

Aviemore to Carrbridge

Non-Motorised User (NMTU) Route Study Options Appraisal

Virtual public exhibition

November 2020



transport.gov.scot/ACNMU

Introduction

This leaflet provides a summary of the options appraisal virtual exhibition material for the Aviemore to Carrbridge Non-Motorised User Route Study Options Appraisal. It outlines the background to the study, presents the route options developed from the baseline assessment, explains the appraisal process and what the next steps for the study are.

It provides information on how you can provide your comments and feedback on the proposals.

A feedback form is available at the virtual exhibition or from the Transport Scotland website transport.gov.scot/ACNMU



Webinar

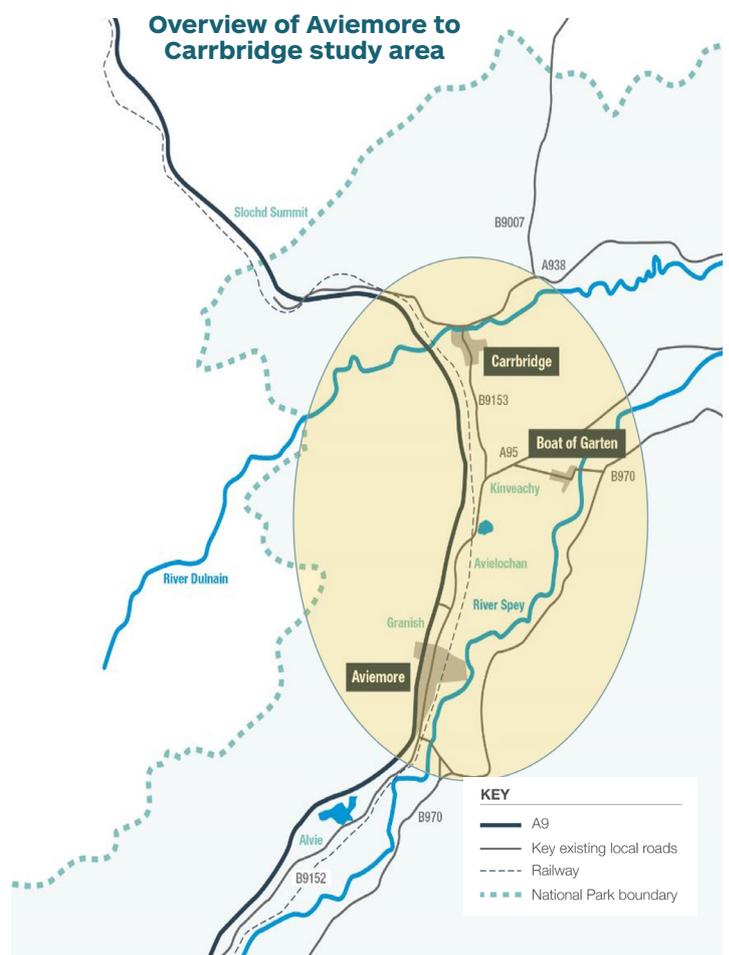
As well as the virtual exhibition, Transport Scotland and its consultant, Atkins Mouchel Joint Venture (AMJV) will be hosting a **live webinar on 24 November 2020 at 5pm** to explain aspects of the project in more detail and answer any queries you may have.

A video recording of the webinar will be available to view on the Transport Scotland website following the live event. Please register your interest for this event at transport.gov.scot/ACNMU

Overview

In recognition of the Scottish Government's commitment to active travel in Scotland, Transport Scotland is taking forward a route study to consider Non-Motorised User (NMU) routes between the communities of Aviemore and Carrbridge.

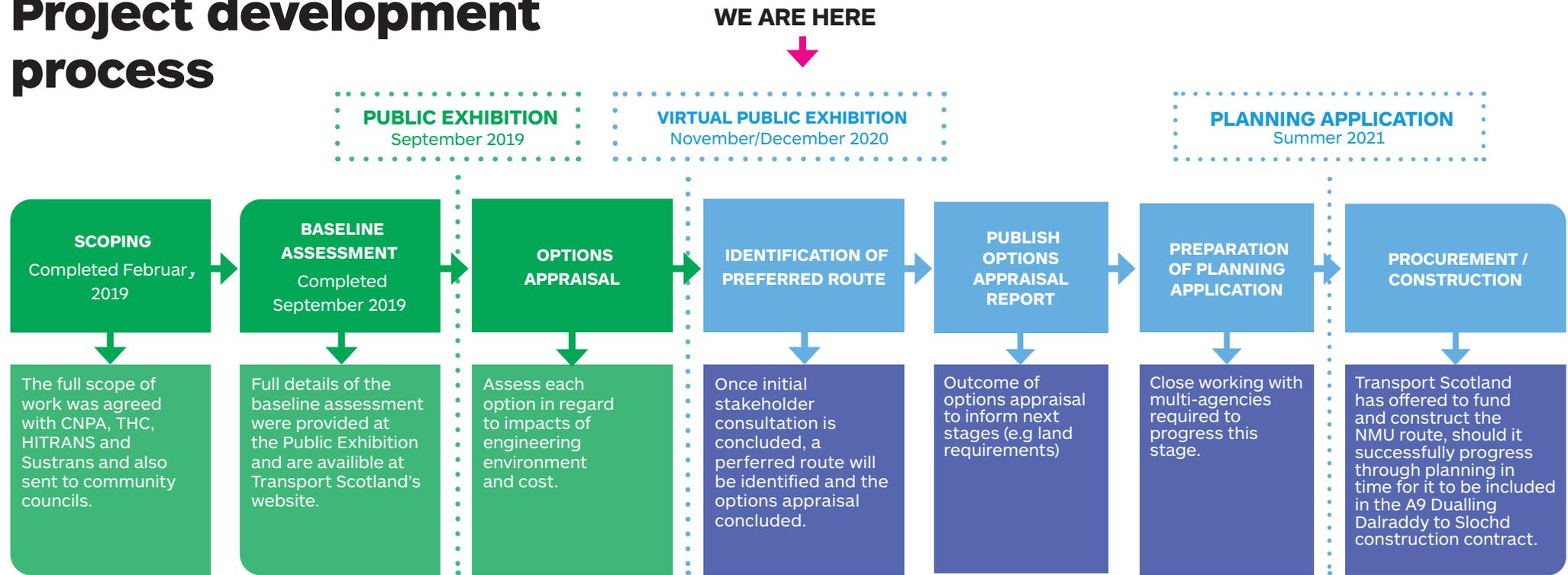
Transport Scotland has been working closely with the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), The Highland Council (THC), Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) and Sustrans on this route study since early 2019.



The NMU route study is being progressed separately to the A9 Dualling project.

Prepared in consultation with:

Project development process



Baseline assessment and options appraisal route options

The baseline assessment concluded that Corridors 3 and 6 should progress to the options appraisal stage. A copy of the Baseline Assessment Report is available to view at transport.gov.scot/ACNMU

The purpose of the options appraisal stage is to develop Corridors 3 and 6 which were identified in the baseline assessment to a level of detail which will allow a robust

assessment of these options and for a preferred route to be identified.

The common sections of Corridors 3 and 6 have been identified as the 'Orange Route'. The rest of Corridor 3 has been identified as the 'Blue Route' and the rest of Corridor 6 has been identified as the 'Purple Route'. Some sub-options were developed for the Blue and Orange Routes.

The appraisal process will assess the sub-options

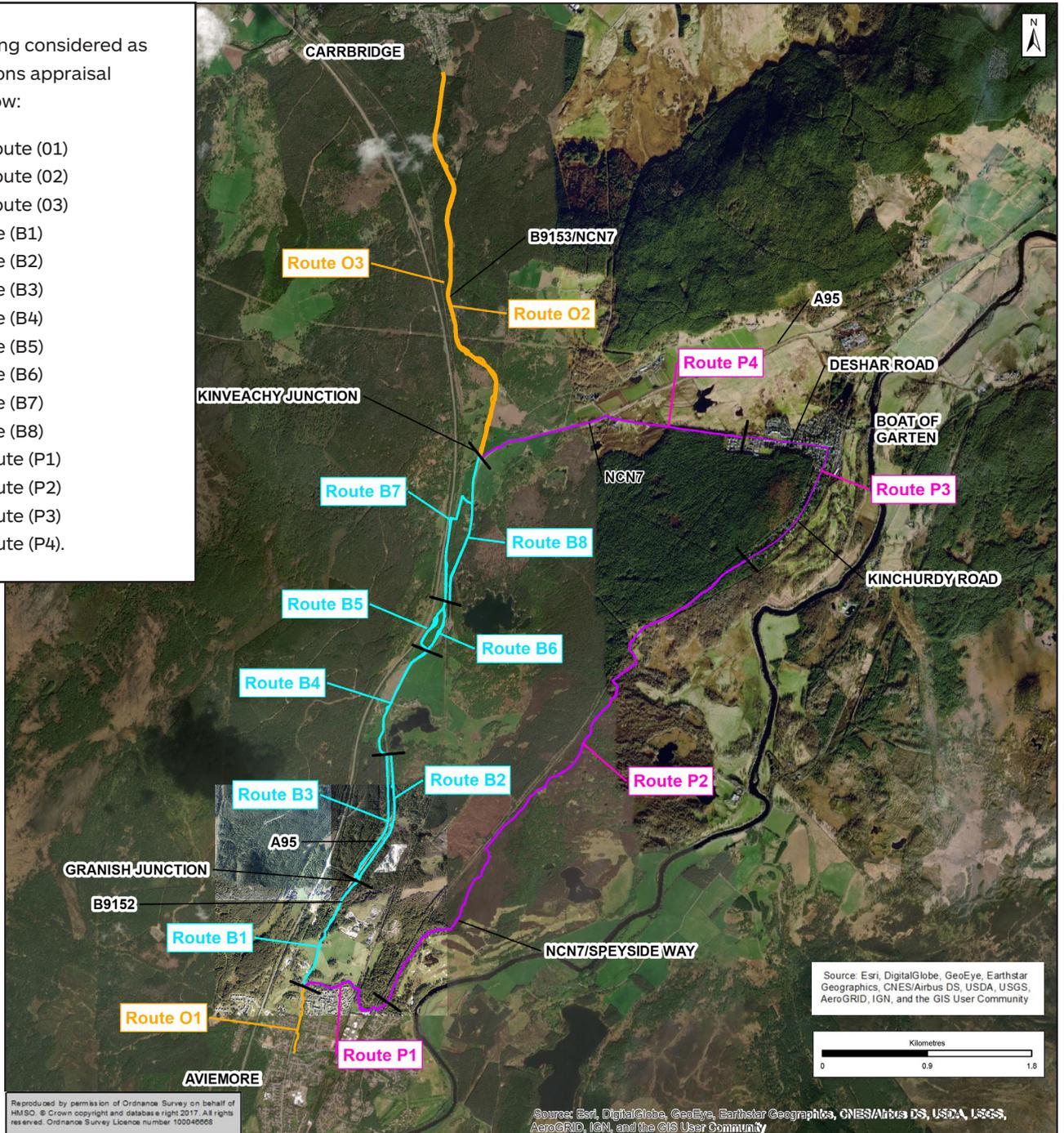
against criteria including engineering, environmental and other factors to define a final blue and orange route. This route will then be assessed against the purple route using the same criteria to determine the preferred route.

You can view the options appraisal, criteria, and design principles on the exhibition panel PDF or inside the virtual exhibition room at transport.gov.scot/ACNMU

Baseline assessment and options appraisal route options

The options being considered as part of the options appraisal include the below:

- Orange Route (O1)
- Orange Route (O2)
- Orange Route (O3)
- Blue Route (B1)
- Blue Route (B2)
- Blue Route (B3)
- Blue Route (B4)
- Blue Route (B5)
- Blue Route (B6)
- Blue Route (B7)
- Blue Route (B8)
- Purple Route (P1)
- Purple Route (P2)
- Purple Route (P3)
- Purple Route (P4)



To view the key information about each of the options and the associated plans, please look at on the exhibition panel PDF or visit the virtual exhibition room at transport.gov.scot/ACNMU

Environmental assessment

Desk-based environmental studies were completed as part of the earlier baseline assessment and options appraisal.

Field surveys (following strict biosecurity protocols) are ongoing to map habitats and identify the presence of protected and other priority species. These will inform the next stages of environmental assessment.

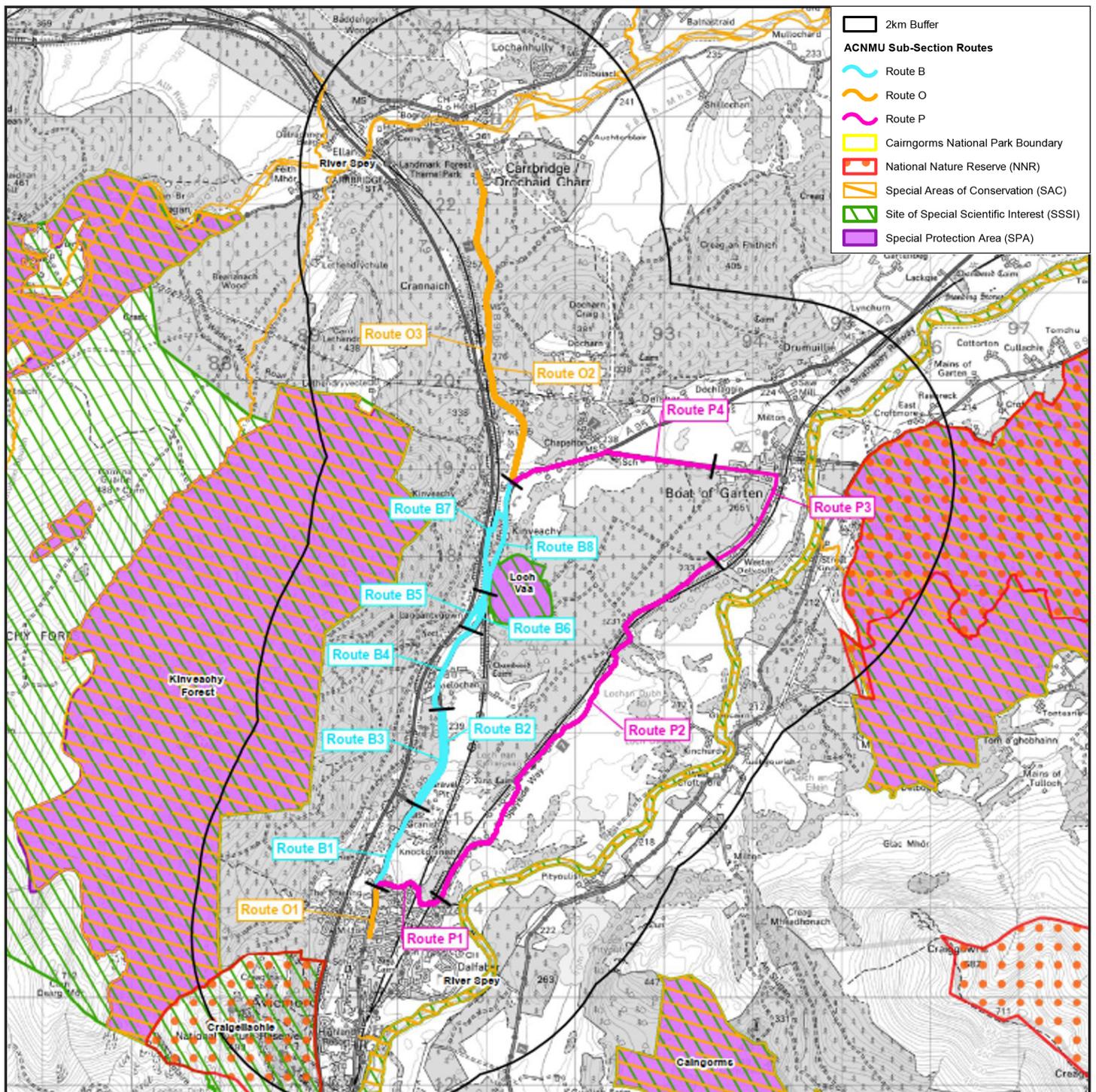
Key ecological considerations include the presence of internationally important designated sites, capercaillie and other protected species and Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) sites.

Potential effects on surface water resources (including flood

risk), landscape character, visual receptors, and heritage assets, amongst other aspects, are also being examined. Examples include: Avielochan Pond and Alt na Criche, South Avielochan, Alt Cnapach and Feith Mhor watercourses.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening will be carried out to determine the requirement for EIA.

Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) screening will also be carried out, given the presence of Natura 2000 sites including Loch Vaa Special Protection Area (SPA) and Kinveachy Forest SPA and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



What happens next?

Following the consultation period, your feedback will be considered, and the options appraisal will be concluded.

A preferred route will be announced early in 2021 and the Options Appraisal Report will be published on the Transport Scotland website.

An outline design for the preferred route will then be developed to a sufficient level of detail to determine the extent of land required.

Transport Scotland will continue to engage with potentially affected landowners to discuss the potential for the acquisition of land or rights by agreement.

Transport Scotland will continue to work closely with Cairngorms National Park Authority, The Highland Council, The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership and Sustrans and will be seeking to submit a planning application in Summer 2021.

Transport Scotland has committed to include the Aviemore to Carrbridge NMU route in the A9 Dualling construction contract if all the necessary land and planning requirements are in place.

Comments and feedback

Transport Scotland welcomes your comments and feedback. Please take time to consider the information presented and provide any comments you may have as soon as possible and by:

18 December 2020

Your vital feedback will be considered during the options appraisal. Your feedback can be submitted in one of the following ways:

- A feedback form submitted via the button above the desk within the virtual exhibition room
- A feedback form can be downloaded and completed electronically or printed from the Transport Scotland website at the following link transport.gov.scot/ACNMU and submitted by email or post to the addresses.

Should you have any specific accessibility requirements, the summary overview leaflet, feedback form and information panels can be made available in alternative formats on request by contacting the project team.

Please email your comments to: **ACNMU@wsp.com**

Or alternatively please post to: **FREEPOST WSP**

Questions

If you want to hear more about the options or have any questions, please register for our live webinar which will take place on **24 November 2020 at 5pm** where the project team will be happy to explain aspects of the project in more detail and answer any queries you may have. Registration details are on transport.gov.scot/ACNMU

You can also call our stakeholder team on **0755 717 2747** from **9am to 5pm (Monday to Friday)** where a member of the team will take your details and questions and if necessary, arrange for a relevant expert to return your call.

About your comments and feedback

Transport Scotland will consider your comments and feedback as part of their further design development and assessment of the scheme, and all submissions will be shared with our consultants. We may also use your submission to inform future reports or public documents related to this scheme.

If you choose to provide contact details with your submission, Transport Scotland will be able to send you updates about the scheme, for example invitations to future public engagement events. If you wish us to do so, please provide your consent when contacting us. You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the project team.

The provision of contact details is optional and your comments will still be considered if provided anonymously. However, Transport Scotland will be unable to respond to you directly if you choose not to provide these details.

