

A1

Scotswood to North Brunton

Scheme Announcement



Every road user wants less congested roads to enable swift, safe, comfortable and informed travel. On behalf of the government and its Road Investment Strategy, Highways England is responsible for delivering the largest investment in a generation throughout England's motorways and major A roads.

The A1 Scotswood to North Brunton scheme was announced as part of the works to the A1 Newcastle Western Bypass in the Road Investment Strategy for the 2015-2020 Road Period, published by the Department for Transport (DfT) in December 2014. This is part of Highways England's programme of investment in the strategic road network in the North-East in support of the government's growth agenda for the region.

The A1 Newcastle Gateshead Western Bypass is one of the most congested highway links in the North-East region. It suffers congestion, particularly during peak hours, which can result in unreliable journey times. Traffic is also expected to grow with new housing and employment developments planned for the area. The improvements will support new growth in the area and complement the recently completed improvements between Coal House and the Metro Centre and the proposed improvements between Birtley and Coal House.

Scheme benefits

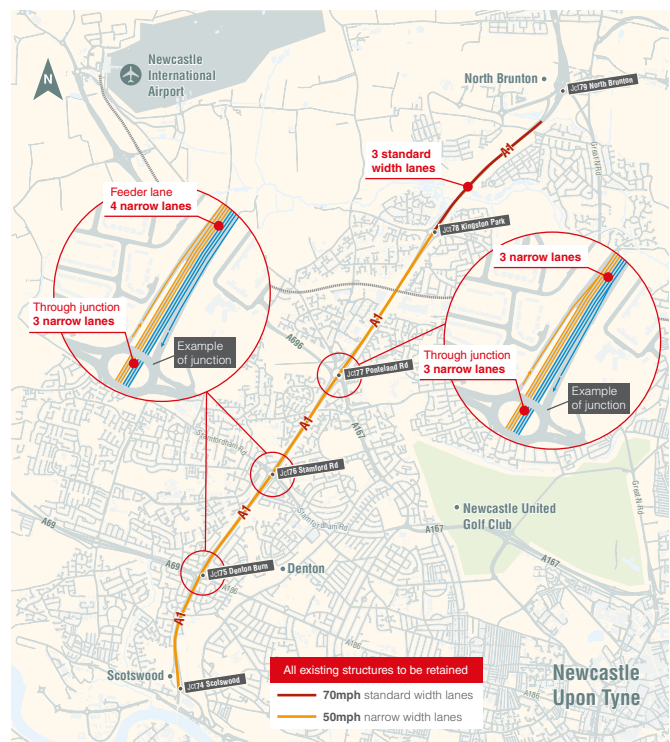
We've identified that improving the A1 between Scotswood to North Brunton will provide a number of benefits for road users and local communities and will support the region's economy. The scheme will provide additional capacity, improving resilience of the network when incidents occur and reduce congestion, aiding a more free flowing network. The scheme has been designed with the following key objectives in mind:

- **Supporting economic growth** – The scheme, through providing additional capacity, supports a number of housing developments that are in close proximity to the A1 and would use this section of road to access the surrounding areas.
- **Movement of goods and access to transport hubs** – Maintain and enhance the role of a key national route to facilitate the movement of goods and access to transport hubs supporting the government's initiative for growth in the North-East.
- **A more accessible free flowing and integrated network** – Through an increase in capacity the scheme will reduce delays and accidents, improve journey times and reliability. The provision of additional lanes improves resilience of the network when incidents do occur and we will work with stakeholders to facilitate other modes of transport and enable safe movement across and alongside our network.
- **A safe and serviceable network** – This section of the A1 Newcastle Gateshead Western Bypass between junctions 74-79 currently experiences high flows, delays and accidents. Heavy weaving occurs between junctions exacerbating the problems. Accidents often lead to lane closures and associated reliability issues. The scheme is designed to increase capacity and thereby reduce delays, the impact of weaving and safety issues. Furthermore, operating at a reduced speed of 50mph may reduce the severity and frequency of accidents.
- **An improved environment** – We will work to ensure our activities enable a long term and sustainable benefit to the environment.

What does this scheme involve?

The option we are progressing with is widening, within the existing highway boundary, to three narrower lanes between junctions 74-78 and three standard lanes between junctions 78-79, retaining all existing bridges and structures. This option was selected as it:

- Is the most cost effective option, providing similar or greater benefits than the discounted full lane widening option, but at a lower cost.
- Is currently assessed as requiring no land outside of the highway boundary, maximising the use of the existing carriageway and minimising the impact on the surrounding community and environment.
- Requires the shortest build time and it is the simplest option to construct, meaning a safer environment for both our workforce and road users.



Discounted option

The discounted option was to provide three full width lanes, replacing all existing bridges and structures – this option would have required us to purchase a lot of additional land and would have had a greater impact on the local community. This option was deemed unaffordable and was discounted in April 2016 prior to the information events held in July-August 2017.

Birchfield Gardens

Detailed work has been undertaken around the access road from Birchfield Gardens at junction 75. This access road is an exit point from the Dumpling Hall estate which joins on to junction 75 slip road coming off of the A1.

In 2016 there had been early indications that when introducing an extra lane this may result in a safety risk. We held multiple public engagement events between March 2016 and August 2017 and the feedback received at the events helped to inform our analysis. We undertook further assessment and have been reviewing the operation, safety and traffic flows, as well as impact on the local network if the access was to be closed. Following completion of these assessments it has been concluded that we are able to keep Birchfield Gardens access road open and this will form part of the design moving forwards.

Information events – what you told us

Throughout July and August we held 10 non-statutory Public Information Events (PIE's) along the length of the scheme in which we presented the preferred option, as detailed opposite.

750 people came along to our public information events, including residents and community groups, local businesses, MPs, councillors and the emergency services.

272 people responded to the event questionnaire and the results will be published on our website.

When asked if they agree or disagree with the statement ***“I support the proposed improvement option for the A1 between Scotswood and North Brunton”***:

Opinions	Number of responses
Strongly agree	65
Agree	91
Neither agree nor disagree	35
Disagree	35
Strongly disagree	36
Don't know	6
Total number of responses	272

Next steps

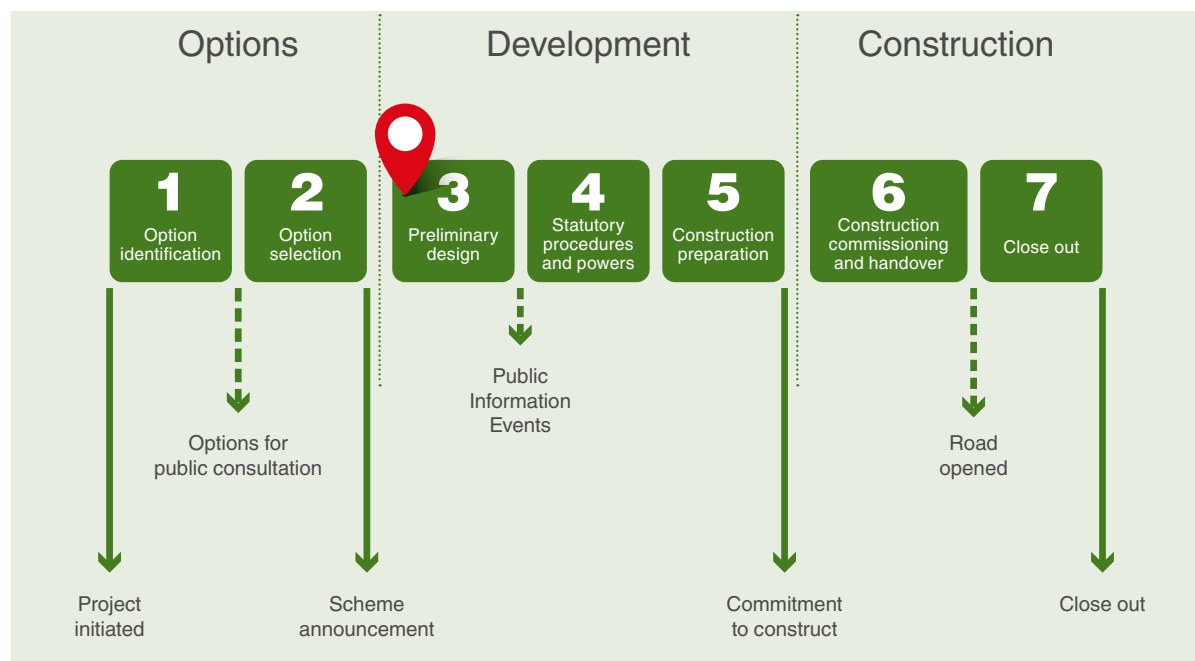
Since we held our consultation events in July and August 2017 we have undertaken further ecology surveys to better understand the local habitats, including bat, badger and red squirrel. We have also been working on the consultation report which is due to be published on the website alongside this brochure, please see the link below.

Over the coming months, our team of specialists will carry out surveys, geo-physical investigations and drainage inspections so that we can design the scheme in more detail. If we need access to your land for any of these surveys we will contact you in advance and we aim to keep disruption to a minimum.

We will hold further PIE's in 2018 to share the latest information on the scheme with you and listen to what you have to say. We will also be continuing to meet with key stakeholders to develop our proposals.

Timeline

We are currently at the development phase of the scheme, working on the preliminary design, and expect construction work to start by March 2020.



Keep in touch

If you want further information on this scheme please contact a member of the Highways England Project Team using any of the following methods:



In writing: A1 Scotswood to North Brunton Project Team, Highways England, Third floor South, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT



By email: A1Scotswood.toNorthBrunton@highwaysengland.co.uk



By phone: 0300 123 5000



Website: www.highways.gov.uk/a1scotswood

© Crown copyright 2017.

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.

© Crown copyright and database rights 2017 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

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 **PR131/17**.

Highways England creative job number LEE17_0072

*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.

Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

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

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