



TRANSPORT
SCOTLAND
CÒMHDHAIL ALBA



A96 Dualling

East of Huntly to Aberdeen

Meet the Team

transport.gov.scot/a96dualling

Welcome

Transport Scotland began its programme of public engagement for the **A96 Dualling Programme** with a series of public exhibitions held in November 2013. At that time, local communities and road users were shown information on the design, development and assessment processes that are to be followed in order to provide a dual carriageway between Inverness and Aberdeen.

Since then we have been increasing our knowledge of the challenges associated with providing a dual carriageway between Inverness and Aberdeen and have developed high-level improvement strategies as part of the very early initial assessment work for the route.

Today's event gives you the opportunity to meet the AmeyArup team, which has been appointed as the consultant to take forward the **A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme**.

Existing A96 crossing of River Don near Inverurie looking eastbound



Transport Scotland officials and AmeyArup representatives will be happy to assist you with any queries you may have.

Introduction – background

Transport Scotland is progressing an ambitious programme that will see the full length of the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen upgraded to dual carriageway by 2030. This is an ambitious target but one that underlines the Scottish Government's commitment to connecting Scotland's cities with a high quality transport system that will generate economic growth.

Along with the Scottish Government's commitment to dual the A9 between Perth and Inverness by 2025, dualling the A96 will ensure the road network between all Scottish cities is of dual carriageway standard by 2030.

Dualling the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen will help tackle congestion in towns along the route, reduce journey times, improve journey time reliability and improve road safety for all those who use this key transport artery connecting two of Scotland's economic hubs.

The existing route is approximately 160km (99 miles) long, of which 138km (86 miles) is single carriageway.

Preliminary Engineering and Strategic Environmental Assessment work for the A96 corridor from east of Nairn to Aberdeen has been carried out. The outcomes of this work was presented at a series of public information exhibitions in May 2015.

To help the next stages of route option assessment and preliminary design, Transport Scotland has sub-divided the route from east of Nairn to Aberdeen into the following sections:

- The Western Section: Extending from the tie-in of the Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme, to the east of Nairn at Hardmuir, to Fochabers, a distance of approximately 46 km (28 miles). Transport Scotland's consultant for this section is Mott McDonald Sweco (MMS).
- The Central Section: Extending from east of Fochabers to east of Huntly - a distance of approximately 30km (19 miles). Route option assessment and preliminary design for this section is expected to begin in 2019.
- The Eastern Section: Extending from east of Huntly to Aberdeen (to the A96 junction with the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR), – a distance of approximately 42km (26 miles). Transport Scotland's consultant for this section is AmeyArup.

The Inverness to Nairn (including Nairn Bypass) scheme also forms part of the A96 Dualling Programme and is being taken forward by Transport Scotland and its consultant, Jacobs.



Why are we here?

In July 2017, following the completion of the Preliminary Engineering and Strategic Environmental Assessment work, Transport Scotland appointed consultants AmeyArup to take forward route option assessment and design work on the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme.

Since its appointment, AmeyArup has been mobilising its design and assessment teams and has started consultation with statutory bodies.

This **‘Meet the Team’** event gives you an opportunity to meet the Transport Scotland and AmeyArup team members who are working on the scheme, and allows you to find out more about the process that will be followed to progress the design and assessment work.

i Keeping local communities, landowners, stakeholders and members of the public informed is an essential and integral part of the design and assessment process. As the scheme progresses we will provide you with updates and hold public events, allowing you to have your say and provide us with your comments and feedback.

01. A96 HGV platooning East of Huntly
02. A96 Blackhall Roundabout looking west



01



02

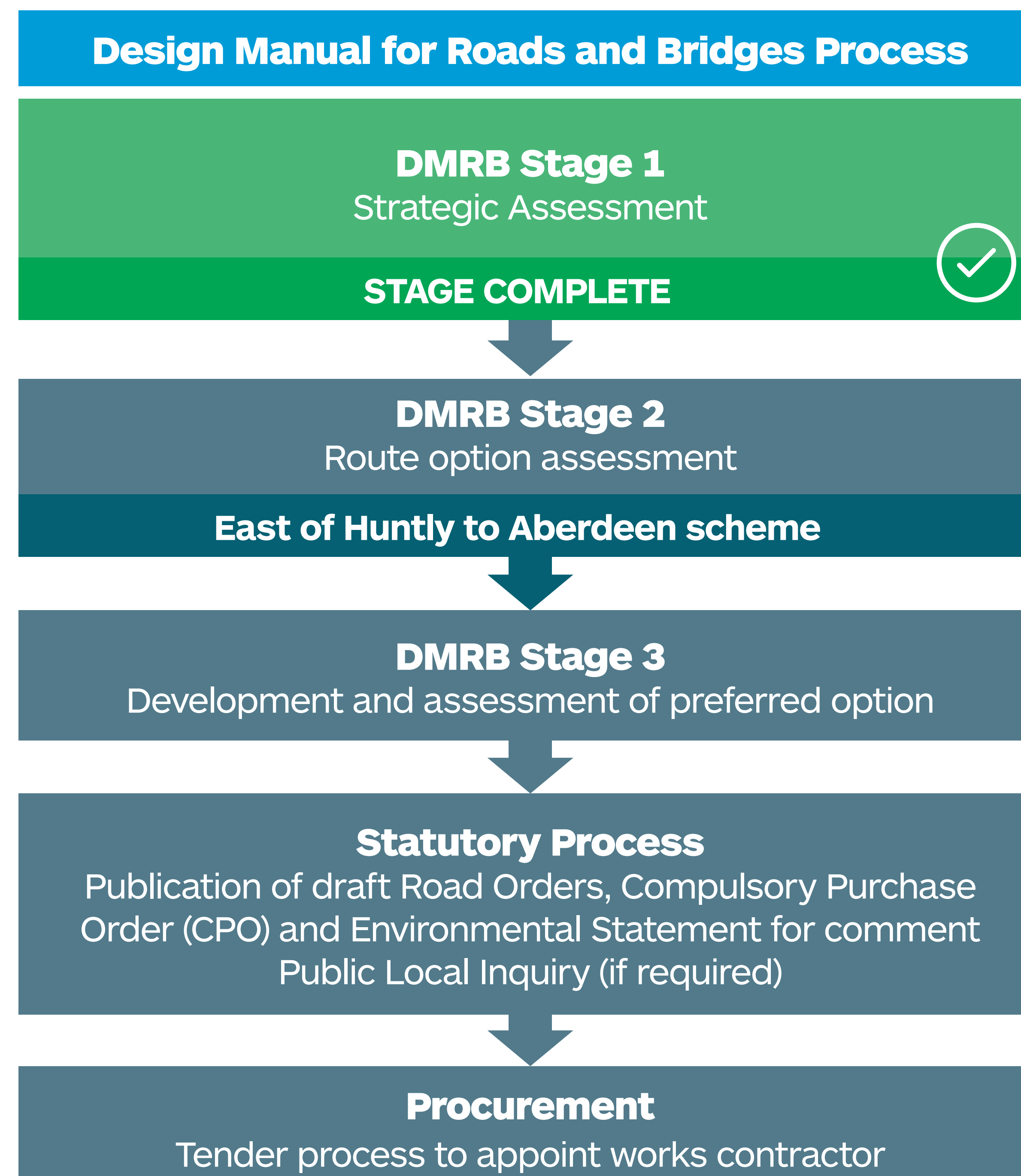
Scheme assessment process

Transport Scotland carries out a well-established three-stage assessment process to determine the preferred route for a trunk road improvement project. This is based on the standard of good practice set by the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), which covers environmental, engineering, traffic and economic considerations.

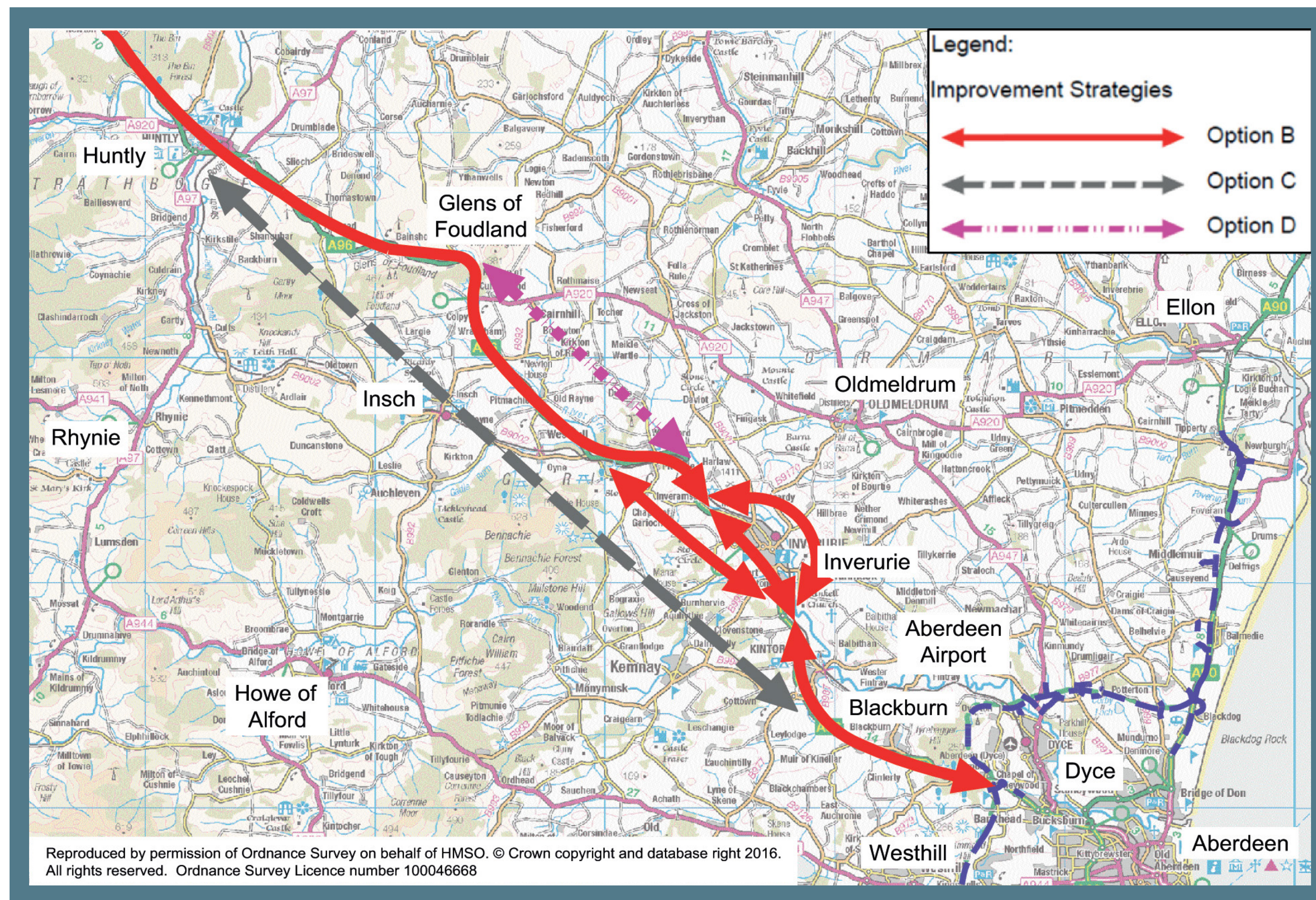
Throughout this process, Transport Scotland will continue to consult with local communities, landowners and a large number of stakeholders and interested parties.

The DMRB Stage 1 Assessment of the A96 Dualling east of Nairn to Aberdeen is complete, with the outcomes presented at a series of public exhibitions in May 2015.

The DMRB Stage 2 (Route Options Development and Assessment) has begun for the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme and is expected to take approximately 24 months to complete.



DMRB Stage 1 Assessment – improvement strategies



As part of the DMRB Stage 1 Assessment preliminary work, a range of broadly defined improvement strategies that could provide a dual carriageway between east of Nairn and Aberdeen were developed and assessed.

These improvement strategies were different high-level approaches to providing a dual carriageway, for example a bypass north or south of towns along the existing A96. They did not represent specific corridors or route alignments.

As part of the DMRB Stage 2 Assessment, route options will now be developed and assessed for the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme.

Developing the scheme design

DMRB Stage 2 Assessment

AmeyArup is taking forward the development and assessment of route options for the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme.

This will include an engineering, traffic, economic and environmental assessment of the potential impacts of each option to inform a preferred option choice.

During this stage of assessment, the route options under consideration will also be presented to members of the public for their feedback before the selection of a preferred option. It is expected that it will take approximately 24 months of assessment to identify the preferred option for the scheme.

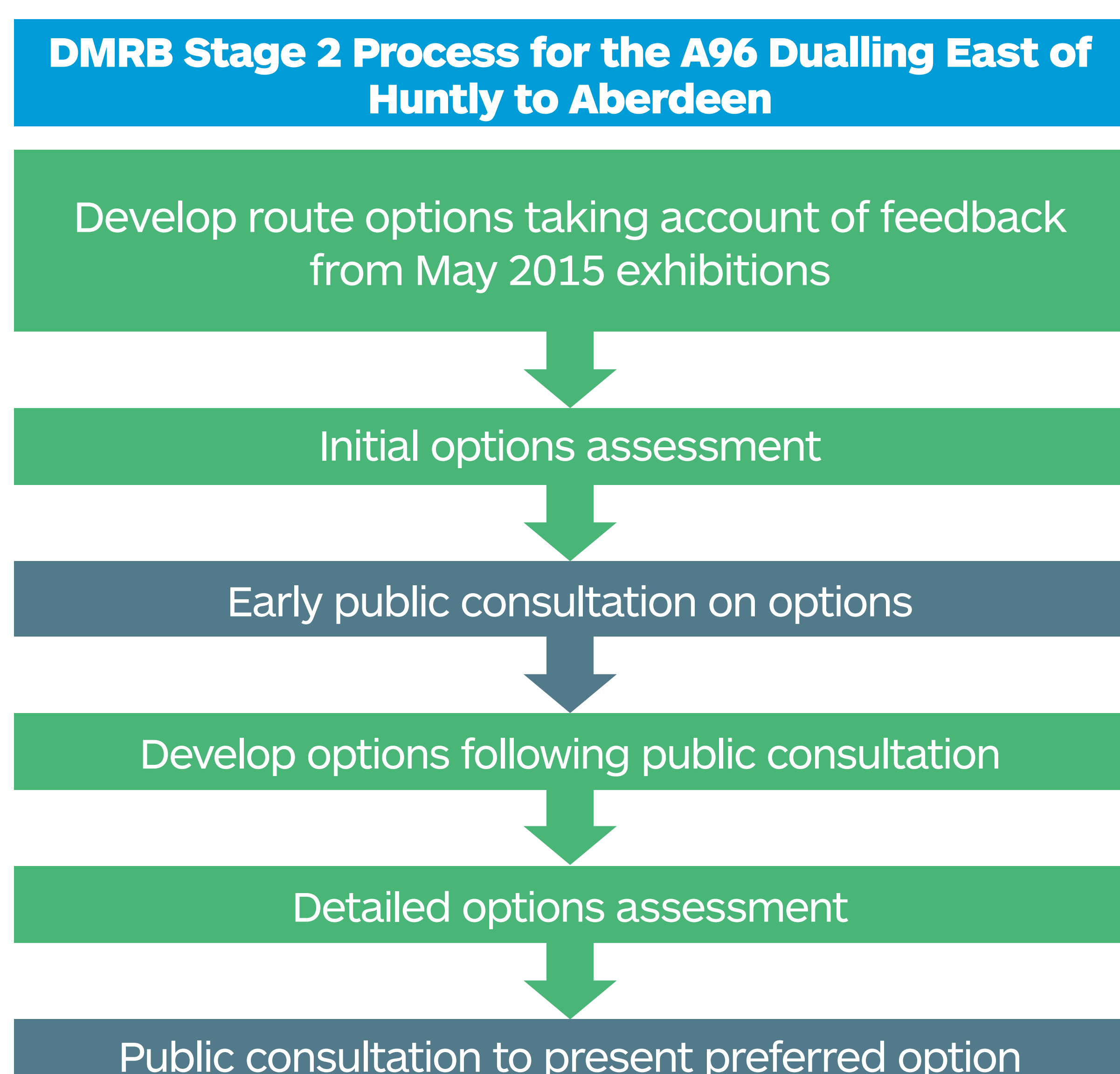
We will use the feedback received after the May 2015 exhibitions to help inform the development of route options. As part of the assessment process, we will consult with members of the local community, stakeholders, landowners and members of the public to seek their vital feedback on the route options. This feedback will be considered, along with the engineering, traffic, economic and environmental assessment of potential impacts associated with each route option. These factors will inform the selection of the preferred option.

AmeyArup will gather information over the coming months about the state of the environment in the area to enable the design development and environmental assessment of route options.

DMRB Stage 3 Assessment

Following selection of the preferred option, the design will be further developed and assessed with an Environmental Statement prepared and the land required for the scheme identified. The draft Statutory Orders will be prepared for publication at the same time as the Environmental Statement.

To inform the design development and environmental impact assessment of the scheme, AmeyArup will also carry out surveys, such as ground investigation surveys, in the coming years, which will allow the preliminary design of new earthworks and structures such as retaining walls and bridges. During ground investigation surveys, boreholes and trial pits will be used to investigate both soils, and the underlying rock.



Non-Motorised User (NEMU) provision

Non-Motorised Users (NMUs) include pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians. They may be recreational users of the route or active travellers and daily commuters.

Suitable provision for NMUs is an important part of the A96 Dualling Programme and the East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme. Provision for NMUs will be included as part of consultation with local communities, members of the public and interest groups, with appropriate measures being included as part of design developed for DMRB Stage 3 Assessment.

In line with the overall NEMU strategy for the A96 Dualling Programme, we will consider NEMU needs along the trunk road corridor. This includes an examination of existing facilities and likely future demand, so that potential issues can be identified and associated measures can be taken into account as the scheme develops.

A96 cyclist on carriageway



Stakeholder and community engagement



Bonny Pailing

Managing and coordinating public engagement, and ongoing dialogue on the A96 East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme, will be the responsibility of AmeyArup Stakeholder Coordinator, Bonny Pailing.

Bonny is committed to ensuring that Transport Scotland's principles for community engagement are followed throughout the lifetime of the scheme. Bonny will be supported by a team with experience of working with the local community and stakeholders in the area.



Billy Gordon

Billy Gordon is the Landowner and Communities Manager, who is based in the AmeyArup office in Thainstone, Inverurie. Billy will consult with landowners and tenants throughout the design process for the scheme, including agreeing access arrangements for surveys.

Contact details:

Should you wish to contact AmeyArup, details of the Stakeholder Team are:

Stakeholder Coordinator

Bonny Pailing

Tel: **01467 672500**

Email: **bonny.pailing@arup.com**

Landowner and Communities Manager

Billy Gordon

Tel: **01467 672500**

Email: **billy.gordon@amey.co.uk**

By Post

AmeyArup, Office 7, Thainstone Business Centre,
Thainstone, Inverurie, AB51 5TB

Stakeholder and community engagement for the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme will be guided by our **A96 Dualling Engaging with Communities** document, which is available to view on the Programme website:

transport.gov.scot/a96dualling

What happens next?

The AmeyArup team is assessing the existing available information and is identifying areas where more information needs to be collected, before it develops route options over the coming months. The team is also compiling a list of stakeholders (for example, community, local authority and environmental groups) who they will consult with during the assessment process.

Transport Scotland will give members of the public the opportunity to comment on route options later in 2018 to ensure that all stakeholders and interested parties have the opportunity to provide their comments and feedback on the options which are being considered.

All of the information presented at today's **'Meet the Team'** event is available on the A96 Dualling East of Huntly to Aberdeen scheme website:

www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a96-dualling-inverness-to-aberdeen/a96-east-of-huntly-to-aberdeen/

Information on the wider A96 Dualling Inverness to Aberdeen Programme can be found at:

www.transport.gov.scot/a96dualling



01. A96 at Bainshole looking west

02. A96 at Blackburn looking east