

## What's happening about the Bypass?

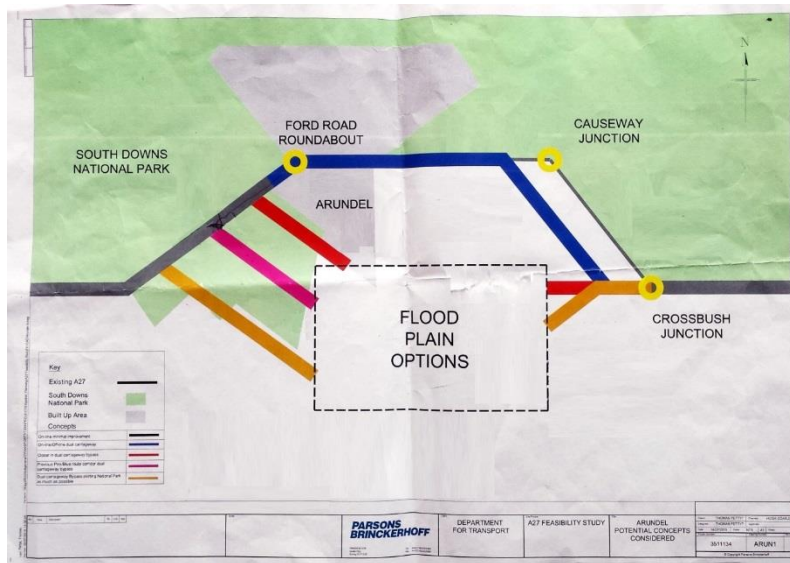
Highways England's (HE) 'Options Identification' period for the Arundel Bypass finished at Christmas. They will now prepare their selected 'Options' for a 'public consultation' next summer, like the one about the Chichester bypass this summer. We know from their 2014 announcement that the Pink-Blue route from 1993, with the western end crossing Tortington Common, 'Option A' in their 2015 'Feasibility Study' reports, is the 'starting point' for the exercise, so is likely to be included.

ABNC's Freedom of Information request in March this year showed that a map of a route even further south, through Tortington and Binsted, appeared in unpublished reports of 2004 and 2006.



HE's Option B, 'longer to avoid the National Park', from its 2015 reports, appears to be the same route. This route, or something very close to it, is what they want to include among their Consultation 'options', for comparison with the Pink-Blue route.

No maps were issued in the 2015 reports, but the route matches the outermost one shown on HE's 'schematic' map of 2015.



An 'alternative alignment' for the north end was described in the 2015 reports with a flyover junction at Avisford. Both versions of Option B are obviously catastrophic for Binsted village and also for Tortington village. Both still do damage the National Park, by destroying some of it, severing parts of it and affecting its setting and connections to the countryside. Both severely affect the Arundel watermeadows.

So what can we do? There is supposed to be 'engagement' with local groups and Councils, including Parish Councils, in this 'Options identification' period. So far, HE have not answered a letter objecting to this route sent by Walberton Parish Council.

They have refused to meet ABNC, so we prepared and sent off in late September an 'Evidence Report', a binder weighing 2.6 kilos, demonstrating that the Binsted option should not be among the consultation's 'Options'. See [www.arundelbypass.co.uk/evidence-report](http://www.arundelbypass.co.uk/evidence-report).

Chapter 1 of our Report shows the route is not viable because it contravenes important planning policies both at Binsted and at Tortington. This is supported by chapters on Binsted's history, Arts Festival and community events, a professional Environmental Impact Assessment about the effect on wildlife, and printouts from the ABNC, MAVES and Binsted websites including a petition of 1300 signatures against the route.

Be prepared for some intensive campaigning next year if Highways England ignores the Report and persists with this route.

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**Arundel Bypass Neighbourhood Committee**  
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