



Northumberland
County Council

Blyth Relief Road Progress Update

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July 2019

www.northumberland.gov.uk

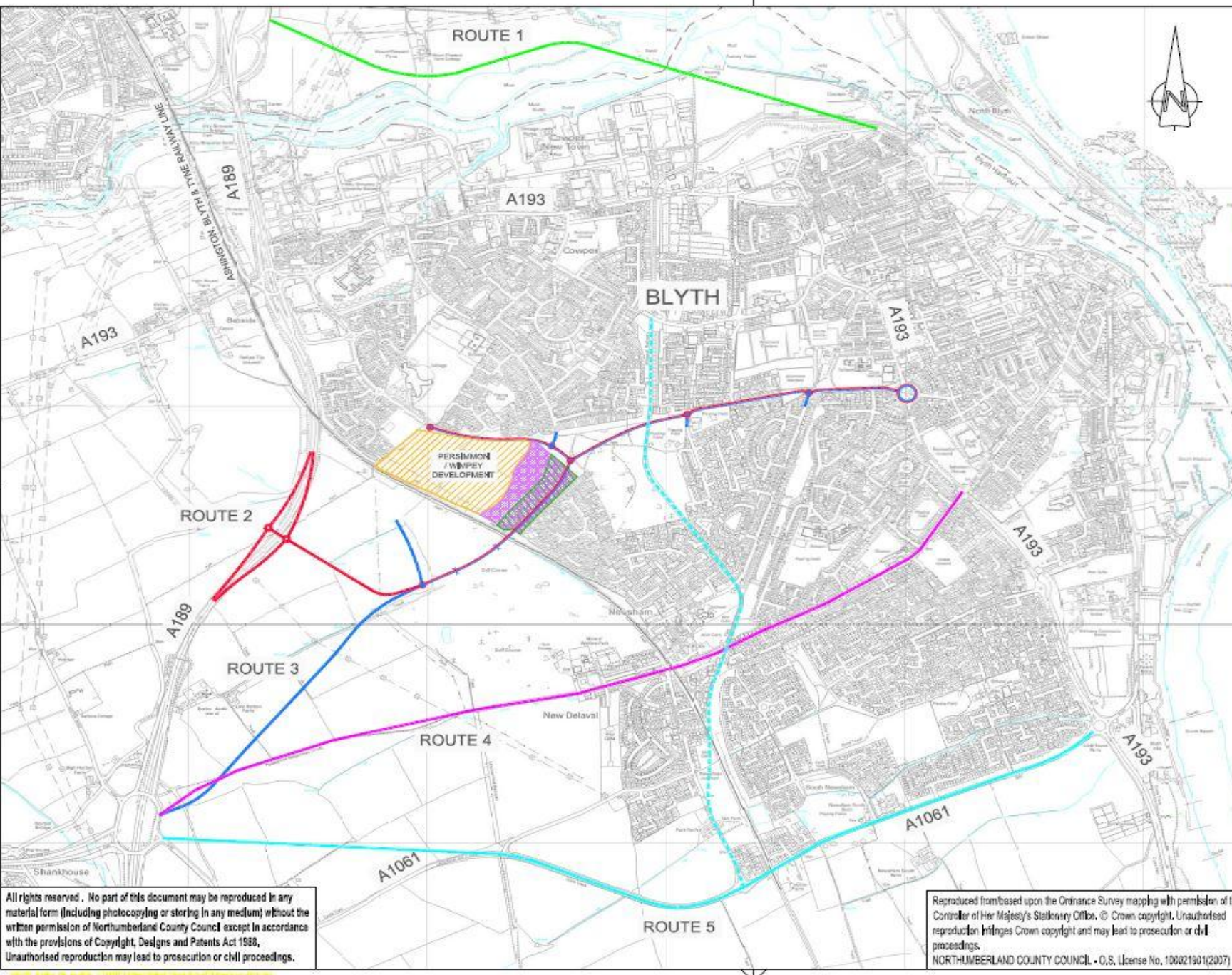
Blyth - The Transport Problem

- A193 Cowpen Road and A1061 Laverock Hall Road are heavily trafficked with over 20,000 vehicles a day on each road.
- Significant growth in traffic is expected across the Blyth network associated with the delivery of the Local Plan.
- The transport network, in its current form, does not have the available capacity to accommodate the future levels of growth.
- This congestion adversely affects:
 - the economic growth of the area
 - the movement of people and goods, particularly to and from the Port of Blyth
 - the environment through exhaust emissions from vehicles.
 - the reliability of buses.

Route Options

- **Route 3** - A new link road from Princess Louise Road to the existing A192 / A189 “Three Horseshoes” interchange
- **Route 4** - A new link road from Plessey Road to the existing A192 / A189 “Three Horseshoes” interchange
- **Route 5** - Dualling of the existing A1061 Laverock Hall Road





CONTRACT DRAWING No. DRAWING SIZE A3

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NOTES

- PERSIMMON SITE AREA DURING PHASE 3 (7.58ha)
- AREA OF LAND REQUIRED FOR ROAD CORRIDOR (2.3ha)

REVISION	By	Date	Rev.
Drawing Status			

PRELIMINARY

Client
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH,
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Job Title

BLYTH CENTRAL LINK

Drawing Title

SCHEME OPTIONS

Scales N.T.S.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES

Dn	Date	Checked	Passed
CM	MAR 16	CM	CM
Drawing Number			
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Public Consultation

Consultation process:

- To involve the public in shaping the future of Blyth;
- To gather ideas on what people want;
- To understand how our proposals may affect the public;
- To inform a decision on the preferred route to take forward.

Spring of 2019:

- A drop-in session for local County and Town Councillors;
- Two public drop in sessions;
- A presentation to Blyth Town Forum;
- Meeting with Blyth Town Council.



<https://northumberland.gov.uk/blythroad>

Public Consultation

- 775 No. responses in total to the consultation;
- 91% of respondents agreed that Blyth would benefit from the creation of a new relief road;
- 59% of respondents agreed with the **County Council's proposal to proceed with Route 3**;
- Of the alternative options, 13% of respondents favoured Route 4 and 18% favoured Route 5;



Issues Raised

Issue Raised	Potential Mitigation
Localised congestion	<p>Cowpen Road and Laverock Hall Road will remain as the strategic access routes for Blyth and this will be supported by an appropriate signing strategy.</p> <p>The impact on Ogle Drive is significant. Amendments to the route in the Ogle Drive /Albion Way/Princess Louise Road could reduce some of the major concerns.</p>
Loss of allotments	Route 3 will mean the loss of allotment land to the east of Ogle Drive. The design process will look at alignments to avoid the allotments land. If this is not possible, alternative allotment facilities will be provided.
Loss of holes on golf course	The proposed route 3 will result in the loss of 2-3 holes at Blyth Golf Club. The council will work with the golf club to look at opportunities for alternative provision.
Parking	The provision of alternative parking spaces will be a key consideration of the design process.

Issues Raised

Issue Raised	Potential Mitigation
Noise and air pollution	Appropriate screening will be considered as part of the design process to minimise the impact of noise. Air quality impact should become less of an issue in the future with the move to electric vehicles
Play park	Route 3 will pass through a play park proposed as part of the Persimmon development to the south of Chase Farm Drive. The provision of alternative play park facilities will be considered as part of the design process.
House prices	Negative impact on house prices may be mitigated by factors associated with the relief road such as improved access and improved economic benefits to Blyth.
Viability of Low Horton Farm	Objections were received from a tenant farm/equestrian business in relation to the financial impact caused by loss of land. The council will work with all affected stakeholders to find the optimum design solution which minimises the impact.

The Way Forward

The current cost estimate for route 3 is **£22.213m** and demonstrates **very high value for money** with a **BCR of 4.91**.

The project programme sets out the following key milestones:

- County Council Cabinet - July 2019
- Submission of planning application - April 2021
- Determination of planning decision - September 2021
- Full Business Case submitted to DfT - December 2022
- Start of Construction - March 2023
- Scheme open to public - March 2024

Further consultation throughout.



Emerging Funding Opportunity

Transport for the North (TfN) is working with partners across the north to compile a list of up to ten top priority Major Road Network (MRN) investments across the TfN area for the period April 2020 to March 2025.

Blyth Relief Road is well placed to be prioritised within the TfN top 10 list in that it:

- Meets many of the MRN central objectives (it would reduce congestion; support economic growth and rebalancing; support housing delivery; and support all road users);
- Is eligible for MRN funding (it provides a new alignment on the MRN alleviating congestion and making through journeys quicker, safer and more reliable);
- Falls within the funding envelope (£20m to £50m) of the MRN;
- The scheme is at Outline Business Case level so is well developed.

