

A1 Peterborough to Blyth Junction Improvements - Colsterworth Preferred Route Statement of the Secretary of State's decision following Public Consultation

Background

The A1 Trunk Road is a busy north-south route of strategic importance connecting the two sections of the A1(M) at Peterborough in the south and Blyth in the north. Most of this length is of a satisfactory standard but there are localised problems at six roundabouts.

One of these is Colsterworth junction, which is a four-arm roundabout giving access to Corby Glen via the A151 and Colsterworth via the B676.

Some 1.5 kilometres north of the Colsterworth roundabout is an existing crossroads which serves north Colsterworth and the Easton Cold Store via the B6403.

The Highways Agency, on behalf of the Department for Transport, proposes to improve these junctions by constructing new two level junctions.

The most important reasons for improving these junctions are to enhance safety and reduce congestion:

- Nearly 43,000 vehicles per day use this section of the A1, up to 22% of these being heavy goods vehicles. At certain times of the day this results in substantial delays and congestion at Colsterworth roundabout.
- Crossing manoeuvres at the B6403 crossroads are difficult.
- There is inadequate provision for pedestrians and cyclists and which makes it difficult for these users to cross the A1.

- Between 1999 and 2003 there were 25 personal injury accidents in the vicinity of the existing junctions.

Public consultation

We held the first public consultation exhibition in Colsterworth on 5th March 2003 and the consultation period ran until 9th May 2003.

By the end of the consultation period, we received a total of 316 responses from the public in the form of completed exhibition comment forms, letters or emails.

As a result of this consultation, the design was revised and a second public consultation was held in Colsterworth on 26th July 2003 with a consultation period which ran until 26th September 2003.

During the second consultation period, 214 responses were received of which 83% were in favour of the revised scheme.

The proposals

Our objectives are to improve safety and reduce congestion. We would do this by providing two new two-level junctions.

The current Colsterworth roundabout would be removed, and a new link road over the A1 would connect the B676 and the A151 to the south of the current junction. There would be a new junction at each end of this link road. Entry and exit slip roads to both northbound and southbound carriageways would connect the B676 and the A151 with the A1.

North of Colsterworth a link road over the A1 would be constructed to join the B6403 east and west of the A1. The central reserve gap at the existing crossroads would be closed and entry and exit slip roads to both northbound and southbound carriageways would connect the B6403 to the A1.

Decision of the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State has considered the views expressed and noted the high level of support for the revised option presented.

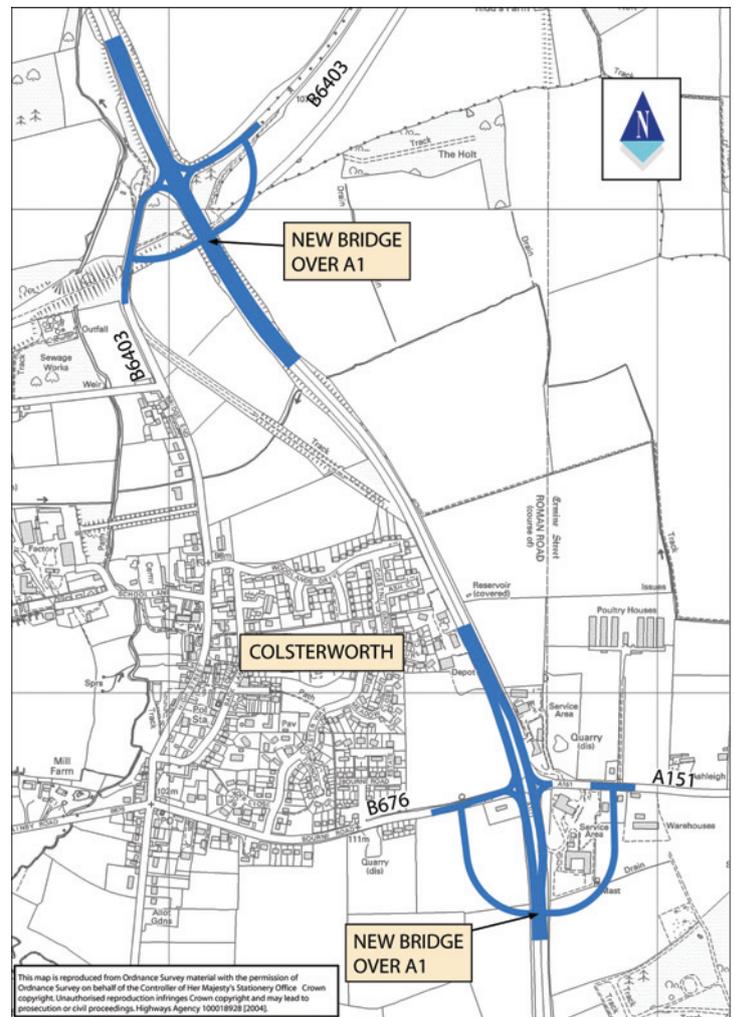
He agrees that the proposals shown on the enclosed plan should be the Preferred Route for the A1 Colsterworth Junction Improvement.

What happens next?

The Preferred Route for the A1 Colsterworth Junction Improvement will be protected from development. We will shortly publish Draft Statutory Orders under the Highways Act 1980, the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and an Environmental Statement will also be published.

At that stage there will be a further opportunity for people to support, comment or object. A Public Inquiry before an independent Inspector could follow, depending on the weight and nature of any objections.

All elements of the scheme will be reviewed as the proposals are developed in more detail. A copy of the scheme plan will be issued to Local Planning Authorities for planning purposes.



Stay Safe on the Roads this Winter

The Highways Agency and the Department for Transport's Think road safety campaign advise drivers to follow six key messages about driving safely in wintry weather. These are:

- The British winter is unpredictable. If you must drive, make sure you are prepared for the bad weather conditions.
- Check local and national weather forecasts. Listen to travel information on radio.
- Make sure you're equipped with warm clothes, food, water, boots, de-icer, a torch and spade.
- Take care around winter service vehicles. Don't be tempted to overtake snowploughs by squeezing into partially cleared lanes.
- It can take ten times longer to stop in icy conditions. Allow extra room to slow down and stop.
- Use the highest gear possible to avoid wheel spin. Manoeuvre gently and avoid harsh braking and acceleration.

Remember that tiredness kills. Take regular breaks from driving.

Further information

For all queries about major trunk roads and motorways, real time travel information and roadworks, please dial

The Highways Agency Information Line:

08457 50 40 30

(Calls are charged at local rate)

HAIL (Highways Agency Information Line) Service

8am - 8pm Weekdays

9am - 5pm Weekends and public holidays

365 days a year or visit

The Highways Agency Website:

www.highways.gov.uk