

# A38 Derby Junctions

Newsletter issue 9 – autumn 2020

**W**elcome to the ninth edition of our A38 Derby Junctions newsletter. We know there is a lot of interest in this project, so we're keen to share our latest news and let you know what's happening.

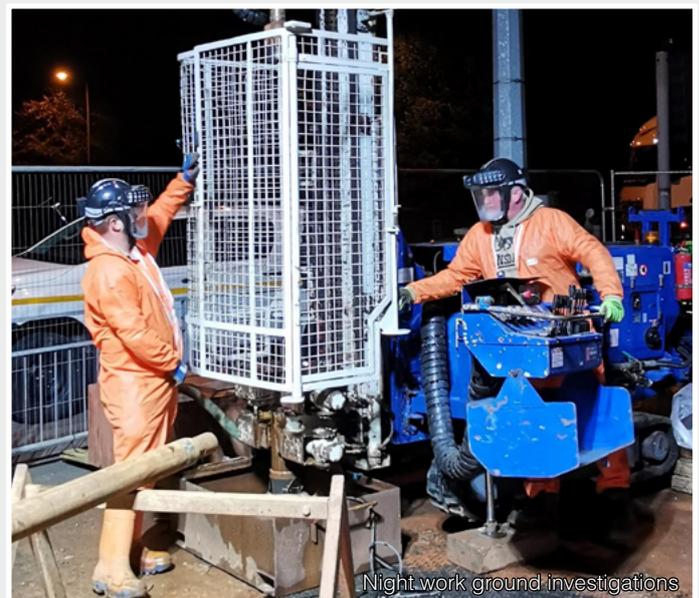
The A38 is an important route from Birmingham to Derby and through to the M1 at junction 28. Where it passes through Derby, long distance traffic interacts with a large volume of vehicles making local journeys. These interactions create congestion and delays at the three existing roundabout junctions to the west and north of Derby city centre. The key features of the preferred route are to:

- lower the A38 to pass underneath the modified Kingsway and Markeaton junctions
- widen the A38 to three lanes in each direction between the Kingsway and Kedleston Road junctions
- build two new bridges to carry the A38 traffic over the modified roundabout at Little Eaton junction

## Benefits of ground investigation

We're carrying out ground investigation work to shape the detailed design for the scheme in readiness for the decision of the Development Consent Order (DCO). This is important work because it will:

- provide us with an accurate and detailed design so we can build the scheme safely and effectively
- help us carry out detailed investigations and identify any underground gas, electric or water pipes ahead of starting the work
- help us identify if there are any local plants and vegetation that we need to protect



**Covid-19:** Please be assured that we have strict safeguarding measures on site to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We will continue to follow all the latest government advice and will adapt our plans to take account of any changes, keeping our workforce and road users safe.



## Using innovation to shape our design work

Some of the land we're working on is not easily accessible by normal vehicles. We're using a specialist piece of equipment that uses tracks, similar to ones found on heavy plant machinery like diggers, to help our teams carry out the work.

The vehicle, known as a cone penetration test rig, allows a special sensor to be pushed into the ground until it reaches the required depth.

Sensors then measure the strength of roads, pavement and soils to ensure there are suitable ground conditions. This information allows the design team to develop solutions, which are suited to the ground conditions.



Cone penetration test rig

## 'Digging deep' with ground investigation work at Markeaton

To shape our detailed design work at the Markeaton junction, we're carrying out further ground investigation tests to assess the type of soil in the ground. This is a key piece of work because it means we can measure the ground conditions before any work starts. To do this, we're using a piece of equipment known as a Pressuremeter, which allows detailed analysis of the ground conditions specifically including loose sand, clay and rocks.



Ground investigation work being carried out

Saving money

## CCTV shining a light on underground drainage

To make sure we can get a detailed understanding of the drainage and its effectiveness in the area, we're using CCTV to explore underground pipework. Traditionally, a CCTV camera would have been fitted to a pipe and pushed into the drainage to check for cracks

or leaks. However, we're using a new process, which means we can project a light into the pipe underneath the surface that illuminates the walls of the drainage systems, highlighting any issues to the teams above.

## Development Consent Order

Large road projects, such as the A38 Derby Junctions, are classed as nationally significant infrastructure projects, which means that we need to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to gain consent to build the scheme.

Our Development Consent application was accepted for examination in May 2019 and the formal examination period ended on 8 July 2020.

During the examination period, local authorities, statutory consultees and many interested parties have been consulted with.

Their queries, concerns and views have been raised with Highways England and the Planning Inspectorate, through written submissions and at a number of hearings.

All relevant project documentation, including the written submissions and recordings of the hearings can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website:

[www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/](http://www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/)

Throughout the examination period, the Inspectors have considered any representations made.

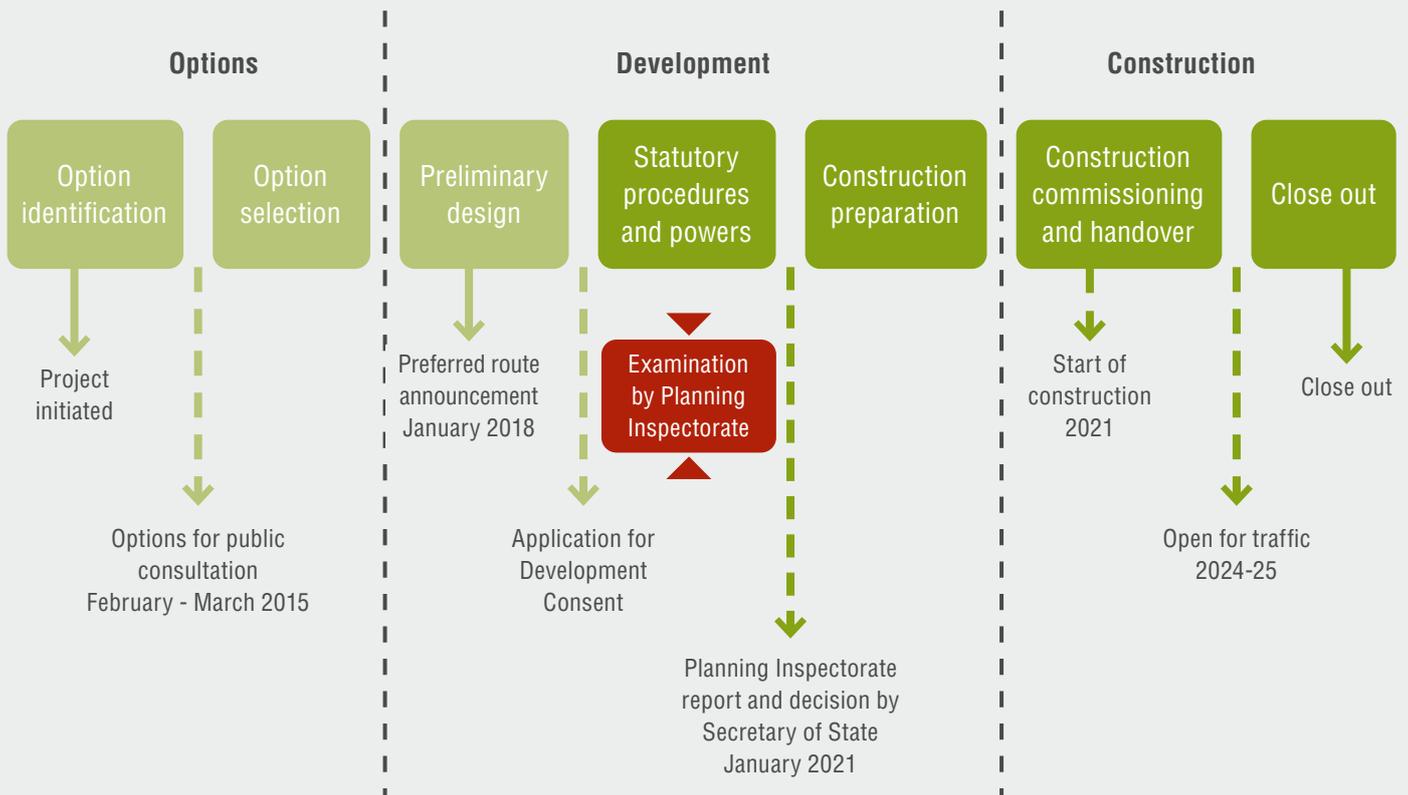
The Inspectors have engaged with the Highways England project team and interested parties on a range of broad and specific aspects of the scheme. These include compulsory acquisition, traffic and transport, land use, social and economic impact and the environment.

### Did you know?

The final round of hearings which took place in June 2020 were the first ever DCO hearings to be carried out virtually. They were carried out in this manner due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the government restrictions on public gatherings at the time.



Queuing traffic on the A38



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## What happens next?

The Planning Inspectorate has three months to assess the information they have gathered, before making their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport.

The Secretary of State then has a further three months before deciding whether to grant consent for the scheme to go ahead.

If consent is granted, we will begin preparations to start construction. In the meantime, we'll be finalising our construction plan and will provide a further update on project progress in the coming months.

## Did you know?

If you sign up for email alerts on our scheme web page [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/) every time the page is updated, you'll be notified.

## Contact us

For general enquiries about this scheme, or to receive electronic versions of this and future leaflets, please email:

[A38derbyjunctions@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A38derbyjunctions@highwaysengland.co.uk)

or call:

**0300 123 5000**

You can also visit our website for more information about the scheme:

[www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east-midlands/a38-derby-junctions/)

Or you can write to us at:

**A38 Derby Junctions Project**  
**Highways England**  
**2 Colmore Square**  
**Birmingham, B4 6BN**

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