

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum**11 October 2017****Consultation – A59 Kex Gill Realignment****Report of the Secretary****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To advise members of the current consultation on the realignment of the A59 at Kex Gill and to invite the Forum to consider its response to the consultation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 North Yorkshire County Council is currently consulting on proposals for the realignment of the A59 at Kex Gill between Skipton and Harrogate. The Forum considered a report at its meeting in April 2017, providing early notice of the project and committing to consultation with the Local Access Forum.
- 2.2 The public consultation document is attached. A link to further information about the consultation on the County Council's website is here:
- <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/a59-kex-gill-re-alignment>
- 2.3 Rebecca Gibson, Senior Transport Planning Officer, North Yorkshire County Council, will be attending the meeting to explain the consultation and respond to members' questions.

3.0 Responding to the consultation

- 3.1 The closing date for the consultation is 31 October 2017.
- 3.2 It is suggested that the Forum adopts the usual approach to that applied for other recent consultations – ie that the relevant District Council liaison representative and the Secretary work together to draft a summary of the Forum's views based on the discussion at the meeting, and adding any additional issues arising from consideration of the consultation documents. The draft response will then be circulated by email for members' comments prior to formal submission on behalf of the Forum by the given deadline.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Local Access Forum considers the content of any response it wishes to submit to the Craven District Draft Local Plan consultation.
- 4.2 That the relevant District Council liaison representative and the Secretary prepare a draft formal response to the consultation, and circulate it by email for members' comments prior to submission on behalf of the Forum.

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Report author: Kate Arscott, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Background Documents: None

Consultation A59 Kex Gill Realignment



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The A59 provides a very important east-west connection in North Yorkshire, linking Harrogate and Skipton and furthermore, provides a route across the north of England, between Junction 31 of the M6 and Junction 47 of the A1(M) (see Figure 1).

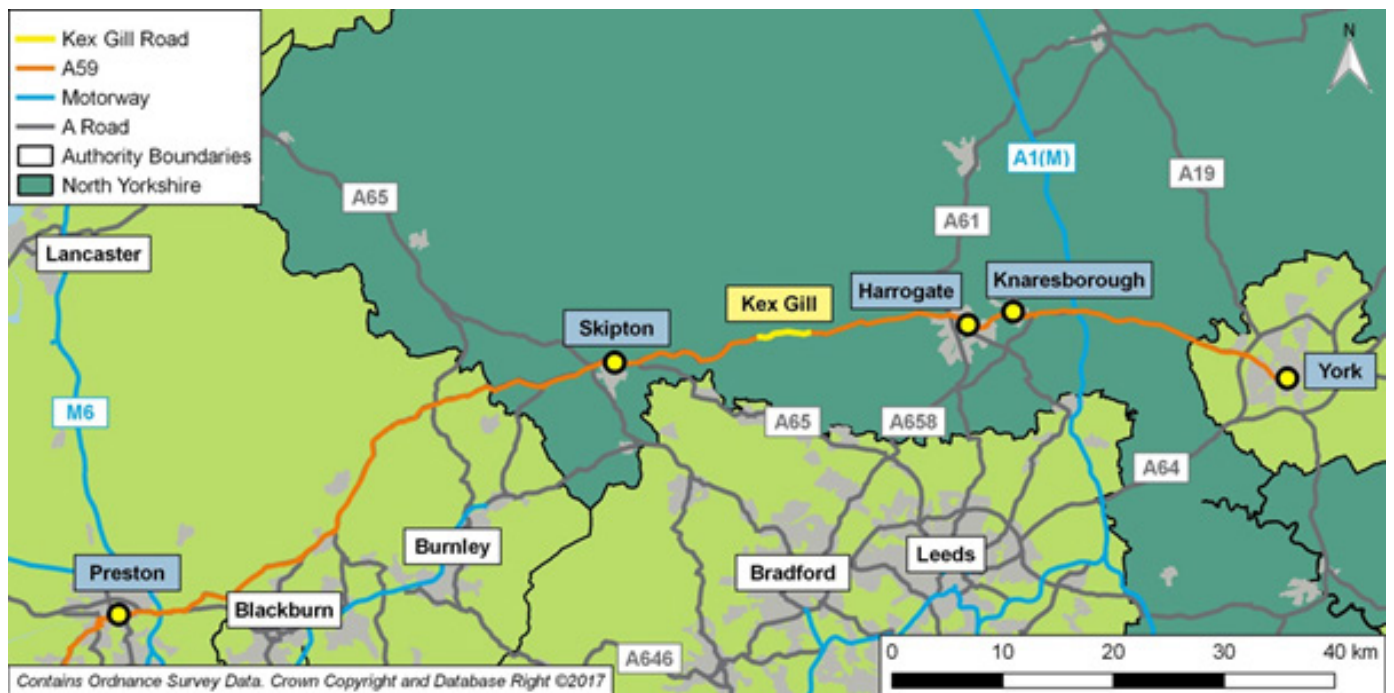


Figure 1 - Kex Gill in context

Due to a history of landslips and instability (see figure 2), which have in the past lead to unplanned road closures, North Yorkshire County Council has been working to develop proposals to ensure the future resilience of the route.

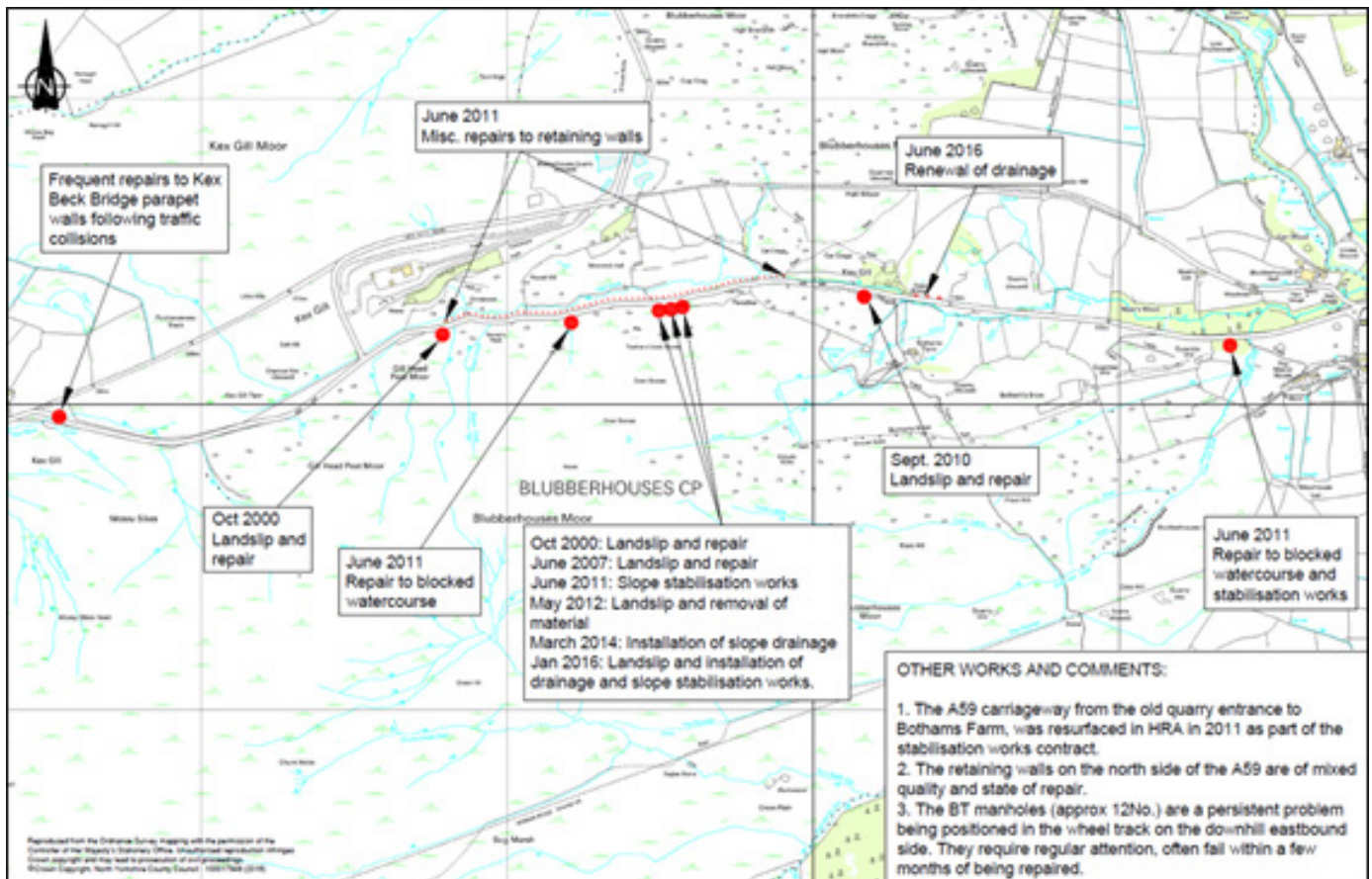


Figure 2 - Location of recent landslips on the A59

History of landslips at Kex Gill

The most recent landslip occurred in early 2016 and resulted in a road closure of approximately 8 weeks. In the event of a landslip, road users are routed round a 6 mile diversion through towns and areas deemed unsuitable for the volume and nature of vehicles. The available information suggests the primary cause of these landslips is heavy rainfall, coupled with relatively unstable land on the hillside slopes.

Fortunately to date, although a vehicle has been caught in a landslip, there have been no personal injuries as a result of a landslip at Kex Gill. However, without intervention there continues to be a significant risk that road users could be caught in any future landslip, potentially resulting in serious

injuries or fatalities. Following a review of various engineering studies and advice from technical experts, it has been determined that full stabilisation of the area at risk would require extensive and very substantial engineering works and is unlikely to be practicable or environmentally acceptable. Therefore the existing A59 or any online improvement (improvements to the existing highway) would remain susceptible to landslip and related disruption. And as a result, a new section of the A59 must be created to replace the existing road.

Development of options for A59 relocation at Kex Gill

In line with Government requirements, in order to progress the development of a solution at Kex Gill, an Options Assessment Report (OAR) was produced which set out 16 options to be considered and scored. The 16 options broadly sit within eight main corridors (see Figure 3 & 4). (Corridors are strips of land within which an alternative road may sit. Within each corridor there are options for the exact route the road may take, but each corridor will have similar characteristics.)

An appraisal of all the corridors was carried out using an agreed Department for Transport (DfT) approach, in order to assess their merits or otherwise against set criteria (see Figure 5). This included consideration of each corridor's environmental impact, feasibility, buildability (a pre-construction exercise that looks at a design from the perspective of those that will manufacture, install components or any structures and carry out the construction works) and performance against local and national objectives.

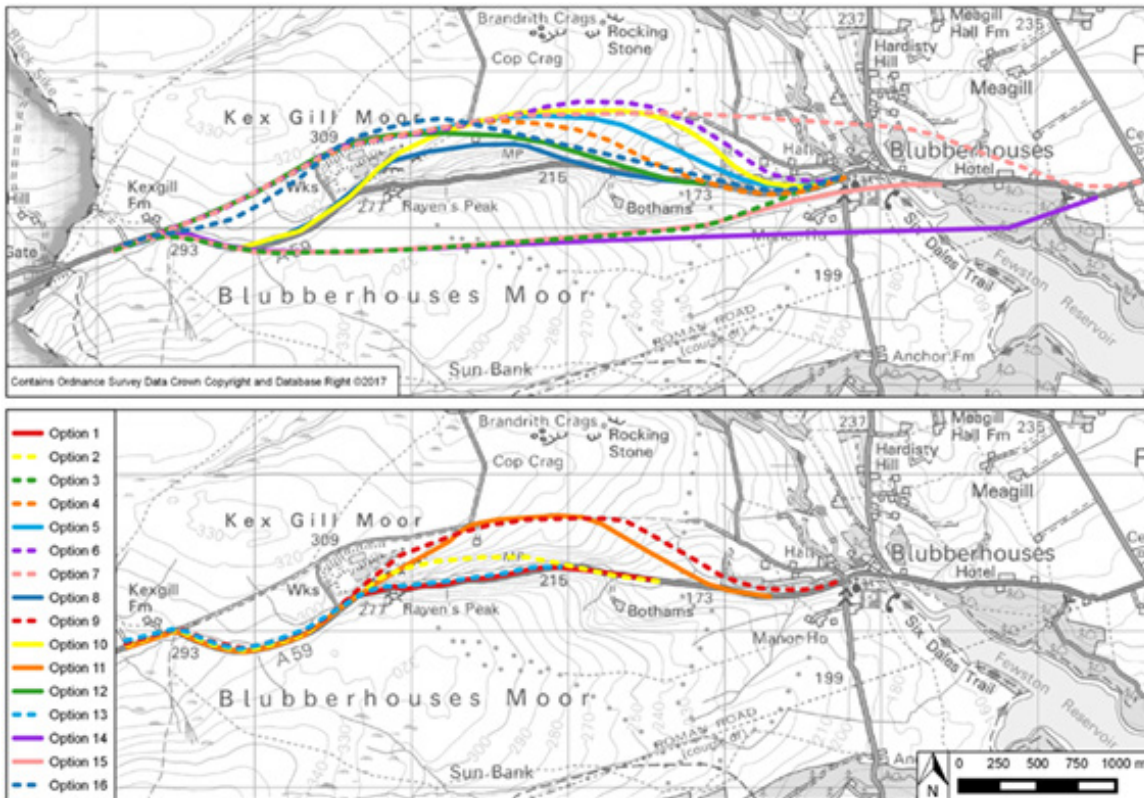


Figure 3 - Potential route options

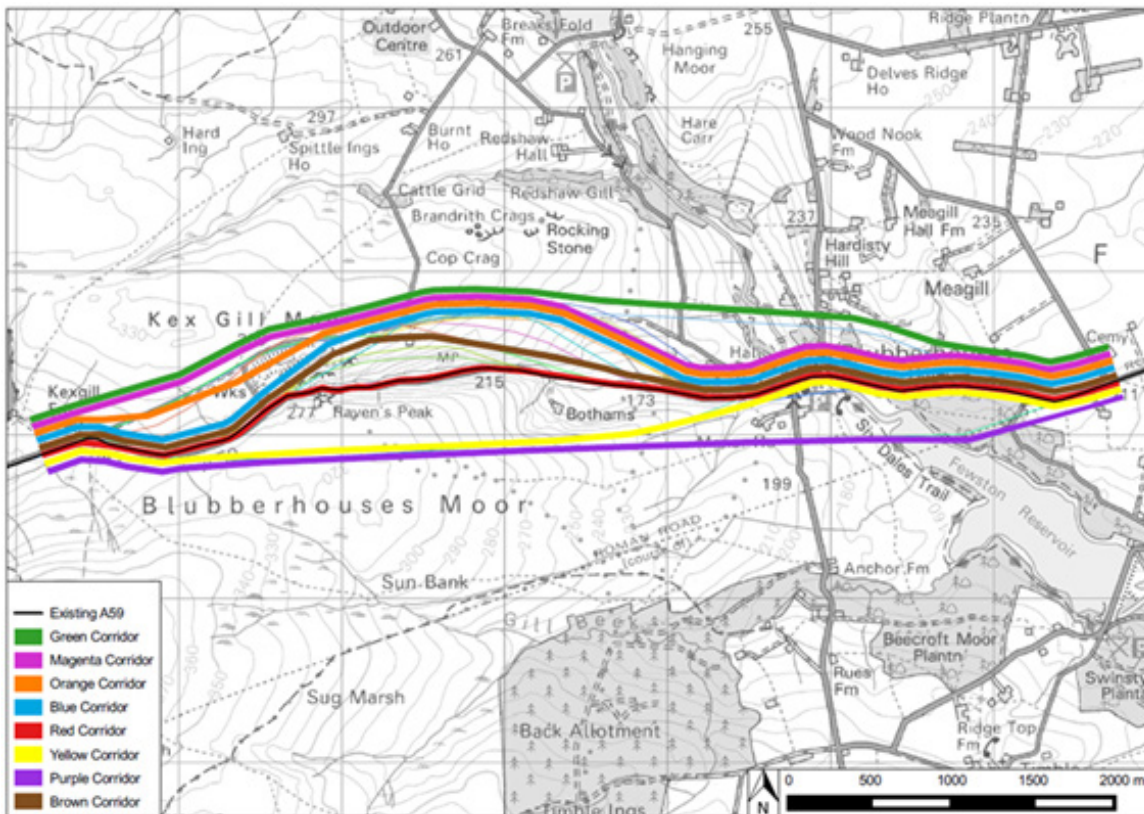


Figure 4 - Routes grouped into 'corridors'

Corridor	Benefits to Government & Wider Transportation Objectives			Specific Scheme Objectives						
	Encourages Economic Growth	Wellbeing, Social & Distribution Impacts	Improves Resilience	Improves Connectivity	Improves Reliability & Safety	Reduces Risk of Landslip	Financial Affordability	Anticipated Construction Timescale	Anticipated Environmental Impact	Land Issues Affecting Engineering Feasibility
Brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Purple	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓
Blue	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Orange	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Magenta	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓
Green	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Figure 5 - Appraisal of corridors against objectives

Results of appraisal of corridors

The results of the assessment demonstrated the blue, magenta and orange corridors to be the best performing, due to their fit with national and local transport objectives and their significant positive impact in terms of economic growth, wellbeing, and social and distribution impacts (SDIs). They also offered improved resilience, connectivity, reliability and safety and consequently met the specific scheme objectives, particularly in terms of removing the risk of landslip-related closures of the A59. These three corridors also performed best in terms of affordability and demonstrated some of the shortest implementation timescales and the least environmental impact.

The main difference between the blue, magenta and orange corridors is whether they diverge from the A59 at Kex Gill Farm or further east along the existing A59. In order to enable a better understanding of this, further ground condition and topographical surveys will be undertaken in the vicinity of these three corridors. This information will be critical in being able to narrow down the exact alignment of a preferred option.

However, because these three corridors are broadly similar, they have been collated together to form the 'consultation corridor' (see Figure 6). The consultation corridor is as follows: 'starting at Kex Gill Farm utilising the bridleway to take the corridor along the north edge of the Valley beyond where the land slips have taken place to the existing A59 before Blubberhouses.'



Figure 6 - Consultation corridor

Consultation and Engagement

It is important for the County Council to understand the level of support for these proposals.

Detailed scheme option drawings, further detail of the assessment process, and opportunity to comment on the proposals can be found at www.northyorks.gov.uk/kexgill

In addition, we will be happy to provide information and receive comments by email to ltf@northyorks.gov.uk

or by post to: **Kex Gill Project Team, NYCC,
Highways and Transportation, Northallerton DL7 8AH.**

We will also be holding public engagement events which we hope you may wish to attend. Details can be found [here](#) or below.

Venue	Date	Time
Skipton Town Hall, Concert Hall	Thursday 21st September	10.00 – 14.00 15.00 – 20.00
St Peters Church Hall, Harrogate	Friday 22nd September	10.00 – 14.00 15.00 – 20.00
Norwood Social Hall, Washburn	Saturday 23rd September	09.30 – 15.00

These will be staffed by North Yorkshire County Council's project officers, and representatives from our consultant WSP's specialist consultancy team, who have been helping us to develop the proposals. There will be staff on hand to discuss the proposals, and there will also be a display of plans, and the opportunity to make written and verbal comments on the proposals. The closing date for receiving comments is: 31st October 2017.

We hope you will be able to participate.

Contact us

North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

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