

Our ref: TR010061/S42(1)(a)/October 2021

By email

Kat Liddington
A358 Taunton to Southfields
Dualling Scheme
National Highways
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6HA

12 October 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme
Statutory consultation – 12 October 2021 – 22 November 2021
Planning Act 2008 section 42: duty to consult on a proposed application**

I am writing to you regarding National Highways (formerly known as Highways England)¹ proposed A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme, which involves upgrading an approximately 8.5 mile (13.6km) section of the A358 between Southfields roundabout on the A303 and the M5 at Taunton, to a high-quality dual carriageway. 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 Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to build the scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate ('the Inspectorate') who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State, to get permission to construct and operate the scheme. We intend to make our application for a DCO in summer 2022.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of persons and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. You have been identified as a prescribed consultee; a host parish council in which the proposed development is situated, for the purposes of section 42(1)(a) of

¹ 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.

the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

This letter is being sent to you to provide notice of National Highways **statutory consultation** which runs from **Tuesday 12 October 2021 to Monday 22 November 2021 at 23:59**.

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on our proposals 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 Inspectorate.

As the project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) we have prepared, and provided, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report to help you understand the likely effects of our proposals.

Consultation documents

To view the full suite of consultation documents listed below, please visit the project website from **12 October 2021** at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields.

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

- consultation booklet
- public consultation feedback questionnaire
- the PEI Report accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary
- consultation plans

A copy of the Section 48 Notice is enclosed with this letter. This provides formal notification of the application (in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations) and outlines details of the availability of consultation materials in hard copy at deposit locations.

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested in hard copy or on USB memory stick during the consultation period from National Highways using the email address, dedicated freepost address or telephone number provided in this letter. Please note that there may be a charge for paper copies of some consultation materials.

Consultation materials – including documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development and the PEI Report – will be available for inspection free of charge from **Tuesday 12 October to Monday 22 November 2021** at the following locations and times:

Locations with consultation documents		
Location	Address	Opening times
Taunton	Somerset West and Taunton Council, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1HE	08:30 – 17:00 Monday to Friday
Ilminster	Ilminster Library, Ditton Street, Ilminster TA19 0BW	09:30–12:00 Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. 09:30–16:30 Tuesday and Friday.

Consultation events

During the consultation period a series of face-to-face public consultation events will be held where you can speak with the project team. Events will be held in line with any potential future restrictions and government health guidance in place at the time relating to COVID-19, public health will remain the priority.

We welcome you to attend one of our consultation events to meet the project team, ask questions and view more details of the scheme:

Location	Date	Time
Taunton Racecourse , Orchard Portman, Taunton, TA3 7BL	Tuesday 19 October 2021	14:00 – 20:00
Monks Yard (Conference Room) , Horton Cross Farm, Horton Cross, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9PT	Saturday 23 October 2021	11:00 – 18:00
Holiday Inn Taunton (Priory Suite) , Deane Gate Avenue, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 2UA	Wednesday 3 November 2021	11:00 – 18:00

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

Virtual consultation room

You can also view our consultation materials in our virtual consultation room. The virtual consultation room will be open 24/7 during the consultation period. To replicate public events as much as possible, topic specialists and members of the project team will be on hand to answer questions from members of the public at allocated times.

We will hold 11 web chats at a range of days and times with members of the project team available at the following times to answer questions:

Date	Time
Tuesday 12 October 2021	16:00-19:00
Wednesday 13 October 2021	11:00– 14:00
Friday 15 October 2021	08:00-11:00
Friday 15 October 2021	15:00-18:00
Monday 18 October 2021	12:00-15:00
Wednesday 20 October 2021	10:00-13:00
Wednesday 20 October 2021	18:00-21:00
Friday 22 October 2021	09:00-12:00
Friday 22 October 2021	15:00-18:00
Thursday 18 November 2021	15:00-18:00
Friday 19 November 2021	09:00-12:00

In addition to the consultation events and virtual consultation room, we will hold a series of themed 1-hour-long Question and Answer webinar sessions, where specialists from the project team will be available to answer questions. The dates and times of these sessions are as follows:

Topic	Date	Time
Consulting on the A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme	Thursday 14 October 2021	12:00 – 13:00
Section 1– M5 junction 25 to Mattock’s Tree Green junction	Wednesday 20 October 2021	17:00 – 18:00
Section 2 – Mattock’s Tree Green junction to Griffin Lane	Thursday 21 October 2021	12:00 – 13:00
Section 3 – Griffin Lane to Ashill junction	Thursday 21 October 2021	17:00 – 18:00
Section 4 –Ashill junction to Southfields roundabout	Friday 22 October 2021	17:00 – 18:00
Walking, cycling and horse-riding	Monday 1 November 2021	15:00 – 16:00
The environment	Tuesday 2 November 2021	15:00 – 16:00

Traffic modelling	Thursday 4 November 2021	15:00 – 16:00
Consulting on the A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme	Thursday 18 November 2021	18:00 – 19:00

To register for a webinar, email us at A358TauntontoSouthfields@highwaysengland.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 Monday to Friday 09.00 to 17.00) A358TauntontoSouthfields@highwaysengland.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@highwaysengland.co.uk
- **By post:** FREEPOST A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELDS
- **Online:** by accessing the feedback questionnaire via the dedicated citizen space page www.highwaysengland.co.uk/a358-taunton-to-southfields

Please send all feedback to us by **23:59** on **Monday 22 November 2021**. 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 Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website:

www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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

Yours sincerely,



Kat Liddington

Senior Project Manager for A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme

Email: A358TauntontoSouthfields@highwaysengland.co.uk

Tel: 0300 123 5000

Enc.

- Section 48 Notice