

A45/A46 Tollbar End Junction Improvement Scheme Modifications Consultation Leaflet May 2013



Introduction

We are seeking your comments on the A45/A46 Tollbar End Junction Improvement Scheme because of proposed changes to the scheme and updated assessments and forecasts.

Background

The A45/A46 Tollbar End Junction Improvement scheme will widen the existing A45 Stonebridge Highway, between Stivichall Junction and Tollbar End roundabout, and provide an underpass at Tollbar between the A45 Stonebridge Highway and the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass.

In March 2009, Draft Highways Act and Compulsory Purchase Orders for the A45/A46 Tollbar End Junction Improvement Scheme (the scheme) were published.

The scheme was presented at Public Inquiry during January and February 2010. Following this the independent Inspector who held the Inquiry submitted his report and recommendations to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

As part of the Government's Spending Review in 2010, the scheme was identified for a potential start of construction in future spending review periods, post 2015.

In his Autumn Statement in 2011, the Chancellor announced funding to bring forward the start of works for the A45/A46 Tollbar End Improvement scheme to this Parliament. The Highways Agency subsequently confirmed that construction would start in 2013/14, subject to the outcome of statutory processes.

In April 2013, the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government published their "minded-to" decision following consideration of the Inspector's report.

The Secretaries' of State have asked the Highways Agency to publish, and send out on their behalf, a consultation document to explain modifications that the Highways Agency proposes to make to the scheme. The document also provides updated traffic forecasts and an updated environmental impact assessment for the scheme as a whole.

In addition to this modifications consultation leaflet, the consultation document consists of:

- diagrams showing the proposed modifications,
- Traffic Forecasting Report,
- Economic Assessment Report and;
- Environmental Update Report.

This is an additional, targeted consultation due to changes to the scheme and the updated assessments and forecasts. It is not a re-consultation on the scheme itself.

Modifications to the scheme since the Public Inquiry

The Highways Agency has proposed the following modifications.

- Stivichall Junction - increasing the number of lanes from two to three on the A46 Northbound Slip road approach to Stivichall Junction and widening the exit slip from the roundabout Eastbound onto the A45 Stonebridge; and
- A45 Stonebridge Highway – realign the westbound carriageway and change the geometry of the slip roads to the west of Tollbar Island by moving these slightly eastwards.

Modifications to Stivichall Junction

Improvements to Stivichall Junction are required under planning permissions granted in 2008 for the redevelopment of the Jaguar

Whitley site. The Environmental Statement published in 2009 for the scheme assumed that the improvements for Stivichall by the Jaguar Whitley developer would be constructed first. The improvements are not now expected to happen before the A45/A46 Tollbar End improvements. As a result of this, some minor changes to Stivichall Junction are now proposed under the scheme, within the existing highway land to ensure that it operates satisfactorily.

Modifications to A45 Stonebridge Highway

To ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that the scheme is compatible with the proposed Coventry & Warwickshire Gateway project, to reduce the impact on Optilan (UK) Ltd parking areas, as recommended in the Inspectors Report, and to reduce the cost of the scheme, the Highways Agency is making modifications. These are to realign the westbound carriageway of the A45 Stonebridge Highway and change the geometry of the slip roads to the west of Tollbar Island by moving these slightly eastwards. This would involve narrowing the central reserve and moving the alignment of the westbound A45 carriageway northwards in the vicinity of the slip roads.

Work to update the Traffic Forecasts and Environmental Impact Assessment

The Department for Transport has updated its guidance on the methodology used to assess project impacts (WebTAG) since the traffic forecasts and environmental impact assessment were published in 2009.

The environmental impact assessment has been updated to identify whether there have been any significant changes to the

environmental impacts presented in the 2009 Environmental Statement.

The assessment has used the more recent guidance and assessment methods, and considered the updates since the Public Inquiry. Any changes in the existing local infrastructure (e.g. development that has been constructed since the Inquiry) have also been considered.

The results of the updated traffic forecasts and project economics are reported in the updated Traffic Forecasting Report and Economic Assessment Report.

Environmental Impact Assessment topics have been reconsidered to take account of:

- changes in the baseline against which the scheme is measured,
- the assessment methodology, and;
- the significance of impacts from those reported in the 2009 Environmental Statement.

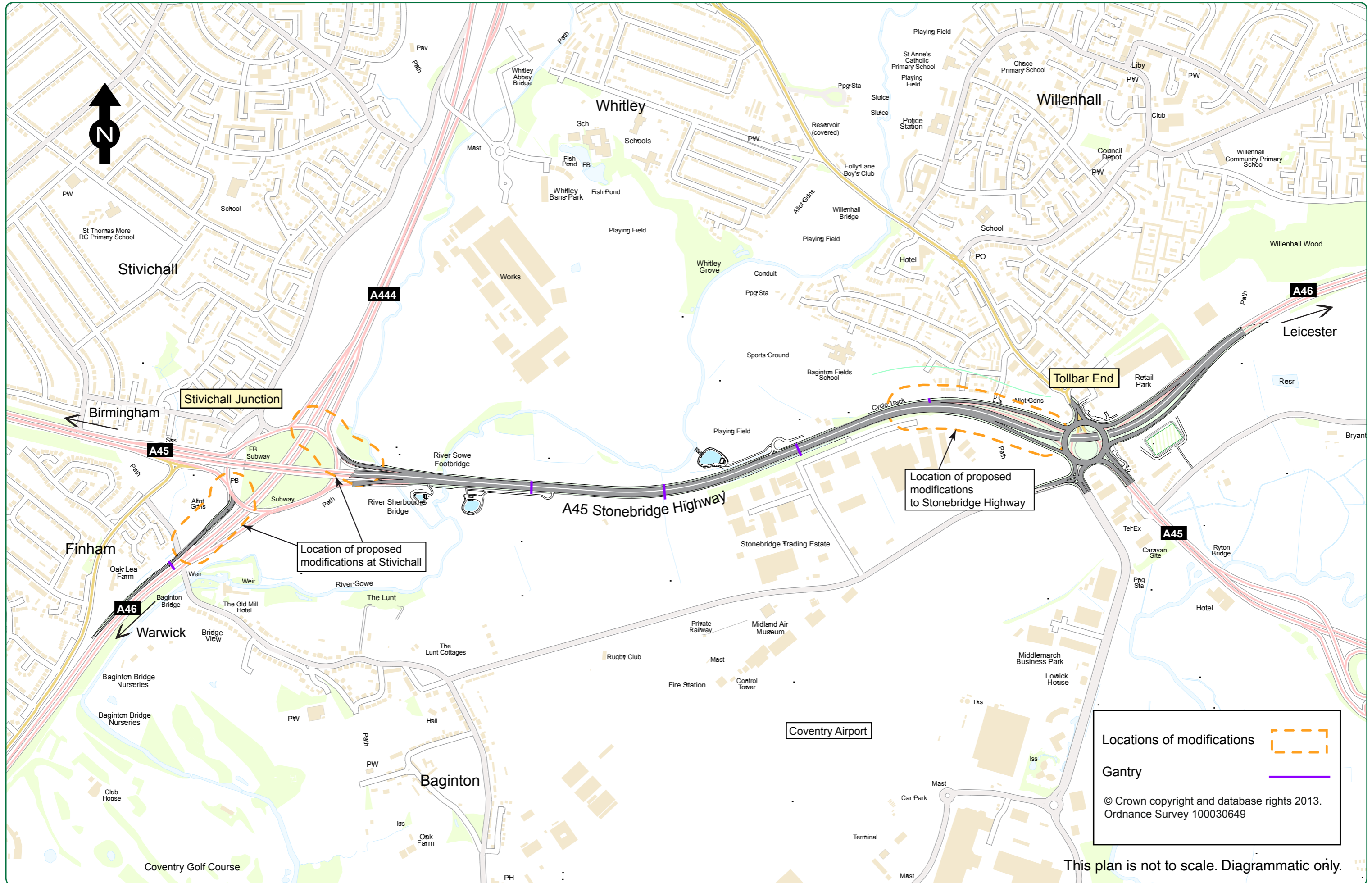
This information is reported in the Environmental Update Report.

The results of the noise nuisance assessment indicate that without the project, the number of people affected by road traffic noise would be greater than previously reported in the 2009 Environmental Statement. With the project, there would now be fewer people predicted to experience an increase in noise nuisance and more people predicted to experience no change in attitude to road traffic nuisance.

Overall no significant changes in environmental impact are predicted as a result of the revised baseline, reforecast traffic figures and current guidance. The impacts predicted in the 2009 Environmental Statement therefore remain valid.

The environmental reassessment of the scheme, based on the latest guidance from October 2012, is consistent with the outcomes of the Environmental Statement

Layout of Scheme Stivichall to Tollbar



issued in 2009 and shows the scheme will lead to an overall improvement in local air quality and a reduction in the number of properties that exceed the EU Limit Values.

It is considered that the impact of the scheme on air quality is not significant, as;

There are a greater number of receptors which receive a large improvement in concentrations than deterioration.

There are a greater number of receptors that experience an improvement in air quality. The Scheme will result in fewer exceedances of the EU Limit Values.

The Scheme will not result in a change to the areas that have already been designated as an Air Quality Management Area and will therefore not impact on Coventry City Council's air quality action plan.

Summary Of Environmental Effects 2009

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Residual Effect Public Inquiry Scheme</i>
Disruption caused by construction	Slight to moderate adverse
Landscape and visual effects	Neutral
Ecology and nature conservation.	Neutral
Cultural Heritage	Slight Adverse
Road Drainage and water environment	Slight Benefit
Land use and agriculture	Neutral
Pedestrians cyclists and community effects	Slight Adverse
Vehicle travellers	Large Beneficial
Noise and vibration	Slight Benefit
Air Quality	Slight Benefit
Geology Soils	Neutral
Policies and plans	Beneficial

Overall, no significant changes in environmental impact are predicted as a result of the revised baseline, reforecast

traffic figures and current guidance. As a result of this, the impacts predicted in the 2009 Environmental Statement remain valid.

Making Comments

Diagrams of the proposed modifications to the scheme since the Public Inquiry, the Environmental Update Report, the Traffic Forecasting Report and Economic Assessment Report may be read free of charge during normal working hours for four weeks from 6 May 2013 at:

Warwick Library and
Information Centre
Shire Hall
PO Box 2
Warwick
CV34 4UB

Rugby Borough Council
Town Hall
Evreux Way
Rugby
CV21 2RR

Willenhall Community Library
106 Remembrance Road
Coventry
CV3 3DP

Birmingham Central Library
Archives and Heritage
Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
B33 HQ

Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
Warwick
CV34 8RR

Coventry City Council
Council House Reception
Earl Street
Coventry
CV1 5RR

Highways Agency
The Cube
199 Wharfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Coventry Central Library
Smithford Way
Coventry
CV1 1FY

Finham Community Library
Finham Green Road
Finham
Coventry
CV3 6EP

These documents may also be viewed on the A45/A46 Tollbar End Junction Improvement pages of the Highways Agency's website (<http://www.highways.gov.uk>).

If you wish to comment on the proposed modifications and updated information, please write to the Highways Agency at the address above, or email the Highways Agency at A45A46TollbarEndImprovement@highways.gsi.gov.uk, within 4 weeks from 6 May 2013.

What happens next?

All comments received will be reported to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will consider them alongside the Public Inquiry Inspector's recommendations and decide the way forward. It is anticipated that a further letter will be issued by them in due course.

Further Information

Copies of the Inspector's Report, the Secretaries' of State "minded-to" decision letter of April 2013, and can also be obtained from the Highways Agency's office in The Cube, Birmingham.

Copies of the Inspector's Report and the Secretaries' of State "minded-to" decision letter of April 2013 can be downloaded from the Department for Transport's website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/183300/a45-a46-decision-letter.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/183294/a45-a46-inspectors-report.pdf

For further information on the scheme please contact Highways Agency on 0300 123 5000.

Other local Developments

A planning application has been submitted for the Coventry and Warwickshire Gateway project and Whitley Business Park project by the Coventry and Warwickshire Development Partnership (CWDP) on 12 September 2012. This is currently going through due process.

Any direct and/or cumulative impacts from this project will be considered by the local planning authorities, Warwick District Council and Coventry City Council. Any representations in respect of that project should be made to them.

If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will assist you.

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