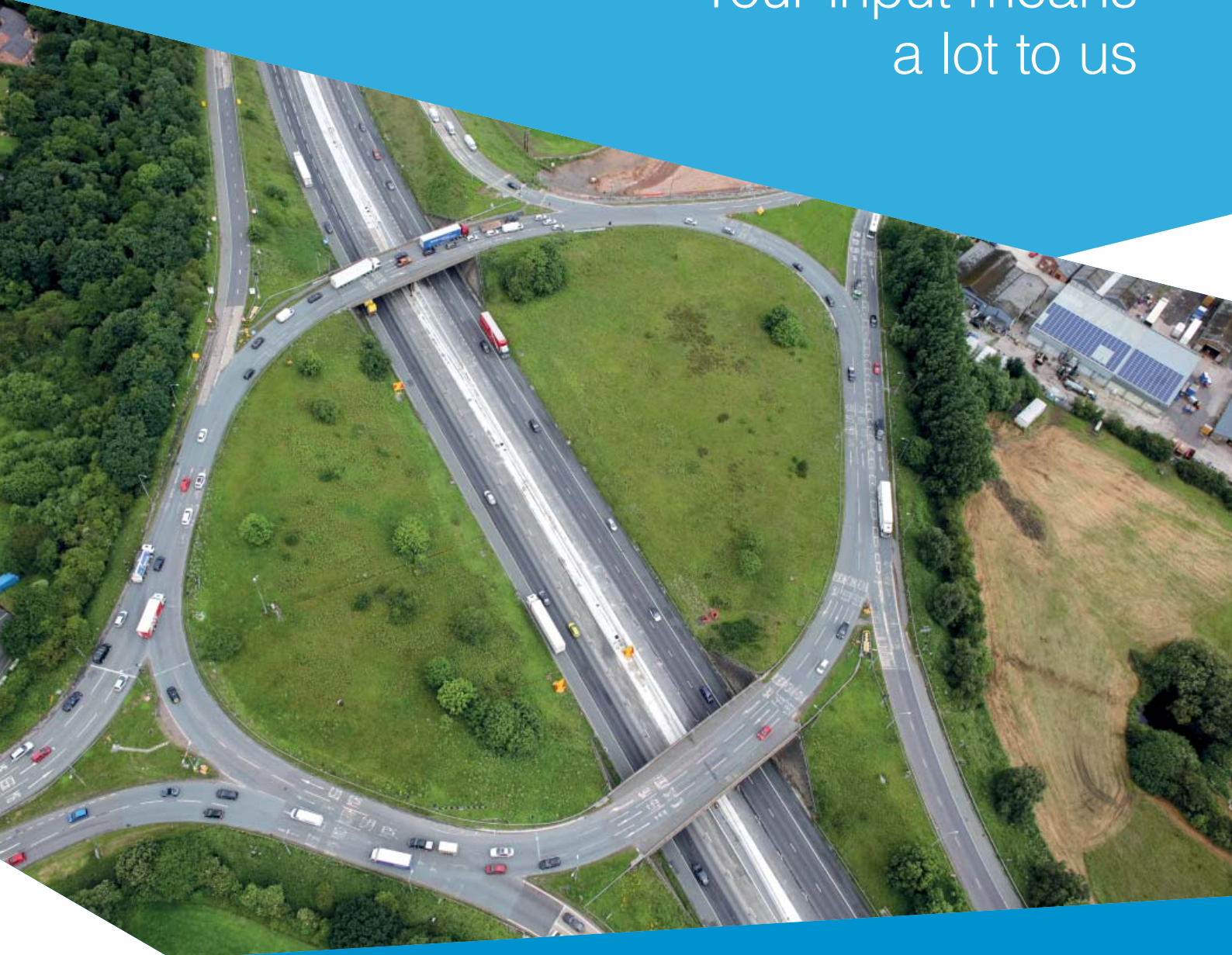


M6 Junction 19 improvement scheme

Your input means
a lot to us





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About us

Highways England (formerly known as the Highways Agency) is the government company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads.

Summary

We want to improve the traffic flow through Junction 19 of the M6 and the link to Manchester and the M56. The government announced proposals to improve Junction 19 in their *Road Investment Strategy*, published in December 2014.

We have narrowed the choice of improvements down to two different improvement options and we would like to know your views.

This leaflet explains the two options we are looking at and how you can have your say.

We want to hear your views

We're carrying out a public consultation to obtain feedback on the two options for Junction 19. Views and comments received during the public consultation will be considered and summarised in our public consultation report. After taking your views into account, we will present the report to the Secretary of State for Transport who will make a final decision on which option to take forward and issue a Preferred Route Announcement.

The consultation period will run for five weeks, from 17 August – 23 September 2016, with various ways you can get your opinions to us.

For full details of the scheme and for further information, please visit our website

www.highways.gov.uk/M6-Junction19

Why do we need these improvements?

The changes will:

- reduce congestion in the future
- improve safety and journey time reliability
- provide better links between local areas
- improve access to the M56 and Manchester Airport

This busy junction needs upgrading to meet the expected increase in traffic coming from the M6 smart motorway scheme and the A556 improvement scheme, both currently underway.

Regional and local benefits

Improving the junction will lead to a number of benefits. The scheme will:

- contribute to economic growth along the M6 corridor
- improve access to key employment locations

- improve the capacity of the existing transport network
- reduce queuing traffic on the M6 exit slip roads

Following feedback received from Tabley Parish Council and local cycling, walking and horse riding groups, we have amended the designs for both options to make them safer and easier to use.

The new designs:

- connect the cycleway/footpath improvements provided by the new A556 to Junction 19
- provide a better cycleway/footpath across the junction, on the western side
- improve safety by crossing traffic lanes at traffic signals
- introduce signal controls at the Pickmere Lane/Tabley Hill Lane junction
- allow horse-riders to use the advised safer route along Old Hall Lane and Pickmere Lane to avoid the busy Junction 19

Improvement Options A and B

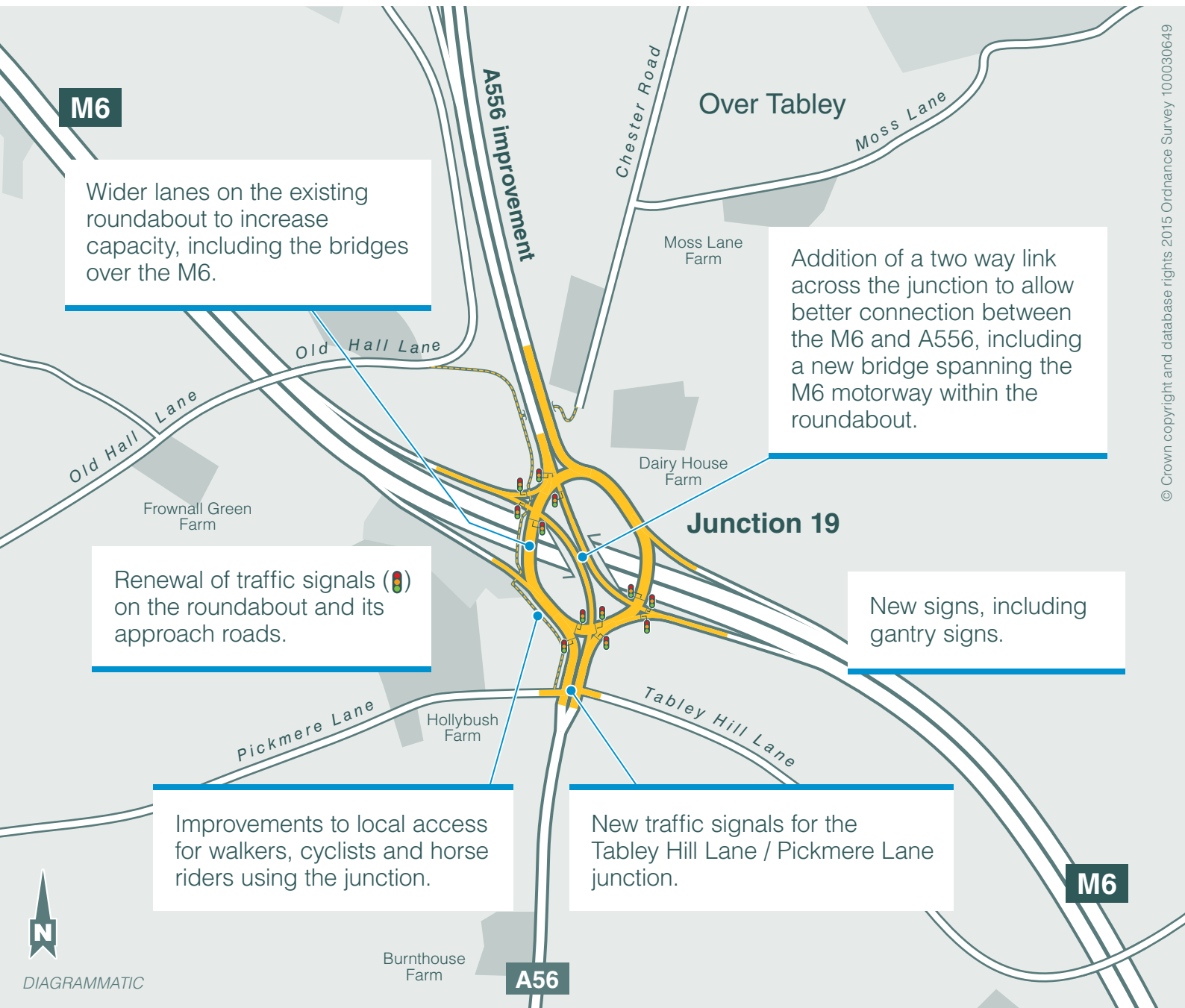
Since 2015 we have been developing and assessing options that have the potential to address the issues identified at Junction 19. To inform the option development process we have met with local authorities, statutory environmental bodies, emergency services, business groups and utility companies to understand the constraints, local priorities and development plans.

We considered 7 options in total but 5 of them were rejected, for a range of reasons which will be explained in this brochure.

Two options (Option A and Option B) were shortlisted to be progressed as they both will achieve the scheme's objectives.

We have assessed both shortlisted options with regards to their economic, traffic, safety, environmental and community impacts.

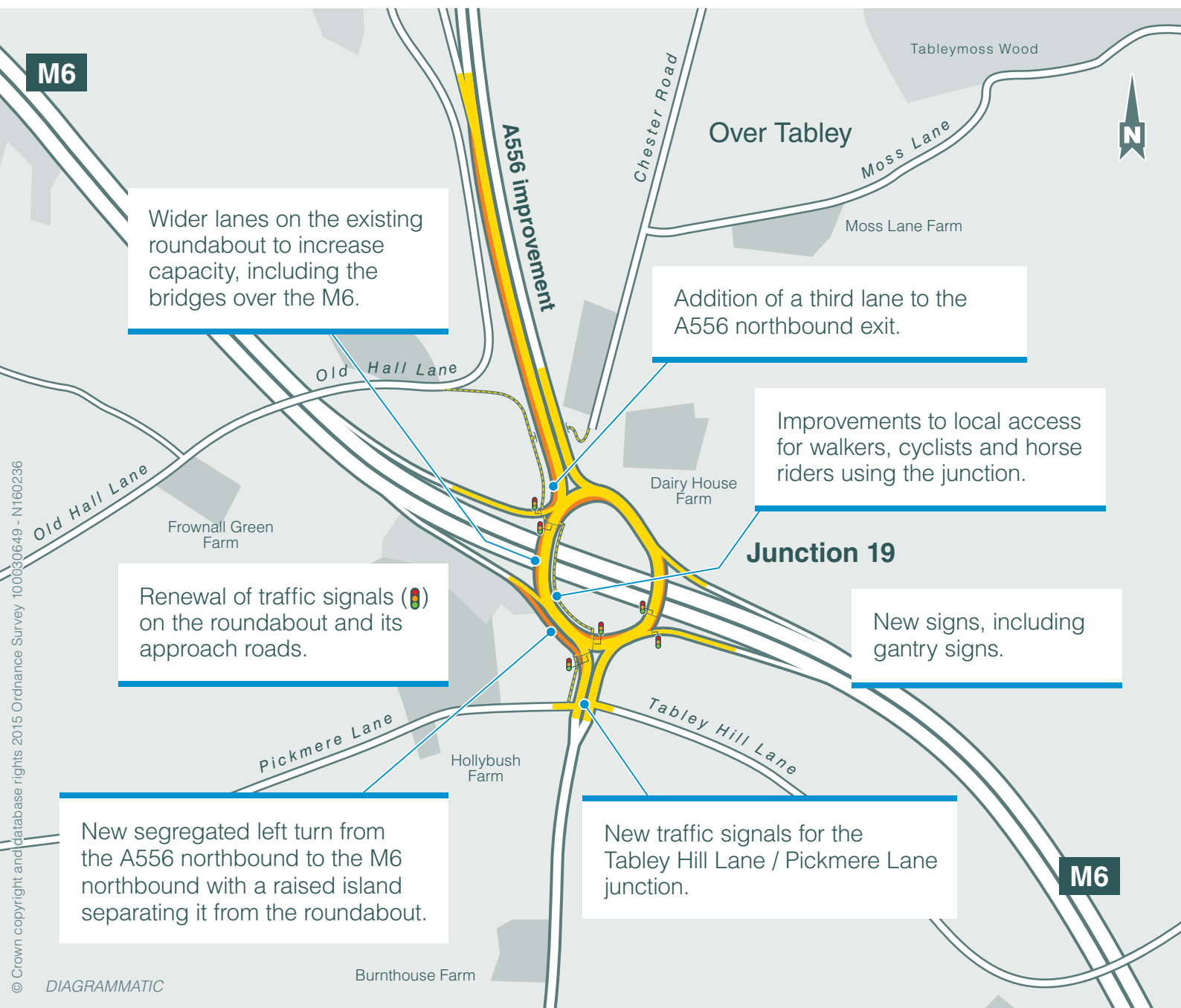
Option A



Option A will:

- increase capacity
- reduce congestion on the M6 exit slip roads, reducing the likelihood of queuing on the M6
- reduce congestion on A556 approaches to the roundabout
- improve safety due to increased lane widths on the roundabout
- reduce congestion at the junction for further into the future than Option B

Option B



Option B will:

- increase capacity
- reduce congestion on the M6 exit slip roads, reducing the likelihood of queuing on the M6
- reduce congestion on A556 approaches to the roundabout
- improve safety due to increased lane widths on the roundabout
- cost less and will be quicker to construct than Option A

How do the two options compare?

	Option A	Option B
Cost	££	£
Improves journey times	✓✓✓	✓✓
Reduces the likelihood of queueing on the M6, thereby reducing the likelihood of accidents	✓✓✓	✓✓
Accommodates future traffic growth	✓✓✓	✓✓
Improves local access (for walkers, cyclists, and horse riders)	✓	✓
Improves air quality	✓	✓
Reduces noise	✓	✓
Visual impact	Slight	No impact
Construction period	12-18 months	9-12 months
Land take required	None	Small
Disruption to local residents during construction	Slight	Slight
Disruption to motorway traffic during construction	Slight	None

The benefits and impacts of the two options

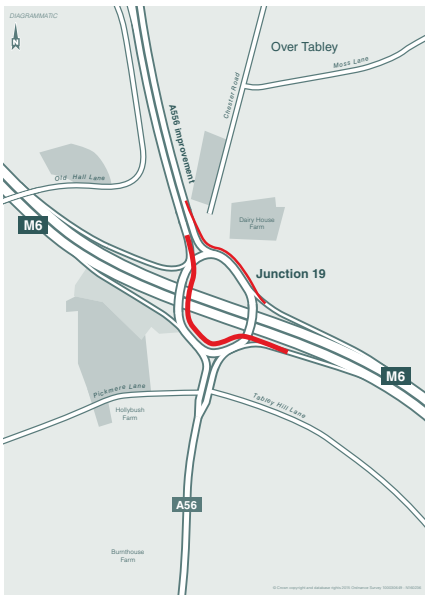
We've carried out a range of surveys and assessments to understand the existing environmental conditions in the vicinity of the scheme. These are:

Issue	During construction	Upon completion
Air quality	Localised dust emissions during construction.	Little impact on local air quality during operation. Initial assessments indicate a slight improvement overall.
Noise and vibration	Some construction noise. Vibration unlikely to be an issue.	Overall, local noise levels are likely to generally improve. Vibration will not be an issue.
Landscape and visual impact	Construction vehicles will be visible during construction.	Loss of a few trees to the south west of the junction may result in a minor impact for Option B only. The overall appearance of the junction is unlikely to change much at all, for either option.
Drainage and the water environment	Little impact expected.	There will be new infrastructure to improve drainage.
Geology and soils	Low risk of contamination.	No impact.
Cultural heritage	No effect on archaeology as excavations have already taken place during construction of the M6 and A556. Potential for slight effects on the setting of local historic buildings during construction.	No impact.
Nature conservation	No known effects on habitats or protected species.	No known effects on habitats or protected species.

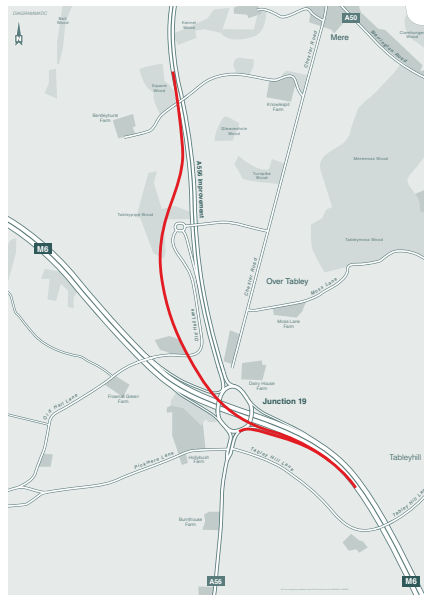
Previously considered options

We considered, but rejected these for a range of reasons including:

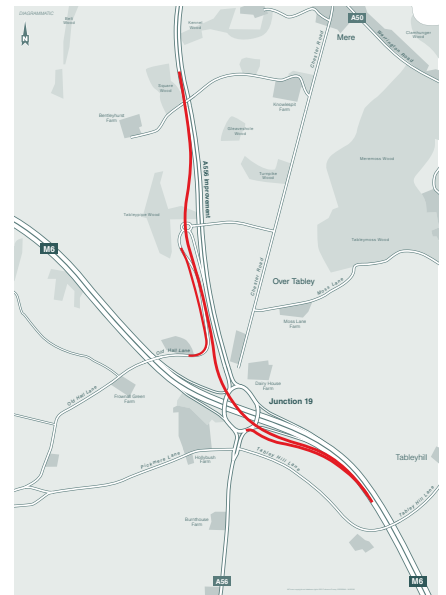
- They did not address the anticipated congestion problems at the junction.
- They wouldn't meet the scheme's objectives.
- They were likely to have a significant environmental impact.
- They were very expensive, without offering any additional benefit.



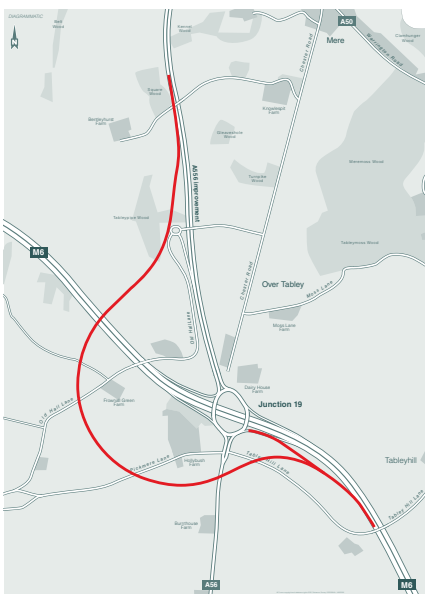
Single cut through link M6 northbound to A556 northbound



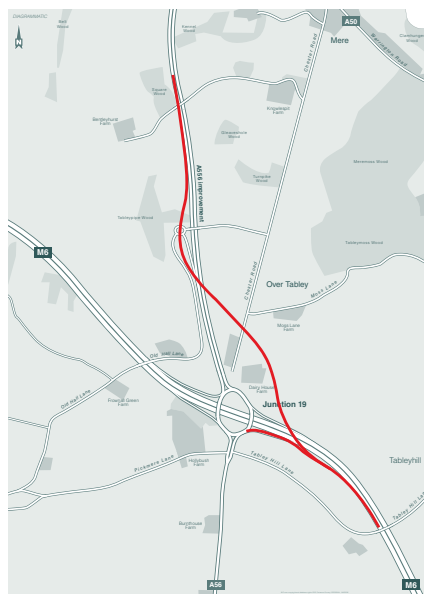
Freeflow across Junction 19 and to west of new Over Tabley junction



Freeflow across Junction 19 and under new Over Tabley junction



Freeflow to west of Junction 19 and Tabley



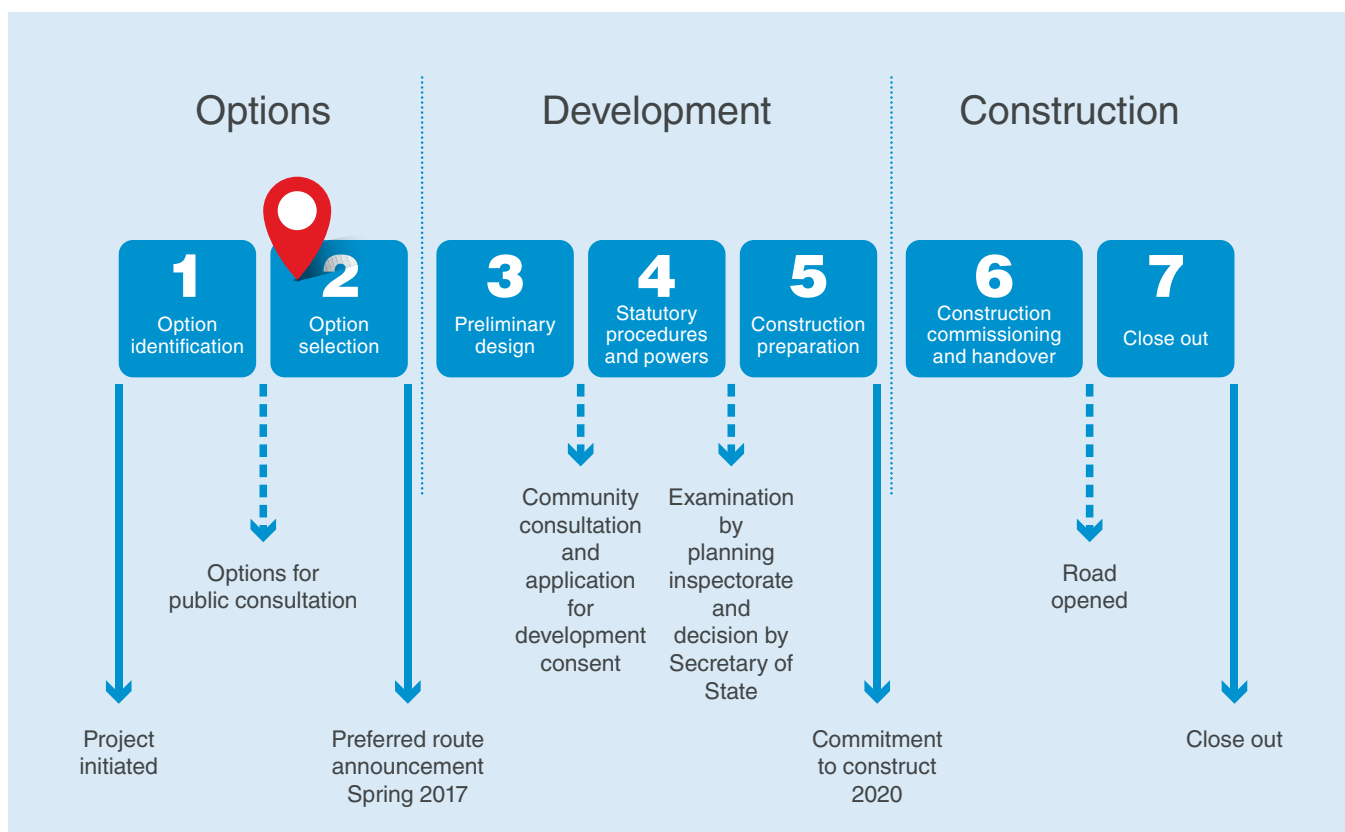
Freeflow to east of Junction 19 and Over Tabley, with tunnel under A556 and under new Over Tabley junction

Next steps

The timeline below shows what will happen at each stage of the scheme. We are currently at Stage 2 - Option selection. Using feedback from the public consultation period, running from 17 August until 23 September 2016, we will review the responses and report our findings to the Secretary of State. Should they find that there is a compelling case for the scheme and suitable option, they will announce the finalised option.

Following this announcement we will carry out surveys and investigations to allow us to design the scheme in more detail. We will consult further on the detailed proposals and you will have an additional opportunity to engage with us about the selected option and how we go about carrying out the work.

We currently expect work to start by the end of March 2020.





Public viewing places

You can also find this brochure at the following places from 17 August 2016:

- Knutsford Library
- Malthurst Esso petrol station
- Knutsford Services

Details of the public information exhibitions

Meet staff from Highways England and their design consultants (Jacobs) to learn about the options on:

Wednesday 17 August
between 12pm and 9pm at

The Windmill Inn,
Chester Road, Tabley, Knutsford
Cheshire, WA16 OHW

Saturday 17 September
between 10am and 5pm at

The Curzon Cinema, Toft Road, Knutsford,
Cheshire East, WA16 OPE

You can use the following methods to contact us or respond to the public consultation:

- fill in the consultation questionnaire at the event today and give it back to a member of staff
- complete the consultation questionnaire online at www.highways.gov.uk/M6-Junction19
- email M6Junction19Improvement@highwaysengland.co.uk
- call **0300 123 5000** (9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday)

You can sign up to receive updates about the scheme on our website.

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

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This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

If you have any enquiries about this publication email info@highwaysengland.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR73/16**.

Highways England creative job number N160246-Ex

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363