

**By Email**

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A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme  
National Highways  
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BS1 6HA

23 May 2022

Our ref: TR010061/Neighbouring Parish  
Councils/May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme  
Supplementary consultation – 24 May 2022 – 26 June 2022**

I am writing to inform you that National Highways (formerly known as Highways England)<sup>1</sup> will be undertaking supplementary consultation on the proposed A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme (the scheme). As set out in previous correspondence in 2021, National Highways intends to apply under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for this scheme.

National Highways is proposing to upgrade approximately 8.5 miles (13.6 km) of the A358 between the M5 at Taunton and the Southfields roundabout on the A303 to a high-quality and high-performing dual carriageway. The route would connect M5 junction 25 at Taunton with the existing A303 at Southfields roundabout near Ilminster. Once upgraded, the route will reduce congestion, particularly at peak times, enhance user safety and improve connectivity both locally and to the wider South West region. This will benefit the local and regional economy and ensure communities are better connected.

The proposed scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the 2008 Act. This means we are required to make an application for a DCO to get the consent we need to build the scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of

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<sup>1</sup> As of 20 August 2021, we are now National Highways, having previously been Highways England. The name change reflects the role of the strategic road network – to connect the nation's regions – and the part it plays in setting highways standards across the UK. The remit of the organisation has not changed, and we will continue to operate and maintain England's motorways and major A roads.

State, to get permission to construct and operate the scheme. We intend to make our application for a DCO later in 2022.

We undertook statutory consultation in relation to the proposed application between Tuesday 12 October 2021 and Monday 22 November 2021. As part of the development of the scheme and having had regard to responses received to statutory consultation, we are now undertaking a supplementary consultation in relation to certain changes made to our proposals.

The changes to the proposals since the statutory consultation sit in the following broad categories:

- changes to our proposals for the way in which customers access the A358 and local roads relating to transport, traffic flows and safety
- changes to our proposals for walking, cycling, horse-riding and disabled user access
- changes to the environmental mitigation proposed as part of the scheme
- change to the location of the main construction compound
- minor modifications that address feedback from landowners and further consideration to how we would construct the scheme

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of people and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. You have previously been identified as a neighbouring parish council in relation to the location of the scheme for the purposes of section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act.

This letter is being sent to you to inform you of National Highways **supplementary consultation** which runs from **Tuesday 24 May 2022 to Sunday 26 June 2022 at 11:59pm**.

This supplementary consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on changes to the proposals since statutory consultation and we strongly encourage you to provide your views to us during this period. This will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining our proposals before submitting our application to the Planning Inspectorate.

The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (EIA development) as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations). This means an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report) formed part of the 2021 statutory public consultation material. For supplementary consultation we have prepared an Environmental note, which provides a summary of the potential environmental implications from the changes to our proposals since statutory consultation.

## Consultation documents

To view the full suite of supplementary consultation documents listed below, please visit the scheme website from **Tuesday 24 May 2022** at [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields).

The following are provided to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- Supplementary consultation booklet
- Summary of changes booklet
- Responding to feedback from 2021 public consultation booklet
- Supplementary consultation feedback questionnaire
- Environmental note
- Technical traffic note
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) Addendum
- Consultation plans

A copy of the Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order is enclosed with this letter. Copies of the supplementary consultation materials will be available online free of charge from Tuesday 24 May 2022 via the scheme website.

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested by consultees in hard copy or on a USB memory stick during the supplementary consultation period from National Highways using the scheme email address, dedicated freepost address or telephone number. Hard copies of the Supplementary consultation booklet, Supplementary consultation feedback questionnaire, Responding to feedback from 2021 public consultation booklet and the SoCC Addendum will be supplied free of charge; however, there may be a charge of up to £200 for hard copies of other consultation materials.

Hard copies of the supplementary consultation materials including the Supplementary consultation booklet, Supplementary consultation feedback questionnaire, Summary of changes booklet, Responding to feedback from 2021 public consultation booklet, Technical traffic note, Environmental note, Consultation plans and the SoCC Addendum will be available for inspection free of charge from Tuesday 24 May 2022 to Sunday 26 June 2022 at selected public venues.

Copies of the Supplementary consultation booklet and Supplementary consultation feedback questionnaire, as well as the Responding to feedback from 2021 public consultation booklet, will be available to take away free of charge from Tuesday 24 May 2022 to Sunday 26 June 2022 at a number of local libraries and other public venues.

For a list of locations where hard copy materials can be inspected or collected, please visit the scheme website or contact us via email or telephone.

## Consultation events

Public exhibitions, where you will be able to speak with members of the project team about the proposed changes, are being held in Ilminster and Taunton at the following locations, dates and times. We welcome you to attend one of our consultation events listed below:

Location	Date	Time
Monks Yard (Conference Room), Horton Cross Farm, Horton Cross, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9PT	Thursday 26 May 2022	11:00am – 8:00pm
Somerset County Cricket Club, The Cooper Associates County Ground, St James St, Taunton TA1 1JT	Wednesday 8 June 2022	11:00am – 8:00pm
Taunton Racecourse, Orchard Portman, Taunton, TA3 7BL	Saturday 11 June 2022	11:00am – 6:00pm

Printed copies of the supplementary consultation materials will be made available at consultation events for attendees to review. Attendees will also be able to take away copies of the Supplementary consultation booklet and Supplementary consultation feedback questionnaire.

## Virtual consultation room

You can also view our supplementary consultation materials in our virtual consultation room, accessed via the scheme website. The virtual consultation room will be open 24/7 during the supplementary consultation period.

In addition to the supplementary consultation events and virtual consultation room, we will hold a series of approximately 1-hour long question and answer webinar sessions, where specialists from the project team will be available to answer questions. The date and the starting time of these sessions are as follows:

Session	Date	Starting time
Webinar 1	Wednesday 25 May 2022	12:30pm
Webinar 2	Tuesday 7 June 2022	12:30pm
Webinar 3	Thursday 9 June 2022	7:00pm
Webinar 4	Tuesday 14 June 2022	7:00pm

To register for a webinar, email us at  
[A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk)

You will also be able to book a specific time to have a one-to-one call, via either Microsoft Teams video or telephone, with a member of the project team, as far as availability allows. You can call our customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000 (lines are open 24/7) or email [A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk) and one of our project team will respond.

Any responses to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be supplied using the contact methods below:

- **By email:** [A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk)
- **By post:** FREEPOST A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELDS
- **Online:** by accessing the feedback questionnaire via the scheme website [www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields)

Please send all feedback to us by **11:59pm on Sunday 26 June 2022**. Responses received after this time may not be considered.

Further information about the 2008 Act process and Development Consent Orders can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website:

[infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk](http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the scheme or the supplementary consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Katherine Liddington**  
**Senior Project Manager for A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme**  
**Email:** [A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:A358TauntontoSouthfields@nationalhighways.co.uk)

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- Notice Publicising a Proposed Application for a Development Consent Order