

# Next steps

Once the consultation has closed at 23:59 on Sunday 26 June, we will review all comments and suggestions that have been received during this period. We will take the time to consider your feedback when making further refinements to our proposed design and developing our planned mitigation measures.

We will set out a summary of the responses in a consultation report, which will also describe how your feedback has shaped and influenced our proposals.

This will form part of our DCO application, which we expect to submit later in 2022.

If our application is accepted for examination, the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) will examine the application through written representation and public hearings. They will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will decide on whether or not the project will go ahead.

If granted, works would start in 2024/25.

This process is explained in the timeline below.

