

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Planning Committee 22nd October 2019

A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON GIBBET-EASTERN AREA COMMUNITY FORUM

To receive a report from the Town Clerk.

The Forum met on the Wednesday 2nd October and was attended by the Town Clerk. This was an informative meeting with the consultants willing to listen and take into account the suggestions made. They were keen to learn from the lessons learnt on the A14. The issue parking in towns and villages raised and they will look at changing the contract to restrict the issue and provide minibuses for staff to pubs and restaurants. Funding is being made available to upgrade the Papworth Road this will be integrated into the design. They will also look at the pedestrian and cycle crossings at Caxton Gibbet. A lot of work is being done on the Caxton Gibbet junction on the flow of traffic during the construction of the new junction.

Below is the follow up email from Highways England with updates from the meeting.

Dear Eastern Area Community Forum,

Thank you to those who came along to our recent Eastern Area Community Forum on Wednesday 2 October. We hope you found it a productive discussion.

We are in the process of finalising the detailed meeting minutes which we will forward shortly for your records. In the meantime we have attached the updated Terms of Reference in addition to the slides which were shown on the night.

We also promised to circulate more information on the following:

DCO process

A common point of discussion was the desire to have more clarity on the upcoming DCO process including opportunities for public participation at the examination stage.

Highways England has produced a guide entitled 'Development consents for our major road schemes'. This provides an introduction to the process and can be found on our website here: https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a428-black-cat-to-caxton-gibbet-improvements/supporting_documents/Development%20Consent%20guide.pdf
Printed copies are available on request so please let us know if you wish to hold any copies/distribute wider.

The PINS website also contains a lot of useful information including a number of videos (no more than 6 minutes long) found via the links below and which help to explain:

- The six stages of the DCO process (including a short film on the role of local authorities in the process if you scroll down the page):
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>
- How to participate in the process:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/participating-in-the-process/>

Finally, we have also attached for your information, PINS Advice Note 8 “Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others”.

We will make the time to explain this in more detail at the next meeting, but wanted to make sure you were aware of the above (if you weren't already) and share the dedicated A428 project page ([here](#)) which will be a central source of documents once the application is submitted.

Health and Safety moment

We took this opportunity in the meeting to raise awareness of the following safety alerts which our teams on site are currently having to take into account (as we all should do) whilst out in the countryside: giant hogweed, Lyme disease, Weil's disease and wild parsnip.

Factsheets were available on the evening to take away – please let us know if you would like us to forward you an electronic copy.

Minecraft

The video we showed of our engagement with Castle Newnham School can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ATfnYjQbpM>

Future agenda items

From each of the Community Forum meetings which took place we have noted the following suggestions for content of future meetings:

- Archaeology update
- Understanding the DCO process
- EastWestRail progress

The next meeting will take place early in the new year. Meeting details will follow nearer to the time.

As advised above, we will be in touch in due course to share the more detailed minutes from the recent meetings. We will also provide further information on applying for Highways England's Designated Funds scheme.

Should you have any questions in the interim, or any comments on/suggestions to add to the future agenda above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Joanna Glen

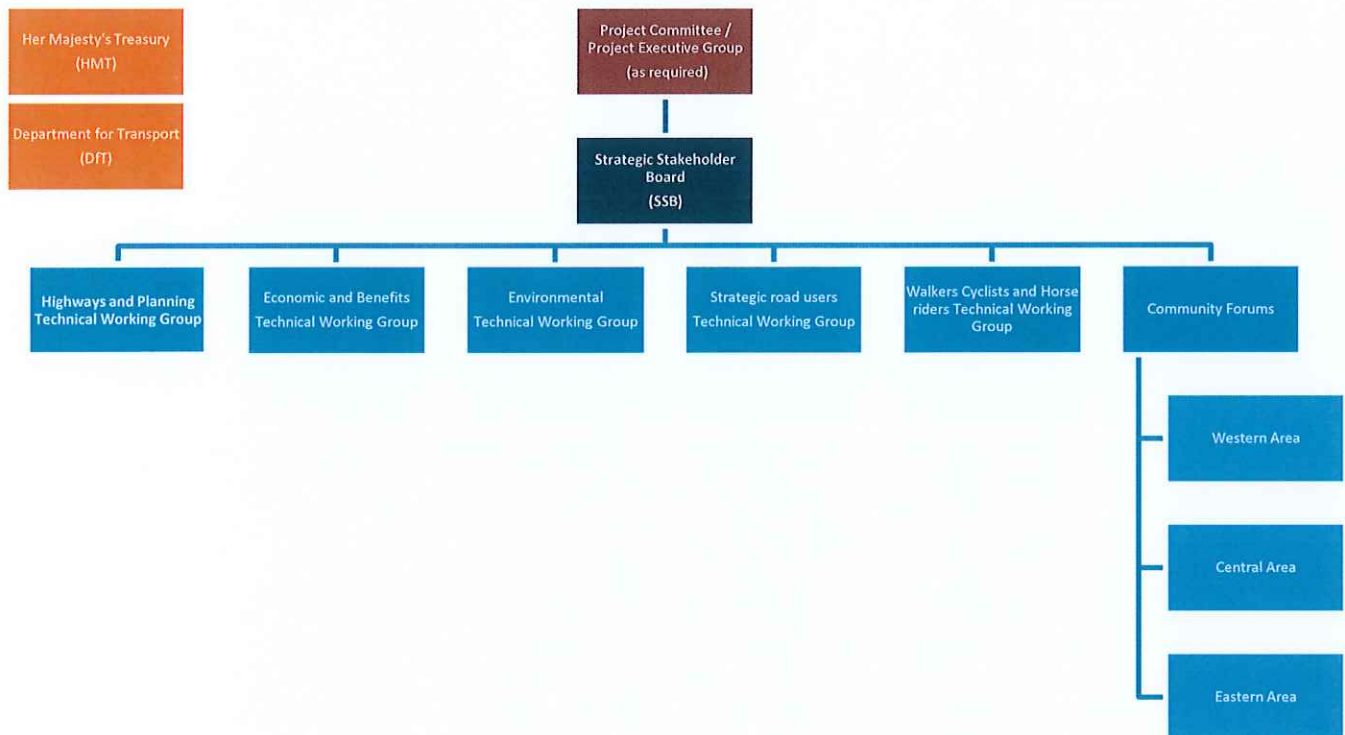
Graduate Consultant, Stakeholder Engagement Services

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

Stakeholder Groups

The diagram below seeks to explain the various groups that support the development and delivery of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme. It shows the flow of information, from detailed discussions at a technical level through to strategic level conversations. Groups are formed of stakeholders with an interest in the scheme, who are not employed by Highways England but who are in a position to provide advice that, through collaborative working, will help to deliver a better outcome.

Figure 1: Structure of working groups and forums



A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

Summary membership of stakeholder working groups

DISCLAIMER: Any decisions taken by stakeholder working groups will be without prejudice to the representations made by individual stakeholder bodies in the pursuance of their statutory or formal functions in relation to the scheme.

Working Group	Membership
Local Community Forum – Western Area	<p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blunham Parish Council • Colmworth Parish Council • Everton Parish Council • Great Barford Parish Council • Little Barford Parish Council • Roxton Parish Council • Sandy Parish Council • Staploe, Duloe and Honeydon Parish Council • Tempsford Parish Council • Wilden Parish Council • Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden Parish Council <p><u>Standing membership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Chair • Project communications lead • Representatives from surrounding local town and parish councils (listed above) • Representatives of other interested/affected community groups <p><u>Potential attendees also include</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support as necessary
Local Community Forum – Central Area	<p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbotsley Parish Council • Great Paxton Parish Council • Little Paxton Parish Council • St Neots Town Council • Toseland Parish Council • Waresley-Cum-Tetworth Parish Council <p><u>Standing membership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Chair • Project communications lead

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from surrounding local town and parish councils (listed above) • Representatives of other interested/affected community groups <p><u>Potential attendees also include</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support as necessary
<p>Local Community Forum – Eastern Area</p>	<p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambourne Town Council • Caxton Parish Council • Croxton Parish Council • Elsworth Parish Council • Eltisley Parish Council • Graveley Parish Council • Great Gransden Parish Council • Knapwell Parish Council • Little Gransden Parish Council • Papworth Everard Parish Council • Papworth St Agnes Parish Council • Yelling Parish Council <p><u>Standing membership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Chair • Project communications lead • Representatives from surrounding local town and parish councils (listed above) • Representatives of other interested/affected community groups <p><u>Potential attendees also include</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project support as necessary

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements

Local Community Forum – Western Area

Terms of Reference and Membership

DISCLAIMER: Any decisions taken by stakeholder working groups will be without prejudice to the representations made by individual stakeholder bodies in the pursuance of their statutory or formal functions in relation to the scheme.

Working groups have been created to enable early input, informed discussion and advice to be shared between key stakeholders and Highways England in the development of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme. A Strategic Stakeholder Board (SSB) has been created to provide oversight of the working groups; to ensure their effectiveness and alignment, to address escalated issues and to provide guidance.

Whilst terms of reference for working groups will be subject to periodic review, it is anticipated that they will remain active through; the statutory process, procurement of contractors, design development and construction.

Overall Purpose

The Local Community Forum for the Western Area will provide a way for Highways England to engage with communities local to the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements scheme. It will be a forum for local bodies/groups to get up-to-date information about the scheme, feed back into the scheme about any local issues, and understand how the scheme will progress. The forum will help local communities, via their group representatives:

- Find out accurate, up-to-date information about the scheme, through the consultation and planning stages and during construction. This could include information about the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, what local communities can expect in terms of traffic and environmental benefits and how delivery will be managed.
- Ask questions of the project team, bringing their constituents', members' or stakeholders' questions to the forum.
- Understand what the scheme means for them and how it will progress over the years. (Note: Continuation of the forum, after the scheme has opened for traffic, will be considered in later stages.)

Terms of Reference

The membership will:

- Offer elected representatives of the local communities who will be directly affected by the scheme the opportunity to represent their constituents and involve them in matters about their local communities.

- Ensure there are enough expert representatives from the project team to be able to provide information and answer questions.

There will be close liaison with the relevant local authorities to make sure any groups who have an interest are included wherever possible.

Highways England will consider offering representation (one person per group) from any local group with an interest in the scheme.

- The forum will be impartial and will be run and steered independently by an independent chair. It will not be a mouthpiece for Highways England, its suppliers, or any one particular local group or interest.
- The forum will have no decision-making or financial authority. Any ideas emerging from the forum will be referred to Highways England or other relevant bodies for deciding whether resources/funds are to be invested.
- Highways England will provide the secretariat.

The Independent Chair of the Local Community Forum is [INSERT name; and short bio]. As Independent Chair, [NAME] will ensure that the Forum works closely with other groups and organisations, including Highways England, to identify and deliver wider legacy benefits of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme.

Inputs: The forum will need the following information and participation to work:

- An agenda, as agreed by the forum, and circulated prior to meetings. (following the first inaugural meeting agreeing the terms of reference).
- Updates from Highways England about how the project is progressing and what is coming up.
- Feedback; ideas; active discussion with local community representatives.

Outputs: What the forum will do:

- Agree ideas, feedback and representations to take to Highways England.
- Assign actions for participants to take away to their organisations, groups or companies.

The forum itself is to take ownership of the format and style of meetings. The forum is to act as a good conduit between the local communities and Highways England.

Reporting

The proceedings of the Community Forum will be reported to the Strategic Stakeholder Board.

Members

- independent chair
- scheme communications lead

- representatives from local town and parish councils surrounding the scheme and impacted by it
- representatives of other interested/affected community groups

Potential attendees also include

- project team support as necessary

Monitoring performance via

- meetings held as programmed
- attendance at meetings
- resolution of actions recorded at meeting
- compliance with Terms of Reference

Frequency of Meetings

Quarterly

Date Created: 17 May 2019

Date Reviewed: 30 September 2019

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

Local Community Forum – Central Area

Terms of Reference and Membership

DISCLAIMER: Any decisions taken by stakeholder working groups will be without prejudice to the representations made by individual stakeholder bodies in the pursuance of their statutory or formal functions in relation to the scheme.

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Whilst terms of reference for working groups will be subject to periodic review, it is anticipated that they will remain active through; the statutory process, procurement of contractors, design development and construction.

Overall Purpose

The Local Community Forum for the Central Area will provide a way for Highways England to engage with communities local to the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements scheme. It will be a forum for local bodies/groups to get up-to-date information about the scheme, feed back into the scheme about any local issues, and understand how the scheme will progress. The forum will help local communities, via their group representatives:

- Find out accurate, up-to-date information about the scheme, through the consultation and planning stages and during construction. This could include information about the Development Consent Order (DCO) process, what local communities can expect in terms of traffic and environmental benefits and how delivery will be managed.
- Ask questions of the project team, bringing their constituents', members' or stakeholders' questions to the forum.
- Understand what the scheme means for them and how it will progress over the years. (Note: Continuation of the forum, after the scheme has opened for traffic, will be considered in later stages.)

Terms of Reference

The membership will:

- Offer elected representatives of the local communities who will be directly affected by the scheme the opportunity to represent their constituents and involve them in matters about their local communities.

- Ensure there are enough expert representatives from the project team to be able to provide information and answer questions.

There will be close liaison with the relevant local authorities to make sure any groups who have an interest are included wherever possible.

Highways England will consider offering representation (one person per group) from any local group with an interest in the scheme.

- The forum will be impartial and will be run and steered independently by an independent chair. It will not be a mouthpiece for Highways England, its suppliers, or any one particular local group or interest.
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Potential attendees also include

- project team support as necessary

Monitoring performance via

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- attendance at meetings
- resolution of actions recorded at meeting
- compliance with Terms of Reference

Frequency of Meetings

Quarterly

Date Created: 17 May 2019

Date Reviewed: 23 September 2019

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

Local Community Forum – Eastern Area

Terms of Reference and Membership

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Whilst terms of reference for working groups will be subject to periodic review, it is anticipated that they will remain active through; the statutory process, procurement of contractors, design development and construction.

Overall Purpose

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Potential attendees also include

- project team support as necessary

Monitoring performance via

- meetings held as programmed
- attendance at meetings
- resolution of actions recorded at meeting
- compliance with Terms of Reference

Frequency of Meetings

Quarterly

Date Created: 17 May 2019
Date Reviewed: 2 October 2019



A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements

Eastern Area Community Forum

2 October 2019



Agenda

- Introductions and apologies
- Health and safety moment
- Terms of Reference – review of changes
- Statutory consultation overview
- Ground Investigation (GI) works update
- Next steps
- AOB/Q&A





Health and safety moment



Be alert when out in the countryside...



Giant hogweed

Invasive weed species with poisonous sap which is released when the plant is handled. The weed thrives where soil has been disrupted such as river banks, derelict land or railway embankments.



Wild parsnip

Native plant species, from the same family as Giant Hogweed, with similar toxicity.

Effects are not usually immediate - action should be taken as soon as possible after contact with the sap.



Lyme disease

Carried by infected ticks. If you are unable to remove ticks (with tick removal tools), seek immediate medical assistance.

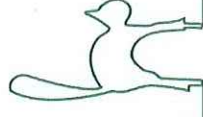


Terms of Reference

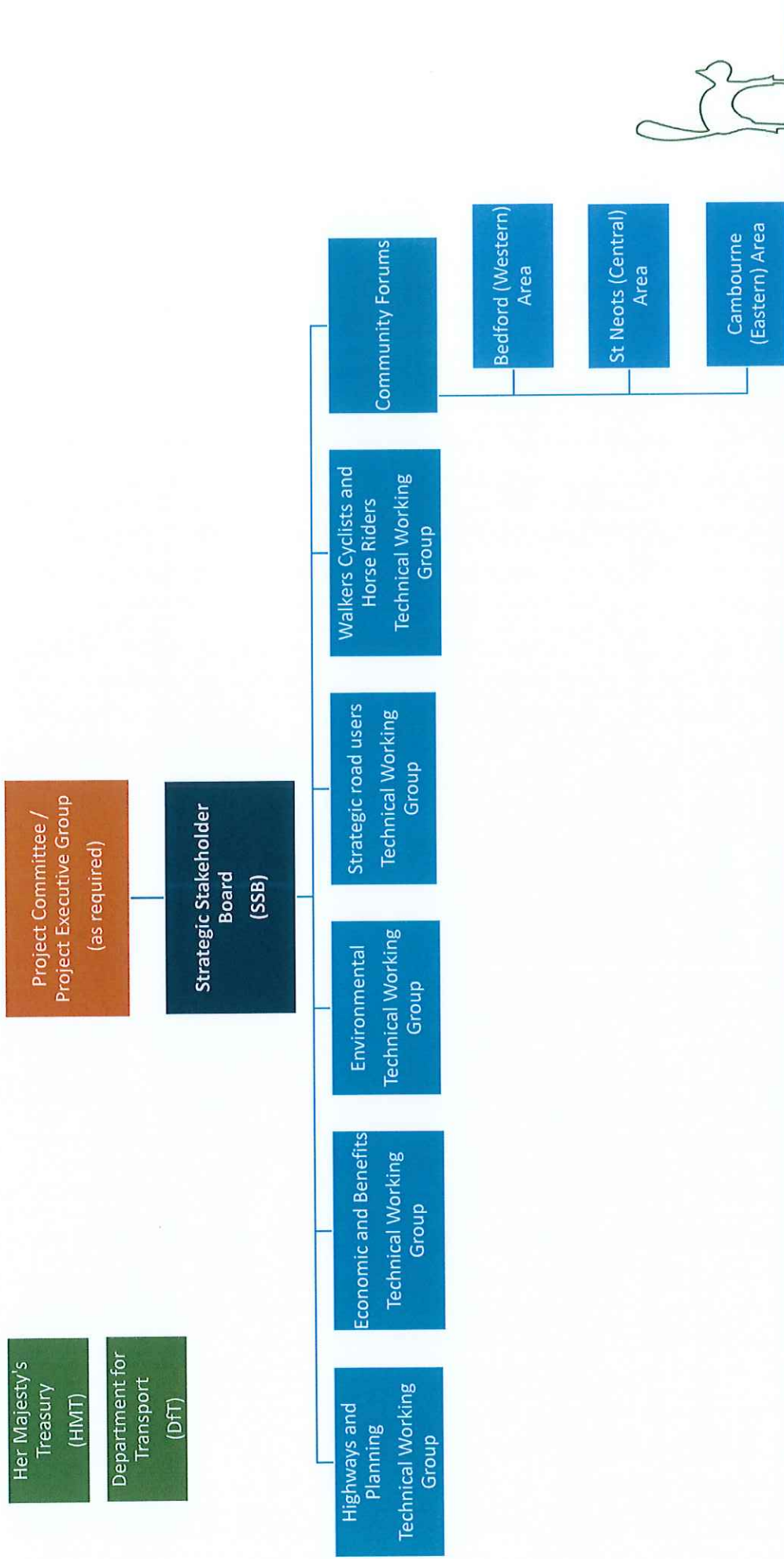


Review of changes

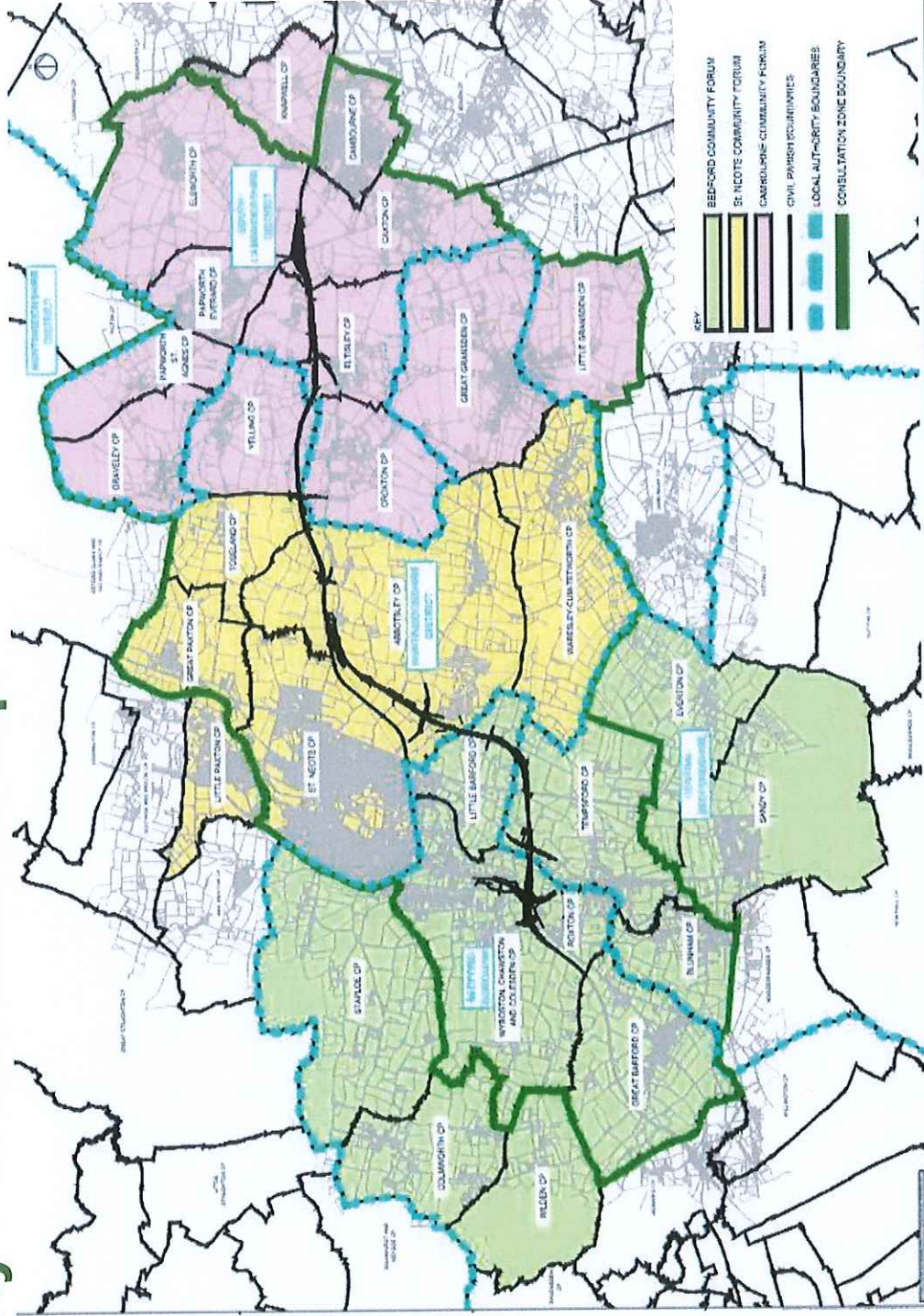
- Bedford Community Forum renamed as 'Western Community Area Forum'
- St Neots Community Forum renamed as 'Central Community Area Forum'
- **Cambourne Community Forum renamed as 'Eastern Community Area Forum'**



Structure of working groups



Community Forum areas map



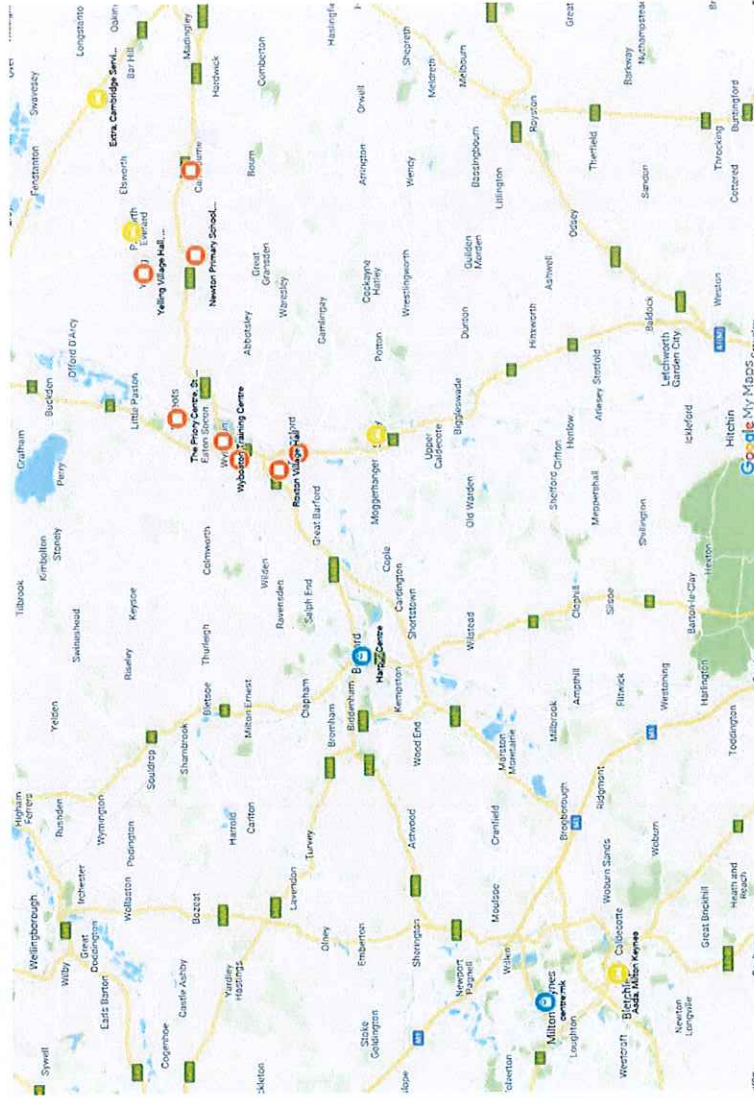


Statutory consultation overview



Statutory consultation overview

- 8 week consultation period:
3 June 2019 – 28 July 2019
- 15 public events
- A total of 2493 people visited
our events



Statutory consultation overview

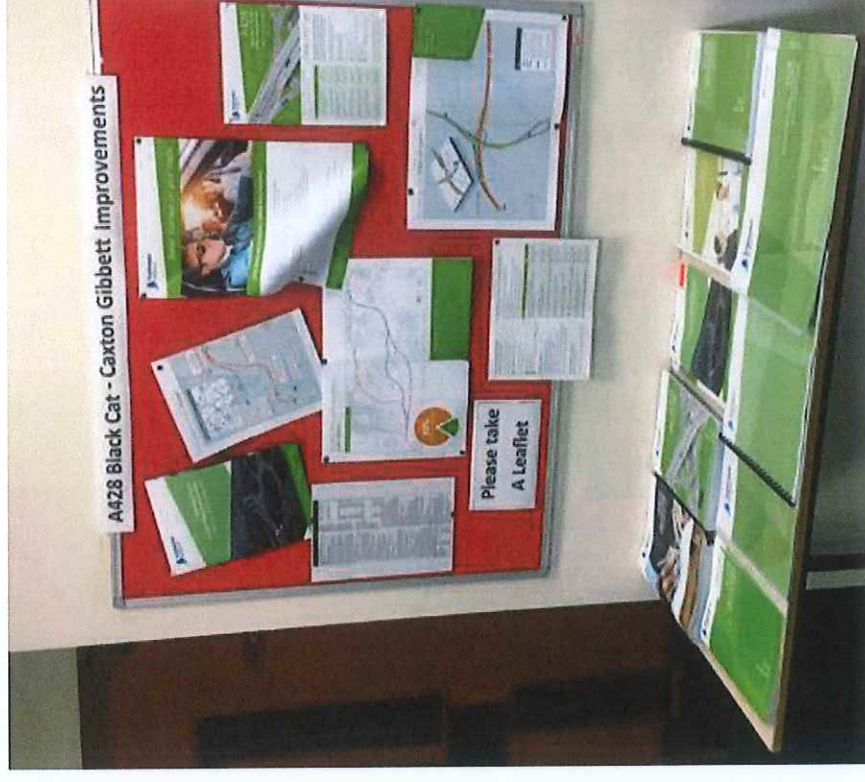
Promotion includes:

- Advertising in local newspapers and online
- Advertising on Facebook
- Flyers /posters in council offices and libraries
- Statutory notices
- Direct mail to over 27,000 addresses

Consultation material includes:

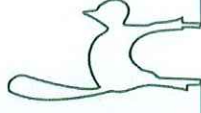
- Consultation booklet
- Response form
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)
- Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) & NTS

The above material is available to view on our website:
highwaysengland.co.uk/a428

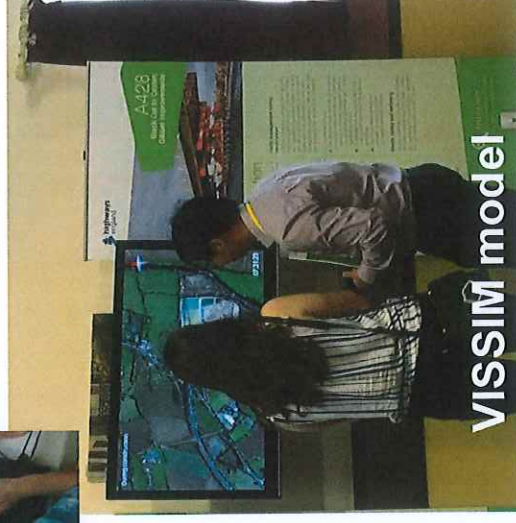
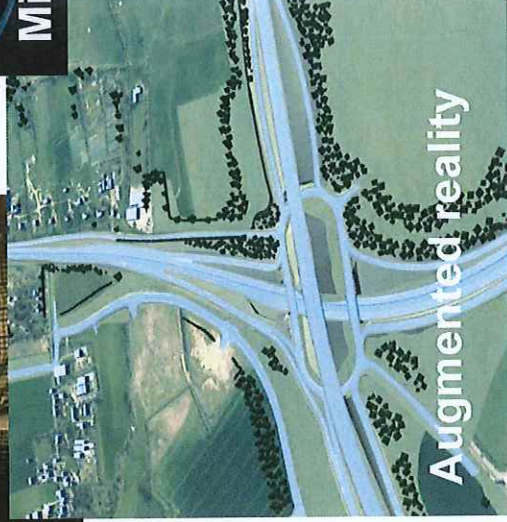
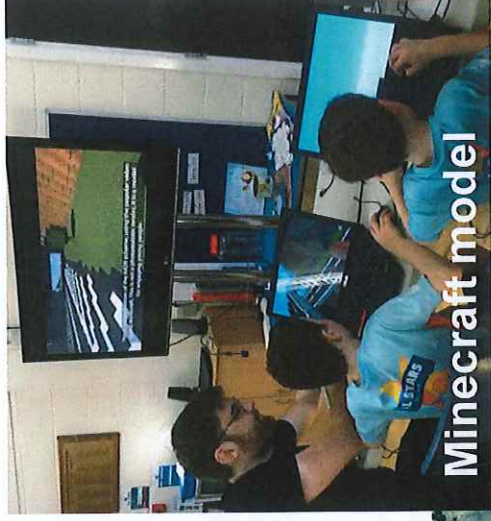
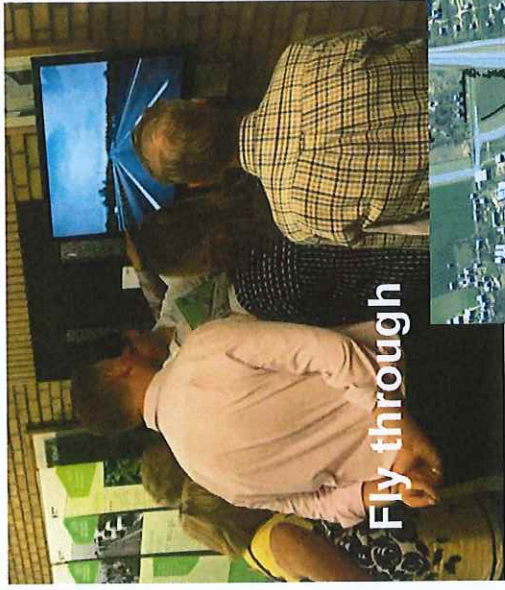


Attendance in the eastern area

- Newton Primary School, Eltisley = 118 attendees
- Yelling Village Hall = 89 attendees
- Pendrill Court, Papworth Everard (engagement van) = 79 attendees
- DoubleTree Hilton, Cambourne = 115 attendees



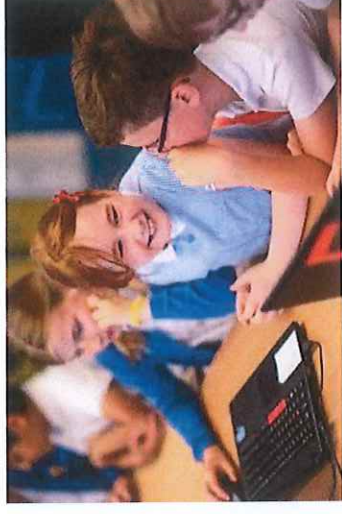
Technology at our consultation events



Using Minecraft to reach new audiences

Minecraft is a Lego-style adventure game which allows players to build with a variety of different blocks

- Engaged 211 young people through the consultation period
- Inspiring over 90 children in Year 4 through 3 STEM workshops with Castle Newnham School, Bedford
- Positive feedback from school particularly as there is a lack of STEM opportunities for this age group



Key themes arising – your feedback (eastern area)

- Eltisley
 - Access
- Caxton Gibbet
 - Traffic congestion
 - Slip road design
- Route alignment
- Traffic modelling
 - Girton interchange



Key themes arising – your feedback (eastern area)

- Environment
 - Landscaping and environmental screening
 - Air Quality mitigation
 - Noise effects
- Walkers, Cyclists and Horse riders
 - Cycle routes
 - Bridleways



Ongoing Traffic Review

- The traffic forecasts presented at the Statutory Consultation are in the process of being refined.
- In light of feedback from the public consultation, we are reviewing traffic in areas such as Girton Interchange.



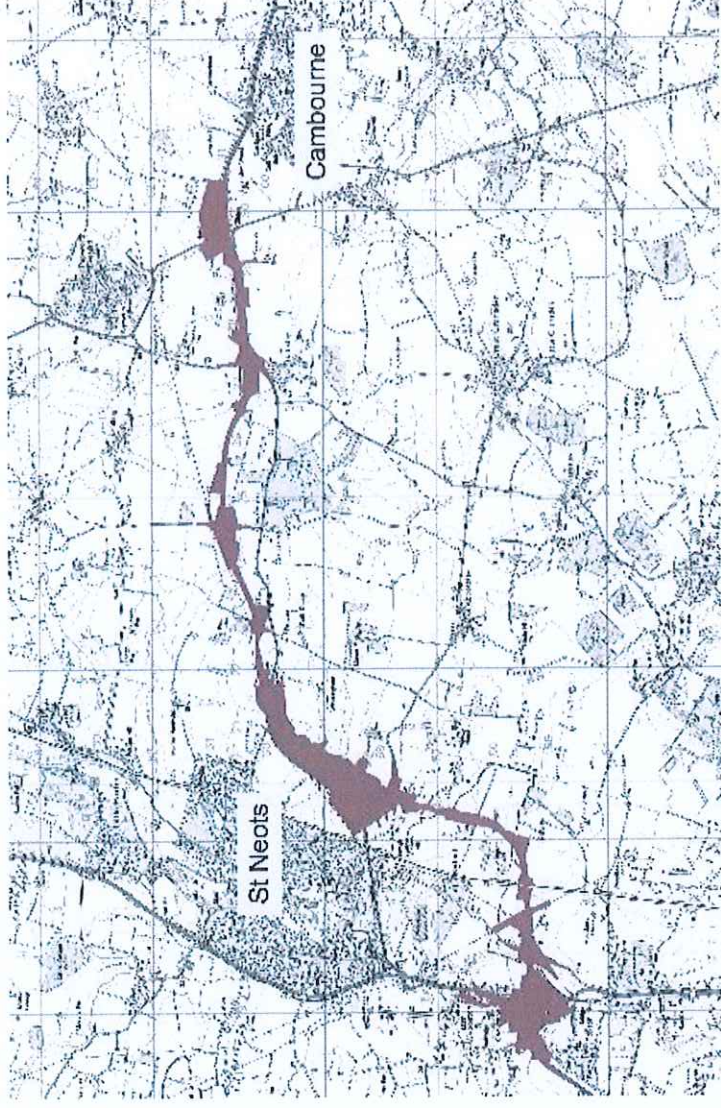


Ground Investigation (GI) works update



GI works – purpose

- Next stage of design, not construction
- Clear picture of the ground conditions and groundwater where we'll be building
- Helps us plan to build the scheme safely and cost-efficiently



Broad area where our investigations and surveys are taking place



GI works – what you will see



GI works – what does it mean for you?

- 6 month programme
- Work mostly carried out during daytime working hours on private land with limited works in public areas/roads. Where our works are close to the live carriageway, they will be carried out at night for safety reasons.
- Lane closures will not cause significant traffic disruption overnight
- Will include Black Cat roundabout, A1 corridor, Kelpie Marina and sections of the A428 at Caxton Gibbet
- Black Cat works: 17 October – 7 November 2019



GI works – traffic management

- Black Cat will remain open in all directions but there will be some lane closures
- This will not affect access to any roads or routes
- All businesses will still be open

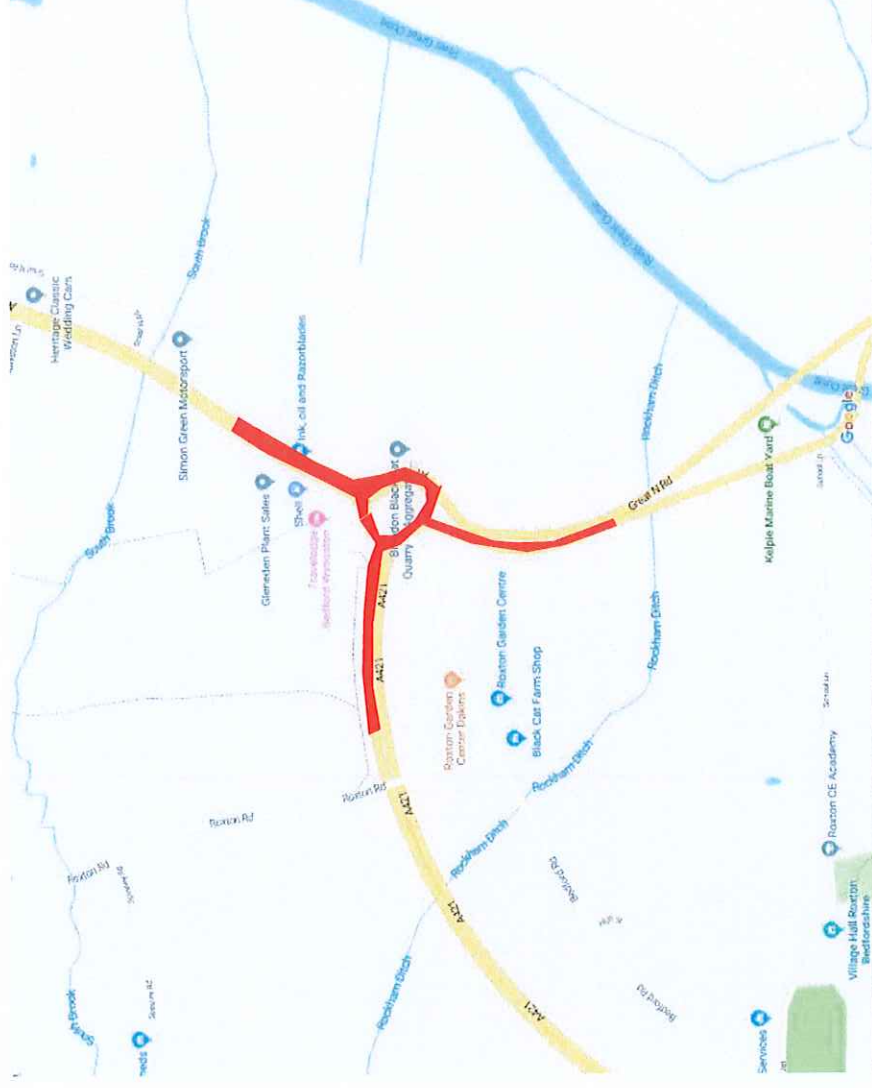
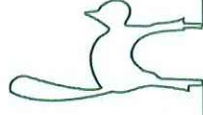


Diagram showing lane closures



GI works – minimising the impacts

- We are committed to minimising noise by using:
 - Acoustic barriers
 - Low noise machinery
 - White noise reversing alarms

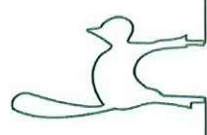
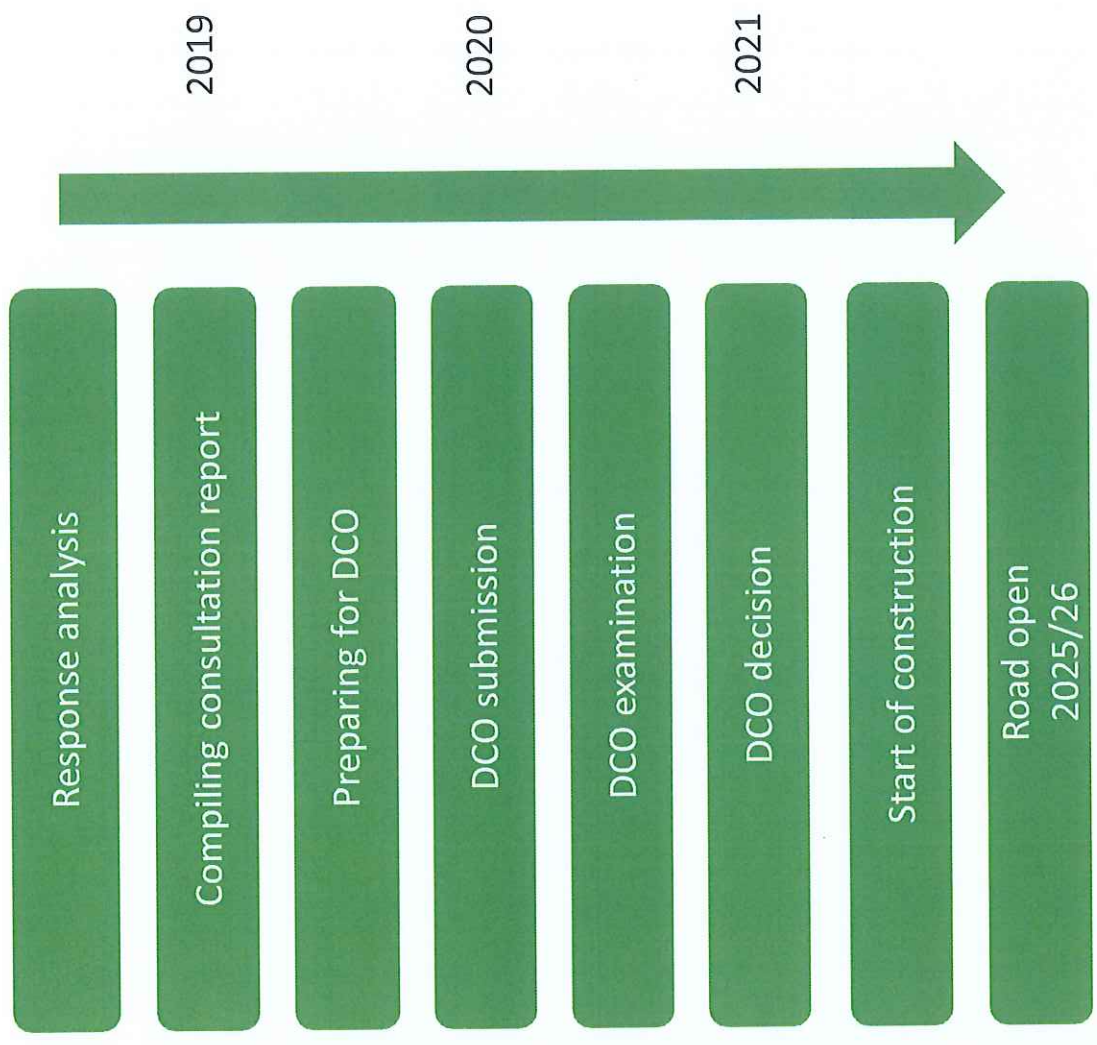




Next steps



Next steps





AOB/Q&A



Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others

Advice Note 8: Overview of the nationally significant infrastructure planning process for members of the public and others

1. What is an NSIP?

1.1 An NSIP is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. They are projects of certain types, over a certain size, which are considered by the Government to be so big and nationally important that permission to build them needs to be given at a national level, by the responsible Government minister (the 'Secretary of State').

1.2 Instead of applying to the local authority for Planning Permission, the developer must apply to the Planning Inspectorate for a different permission called a Development Consent Order (DCO).



Figure 1: Examples of NSIPs – from left to right: Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon, Thames Tideway Tunnel, North Doncaster Rail Chord and the Hinkley Point C Power Station

The NSIP process

1.3 The process for applying for a Development Consent Order is set out in the Planning Act 2008.

1.4 It came into force in March 2010 and was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for NSIPs, making it fairer and faster for communities and developers alike.

6 Minute video

To watch a brief, illustrated overview of the NSIP process visit:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/the-process/>

Contents

What is an NSIP?	(Page 1)
The Development Consent process	
The NSIP process has clear stages, with clear timetables:	
Pre-application	(Page 2)
Acceptance	(Page 3)
Pre-examination	
Examination	
Decision	(Page 4)
Post decision	
Glossary of language	(Page 5)
Handout	(Pages 6 & 7)

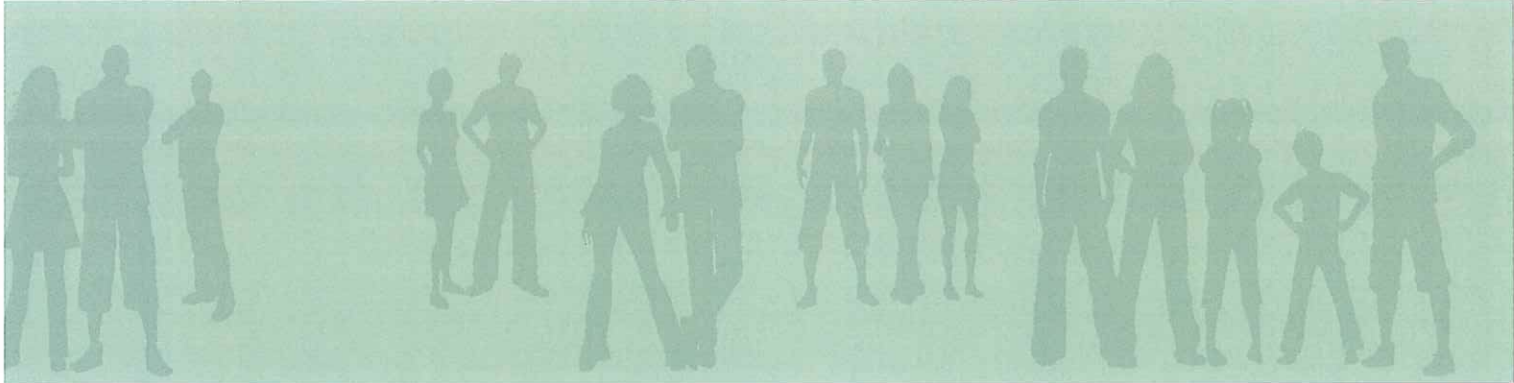
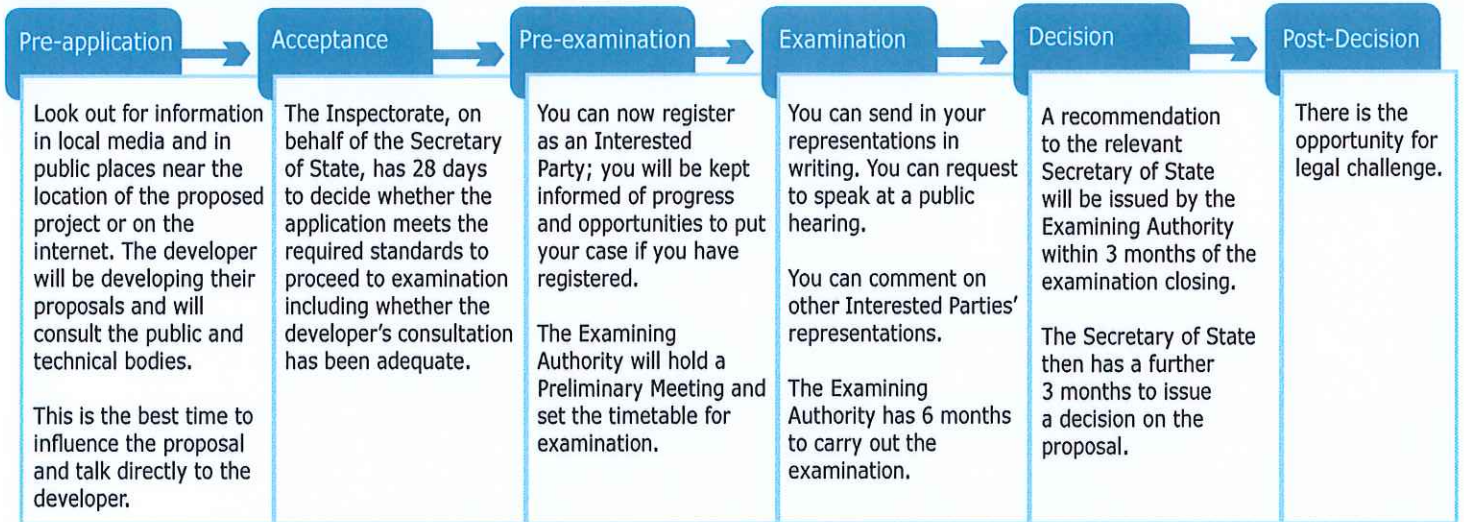


Figure 2: The NSIP process has clear stages, with clear timetables

The application process



2. Pre-application

2.1 The process begins when the Planning Inspectorate is informed by a developer that they intend to submit an application to us. Before submitting an application, the developer is required to carry out consultation on their proposals. The time taken to prepare and consult on the project will vary depending upon its scale and complexity. Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation is the best time to influence a project, whether you agree with it, disagree with it or believe it could be improved.

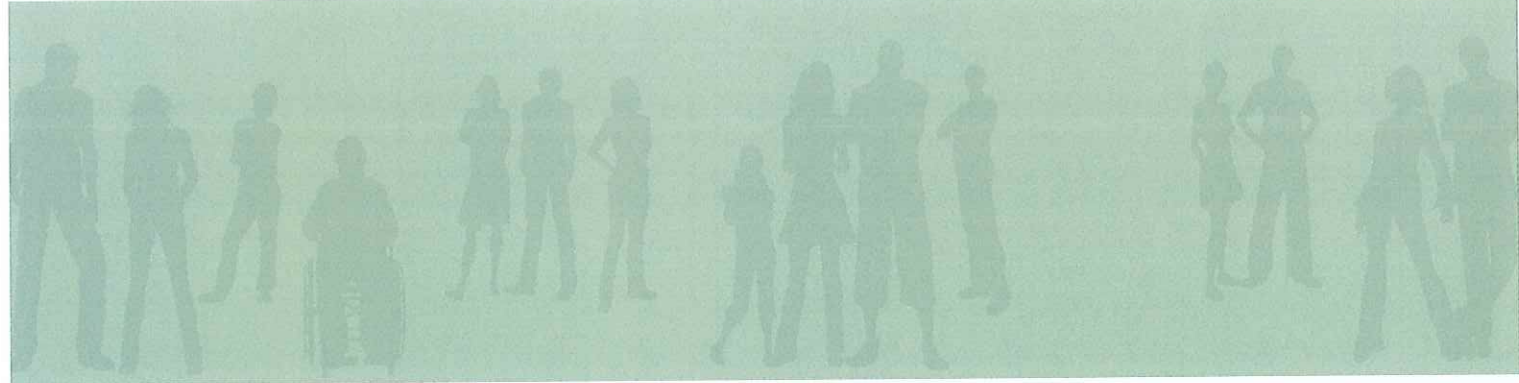
What you can do:

Take part in the applicant's pre-application consultation.
See Annex 8.1

Preparing an NSIP application is the developer's responsibility.

The Planning Inspectorate provides advice to all interested in the process as set out in the Pre-application Prospectus.





3. Acceptance

3.1 The acceptance stage begins when a developer formally submits an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. There then follows a period of up to 28 days (starting with the day after the application is submitted) for the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to decide whether or not the application meets the standard required to be examined. The Planning Inspectorate will check the application documents and plans to make sure all the required information is included. During the acceptance stage the Inspectorate will also ask whether the relevant local authorities think the applicant's pre-application consultation was adequate before we decide whether or not to examine the application. A relevant local authority is the county and district, or unitary local authority(s) in which the development is located, and the neighbouring local authorities.

3.2 If the application is accepted for examination, the letter to the applicant confirming this will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and the process will move on to the next stage, pre-examination.

3.3 If the application is not accepted for examination, a letter to the applicant explaining the reasons why will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website. This may include advice to the applicant about how it can remedy the deficiencies identified. It will be up to the applicant to decide whether or not to resubmit the application or to challenge the decision not to accept it for examination.

4. Pre-examination

4.1 If the application is accepted the Examining Authority can be appointed. The Examining Authority can be a single Examining Inspector or a panel of up to 5 Examining Inspectors.

4.2 At this stage, the public will be able to register with the Planning Inspectorate and provide a summary of their views of the application in writing by submitting a 'Relevant Representation' in order to become an Interested Party. At the Pre-examination stage interested parties will be invited to attend a Preliminary Meeting. This Meeting is run and chaired by the Examining Authority and its purpose is to discuss how the application will be examined. This stage of the process takes approximately 3 months from the developer's formal notification and publicity of an accepted application.

5. Examination

5.1 The Examining Authority has a maximum of 6 months to carry out the examination. During this stage, Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing. The Examining Authority will also ask written questions. Hearings may be held.

What you can do:

You can tell your local authority if you think there is anything they should include in their adequacy of consultation representation.

6 Minute video

To watch a brief, illustrated introduction to having your say on NSIPs visit:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/participating-in-the-process/>

What you can do:

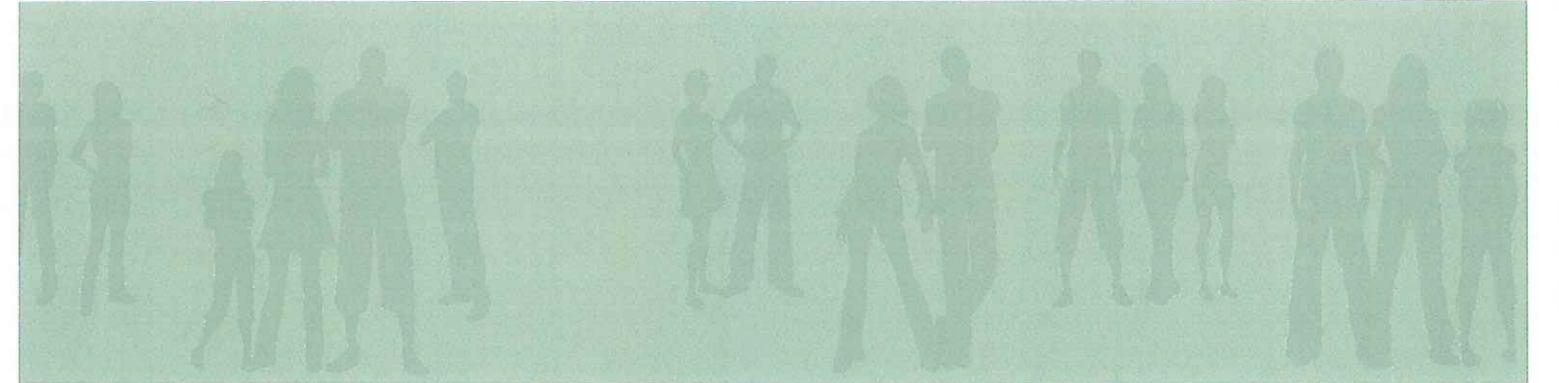
Decide whether or not to register to participate in the examination.
See Annex 8.2

Attend the Preliminary Meeting.
See Annex 8.3

What you can do:

Make written submissions and respond to questions.
See Annex 8.4

Attend Hearings and Site Visits.
See Annex 8.5



5.2 To ensure the 6 month Examination process runs as smoothly as possible for all parties, it is important that all representations from Interested Parties are submitted by the deadlines set out in the Examination Timetable. All documents received by the Planning Inspectorate will be published on the project page of our website.

6. Decision

6.1 The Examining Authority must prepare a report on the Examination of the application to the relevant Secretary of State, including a recommendation about whether to grant or refuse development consent. The Examining Authority must make the recommendation to the Secretary of State within 3 months of the close of the examination.

6.2 Careful consideration is given by the Examining Authority to all the important and relevant matters, including the representations from Interested Parties.

6.3 The Examining Authority's Recommendation Report is sent directly to the Secretary of State and is not published until the decision is made.

6.4 Following receipt of the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report, the Secretary of State has 3 months to make the decision to grant or refuse development consent. The Secretary of State's Decision, and the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report, are both published on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

7. Post decision

7.1 Once a Decision has been issued by the Secretary of State, there is a 6 week period in which the Decision may be challenged in the High Court. This process of legal challenge is known as Judicial Review.

7.2 Further information about legal challenge will be included with the Secretary of State's decision letter that is sent to all Interested Parties and published on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

What you can do:

Continue to check the PINS project website; there may be further consultations by the Secretary of State that you may wish to respond to.

What you can do:

Read and consider the decision.



Glossary of language

Affected Person	A term taken from legislation, this refers to a person who owns land or rights over land that are proposed to be subject to compulsory acquisition.
Compulsory Acquisition	The power to force the sale of land or rights, which can be sought as part of a Development Consent application. An independently-assessed and fair price must still be paid if the power is granted. The application must explain exactly what rights or land the power would apply to and why.
Development Consent	A single consent required for large projects, that replaces Planning Permission and also some other technical consents. Applications are examined by the Planning Inspectorate and decided by the Secretary of State.
Examination	A period of no more than 6 months in which an application for Development Consent is considered. An examination can include hearings and deadlines for written submissions; and the Examining Authority may ask questions. Every examination is different, to suit the needs of the project.
Examining Authority (ExA)	The panel of one or more Inspectors who will examine an application.
Interested Party	A term taken from legislation, this refers to a person (or a group or company) who has registered to participate in the examination.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project – A project that, by reason of its scale and/or importance, needs Development Consent before it can be built or operated.
Preliminary Meeting	A meeting held by the Examining Authority at the beginning of the examination, to discuss the timetable for the examination of an application.
Relevant Representation	A term taken from legislation, this refers to a form that is completed before the examination begins, to register as an Interested Party.
Representation	A comment or submission from an Interested Party about the merits of an application that is received by the Examining Authority's deadline.
Rule 6 letter	The letter that is sent to Interested Parties, inviting them to the Preliminary Meeting.
Rule 8 letter	The letter that follows the Preliminary Meeting, and sets out the timetable for the examination.
Secretary of State	The minister with responsibility for the area of government business that an application relates to. For example, as of July 2016 the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is Greg Clark MP.
The Planning Inspectorate (colloquially 'PINS')	An executive agency of the UK Government, the Planning Inspectorate is responsible for administering applications for Development Consent. We are also responsible for other things, including appeals against the refusal of planning permission.
Timetable	The deadlines and events in the examination, as set out in the Rule 8 letter and sometimes changed during the examination.

Overview of the NSIP process

Advice Note 8 Summary Handout

An NSIP is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

NSIPs don't require Planning Permission – they require **Development Consent**.

They are administered by the **Planning Inspectorate**, and the process is set out in the Planning Act 2008. The process has **stages** and **timescales**, which are statutory.

Applications for Development Consent are decided by the **Secretary of State**; the elected minister with responsibility for the area of policy.

As part of the process, the applicant must undertake pre-application consultation.

The application process

Pre-application

Look out for information in local media and in public places near the location of the proposed project or on the internet. The developer will be developing their proposals and will consult the public and technical bodies.

This is the best time to influence the proposal and talk directly to the developer.

Acceptance

The Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination including whether the developer's consultation has been adequate.

Pre-examination

You can now register as an Interested Party; you will be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case if you have registered.

The Examining Authority will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination.

Examination

You can send in your representations in writing. You can request to speak at a public hearing.

You can comment on other Interested Parties' representations.

The Examining Authority has 6 months to carry out the Examination.

Decision

A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the Examining Authority within 3 months of the examination closing.

The Secretary of State then has a further 3 months to issue a decision on the proposal.

Post-Decision

There is the opportunity for legal challenge.

If the application is submitted and accepted, there will be an examination, which will be led by an Examining Authority.

You can

Respond to the applicant's pre-application consultation

Register to participate in the Examination

And once registered:

Make representations to the Examination, in writing and at hearings

Respond to questions from the Examining Authority

Comment on representations from other parties

Attend Site Visit

Overview of the NSIP process

Advice Note 8 series

The Planning Inspectorate has produced a series of non-statutory Advice Notes about a range of process matters. These are available to download on the legislation and guidance / advice notes page of the National Infrastructure planning website.

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8 series explains how to get involved in the National Infrastructure planning process. It includes 5 annexes, as follows:

Advice Note 8	Overview of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning process for members of the public and others
Annex 8.1	Responding to the developer's pre-application consultation
Annex 8.2	How to register to participate in an examination
Annex 8.3	Influencing how an application is examined: the Preliminary Meeting
Annex 8.4	The examination
Annex 8.5	The examination – Hearings and Site Visits

If you would like to order copies or you require further information about any of these issues, please contact the Planning Inspectorate:

The Planning Inspectorate, Major Casework Directorate, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN

Email: Nlenquiries@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

Web: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Alternatively, for independent planning advice, you may wish to contact Planning Aid:

Planning Aid England Advice Line 0330 123 9244

Email: advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

General enquiries: 020 3206 1880

Email: info@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk

Planning Aid for London: 020 7247 4900

Email: info@planningaidforlondon.org.uk

Planning Aid England Wales: 02920 625 000

Web: www.planningaidwales.org.uk