



Walsall Council

Planning, Engineering & Transportation

Date: 10 December 2018
Ref: MPMI/YB/
Tel:
Email: yorksbridgepelsall@walsall.gov.uk

All Residents
Moat Farm Estate
Pelsall
Walsall

Dear resident,

Walsall Council is seeking to replace the existing York's Bridge on B4154 Norton Road in Pelsall, which spans the Wyrley and Essington Canal by the Fingerpost pub. As part of this process the council is keen to hear your views on the proposed replacement scheme.

Please find enclosed in this consultation pack some information about the scheme, including maps and diagrams, as well as a questionnaire and prepaid return envelope. Please complete the questionnaire and return it by 5 April. The questionnaire is also available to complete online on our website, where you will also find full scale electronic copies of all maps and diagrams and further information about the scheme. Please visit www.walsall.gov.uk/yorks-bridge.

York's Bridge consultation road show events

In addition, Walsall Council is holding a number of consultation road show events at various locations in Pelsall from late February 2019, as detailed below. The Walsall Council First Stop Bus and council staff will be on location at each of the events to hear your views and answer any questions you may have about the proposed scheme. The events are open to everyone and there is no need to book.

Tuesday 26 February 2pm–4pm at Pelsall Community Centre

Wednesday 27 February 2pm–4pm at Moat Farm Estate

Friday 1 March 2pm–4pm at Leyland Croft

Monday 4 March 9am–11am at Ryders Hayes School

Wednesday 6 March 10am–12noon at Pelsall Village Centre

Monday 18 March 10am–12 noon at Pelsall Community Centre

Thursday 21 March 1pm–3pm at Moat Farm Estate

Thursday 28 March 2pm–4pm at Pelsall Village Centre

Monday 1 April 3pm–5pm at Pelsall Village Centre

Next steps

Consultation will close on 5 April 2019 and your feedback will be used to inform the formal planning application to be submitted in May 2019. A consultation report will be published on the Walsall Council website by late April 2019 detailing the outcome of this consultation.

Yours faithfully,

Walsall Council Major Projects, Minor Improvements & Structures

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Civic Centre Zone 2L, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DG
Tel: 01922 650000 Textphone: 0845 111 2910

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Please place your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided or return to:

York's Bridge Consultation
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
2nd Floor Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall WS1 1DG

The closing date for responses is 5 April 2019.



York's Bridge Replacement Scheme consultation 2018

Walsall Council is seeking to replace the existing York's Bridge on Norton Road in Pelsall, which spans the Wyrley and Essington Canal by the Fingerpost pub. As part of this process the council is keen to hear your views on the proposed scheme. Your views will be used to inform the formal planning application to be submitted in May 2019.

The closing date for responses is **5 April 2019**.

Before completing this questionnaire please review the detailed plans and supporting information enclosed and also available on our website at www.walsall.gov.uk/yorks-bridge, or come along to one of our consultation events — details enclosed with this questionnaire. Proposed plans and associated information is also available to view at Bloxwich Library and the council's First Stop Shop at the Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP.

This questionnaire is also available to complete online on our website at www.walsall.gov.uk/yorks-bridge

Please tick the boxes that apply to you or enter free text as appropriate. If you have any questions about this questionnaire or about the York's Bridge Replacement Scheme please email yorksbridgepelsall@walsall.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey.

If you would like this information in larger print or an alternative format please call the Economy and Environment Business Support Team on 01922 652628 or email eandebusinesssupport@walsall.gov.uk

Data collected from this questionnaire will be grouped together; you will not be identified. All information collected will be treated in confidence. We ask a few questions about you which you do not need to answer but knowing this information allows us to monitor the range of people who have responded and to better understand the results. Personal data will be held by Walsall Council and will not be shared with any other organisation. The survey will follow the Market Research Society Code of Conduct and is being conducted in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). For more information on how we use your data or to read our corporate consultation Privacy Notice in full please visit www.walsall.gov.uk/privacy_statement



Walsall Council



York's Bridge Replacement Scheme consultation 2018 Have your say

Walsall Council is seeking to replace the existing York's Bridge on Norton Road in Pelsall, which spans the Wyrley and Essington Canal by the Fingerpost pub. As part of this process the council is keen to hear your views on the proposed scheme. Your views will be used to inform the formal planning application to be submitted in May 2019.

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Please review the plans and supporting information enclosed before providing your feedback on the following questions.

1. Overall, do you support the proposals for the York's Bridge Replacement Scheme?

Yes

No

Don't know

2. Please tell us why you say this.

3. Do you support the proposals to create a direct pedestrian footway?

Yes

No

Don't know

4. Please tell us why you say this.

5. Do you support the proposals to widen the highway on Norton Road? This is to provide increased safety for all road users.

Yes

No

Don't know

6. Please tell us why you say this.

7. Do you support the proposals for the council to use (deregister) a small amount (2465m²) of common land in order to construct the new bridge?

Yes

No

Don't know

8. Please tell us why you say this.

9. Do you have any alternative suggestions for how Walsall Council might construct the new bridge if the 2465m² of common land is not deregistered?

10. Do you think that the identified replacement land of 4000m² at Lichfield Road is an appropriate exchange for the 2465m² of common land required for construction of the bridge?

Yes

No

Don't know

11. Please tell us why you say this.

12. Do you have any alternative suggestions for replacement land that may be more suitable?

13. Do you support the proposals to establish a new woodland area, landscaped pond and reed bed north of the canal to the east of B4154 Norton Road?

Yes

No

Don't know

14. Please tell us why you say this.

15. Is there anything we have not considered regarding the proposal to establish an enhanced area of visually attractive landscape?

16. Do you support the proposals to create vehicle parking along Lichfield Road or within the council owned land adjacent to the identified replacement land for ease of user access?

Yes

No

Don't know

17. Do you feel that the York's Bridge Replacement Scheme proposal would create any particular hardship for any group of road user?

Yes

No

Don't know

18. If yes, please tell us which group(s) and why you say this.

19. Do you feel that the York's Bridge Replacement Scheme proposal would create any particular hardship for any other group?

Yes

No

Don't know

20. If yes, please tell us which group(s) and why you say this.

21. Do you feel there is anything that the council has not considered in the development of the overall proposals that we should have?

About you

Some of the following questions may seem irrelevant to you, however this section is important as it helps us to gain a better understanding of the views of different people and how they could be impacted by any changes. This information will remain confidential and will be used for analysis purposes only. Your personal information will not be published and individuals or households will not be identified in any part of the analysis or reporting process. **These questions are voluntary.**

22. Which of the following best describes you? Tick ONE only.

Local resident

Commuter to the area

Business owner

Not local, but interested in the scheme

Employed locally

Other

Visitor to the area

If 'other', please specify:

If 'not local but interested in the scheme', please describe your interest:

23. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation, business or campaign group?

Yes

No

24. If yes, please tell us the name of the organisation, business or campaign group you represent:

25. What is your home postcode? Please only write in the first half and the first digit of the second half.
(e.g. WS2 8__ or WV12 3__)

26. Are you:

- Female Male Prefer not to say

27. What is your age?

- Under 15 26–30 41–45 61–65 75+
 16–20 31–35 46–50 66–70
 21–25 36–40 51–60 71–75

28. Do you consider yourself to be disabled or have a long term illness (as set out under the Equality Act 2010)?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

29. What is your ethnic group? Tick ONE only.

- White British Asian or Asian British Other ethnic group, please state below
 White other Black, African, Caribbean or Prefer not to say
 Mixed or multiple groups Black British

Other ethnic group, please state.

30. How did you find out about this consultation?

- Received an email from Walsall Council Saw it on the Walsall Council website
 Received a letter from Walsall Council Social media
 Read about it in the press Other

If 'other', please specify.

31. Please tell us what you think about the quality of this consultation, for example the information provided, printed material you have received, maps or plans, the website and this questionnaire.

- Very poor Acceptable Very good
 Poor Good

32. Please tell us why you say this.

Walsall Council may wish to contact a sample of respondents for further discussion. If you would be happy for the council to contact you if required, please provide your details below.

33. Name:

34. Email address:



York's Bridge Replacement Scheme Fact Sheet

Walsall Council is seeking to replace the existing York's Bridge on Norton Road, Pelsall, which spans the Wyrley and Essington Canal by The Fingerpost public house. As part of this process the council is keen to hear your views on the scheme.

This document, along with a series of road show events, forms part of the consultation on this scheme. Please read the information provided in this pack (also available on the council's website) and give us your views by either:

- meeting with us at one of our special consultation events and submitting a paper copy of the questionnaire
- completing the questionnaire in this pack or online at www.walsall.gov.uk/yorks-bridge

The existing bridge dates back to the mid-1800s. Its brick arch construction, poor alignments and lack of footways make it unsuitable for modern traffic and unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists. The bridge structure has suffered over recent decades and the bridge is currently the subject of a 7.5 tonne weight limit. If nothing is done the bridge will continue to weaken to the point where closure to all road traffic might have to be considered.

The Council has a statutory duty to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the public highway for use by a range of vehicles and other highway users. In the course of developing the current proposal, several bridge construction options have been considered including:

- a) Strengthening of the existing bridge
- b) Use of steel instead of concrete
- c) Precast concrete arch
- d) In-situ concrete deck

The Council first considered strengthening of the existing bridge but there was significant doubt whether the required 44 tonne weight limit could be achieved. Strengthening would have also entailed work to the underside of the bridge and top of the bridge arch which would have decreased headroom to the canal and raised levels on the crown. It was concluded that only the construction of a new bridge could address all of the issues. The current proposals will also allow the retention of the existing historic York's Bridge while still delivering much needed safety improvements including footways and the removal of the hump back road alignment. The construction of the proposed new bridge would be funded by the Department for Transport.

Land use surrounding York's Bridge is primarily residential with some agricultural land located on the north side of the bridge. There is also a public house (The Fingerpost) located to the west of the existing York's Bridge. The construction of the new bridge will require some intrusion onto the common.

The council has taken specialist advice relating to the loss of common land and the impact this will have on ecology and the report can be viewed online.

This will be the second consultation undertaken by the council for this scheme, following the Planning Inspectorate's decision in 2015 that the area of land offered as replacement common land was not acceptable. To make up for loss of the common land, an alternative area of replacement land will be provided with a common land status and ecology compensation measures will be put in place to minimise any impact.

Existing operation

- No footway provision
- Poor cycling condition
- Narrow lane
- Lack of road users' safety

Road safety

Collision data for the last three year period is two slight collisions, both near the junction with A4124 Lichfield Road.

The proposals

The proposals aim to create a healthier and safer environment for people to walk and cycle and for traffic moving through the area. We propose to construct a new bridge to the east side of the existing bridge and to realign Norton Road to the east. The proposed bridge is 40 m long and will carry two-way traffic on a 7.3 m wide carriageway with a 2 m wide footway on the west side. There is 2 m minimum headroom between the bridge and towpath and 3.1 m minimum between the bridge and canal. A small amount (2,465 m²) of common land is required in order to construct the new bridge which is less than 0.01% of the total common area.

The proposals aim to:

- Provide pedestrian footways.
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- Provide a two-way general traffic lane.
- Remove the existing road to the north of York's Bridge and create a new footpath.
- Retain the existing York's Bridge and road to the south as an access road for The Fingerpost public house and residential properties located along the canal side.
- Provide parking bays to the south of the public house to facilitate access to the common.
- Create a pond and several new embankments north of the new bridge.
- Resurface the existing carriageway along to Moat Farm Way (located south-east of the existing bridge) and vehicle track used to access the fields (located north-east of the existing bridge).
- Enhance public realm & safe access to the common.
- Make York's Bridge a more pleasant, well-designed environment.

Reducing impact of the proposals on the common land

The common land contains a unique collection of trees. It provides a number of benefits, including:

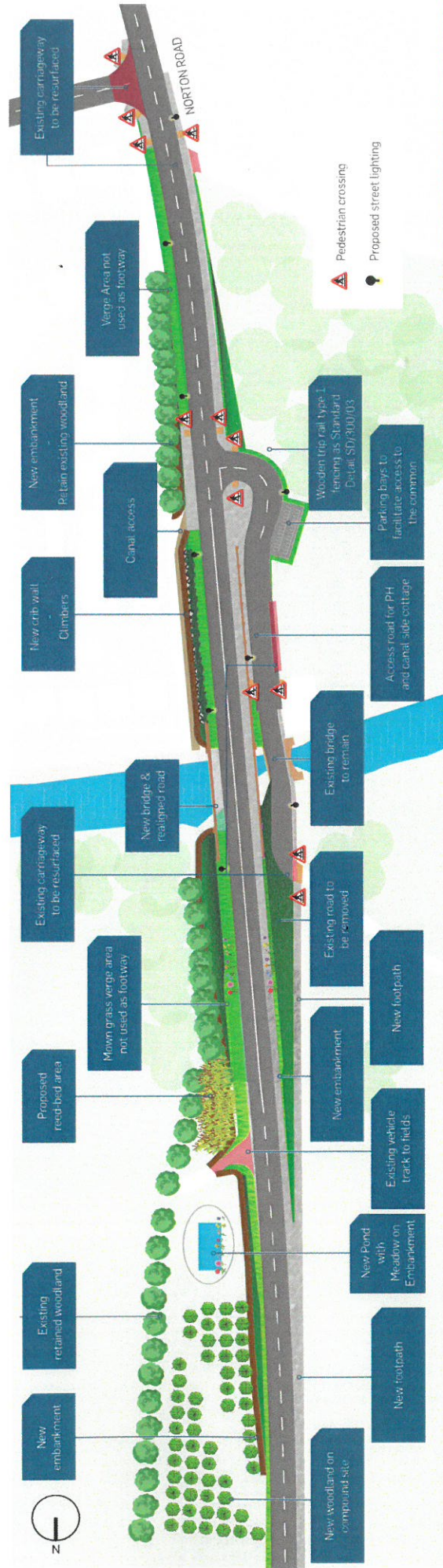
- A significant area of cover provided by the crowns of the trees.
- Improved access to nature.
- A reduction in noise pollution.
- High visual, social and environmental value.

We recognize the environmental significance and local importance of the common land and the need to protect it as far as possible whilst improving York's Bridge. We are working closely with the common land owners, the Canal & River Trust, Wyrley and Essington Canal Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC), Natural England, English Heritage and Friends of Pelsall Commons.

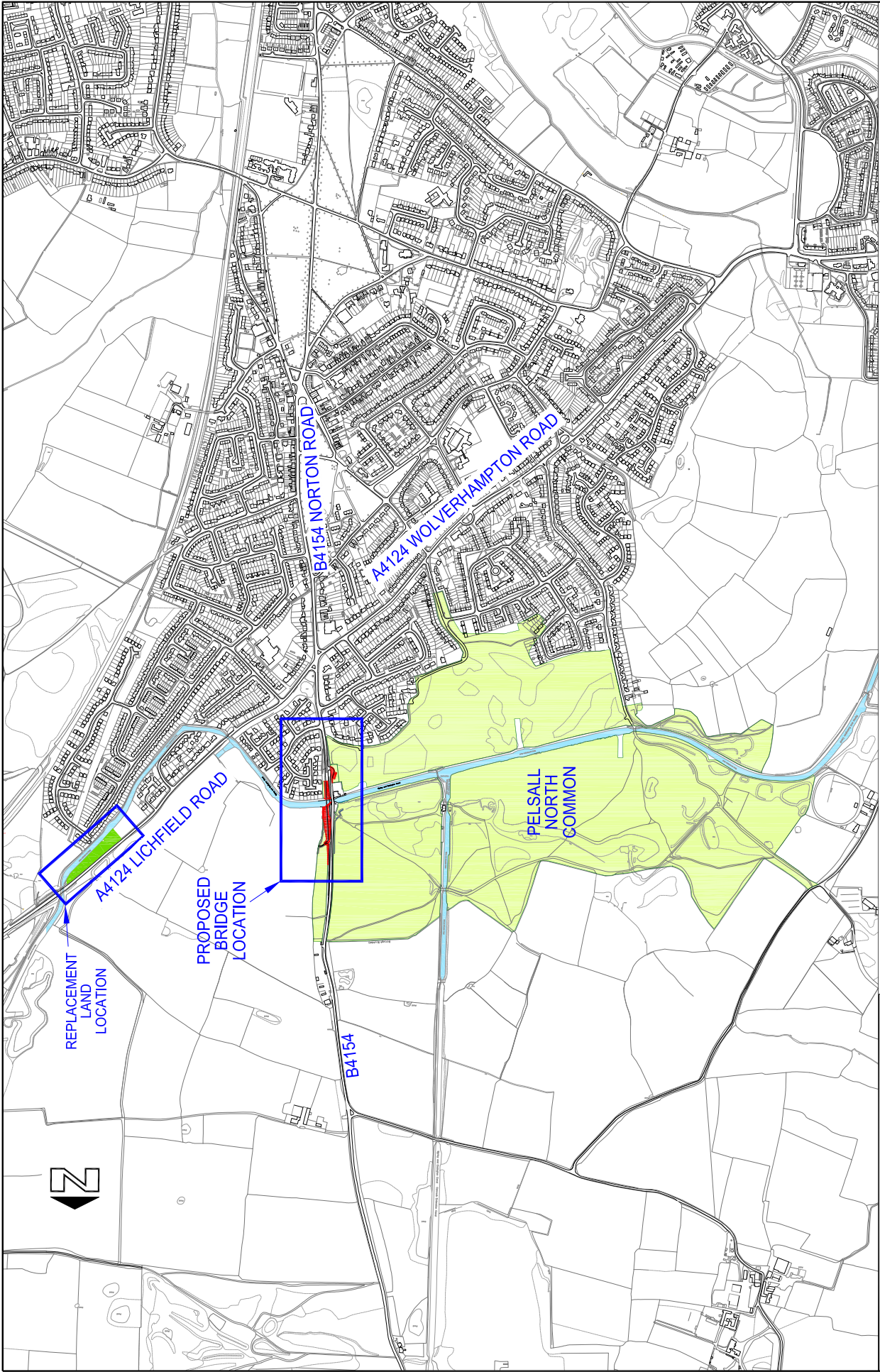
Scheme Mitigation

Mitigation measures are required along the route as part of the changes to the corridor to help achieve better reliability. The following mitigations have been proposed:

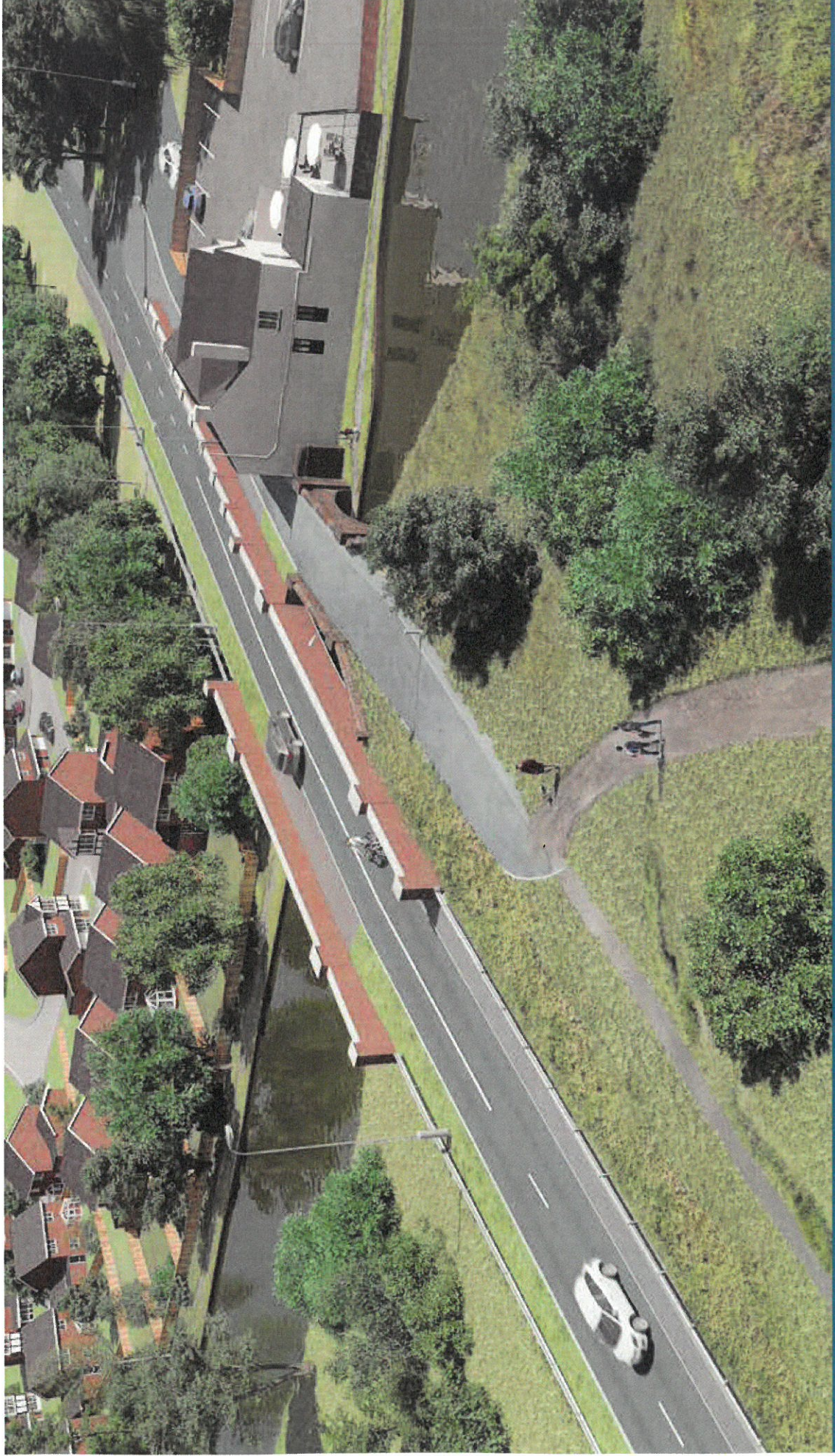
- Providing replacement land up to 4,000 m² within the boundary of the existing common land.
- Create and maintain an ecologically diverse and visually attractive landscape which integrates the proposed road into the landscape.
- Reduce the visual impact by planting landscaping in the foreground.
- Provide secured access into the common (which would remain open to the public) to enable people to enjoy the common.



PROPOSED YORK'S BRIDGE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN



 Walsall Council	
Checked: JR Date: OCT 2018 Scale: N.T.S. Original drawing size and other size, three scale shown does not apply.	Drawing No. EXTENT-YB01
YORK'S BRIDGE, NORTON ROAD, PELSALL PLAN SHOWING FULL EXTENT OF COMMON LAND	
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PROPOSED YORK'S BRIDGE VISUALISATION



YORK'S BRIDGE REPLACEMENT LAND AREA