

A595  
Improvement  
Bothel

Public  
Consultation





## How to respond to the consultation

**The consultation is open until Friday 7 December 2018.** Information about the potential improvement is included in this document.

You can respond to the consultation in a number of different ways:

- Respond on line at [cumbria.gov.uk/A595Bothel](http://cumbria.gov.uk/A595Bothel)
- Complete and return the paper questionnaire at the end of the document to **FREEPOST CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**
- Attend a public consultation event

A series of drop-in consultation events will provide an opportunity to review the potential improvements and speak with members of the team who can provide further detail.

The drop-in events will be held in Bothel Village Hall, Bothel Cross Lonning CA7 2HS

**Wednesday 14 November between 3pm and 7pm**

**Saturday 17 November between 10am and 2pm**

For more information or to comment, visit [cumbria.gov.uk/A595Bothel](http://cumbria.gov.uk/A595Bothel)

Email: [A595Bothel@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:A595Bothel@cumbria.gov.uk)

## The Challenge in Cumbria

A reliable and resilient road network is essential to facilitate the delivery of investment in Cumbria to support economic growth and create jobs.

The A595 is a primary route in North Cumbria providing a vital, direct link from Carlisle, the North East and Scotland to and from West Cumbria and onwards to the A66 / M6.

The significance of the corridor is reflected by the amount of traffic which uses the northern section of the A595 which accommodates 11,000 vehicles per day with nearly 10% of the total being HGV movements. In addition, traffic movements are expected to grow by an extra 20% by 2030. This clearly denotes the strategic importance of the A595 corridor.

However, the A595 corridor is constrained by variable highway geometry which means that forward views are obstructed by hills and bends and there is a lack of overtaking opportunities. Road safety is also a concern. These factors have an impact on the reliability and resilience of the A595 and journey times along the route.



## What is Cumbria County Council trying to do to meet this challenge?

Previous study work (the West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study – August 2016) undertaken by the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, in partnership with Highways England and Cumbria County Council concluded that the A595 in the vicinity of Bothel required improvement to ensure that this link was fit for purpose to help grow a strong economy and support job creation.

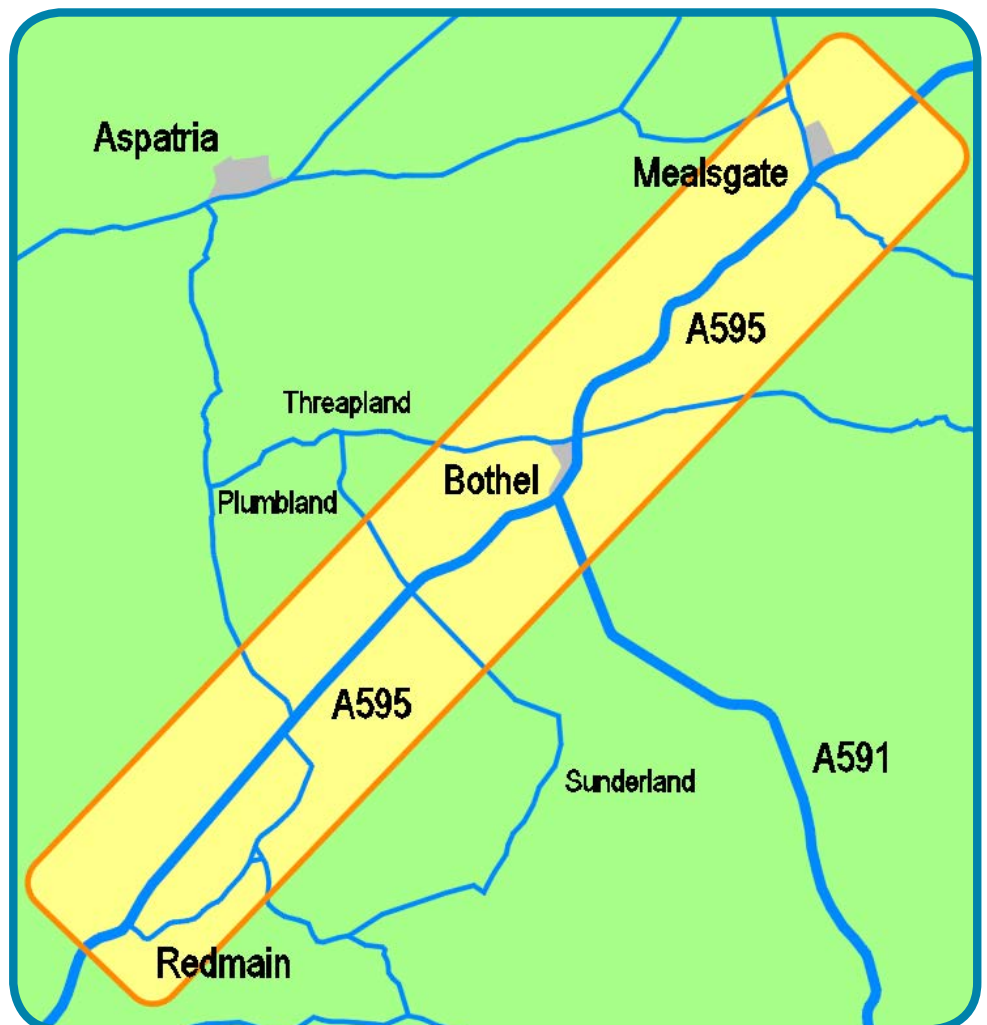
As a result of the West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study, Cumbria County Council are undertaking more detailed study work to develop a potential improvement scheme on the A595 in the vicinity of Bothel. This current study is looking at what is needed to support the strategic function and importance of the A595 to the Cumbrian economy.

The objectives of the potential improvement are to:

- Support economic growth in Cumbria by improving journey times on the A595
- Improve the connectivity of the A595 to make it more suitable for freight traffic accessing existing and proposed major developments
- Improve network resilience and the quality of journeys
- Improve safety for road users along the A595 corridor
- Minimise adverse impacts on the environment and reduce carbon emissions

Aligned to the current study, Cumbria County Council is also asking Government to include this section of the A595 in the Major Road Network (MRN). Under these proposals, the local roads which perform a strategic function would have the opportunity to secure funding from a dedicated new funding stream being established by Government.

The current study will be used to prepare a business case which will be used to seek Government funding. It is important to note that the potential improvements will only be delivered if Government funding is secured.



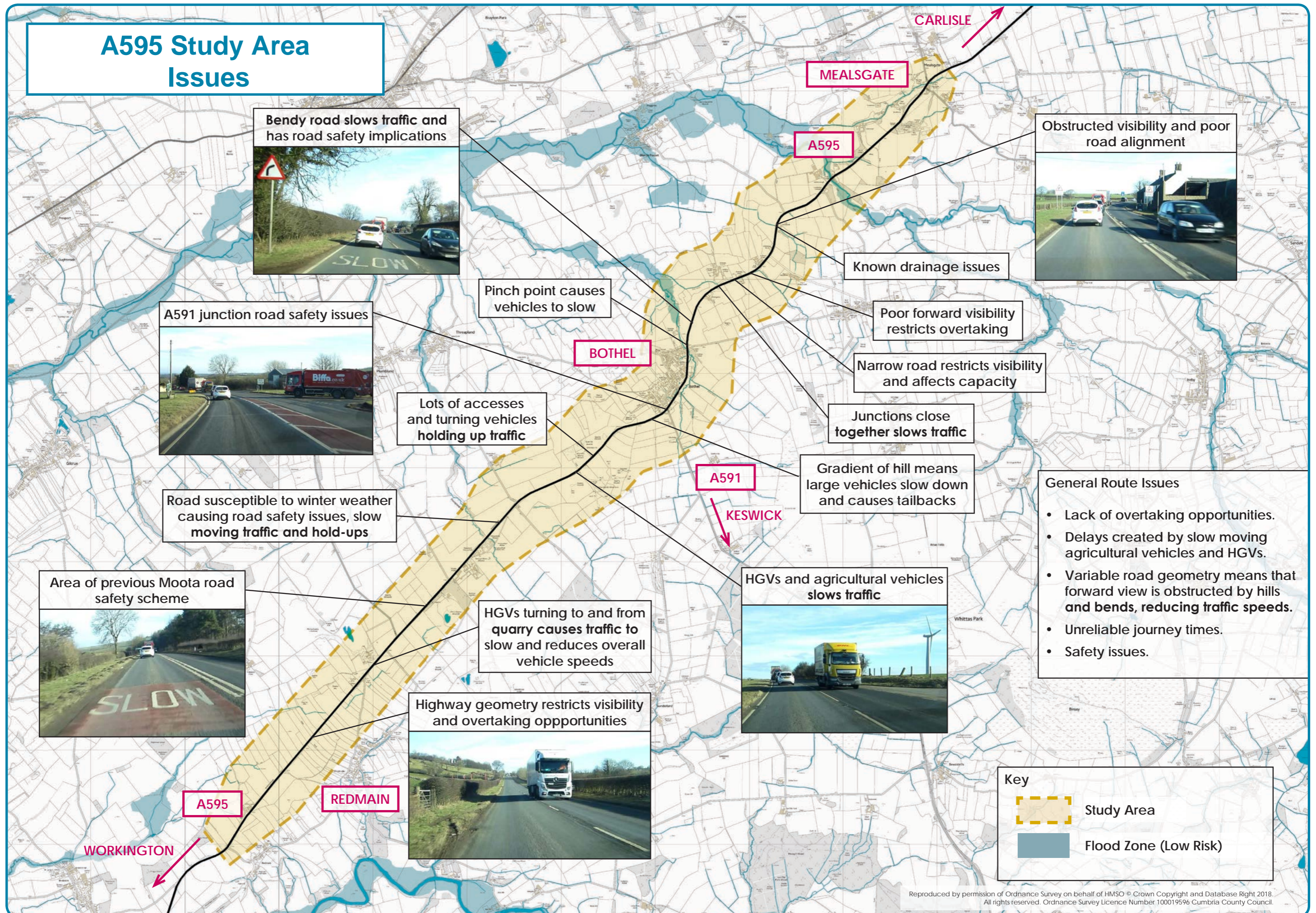
Study Area

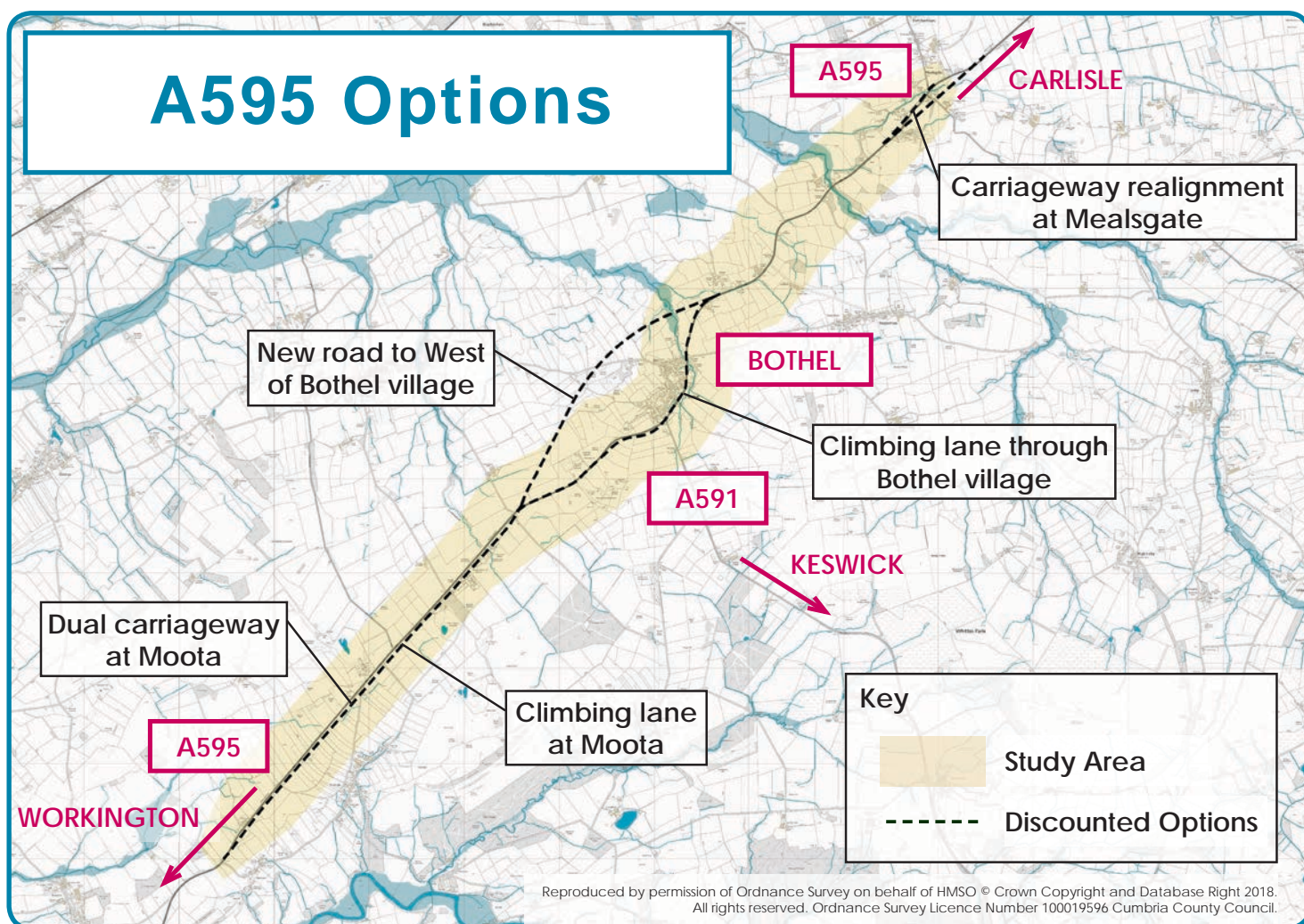
## What have we done so far?

Cumbria County Council reviewed existing information and carried out a high level assessment of the study area to identify the key issues. This included:

- **Reviewing the previous study work** - we considered the West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study and agreed the objectives for this project, which established a basis on which to resolve the issues on this section of the highway.
- **Considering the accident data for the last five years.**
- **Assessing the existing traffic flow and journey times.**
- **Undertaking traffic count surveys** - to quantify the number and type of vehicles using the A595 and to record the number of turning movements at junctions.
- **Reviewing land use planning documents** - allocations in local development plans and planning applications were checked to see if there were any developments which would impact on consideration of options.
- **Assessing the physical constraints:**
  - o Ecology and Environmental – a review of statutory environmental designations within the vicinity
  - o Utilities – we requested information from the statutory undertakers
  - o Water management and drainage assessment – which identified through discussions with the Lead Local Flood Authority that new drainage may need to be provided as part of the detailed design of the potential improvement
  - o Environment Agency flood zone data was checked
  - o Topographic survey of the area – the existing ground levels were surveyed. This confirmed the variable nature of the existing A595 highway geometry
- **Carrying out a geotechnical desktop assessment**
- **Investigating land ownership**
- **Holding workshops with the highway teams and Connect Roads** - so we could hear what the local technical experts thought was needed to improve the network.







## What options has Cumbria County Council considered?

The study area has been subject to a high level assessment, using the information and observations outlined above.

An important consideration when developing what would be the most appropriate improvement is the likely cost and the level of benefits it would achieve. This is a key consideration when developing the case for funding.

The following improvements were considered but discounted:

- Dual Carriageway at Moota**

The simplest method of improving capacity would be to provide a dual carriageway on the Moota straight. But this option would not significantly improve already high vehicle speeds for this stretch of road. This would require substantial land take and lead to significant impacts for existing landowners and occupiers of land. This option would also have detrimental visual and environmental impacts on the area. The costs of such an improvement are extremely high and it would deliver only marginally better benefits compared to other options.
- Climbing Lane at Moota**

Various climbing lane options on the Moota straight have been considered which would provide additional overtaking opportunities. This stretch of the highway is predominantly straight in nature already with existing high vehicle speeds. A climbing lane in this location would not significantly improve journey times. This option does not offer significant additional benefits in return for relatively large costs.



- **A new road to the west of Bothel**

Whilst a new road to the west of Bothel with a dual or wide single carriageway would provide improved capacity and better journey times it would have a large visual and environmental impacts locally. These benefits do not outweigh the substantial construction costs making it difficult to demonstrate value for money.

- **Climbing lane through Bothel Village**

Providing a climbing lane on the A595 adjacent to Bothel village would improve overtaking opportunities, but would have unacceptable road safety implications, given the number of residential accesses on this stretch of the road. It would also impact more significantly on these properties in Bothel which are already close to the existing road.

- **Carriageway realignment at Mealsgate**

Two options were considered at Mealsgate, including on-line alterations to the existing carriageway and a new off-line section of carriageway to the east of Mealsgate. Neither option resulted in significant improvements and the new section may have required the demolition of residential outbuildings.

## The Potential Improvements

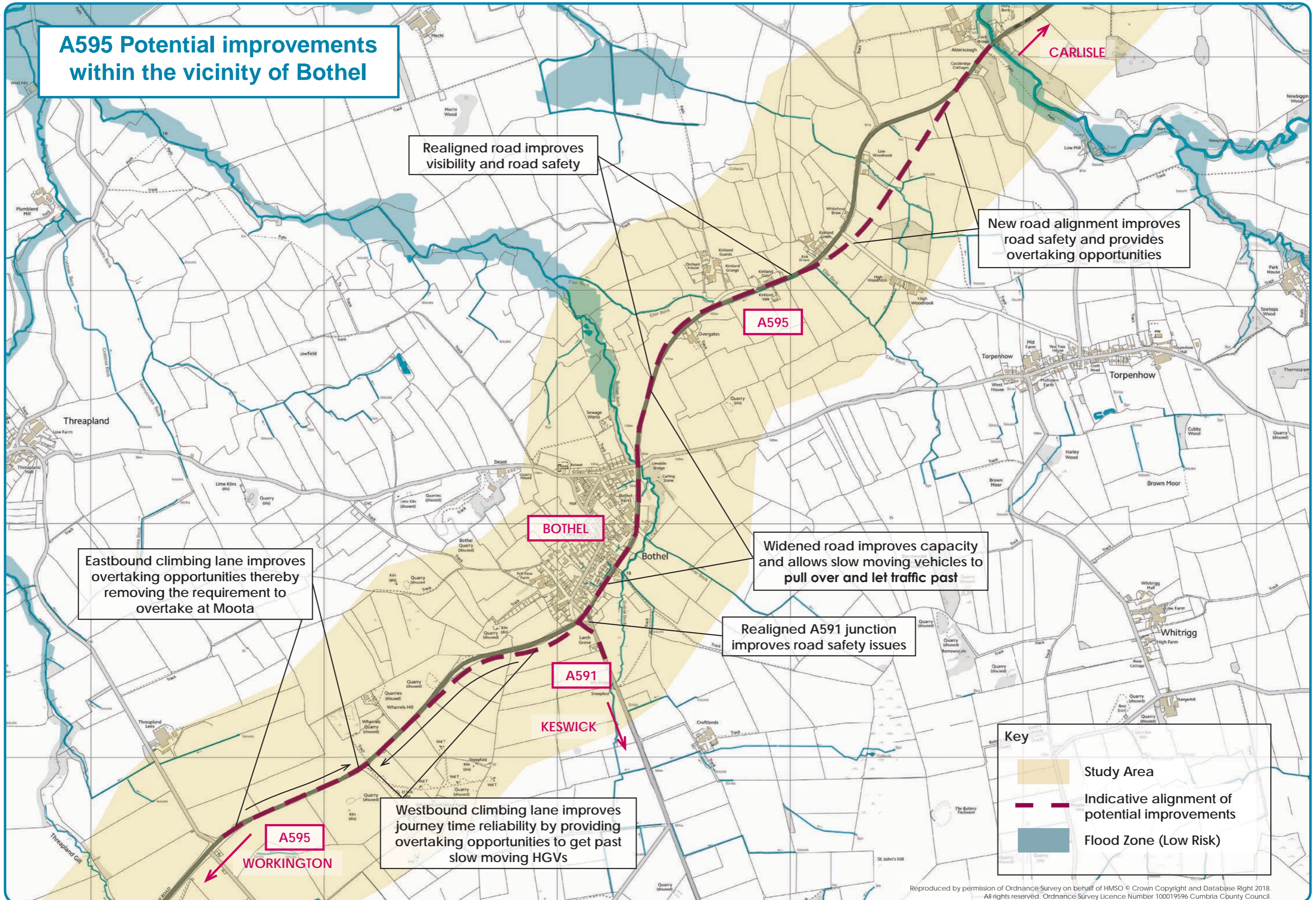
The options which were considered the most appropriate and taken forward as part of this consultation include:

- Westbound and eastbound climbing lanes to the south west of Bothel village
- A reconfigured junction at the A595/A591
- Road widening and local realignment to reduce bends at Kirkland and north of Bothel
- A new off-line road alignment south of Low Woodnook between Kirkland Green and Aldersceugh

It is considered that these potential improvements provide the optimum benefits against costs and are the most likely to secure funding.

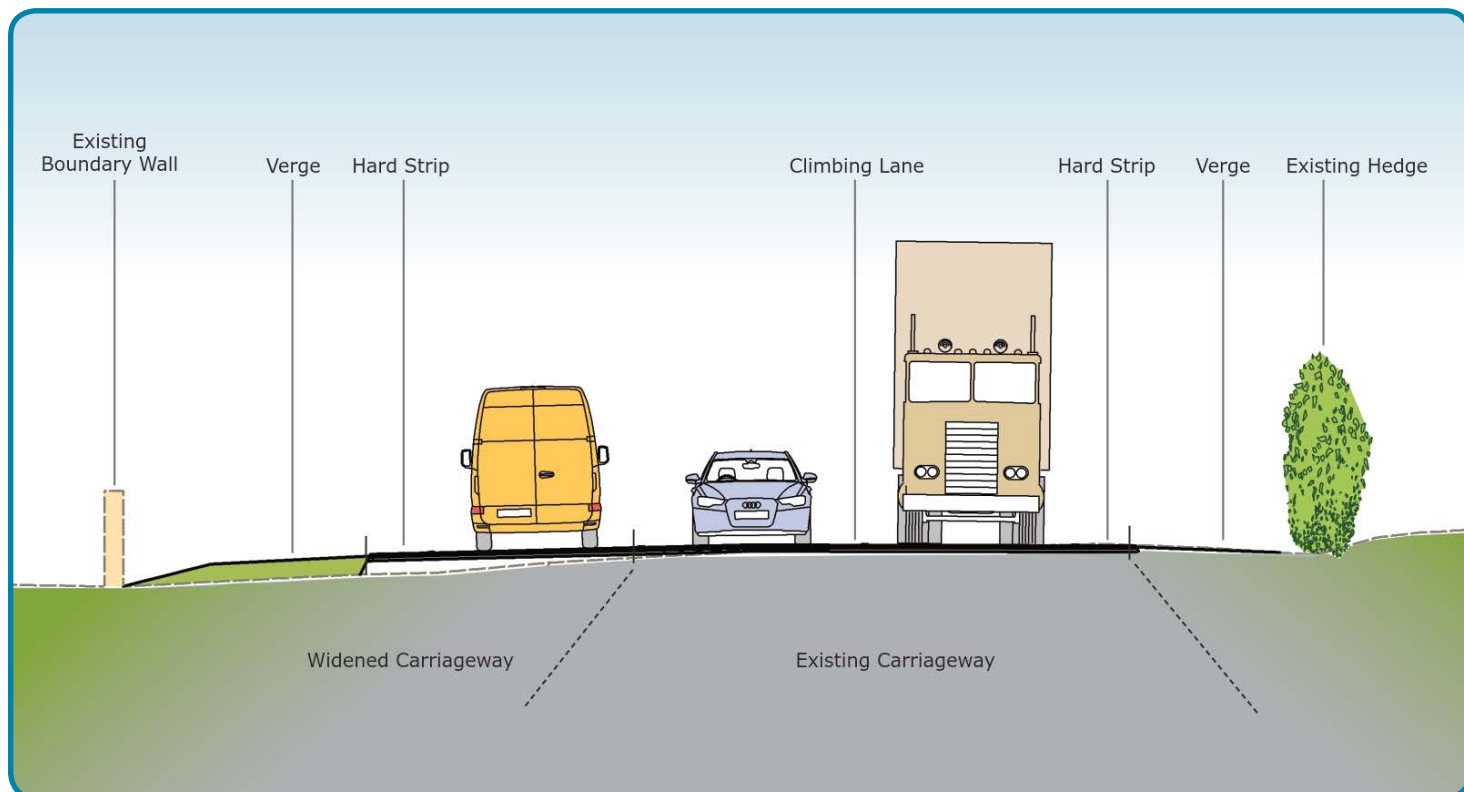
The indicative alignment of the potential improvements are shown in the plan overleaf.





## How the potential improvement could look

Below is a cross section of how the potential improvement could look.



## What happens next?

The feedback from the consultation will be used together with the technical study work to prepare a business case. The business case will be prepared to present the evidence to Government as to why they should fund the potential improvements.

The business case will contain all the relevant information regarding the potential scheme including consideration of the strategic, economic, commercial, financial and management cases to show whether the scheme:

- Is supported by a robust case as to whether or not the potential improvement is needed in the future, and that it fits with wider strategic objectives
- Demonstrates value for money to the public
- Is commercially viable and is the affordable explanation of the costs of different options considerations of associated benefits
- Is financially affordable
- Is achievable and there is clarity of what needs to be done, why, when and how, with measures in place to identify and manage any risks

The potential improvements will only be delivered if Government funding is secured, while no funding is in place it is proposed to argue the case for investment through the new National Road Fund.

Should Government funding be secured there will be a further round of public consultation undertaken, and this will provide more detail about the proposed design.

## Feedback Form

If possible, please respond online at [cumbria.gov.uk/A595bothel](http://cumbria.gov.uk/A595bothel)

If you do not have internet access, please complete the following questionnaire and return to FREEPOST CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL **before Friday 7 December 2018.**

Thank you for your interest in this consultation.

Please provide the following information to help us understand why you are interested in this consultation. This will be used to help the analysis of the information we receive.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Under the FOI, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals with our confidentiality obligations among other things

**What is your postcode?**

**Which of the following best describes the reason for your interest in this consultation?**

(Tick one only)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local resident         | <input type="checkbox"/> A commuter through the area                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employed in Bothel     | <input type="checkbox"/> A visitor to the area                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Not local but interested in the scheme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A local business owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Consultee <i>(please specify)</i> | <input type="text"/>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | <input type="text"/>   |   |

**With regard to the potential improvement to the A595 in the vicinity of Bothel, which issues are the most import to you?** (Select up to three)

- Ensuring road safety
- Easing traffic congestion
- Improving journey time on the A595
- Protecting land and farming activities
- Ensuring thriving local businesses
- Access to properties
- Reducing air pollution and carbon emissions from traffic and construction vehicles
- Reducing noise from traffic and construction vehicles
- Other (please specify)

**Your views on the potential improvements in the vicinity of Bothel**

- Support       Neither support nor oppose       Oppose

**Please tell us what you like about the potential improvements in the vicinity of Bothel?**

**Please tell us what you do not like about the potential improvements in the vicinity of Bothel?**

Use the space below to provide any further comments, in particular any specific issues or opportunities you would like to see addressed, or any concerns you may have and how we should take them into account.

## About you

This information will allow us to analyse how different groups of people feel about the proposals.

### To which gender do you identify?

- Female       Transgender Male       Transgender Female  
 Male       Gender Variant/Non-Conforming       Prefer not to Answer  
 Not listed (specify if you wish)

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?  Yes  No

### What age are you?

- Under 16    16-24    25-34    35-44    45-54    55-64    65-74    75+

### Did we provide enough information for you to respond to the consultation?

- Yes       No       Partially

Is there any additional information that you think would be helpful?

Did the questionnaire allow you to express your opinions fully?

Yes     No     Partially

Do you have any further comments on the consultation process (not the proposals themselves?)

**Thank you for your response to this consultation**

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone **0300 3032992**

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 0300 3032992 নম্বরে টেলিফোন করুন।

如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，请致电 0300 3032992

Jeigu norétumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba, skambinkite telefonu 0300 3032992

W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę zatelefonować pod numer 0300 3032992

Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua, telefone para o 0300 3032992

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde görmek istiyorsanız lütfen 0300 3032992 numaralı telefonu arayınız