

Our ref: CRS 735,368  
Your ref:

Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line:

16 March 2016

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST A1 BALDOCK TO ALCONBURY**

Thank you for your email of 1 March requesting information about our proposals relating to the upgrading or rerouting of the A1 between Baldock and Alconbury. I have dealt with your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I confirm we have now completed our search for information.

You asked for information relating to the upgrade or re-routing of the A1 between Baldock and Alconbury, in particular:

- Details of any proposed routes
- What stage the proposals are at
- What consultations have taken place or planned
- Plans of route options currently available.

There are no current plans to fully upgrade or reroute the A1 between Baldock and Alconbury apart from the following lengths:

### **A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet**

- **Details of any proposed routes and what stage the proposals are at**

At present, we are identifying options, which we estimate will take another 12 months. This will lead to route selection and appraisal in due course.

- **What consultations have taken place or planned**

No consultations have taken place and are yet to be planned. As we make further progress, we will liaise with regional and local stakeholders as well as residents to allow for consultation and feedback.

- **Plans of route options currently available**

There are no route options currently available.

## A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon

We are not obliged to provide information which is already reasonably accessible to you. We already provide the latest up-to-date information via our website at

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a14-cambridge-to-huntingdon-improvement-scheme/>

Briefly, however,

- **Details of any proposed routes.**

The A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon improvement scheme proposals include the widening of the A1 between the existing Brampton Hut and Alconbury junctions, from two to three lanes in both directions. Widening will be carried out within the existing carriageway alignment.

- **What stage the proposals are at.**

The proposals have been through several years of design development, culminating in the application for Development Consent Order (DCO) in December 2014. The DCO examination closed on 13 November 2015 and a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate to the Secretary of State on 11 February 2016. The Secretary of State is due to make a decision by 12 May 2016. If the decision is to grant the DCO, construction works will commence late 2016 with the new road (including the widened A1) open to traffic in 2020.

- **What consultations have taken place or are planned.**

A number of public consultations have taken place, including

- Options consultations took place in September 2013.
- Statutory pre-application consultation (in line with the Planning Act 2008) took place between April and June 2014.
- A number of updates and forums continue to take place, updating local communities on scheme progression.

- **Plans of route options currently available.**

As well as a simplified plan on our website, plans of all route proposals can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website at:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010018/Events/Deadline%202013%20Highways%20England%20HE-A14-EX-215.pdf>

## A1 East of England Strategic Study

We are currently compiling an A1 East of England Strategic Study. This study will review existing evidence and prepare a case to consider further investment on the A1 from the M25 to Peterborough.

The study will look at bringing consistency to the southern section of the route and whether improvements, including changing the alignment of the road, could reduce the environmental impact of the existing route and benefit local communities.

The output from the study will be considered as part of the second Roads Investment Strategy, which is expected to be announced by the Department for Transport in financial year 2019/20.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request you may ask for an internal review. Our internal review process is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england/about/complaints-procedure>

If you require a print copy, please phone the Information Line on 0300 123 5000; or email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk). You should contact me if you wish to complain.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote reference number 735,368 in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Business Management Team Leader  
Network Delivery and Development (East)  
Email: