and the above report can be found on the highways agency website at:

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/A19-Testos-Junction-Improvements>

Scheme email address

a19testosjunctionimprovements@highways.gsi.gov.uk

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

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