

## A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Improvement Newsletter 3 • September 2009



### Introduction

In July 2003, the Government announced proposals to widen the A21 between Tonbridge and the Pembury Bypass from a single carriageway to dual carriageway.

The Highways Agency received confirmation of funding earlier this year that now enables the scheme to be taken to the next stage.

In December 2009, we will be publishing draft Orders under the Highways Act and a Compulsory Purchase Order. This is our form of a Planning Application. Further details will be published in local newspapers and on the Highways Agency's website at that time. The Highways Agency hopes to start construction in 2012.

### Brief Description

The A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury is a single 7.3m wide carriageway of rural character with poor alignment and many individual accesses. There are no footways on this length, and verges are either very narrow or non-existent. This section of the A21 carries about 40,000 vehicles per day, which is significantly higher than its original designed capacity.

As a result, severe congestion is frequently experienced at this section, particularly at peak times.

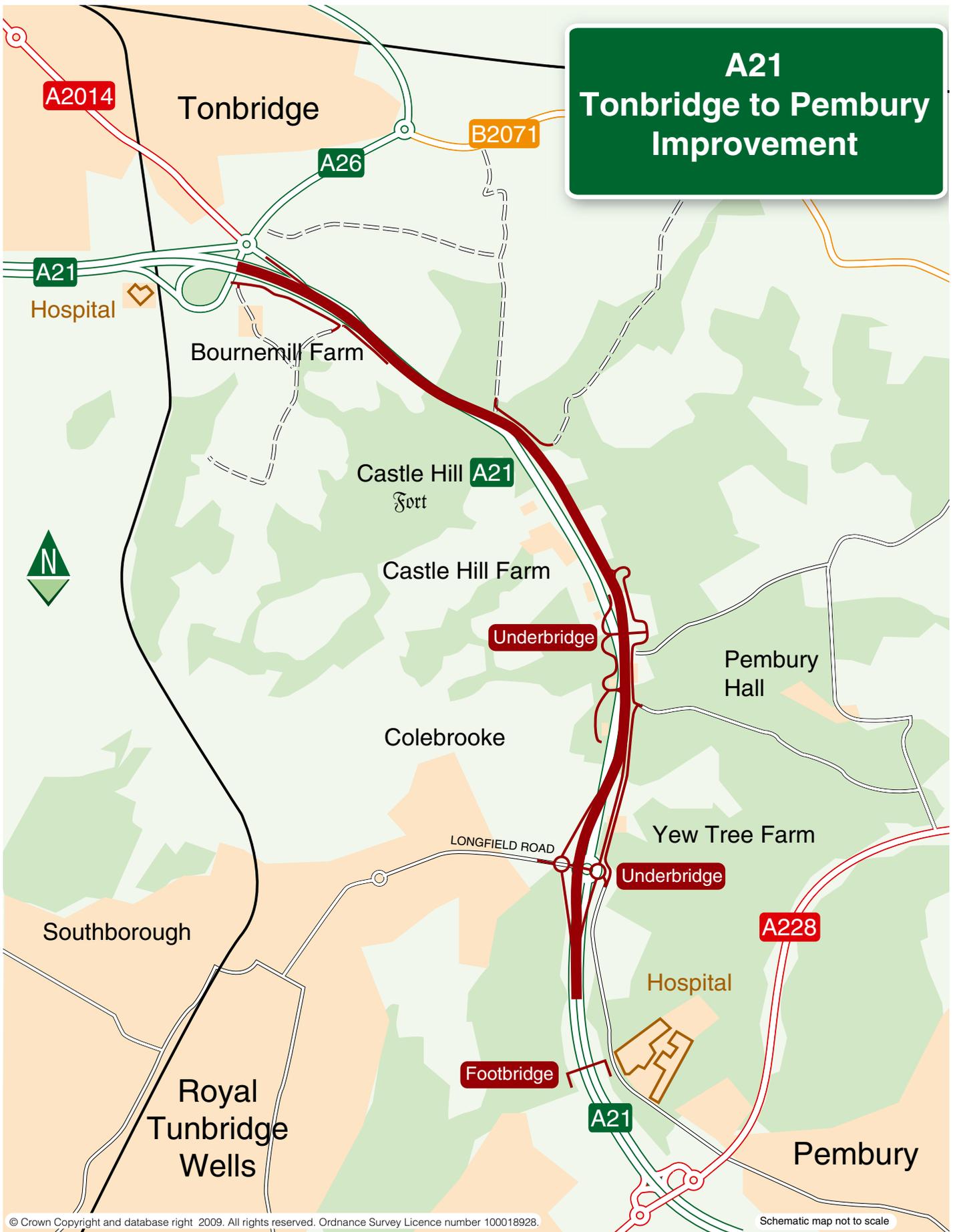
The Highways Agency plans to improve the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury section to a dual two-lane carriageway, with 2x3.65m lanes in each direction, plus 1m of hard strips and grass verges on each side. The proposed scheme starts at the end of the A21 Tonbridge Bypass on the Vauxhall Lane underpass and ends at the Pembury bypass, approximately 600m from the existing Longfield Road junction.

The speed limit of the road will be set at 70mph. There will be approximately 4km of work along the main carriageway. The scheme will include the construction of a flyover at Longfield Road, providing a link to Tunbridge Wells, the Longfield Road retail and industrial estates, and the new development of Pembury Hospital.

In addition, a smaller flyover will be provided at Fairthorne for local access. Facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders will be significantly improved, with a separate route segregated from the main A21 traffic. This will run from Vauxhall Lane to Longfield Road connecting existing rights of way. A footbridge will also be provided to replace the existing crossing at Blackhurst Lane to the south of the main scheme.



# Location Map



## What happens next?

There is no need to do anything now. Details of where you can look at draft Orders for the scheme will be published in local newspapers and on the Highways Agency's website in December 2009. We will also be holding an exhibition of the proposals on 15 and 16 January 2010 at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge; details will be published nearer the time.

If you have any questions in the meantime please contact us.

## Key dates for the project

Publishing draft orders (objection period starts)	<b>December 2009</b>
Public Exhibition	<b>Jan 2010</b>
Objection period ends	<b>March 2010*</b>
Proposed Start of work	<b>2012</b>
Construction period two years	

*\* A Public Inquiry may be held in the summer of 2010, dependant on any objections which may be received.*

## Contacting us:

Email:

**A21tonbridgepembury@highways.gsi.gov.uk**

Website:

**www.highways.gov.uk**

Address:

**Highways Agency**

Major Projects

Room 2A

Federated House

London Road

Dorking

Surrey

RH4 1SZ



If you need help using this or any other Highways Agency information, please call **08457 50 40 30** and we will assist you.

For real time traffic information:

**08700 660 115**

**www.highways.gov.uk/trafficinfo**

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

For general Highways Agency information:

**08457 50 40 30**

email: **ha\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk**

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

\*Calls from BT landlines to 0845 numbers will cost no more than 4p per minute and to 0870 numbers no more than 8p per minute, mobile calls usually cost more.

## Safety at roadworks



**The Highways Agency is working with the industry and road users to reduce the risks of working on the roads.**

For the safety of roadworkers and all road users, when you are approaching roadworks:

- Keep within the speed limit – it is there for your safety.
- Get into the correct lane in good time – don't keep switching.
- Concentrate on the road ahead, not the roadworks.
- Be alert for works traffic leaving or entering roadworks.
- Keep a safe distance – there could be queues in front.
- Observe all signs – they are there to help you.