

# The road to growth or the road to re-election?

You refer to the accusation that the road programme announced on Monday is promising road improvements in marginal constituencies to gain votes for the coalition (Clegg denies 'motorways for marginals', 2 December). Here in the Arundel and South Downs constituency we have a Conservative MP with a majority of 16,691. Is it a coincidence that the road scheme announced for Arundel - a new bypass - is the only scheme in the whole road investment strategy for England which is a major, hugely damaging dual carriageway through unspoilt countryside? All the other schemes listed are widening of existing major roads and motorways, and junction improvements.

All the routes proposed for the bypass cross the magnificent Arun valley floodplain. The western end of the bypass either slices through a very large woodland within the South Downs national park or terribly damages three beautiful villages - Tortington, Binsted and Walberton. Was this held to be a bypass scheme that could be included in the programme because there was little chance of the opposition to the bypass (which is considerable) mattering on election day?

**Emma Tristram**  
*Binsted, Sussex*

**Guardian, 3 Dec 2014**