

**A595 Bothel
Strategic
Improvement
Public
Consultation**

**Tuesday
13 April to
Monday
24 May 2021**

Have Your Say

**Public Consultation from
Tuesday 13 April to Monday
24 May 2021**

We want your feedback to make the scheme the best it can be.

For more details and links to join the consultation events please visit:
cumbria.gov.uk/a595bothel



This consultation is to gather views on the A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement prior to submission of a planning application in Summer 2021. The scheme seeks to improve 5 kilometres of the A595 from Threapland Junction to Cock Bridge, near Bothel.

We want your feedback to make the scheme the best it can be.

You can respond to this consultation in a number of ways:

- Respond on-line at cumbria.gov.uk/a595bothel
- Complete and return the questionnaire at the end of this document to FREEPOST CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 it is not possible to hold face-to-face public meetings during this consultation.

Three 'Virtual Q and A' events will be held online at the following times:

Wednesday 28 April	2:00pm to 3:30pm
Wednesday 5 May	6:00pm to 7:30pm
Saturday 8 May	1:00pm to 2:30pm

For more details and links to join the events please visit:

cumbria.gov.uk/a595bothel

Why is the A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement needed?

The A595 is an important strategic road connecting west Cumbria and its key employment sites, to the A689, M6 and beyond. It is the most direct link between Carlisle in the north and the towns of Cockermouth, Whitehaven and Workington in the west.

However, the A595 is constrained by steep changes in gradient and a poor alignment. Forward views can be obstructed by hills and bends and there are a lack of overtaking facilities. Road safety and resilience to extreme weather could also be improved.

These factors have an impact on the reliability and resilience of journey times along the route which act as a barrier to Cumbria's growth and the movement of its people. Improving the reliability of the A595 is essential to widen travel to work opportunities and provide improved access to services such as education and health care. It will also help Cumbrian businesses to grow by improving their access to labour supply and markets.

In 2016, the West of M6 Study identified the improvements needed on Cumbria's key corridors: the A595, A66 and A590, to support the growth of the Cumbrian economy. It concluded that the A595 between Thursby and Cockermouth required improvement. Cumbria County Council has undertaken further scheme development to support the selection of options for this section of road. It was identified an improvement in the vicinity of Bothel would provide the best opportunity to attract funding and to deliver a significant improvement for the A595.

A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: The story so far and your feedback

The need for improvement identified - September 2016

The West of M6 Study identified the improvements needed on Cumbria's key road corridors; the A595, A66 and A590, to support the growth of the Cumbrian economy. The study identified a number of schemes within the corridors and concluded that the A595 between Thursby and Cockermouth required improvement, in particular the area in the vicinity of Bothel.

Case for investment - January 2018

The case for investment for all schemes in the A595 and A66 Corridor was further strengthened by the preparation of a Strategic Outline Business Case. This prioritised the improvement in the vicinity of Bothel.

Consideration of improvement options - January to October 2018

In line with the Department for Transport's option assessment approach, further assessment was undertaken to consider a long list of options on the A595 between Mealsgate and Redmain. 16 options were assessed, and a preferred option identified.

Initial public consultation - November 2018

An initial public consultation presented the preferred option which was considered to provide the optimum benefits against cost and the most likely to secure funding. It included:

- Climbing lines to the southwest of Bothel
- A591 Keswick Junction Improvement
- Realignment to reduce bends at Overgates and a
- A new road alignment at Woodnock.

Further design work - January to May 2019

In response to the initial public consultation feedback, elements of the scheme were reconsidered.

Further public consultation - June 2019

Further public consultation was undertaken to show how feedback from the initial public consultation had helped to inform the design of the scheme. The updated information included:

- Removing the 1 metre strips of the carriageway on the A595 as it passes by Bothel
- Confirmation that no side roads in Bothel would be closed
- Preparation of a non-technical summary of the option appraisal including clarification that a bypass had been considered but was discounted as it offered low value for money
- A proposal for a 50mph speed limit on the A595 at Bothel was approved in November 2020 and will be implemented in Spring 2021
- The introduction of improvements at the Greyhound Inn/ Torpenhow Junction.

DfT funding application - August 2019

An Outline Business Case was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) Major Road Fund for funding to deliver the improvement. A funding decision is anticipated in Summer 2021.

£5m funding secured - December 2020

£5m was secured from the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) from the 'Getting Building Fund' to build the Greyhound Inn/ Torpenhow Junction Improvement ('the Advanced Works') and for the wider scheme for design, environmental assessment and planning application preparation.

Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow junction Improvement public consultation - January 2021

A public consultation was held to invite comment on the initial design for the Greyhound Inn/ Torpenhow Junction Improvement to help shape the design. The feedback was used to inform further design work and the scheme now includes a pedestrian refuge and footpath connections. A footpath link has also been added to the west of Bothel.

The A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement

The A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement will provide a more consistent standard of road design for 5 kilometres of the A595 and includes the following parts:

- **Climbing lanes to the south west of Bothel in both directions** to provide overtaking opportunities for traffic behind slow-moving heavy vehicles to improve journey times and journey reliability, and improve safety by discouraging inappropriate overtaking at other sections of the highway
- **A591 Keswick Junction Improvement** will remove the conflict between vehicles waiting to turn right and ahead traffic, improve road safety and reduce the impact of queuing traffic on the A595
- **Greyhound Inn/Torpenhow Junction Improvement** will remove the conflict between vehicles waiting to turn right and ahead traffic, improve road safety and reduce the impact of queueing traffic on the A595
- **Realignment at Overgates** will improve forward visibility and smooth traffic flow by reducing the impact of vehicles braking
- **Woodnook Realignment** to provide a new road between Kirkland Green Junction and Cock Bridge/ Torpenhow Junction including an improved junction for Blennerhasset which will improve forward visibility and smooth traffic flow by reducing the impact of vehicles braking

Overall, the improvement will reduce journey times between west Cumbria and Carlisle and will improve road safety on the A595. The new overtaking opportunities will improve journey quality by reducing driver stress and will also improve journey time reliability by providing opportunities to pass slow-moving heavy vehicles. The smoother traffic flow will also lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement Objectives

Note: Solid shaded items are primary objectives

Strategic Objectives

Strategic Context

Make a significant contribution to the improvement of the transport network in the north west region improving the A595 link between Carlisle, Cockermouth and the west coast

Infrastructure

Improve access to regional economic centres and growth sites

Flood Risk Management

Improve the resilience to the effects of climate change by attenuating flood water and the use of sustainable drainage

Economic Growth

Enable economic development and employment site improvement as a result of improved connectivity along the A595 west coast to Carlisle corridor

Education and Training

Improve access to education and training opportunities by creating better connectivity between employment sites, residential areas and education / training facilities

Economic Objectives

Rural and Natural Environment

Minimise impacts on the environment along the route corridor, seeking enhancements where practical

Active Travel

Maximise connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians, including links to existing provision and connectivity across the A595

Biodiversity

Minimise, where practical, the impacts on ecology and nature conservation and achieve a biodiversity net gain

Journey Time

Reduce delays and improve journey time reliability for road users

Connectivity

Improve links between major regional population, employment and service centres, including health and education

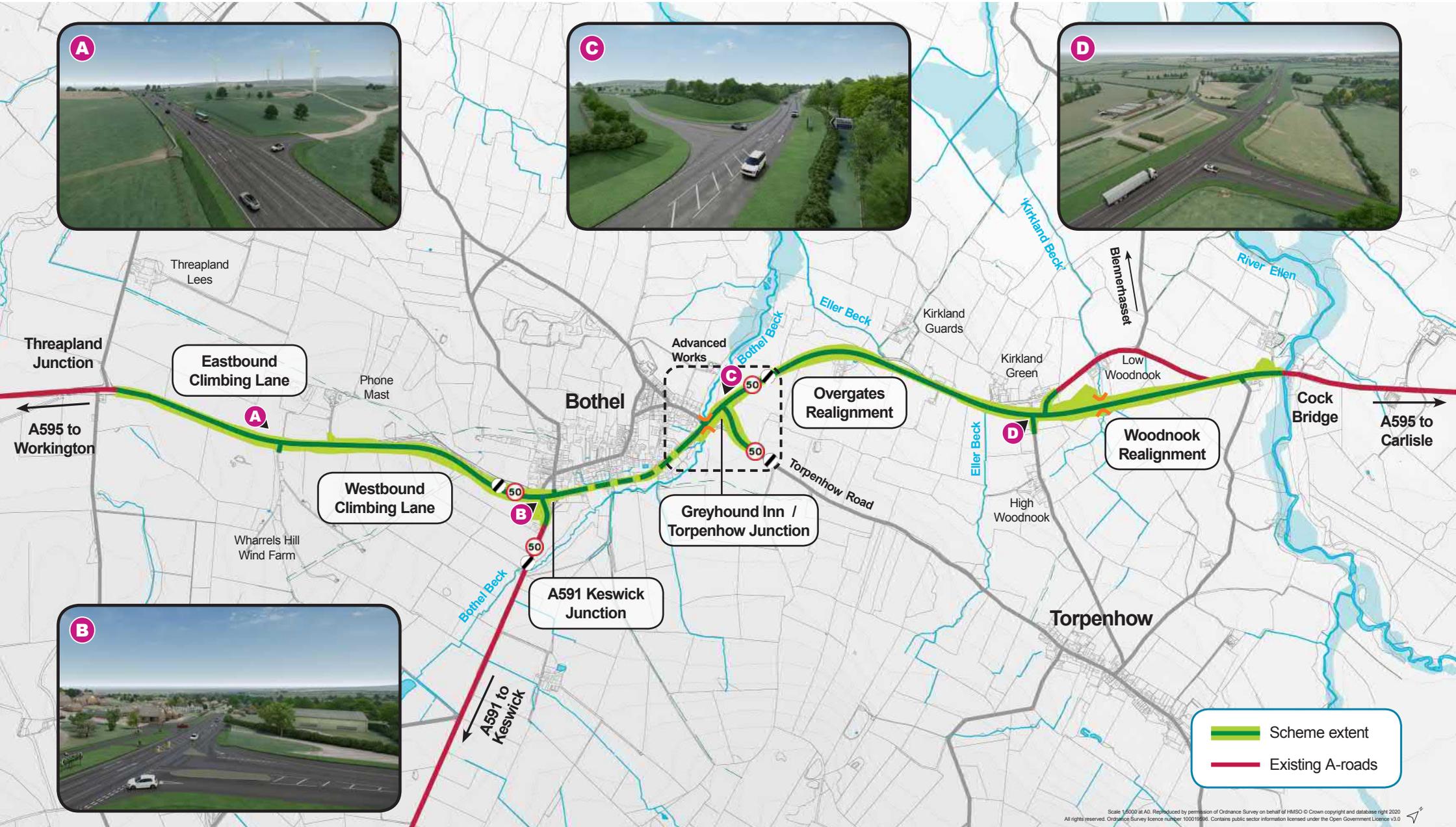
Road Safety

Improve road safety on the existing network for all road users

Environmental Objectives

Transport Objectives

A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: Overview Plan



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A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: Plan 1



- Ponds will be used to control the rate of surface water runoff released into local watercourses as part of a Sustainable Urban Drainage system (SUDs).
- Surveys are ongoing to check for the presence of ecological flora and fauna and develop suitable protection measures if necessary.
- Existing direct accesses to the A595 will be stopped up to improve safety where a practical alternative can be provided.

A

Eastbound Climbing Lane
An eastbound climbing lane, towards Carlisle, will be created over Wharrels Hill. It will be about 900m long. The national speed limit will apply throughout.

B

Wind Farm Access
The existing access to the Wharrels Hill Wind Farm will be retained. A new right turn lane will be created. This will allow traffic to wait safely before turning right into the wind farm.

C

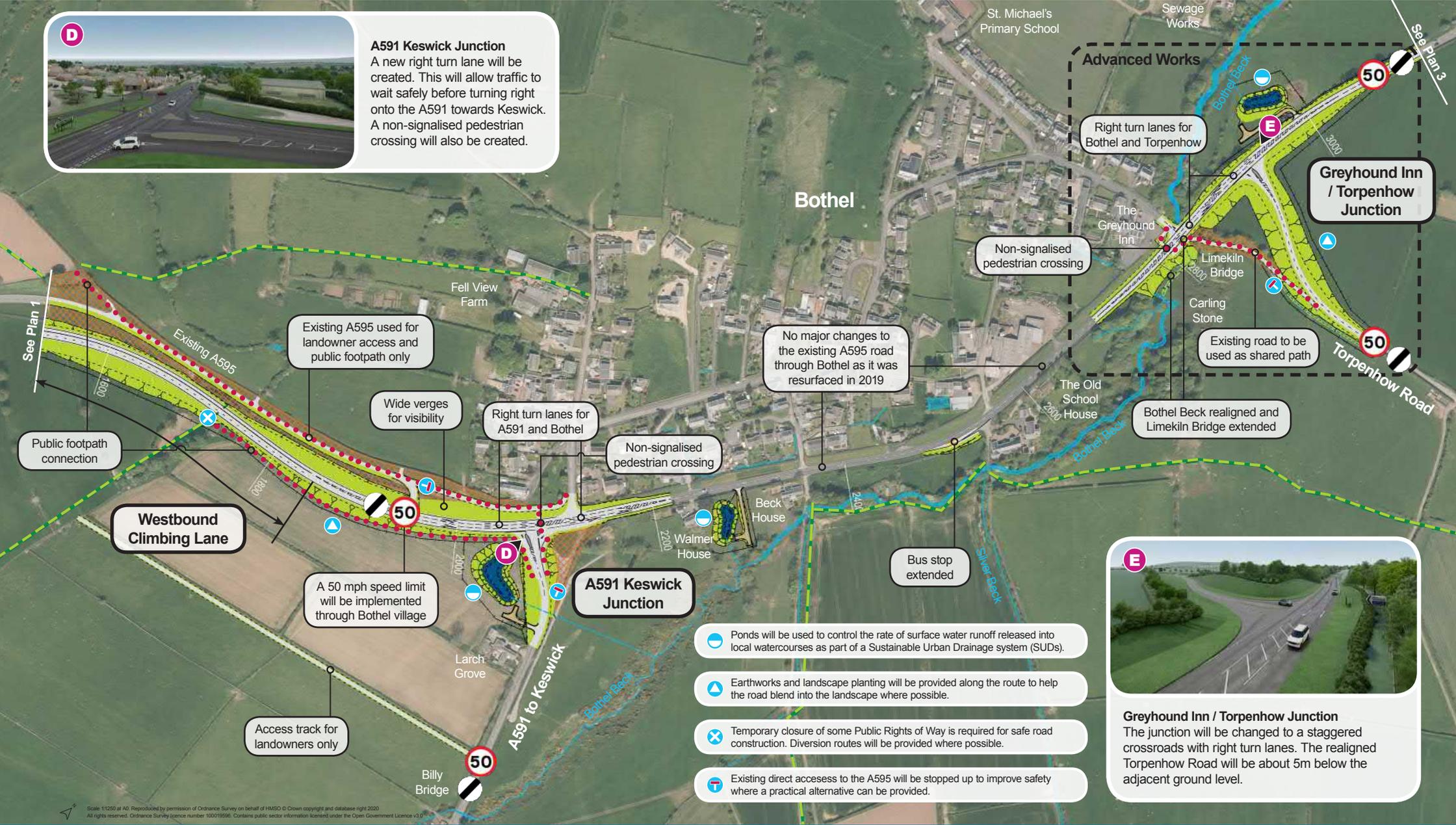
Westbound Climbing Lane
A westbound climbing lane, towards Workington, will be created over Wharrels Hill. It will be about 1200m long. The national speed limit will apply throughout.

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A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: Plan 2



A591 Keswick Junction
 A new right turn lane will be created. This will allow traffic to wait safely before turning right onto the A591 towards Keswick. A non-signalised pedestrian crossing will also be created.



Greyhound Inn / Torpenhow Junction
 The junction will be changed to a staggered crossroads with right turn lanes. The realigned Torpenhow Road will be about 5m below the adjacent ground level.

- Ponds will be used to control the rate of surface water runoff released into local watercourses as part of a Sustainable Urban Drainage system (SUDs).
- Earthworks and landscape planting will be provided along the route to help the road blend into the landscape where possible.
- Temporary closure of some Public Rights of Way is required for safe road construction. Diversion routes will be provided where possible.
- Existing direct access to the A595 will be stopped up to improve safety where a practical alternative can be provided.

A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: Plan 3



F

Overgates Realignment
The A595 will be moved to the north at Overgates. Wide verges will be created for better visibility.

G

Overgates Realignment
The embankment earthworks at Overgates will be up to 5m high above existing ground..

- Ponds will be used to control the rate of surface water runoff released into local watercourses as part of a Sustainable Urban Drainage system (SUDs).
- Surveys are continuing to check for the presence of ecological fauna and develop suitable protection measures if necessary.
- Earthworks and landscape planting will be provided along the route to help the road blend into the landscape where possible.
- Existing direct accesses to the A595 will be stopped up to improve safety where a practical alternative can be provided.

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A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: Plan 4



Woodnook Realignment
 The A595 will be realigned between Kirkland Green and Cock Bridge. This will provide extra overtaking opportunities. Embankments up to 8m high above existing ground will be used.

Kirkland Green
 Existing A595 used for access
 Whitehead Brow
 Kirk Grove
 See Plan 3
 Eiler Beck
 4200
 4400
 4600
 4800
 5000
 5200
 5400
 5600
 5800
 6000
 6200
 6400
 6600
 6800
 7000
 7200
 7400
 7600
 7800
 8000
 8200
 8400
 8600
 8800
 9000
 9200
 9400
 9600
 9800
 10000

Low Woodnook
 Existing A595
 Culvert under embankment
 Embankments up to 8m high
 Woodnook Realignment
 Blennerhasset Junction
 Right turn lanes for High Woodnook and Blennerhasset
 Blennerhasset
 Torpenhow

High Woodnook
 Existing A595 used as footpath
 Wide verge for better visibility
 Torpenhow Junction
 Cockbridge Cottages
 Cock Bridge
 A595 to Carlisle

Cock Bridge
 No changes to Cock Bridge
 Ponds will be used to control the rate of surface water runoff released into local watercourses as part of a Sustainable Urban Drainage system (SUDs).
 Landscape planting will be provided along the route to help the road and earthworks blend into the landscape where possible.
 Existing direct accesses to the A595 will be stopped up to improve safety where a practical alternative can be provided.

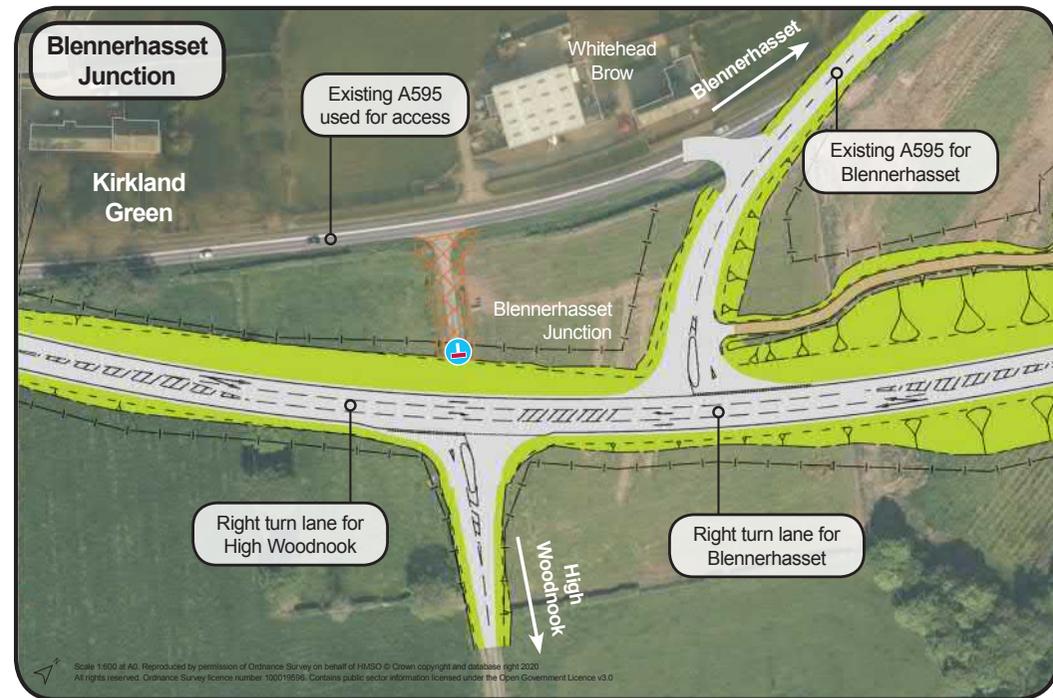
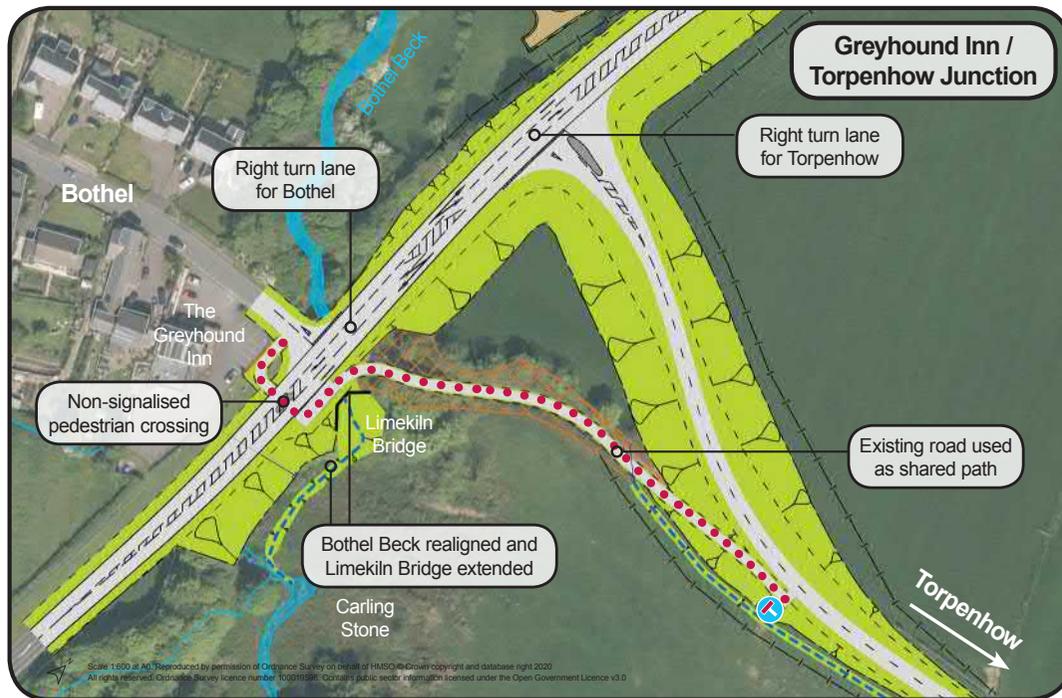
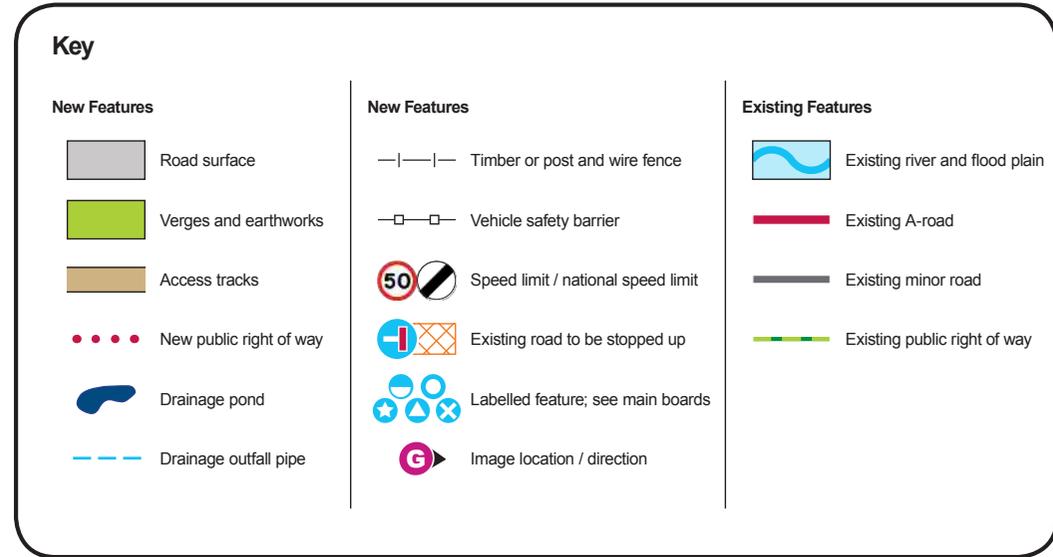
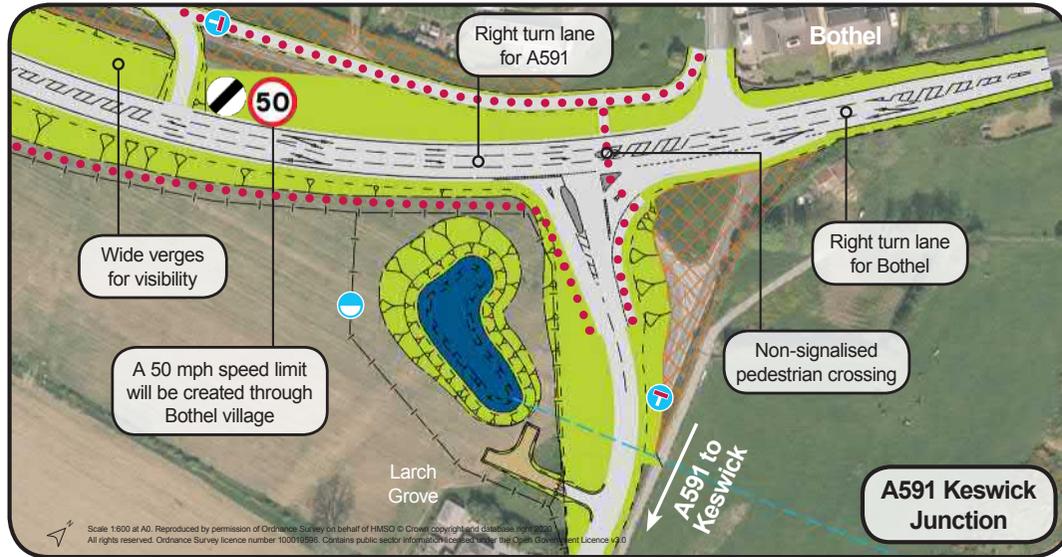


Blennerhasset Junction
 A staggered crossroads will be created for High Woodnook and Blennerhasset to improve safety. The existing A595 will be used for local access, travel to Blennerhasset, and a footpath connection.



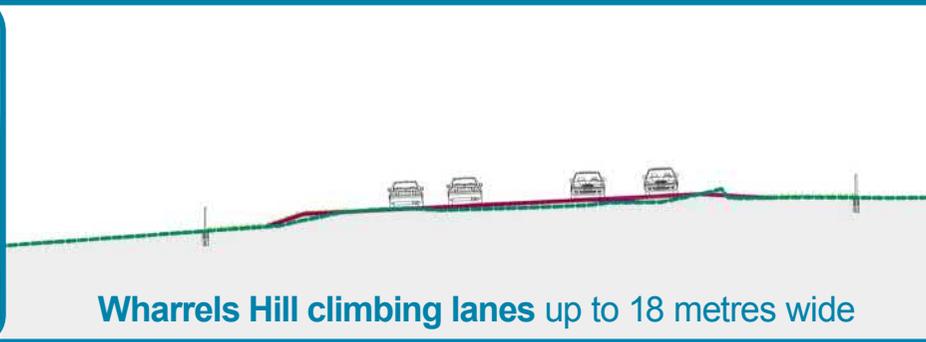
Cock Bridge
 Highway drainage ponds will be created at Cock Bridge. No changes will be made to the bridge structure.

A595 Bothel Strategic Improvement: Junction Improvements Detail

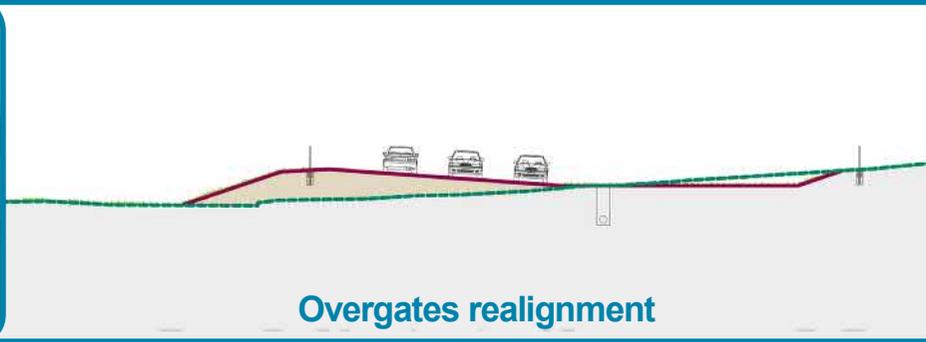


How the road could look

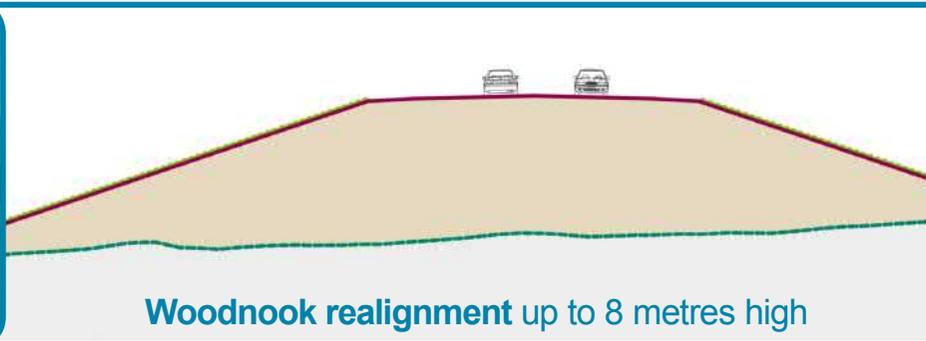
Note: Proposed landscape planting is not shown on these images



Wharrels Hill climbing lanes up to 18 metres wide



Overgates realignment



Woodnook realignment up to 8 metres high

Environment impacts and enhancements

Early indications

Impacts and enhancements

We are assessing the impacts and effects of the scheme based on desk studies and site surveys. Environmental impacts are based on national guidance and will be documented in an Environmental Statement accompanying the planning application.

Large or substantial impacts

Local farms: There will be some loss of farmland. We are talking to the farmers to reduce disruption during construction, and how best to manage the effects of the scheme on them.

Medium or moderate impacts

Landscape and visual quality: The scheme is likely to affect the quality of the landscape and views most during construction. Excavated ground and construction movements will cause damage to vegetation including grassland, hedgerows and trees.

The affected land will be reinstated with new native seed and planting mixes appropriate to the area. Where necessary, tree and shrub planting may also be used to help visually screen the road from sensitive locations.

Ecology and biodiversity: The scheme is expected to have an impact on a number of different species and habitats. Animals and habitats are being surveyed so we can minimise disturbance and create new habitats where practical.

Small or minimal impacts

Archaeology and heritage: We expect the scheme to have minimal impact on known heritage assets. Walkover and geophysical surveys are being undertaken to attempt to identify any unknown archaeology.

Water environment: The scheme will have minimal impact on flood risk locally and along Bothel Beck. Grass drainage channels and drainage ponds with plants will help keep the water clean.

Noise: The scheme is envisaged to have neutral effects on noise. Road traffic noise will be perceived at the same levels as the current road for the majority of properties in Bothel. We will minimise noise during construction by using methods of best practice.

Air quality: The scheme is likely to have neutral effects on air quality. The scheme is expected to remain within national air quality objectives. We will control pollution and dust levels during construction.

Soils and contaminated land: We will avoid the spread of contaminants, including those from historical landfill sites. We are also maximising reuse of soils to reduce impacts from construction traffic.

Enhancements and benefits

Outdoor access and recreation: We expect the scheme to have a positive impact. The scheme includes two crossing facilities for pedestrians and non-motorised users at the A591 Keswick Junction and The Greyhound Inn / Torpenhow Junction. Footpath links are also provided to retain connectivity with existing public rights of way.

Environment and net gain: We are also aiming to ensure a net gain in biodiversity across the scheme by ensuring there is an overall improvement in any habitats affected by the scheme.

What are the next steps?

- 13 April 2021** Consultation opens
- 24 May 2021** Consultation closes
- Summer 2021** Improvements made following consultation
- Summer 2021** Submit Planning Application

Subject to planning approval

Advanced Works - Greyhound Inn Junction

- Summer 2021** Negotiate for purchase of land
- Autumn 2021** Appoint contractor to build junction

Funding in place

- Winter 2021** Construction start
- Spring 2022** Construction complete
Junction open to traffic

Wider Scheme

- Winter 2021** Publish Compulsory Purchase and Side Roads Orders
- Summer 2022** Public Inquiry period, if needed

Subject to additional funding

- Autumn 2022** Approval for contractor to build road
- Spring 2023** Construction start
- Summer 2024** Construction complete
Road open to traffic

Spring 2021 to Summer 2022
Ongoing design of the scheme, site surveys and assessments



We want your feedback to make the scheme the best it can be.

If possible, please respond online at cumbria.gov.uk/a595bothel

If you do not have internet access, please complete the following questionnaire and return it to **FREEPOST CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL by Monday 24 May 2021.**

1. Do you support the scheme that has been developed?

Strongly support	Support	No opinion	Against	Strongly against
<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. How satisfied are you with the five key elements of the scheme (as shown on the Overview Plan):

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	No opinion	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Climbing lanes to the south-west of Bothel	<input type="checkbox"/>				
A591 Keswick Junction Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Greyhound Inn / Torpenhow Junction Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Overgates Realignment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Woodnook Realignment (including Blennerhasset Junction)	<input type="checkbox"/>				

3. How satisfied are you with the other elements of the scheme:

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	No opinion	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
50mph speed limit	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Improved layby provision at Wharrels Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>				
New layby provision at Overgates	<input type="checkbox"/>				
New highway drainage ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Links to footpaths and cycle paths and connections across the A595	<input type="checkbox"/>				

4. Do you have any further comments on the scheme?

About you

Please provide the following details to help us understand why you are interested in this consultation. This will help us see how different groups feel about the scheme.

What is your postcode?

What is your interest in the scheme?

Resident Commuter Local road user Business owner

Affected Landowner/Stakeholder/Group
(Please state which):

What age are you?

Under 16 16 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 44 45 to 54

55 to 64 65 to 74 Over 75 Prefer not to say

Are you disabled? Yes No Prefer not to say

To which gender do you identify?

Female Male Transgender female

Transgender male Gender variant/non-conforming

Prefer not to say 'Not listed' (remove or specify)

About this consultation

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Under the FOI, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with our confidentiality obligations among other things.

Did we provide enough information for you to properly respond?

Yes No Partially

Did the questionnaire allow you to express your opinions fully?

Yes No Partially

Thank you for engaging in the consultation.

Your feedback is important to make the scheme the best it can be.

Your feedback will be reviewed and changes made to the scheme where possible before a planning application is submitted in Summer 2021.

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 0300 303 2992

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 0300 303 2992 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，请致电 0300 303 2992

Jeigu norėtumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba, skambinkite telefonu 0300 303 2992

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwie języku proszę zatelefonować pod numer 0300 303 2992

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua, telefone para o 0300 303 2992

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen 0300 303 2992 numaralı telefonu arayınız