

Start of works exhibition

Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Welcome

We would like to welcome you to our start of works exhibition for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Scheme.

On display you will see information about what is currently taking place and what will be happening during the coming months to allow the scheme to be completed by December 2016.

On hand are members of the project team who will be happy to answer your questions. If they can't, we will investigate and come back to you.

At the end of your visit please do take a few moments to complete our feedback sheet as we do value your comments.

Thank you and we hope you find the exhibition interesting.



Start of works exhibition

Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Why are we doing it?

Between Tonbridge to Pembury the A21 is a single 7.3m wide carriageway of rural character with poor alignment and many individual accesses with restricted visibility. There are no footways on this length and verges are either very narrow or non-existent. This section of road carries about 35,200 vehicles per day, which is significantly higher than its original designed capacity. As a result severe congestion is frequently experienced, especially at peak times. Additionally, the number of accidents on this section of the A21 is higher than the national average for this type of road.



Recent Key Dates

- Public Inquiry – May – July 2013
- Inspector's Report Published – May 2014
- Appointment of our contractor Balfour Beatty – July 2014
- Start of early works – September 2014

Start of works exhibition

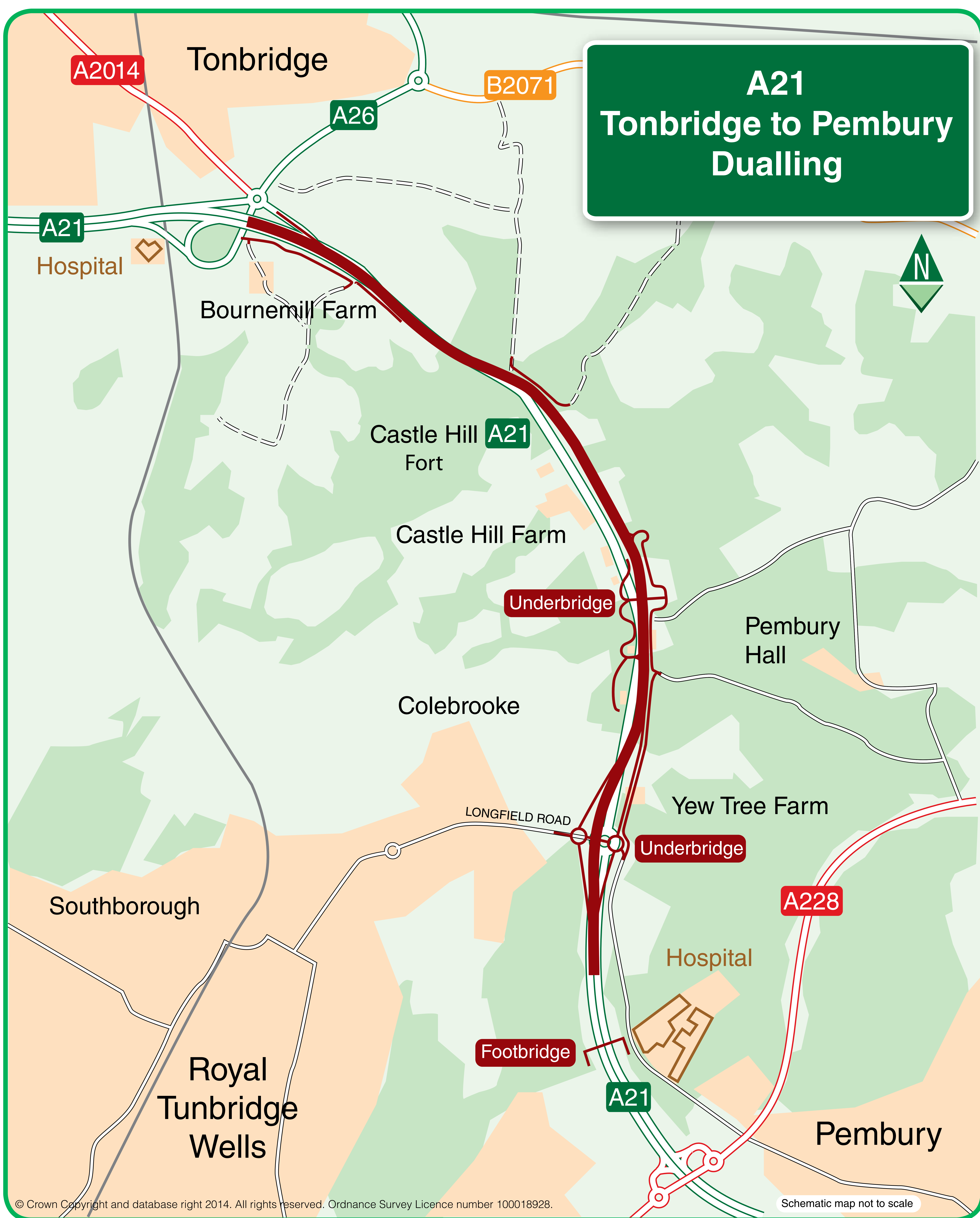
Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Scheme layout

The proposed scheme is a dual 2 lane carriageway broadly following the line of the existing A21 and has a bridleway, pedestrian and cycle route along the whole length. A new separated junction will be provided at Fairthorne, approximately half way along the scheme and the existing roundabout at Longfield Road will be changed to a separated junction. Parts of the existing A21 will be retained to provide access to residential and agricultural properties and businesses.



Start of works exhibition

Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Site Clearance & Ecology



If you have already seen our latest newsletter you will know that we have 9 hectares of ancient woodland along the scheme corridor which needs to be removed. Ancient woodland is an area of land which has been wooded since 1600AD and is featured on the Ancient Woodland Inventory. We will be coppicing (a method of woodland management) and replanting (translocation) the shrubs and topsoil to 18 hectare receptor sites adjacent to the scheme. The removal activity has already started, and during October the coppicing will begin.

The stump removal will be done using bespoke excavation buckets which will retain the root ball structure of the tree and lift coppiced tree stumps from the ground. The tree stump stays containerised within the bucket until it is replanted. The excavator places the rootball bucket containing the coppice tree stump in a trailer for transport to the woodland creation area where it is lifted out and planted directly into the ground.

The woodland soils contain long established wild flowers such as bluebells and moving the soil as well as the rootballs will ensure the native species will still remain in this part of Kent.

Start of works exhibition

Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Site Clearance & Ecology (cont.)



Before the woodland translocation can begin we also have to ensure we take steps to remove all the dormice from the scheme corridor. Under a licence from Natural England, the dormice (a protected species) will be encouraged to move away from the area. Woodland/scrub and hedgerow habitat suitable for dormice has to be cleared in a phased, directional manner towards areas of retained, adjacent habitat. To avoid impacting upon the main breeding period, vegetation clearance works will be undertaken until the end of October.

Compensation for the loss of dormouse habitat includes a combination of:

- Translocation of ancient woodland soils, coppice stools, tree stumps and small plants.
- Creation of woodland through natural regeneration, with enhancement of existing woodland areas through planting of native and local provenance species.
- The removal of invasive species from the retained woodland.
- Installation of a total of 250 nest boxes which will be monitored.
- Installation of wire mesh tubes along the length of one existing bridge to provide opportunities for dormice to cross the widened road.



Start of works exhibition

Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Built Heritage

As a consequence of the scheme being built there are a number of properties which unfortunately need to be demolished.

One of these buildings is the Grade II listed Burgess Hill Farm, which is thought to date back to the early 18th Century. The demolition of the Farm has permitted the new road layout to avoid the Castle Hill Scheduled Monument. The farmhouse has had additions and modifications over its life, so this part of the Farm is not of such significant heritage value. The barn and byre (stable) are however excellent examples of early 18th century farm buildings, being made from weatherboarded timber-frame on brick footing with a peg-tile roof.

A detailed permanent record of all the farm buildings was undertaken in 2009, as part of the planning consent and under agreement with English heritage and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Our specialist contractor will carefully dismantle the barn and stable so that they can be re-erected to allow them to be put on public display.

We are in discussion with a museum about the re-erection of the barn and byre.



General view of barn from the south

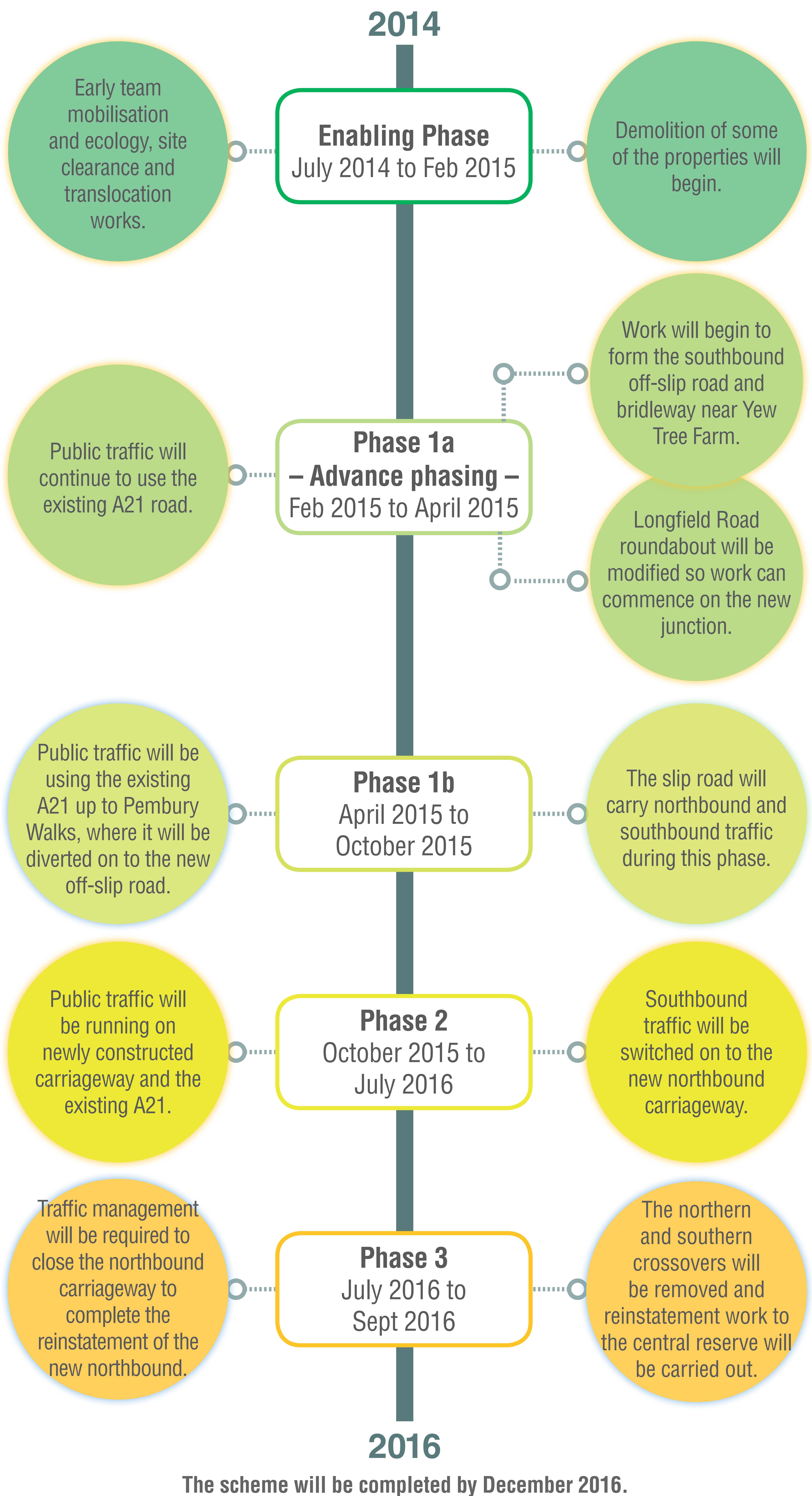
Start of works exhibition

Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Timeline



Start of works exhibition Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Construction and Working Hours

Construction activity will generally take place during the day, but as with the current site clearance works, if for safety reasons activities require a lane closure on the A21 this will have to be done at night. Unless there is an emergency situation we are not permitted to close the A21 during the day.

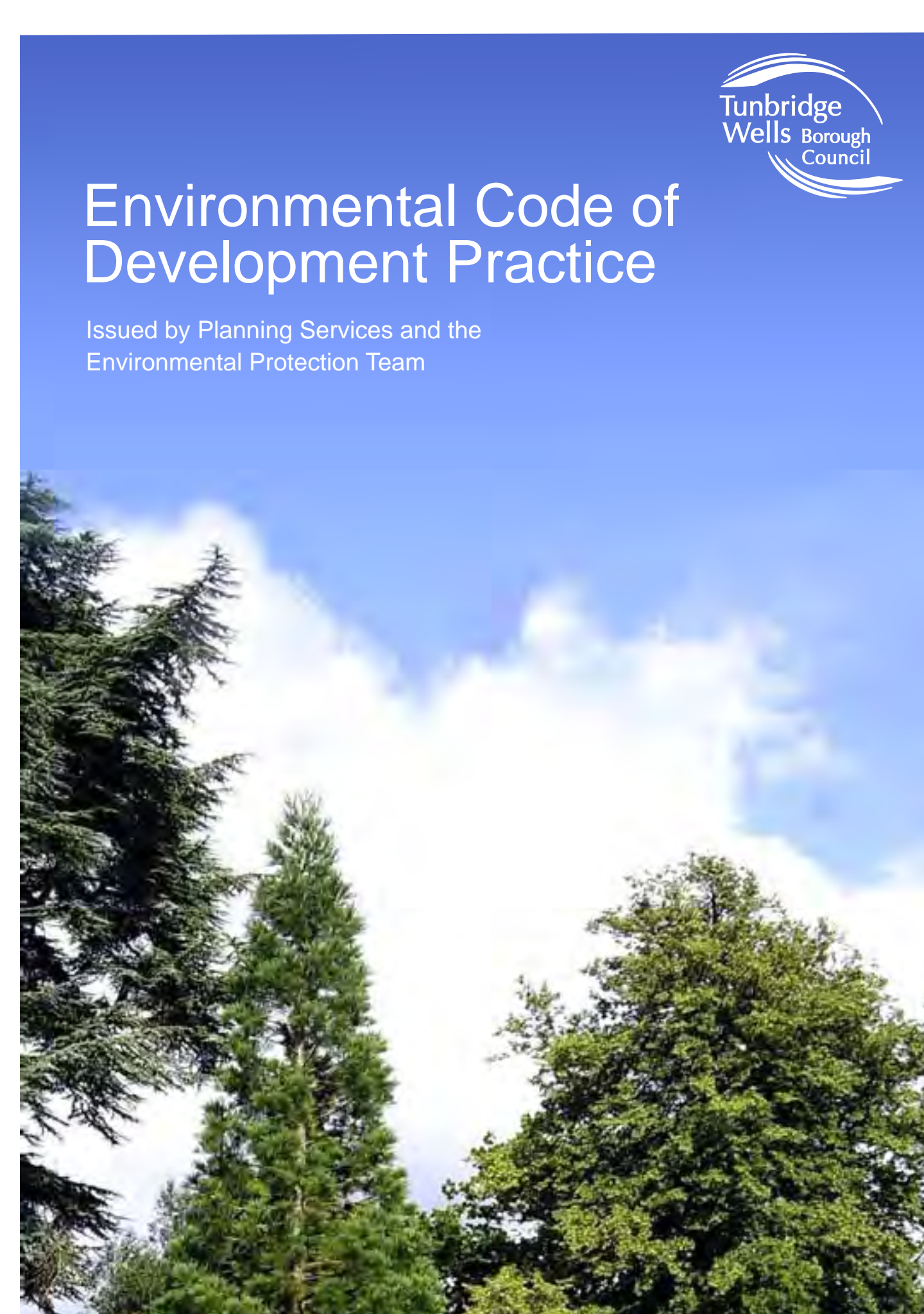
Our working hours will vary during the year, as we do try where possible to only work in daylight hours, limiting our use of lighting towers and the risk of night time disturbance. Our maximum normal summer hours will be 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 4pm on a Saturday. These will reduce in the winter.

Where we are very close to properties we will further restrict these hours, even in the summer, to 8am to 6pm to try to minimise any disturbances. We do not intend to work on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

We have been in touch with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Environmental Health team and have signed up to their *Code of Development Practice*.

In addition to the Council's code the scheme will also be registered to the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Balfour Beatty



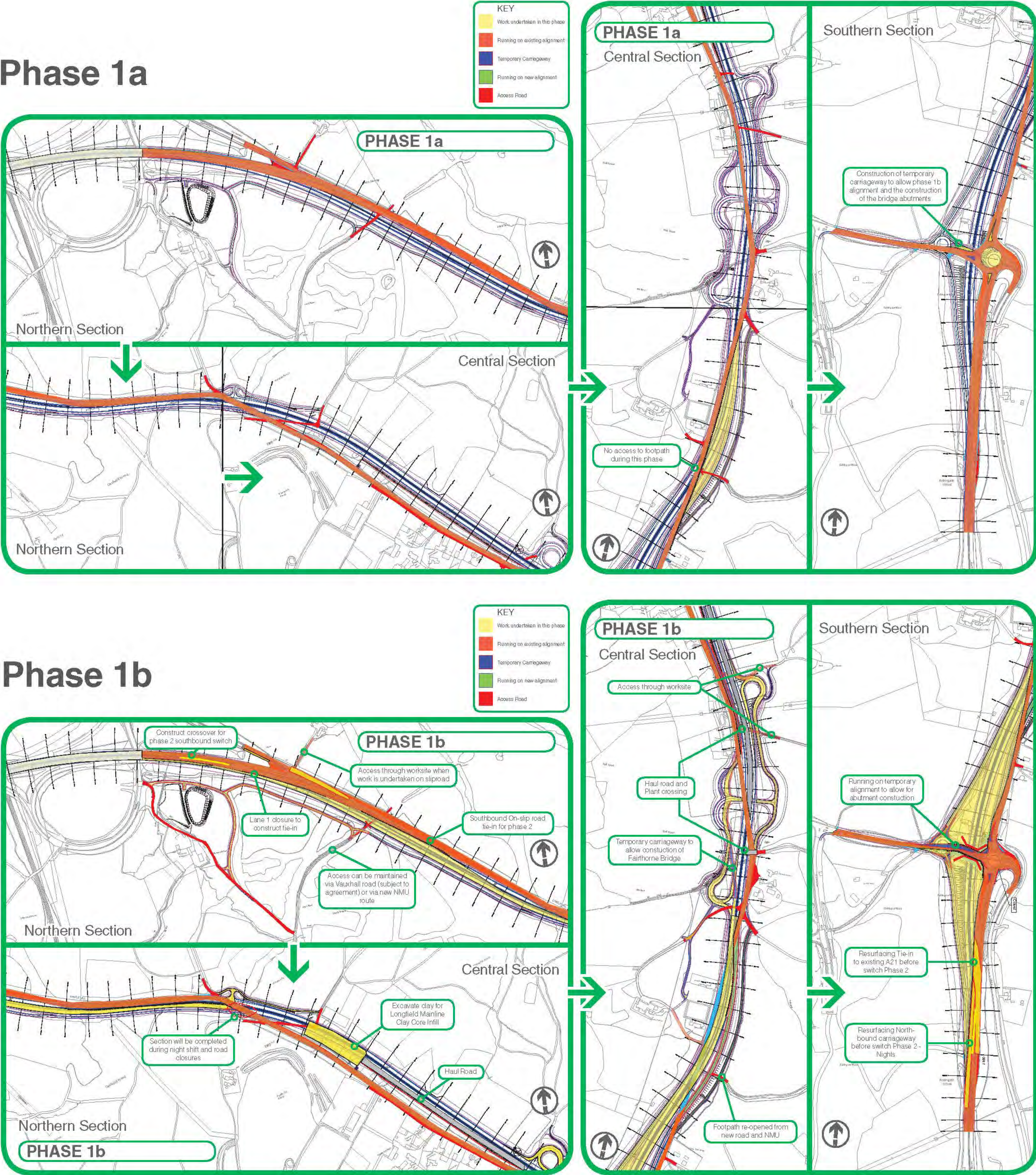
Start of works exhibition
Tonbridge to Pembury

A21
Dualling Scheme

Traffic Phases

To enable the scheme to be constructed in such a way that the traffic flow on the A21 is disrupted as little as possible we will need to move the traffic from time to time.

Early on in the works you will find you are still on the old A21, with our works taking place to one side or the other of the existing road. We will then move you onto some of the newly constructed areas whilst we re-construct or improve the old road. These changes we call traffic switches and the following panels shows some of the major ones we are planning to use.



Start of works exhibition

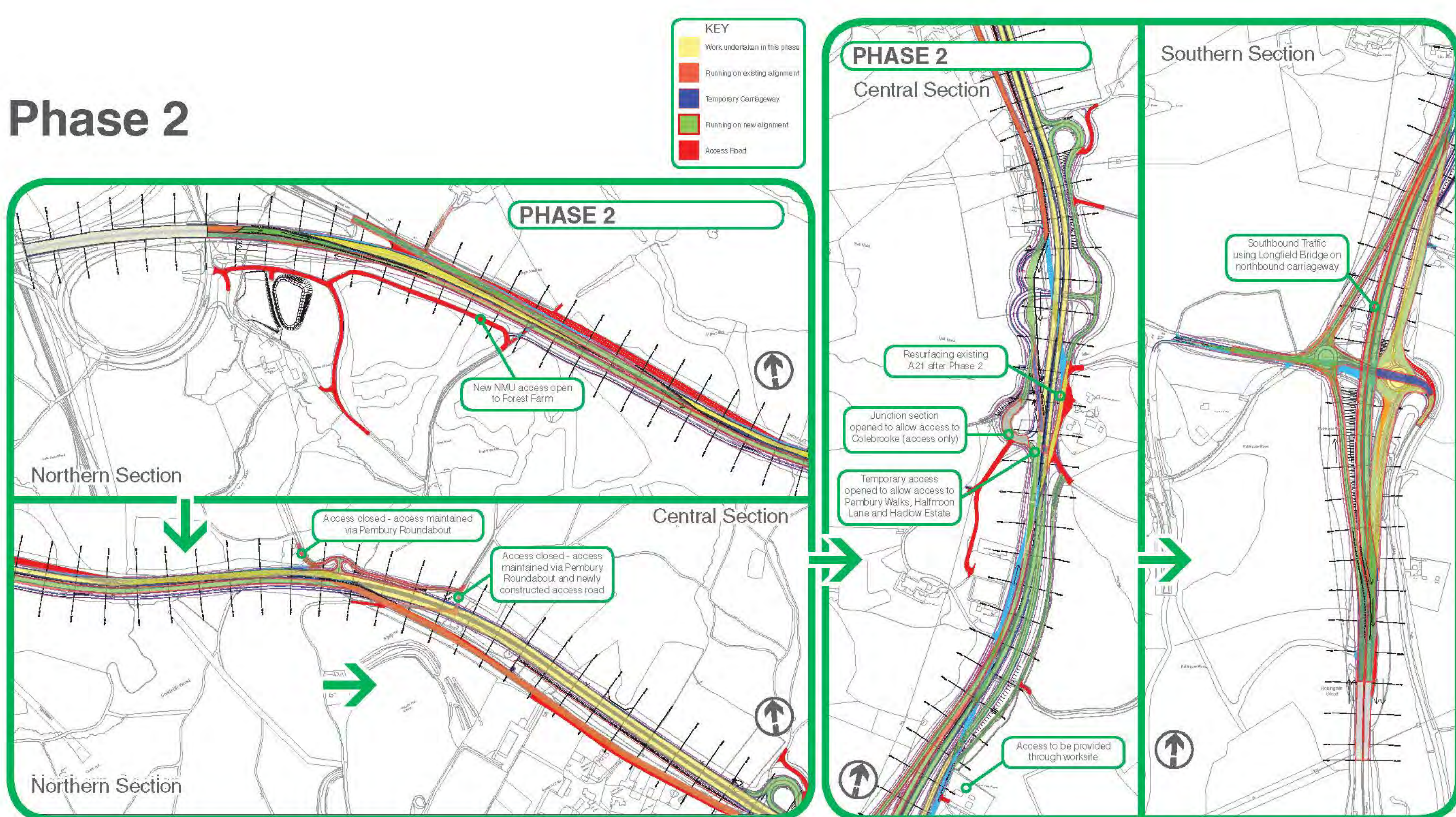
Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

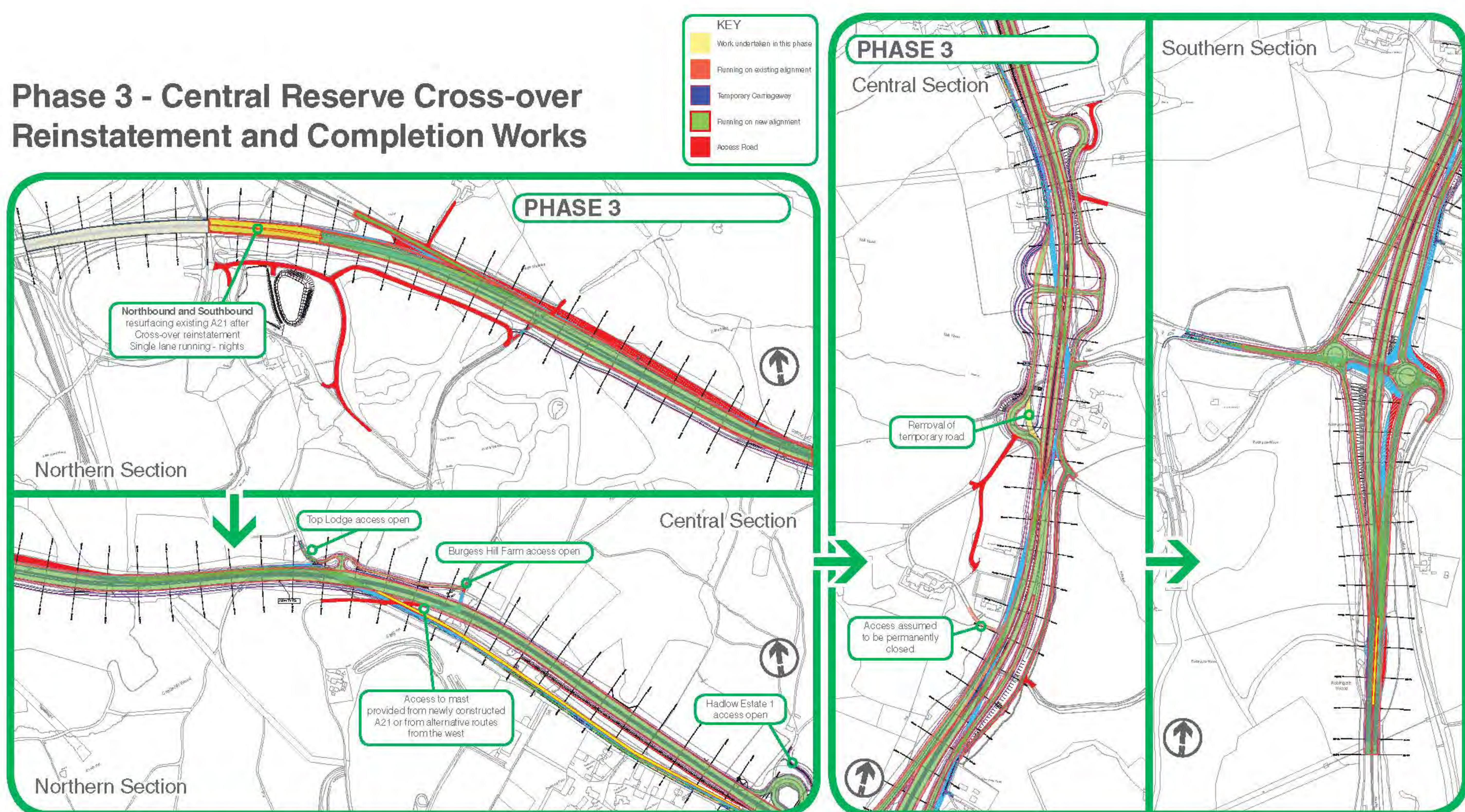
Dualling Scheme

Traffic Phases

Phase 2



Phase 3 - Central Reserve Cross-over Reinstatement and Completion Works



Start of works exhibition Tonbridge to Pembury

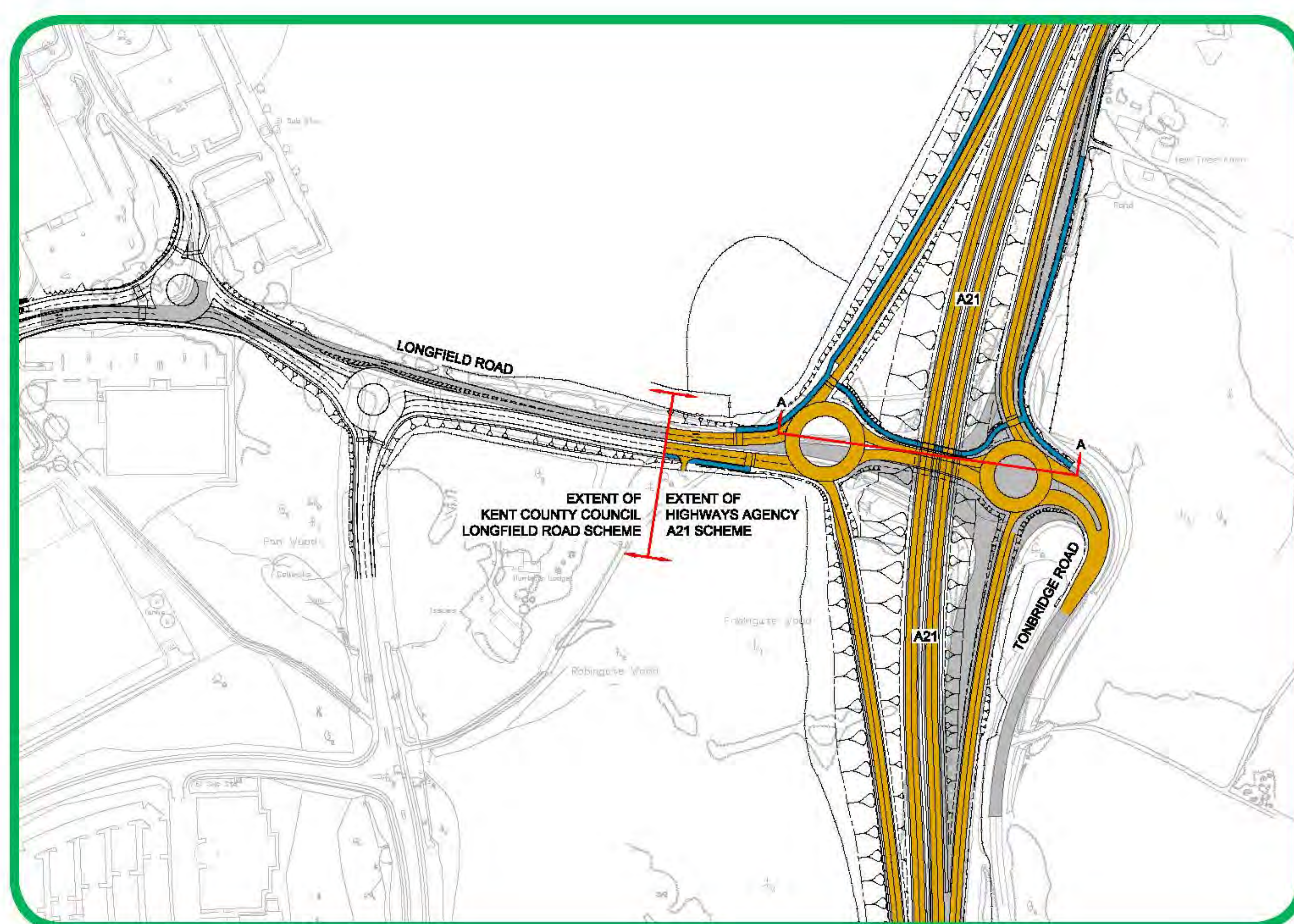
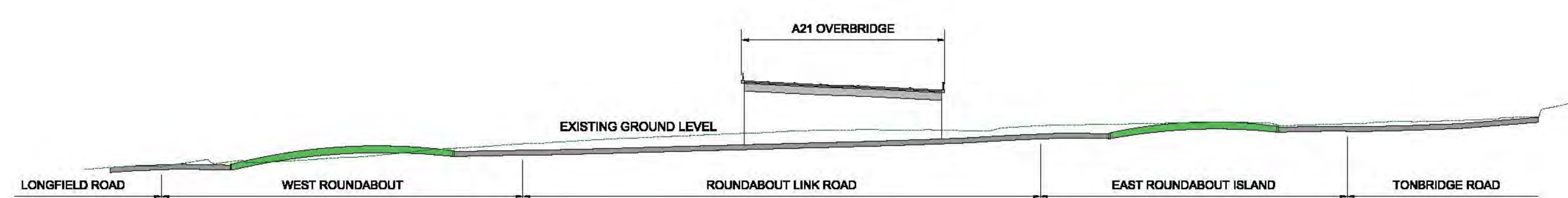
A21

Dualling Scheme

Longfield Road Junction

The major junction with Longfield Road will be an area that we begin working on in January 2015. We are working closely with Kent County Council to ensure that our works are compatible with the Longfield Road scheme to minimise disruption and have agreed that we will not carry out any work on the A21 itself until the 11 January 2015.

We have used a number of layout drawings to try to help you visualise what the new junction will look like and how it will work once completed.



Start of works exhibition Tonbridge to Pembury

A21

Dualling Scheme

Thank you for attending

Thank you for taking the time to visit our exhibition and we hope you found it of interest.

Should you require any further information about the project you can do so by a number of means.

The Highways Agency Website:

You can sign up to receive email updates from our road project page, which is on our website at www.highways.gov.uk

If you wish to write to the project team we can be contacted at the address below.

Email: pam.hobson@balfourbeatty.com

Address:

Balfour Beatty

A21 Project Office,
May Day Farm,
Pembury Road,
Pembury, Kent
TN11 0QG

(please note this is a temporary address until the new year)

You can also get in touch with the Highways Agency by:

Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL):

0300 123 5000

Email:

A21tonbridgepembury@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Address:

Highways Agency

Major Projects,
Room 2A, Federated House,
London Road,
Dorking, Surrey,
RH4 1SZ

HA Project Team

Anne-Marie Palmer

Anne-Marie.Palmer@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Tom Selby

Tom.Selby@highways.gsi.gov.uk