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Junction 6 Improvement

M42 J6 Improvement Scheme

Roadworks update
20th March 2023

Agenda

1. M42 junction 6 improvement scheme overview
2. Solihull Road works update
3. Catherine de Barnes Lane works – an overview of closure phases
4. Questions

Scheme Overview

- **Gateway** to an expanding **Birmingham Airport**, the **National Exhibition Centre**, **Birmingham Business Park** and the planned **HS2 Birmingham Interchange Station**
- Part of a **larger government growth strategy** which is being developed with local partners to **maximise the economic benefits of HS2**.
- Traffic congestion and poor journey reliability have constrained investment and economic growth around junction 6 of the M42. Having almost reached capacity, the junction has become a bottleneck, causing delays across the network.
- This scheme will **increase capacity** and **improve access** to key businesses and locations such as Jaguar Land Rover and future HS2 developments, supporting future economic growth.
- **Access for cyclists, walkers and other vulnerable users** of the network will be improved.

Scheme Overview

Scheme Information

- **Construction** of a **new junction 5a** (south of the existing junction 6 on the M42).
- **Construction** of a **new 2.4km dual carriageway** link road (A4545) between the new junction and Clock Interchange (an existing junction on the A45) and the new junction M5a .
- **Upgrades** to the **existing Junction 6** with the construction of new free flow links.
- Realignments and improvements to local roads to the west of the existing M42 in proximity to the proposed bypass.
- **Construction of 8 new bridges**, including a pedestrian footbridge across the A45.



New footbridge over A45

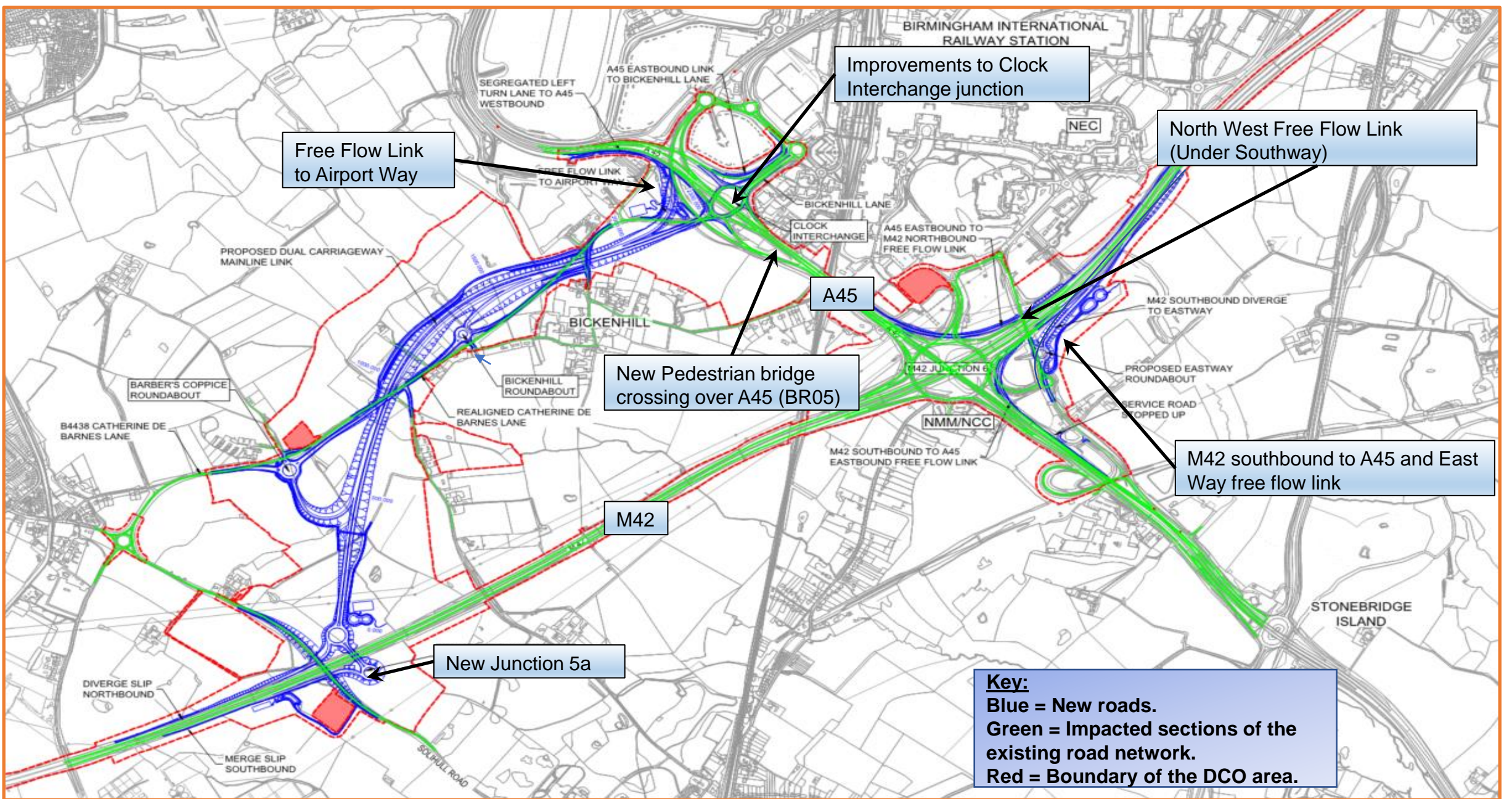
Bridges Completed

- **Pedestrian footbridge** over A45 **installed in September 2022 and opened to the public in December 2022**. This links Bickenhill Village to Birmingham International and provides a safe and accessible crossing of the A45.
- **Two Bridges across the M42** were **constructed off-line and driven into position** to reduce prolonged traffic management and tall cranes clashing with Birmingham airport flight safety zone. The bridges were successfully **installed over the course of a weekend** closure in October 2022.
- **Road bridge** that carries newly aligned Catherine de Barnes Lane across the new link road was **successfully opened** at the beginning of **February 2023**.



Bridges driven across M42 to avoid using tall cranes





Solihull Road Bridge

An update

Solihull Road Update

We apologise for the disruption from the closure.

We have faced a number of challenges in the construction of the new road, including:

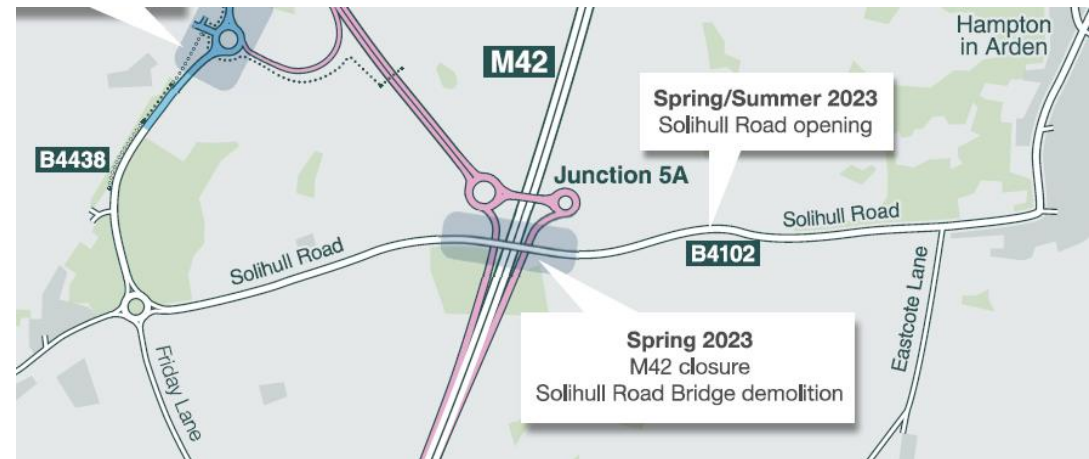
- Discovering **unknown utilities** which had to be safely managed
- Encountering an **unexpected layer of hard ground** which heavily disrupted foundation operations
- **Delays to material deliveries** due to global supply issues



Solihull Road Update

This road is our **priority**

- This is a key route for the community
- We are unable to close Catherine de Barnes Lane to progress the construction works until this road is open
- It is the “longest path” for the project, so the sooner we complete it, the sooner the overall scheme is complete
- We are opening Solihull Road **Summer 2023**

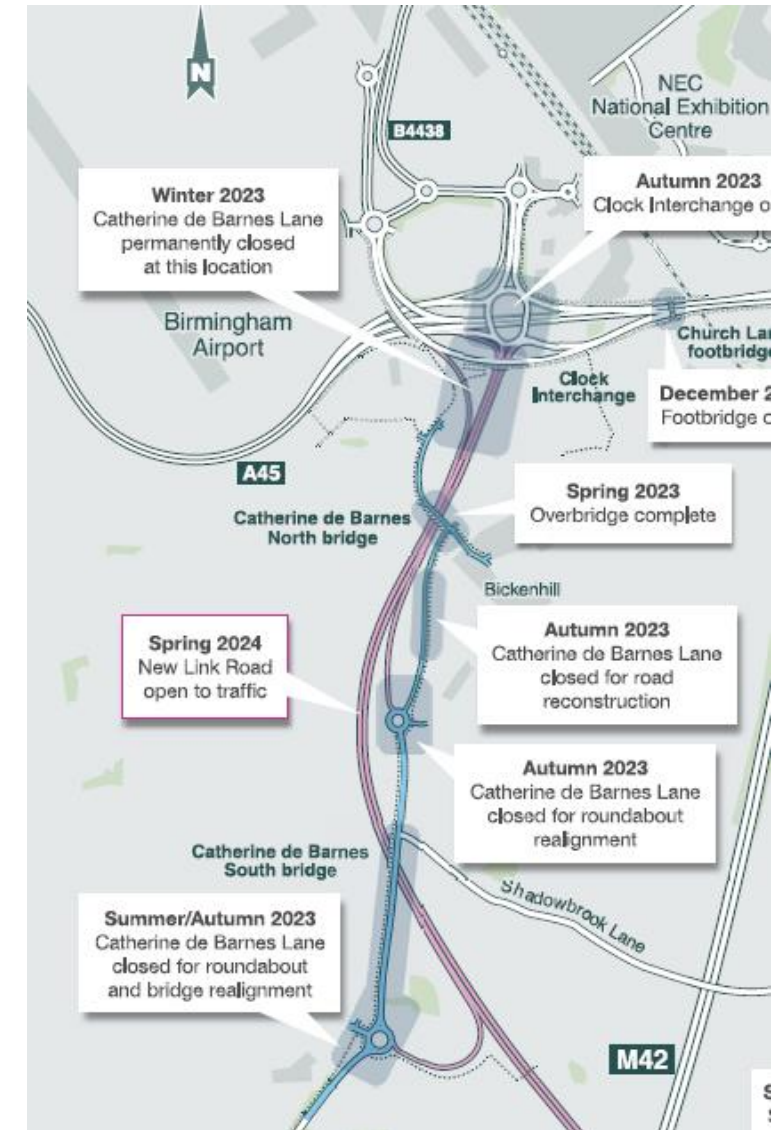


Catherine de Barnes Lane Works

What is coming up

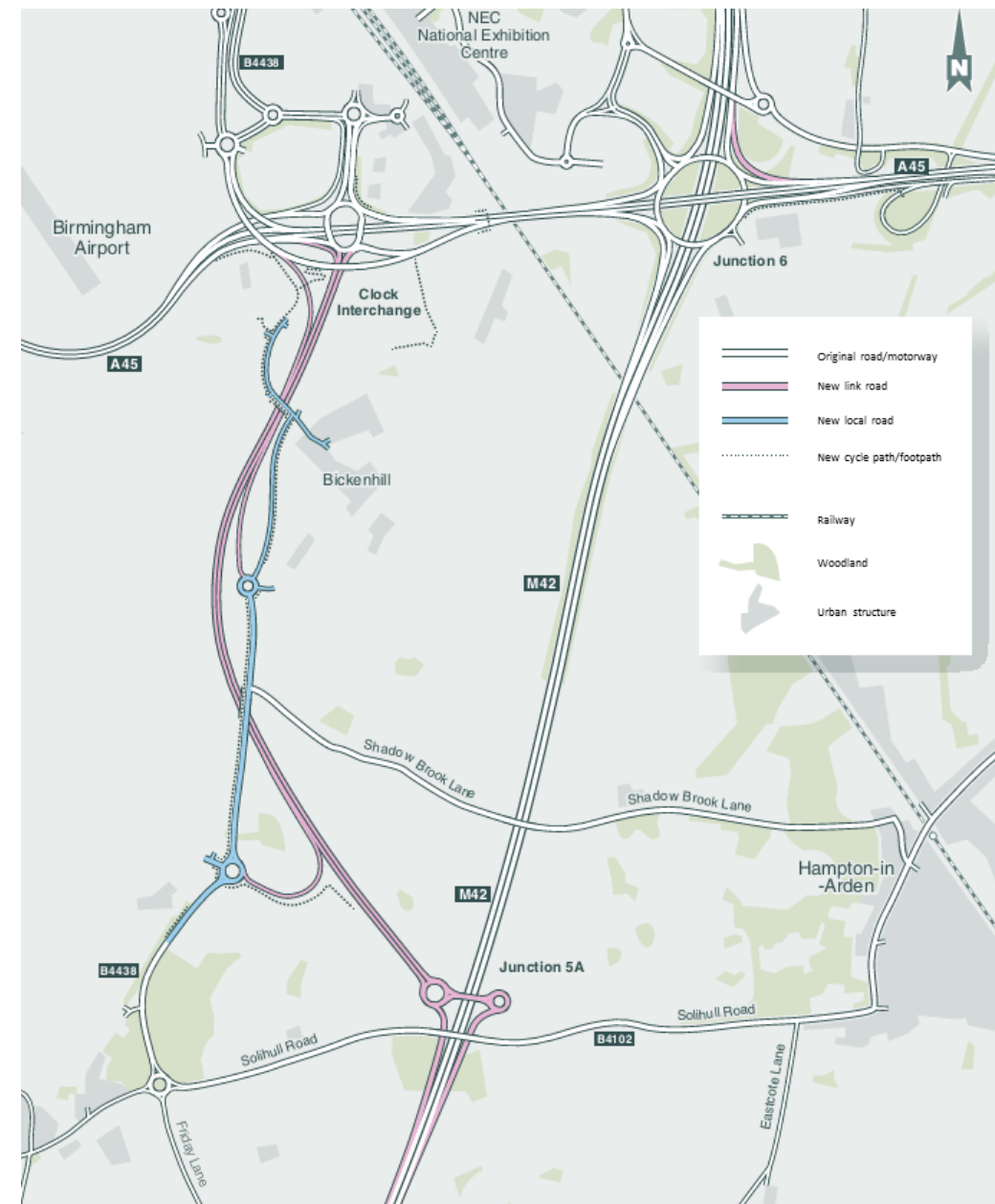
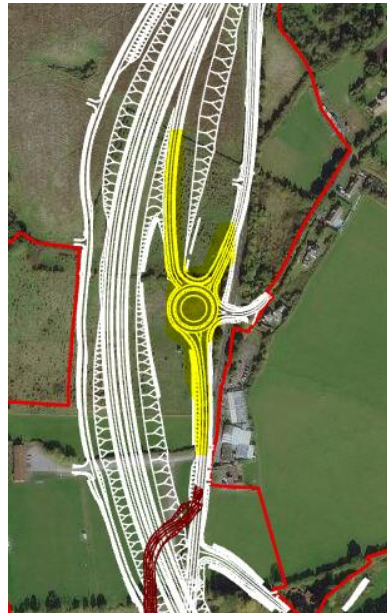
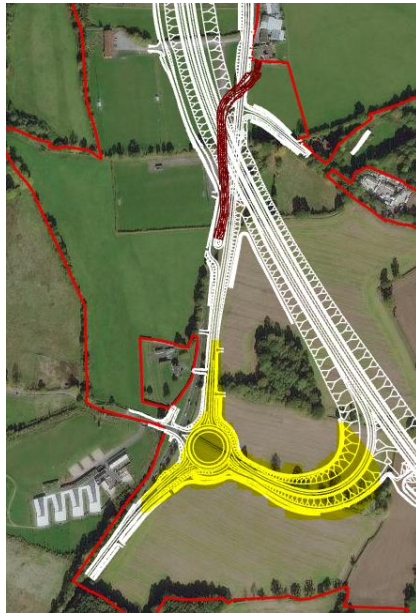
Catherine de Barnes Lane works

- This is a **high level overview**
 - explaining **what** we have to do and **why**
- Closer to the time, the **details** will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders via postcard, social media, web updates and engagement screens
- Details of the closure dates are still in discussion with SMBC – this is an early engagement on the phasing



What have we done so far?

- Utility diversions ahead of the closures
- Diverted traffic around the bridge by Shadowbrook Lane
- Diverted traffic onto the bridge by Bickenhill
- The “offline” elements of the road that **don't** need closures shown below



Catherine de Barnes Lane works

What are we doing?

- We are **reconstructing Catherine de Barnes Lane**, almost in full.
- Large sections of **footpaths** are being upgraded

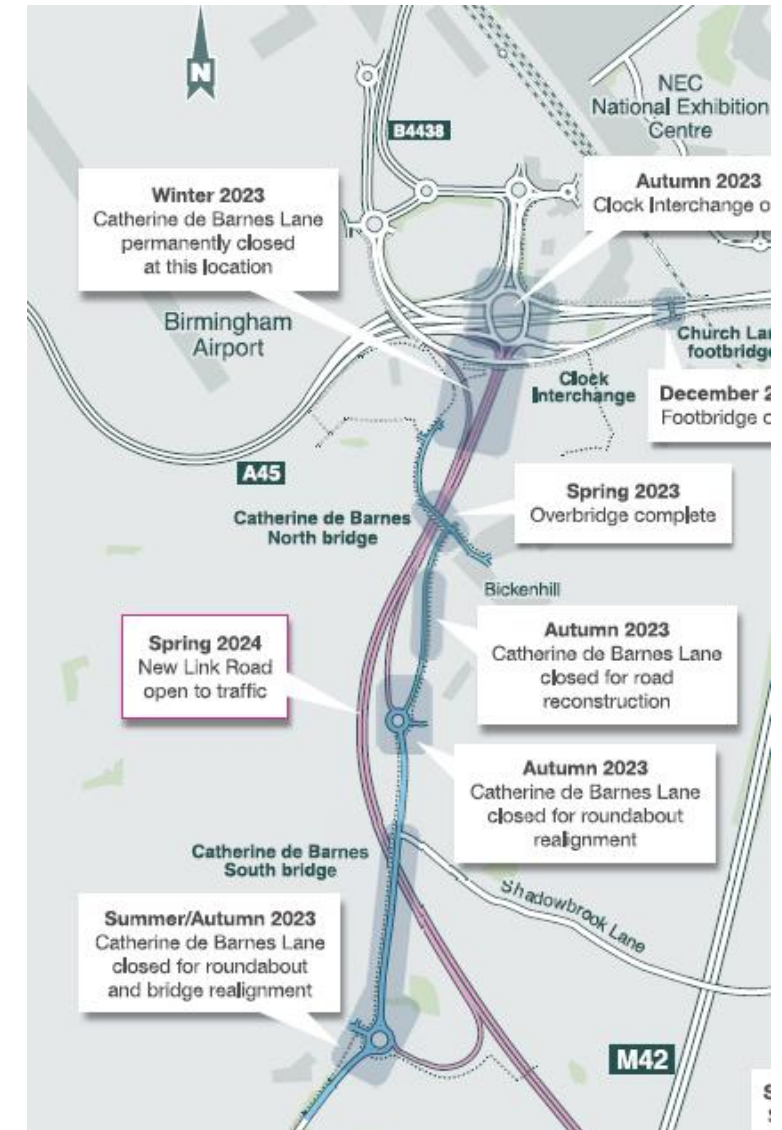
Why are we doing this?

- The existing road was at the **end of its service life**
- To construct the two **new bridges** spanning the new link road (A4545)

To construct the new road, we need to close the old road in stages

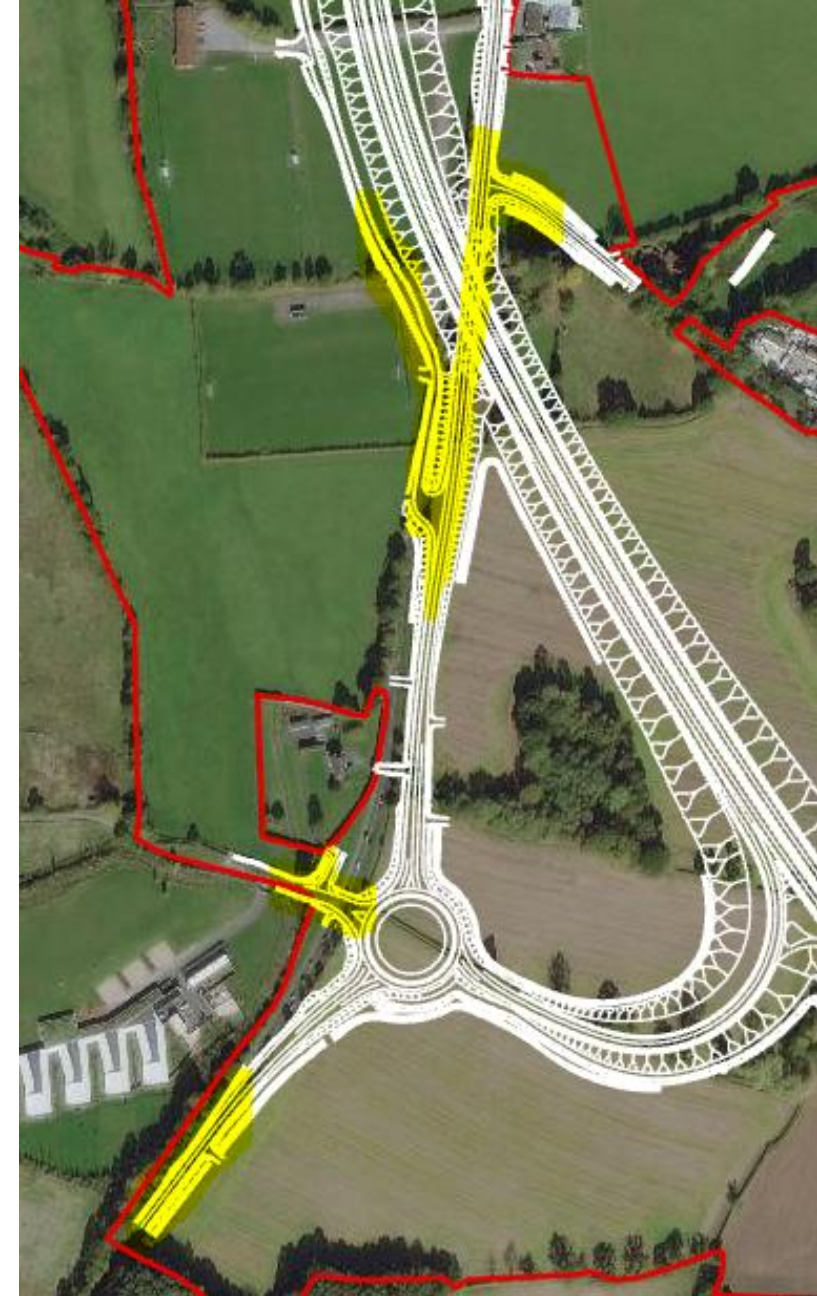
- The **earthworks** for the bridge covers the existing road
- The new **drainage** systems are under the existing road
- The new junction to the **airport flyover** goes over the existing road

We **apologise in advance** for any disruption this may cause



Phase 1 – South traffic switch

- Follows Solihull Road opening
- The next major closure
- Permanent connection to residents and businesses in this section
- Shadowbrook Lane closed at latest possible moment
- Summer 2023



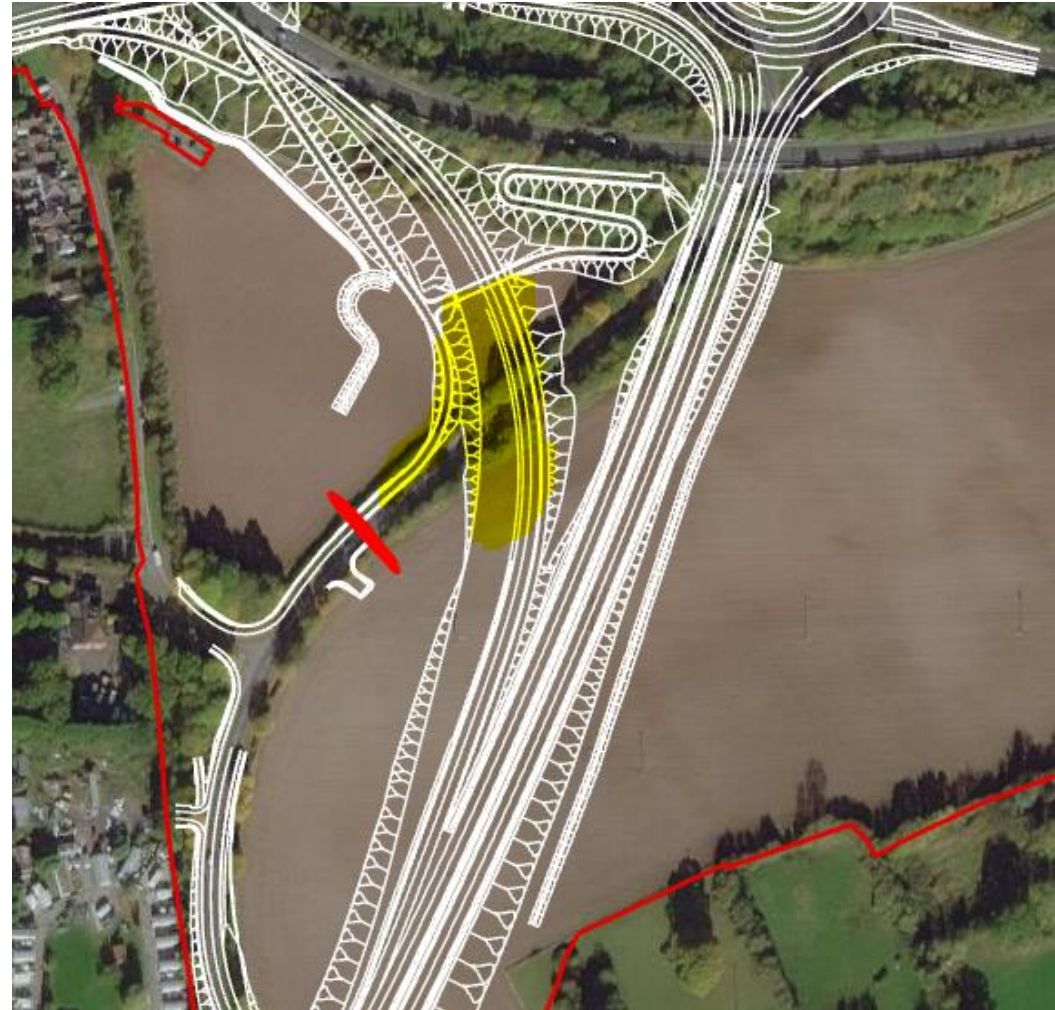
Phase 2 – Northern upgrade

- Fully close Catherine de Barnes Lane from Bickenhill roundabout to St Peters Lane North
- Road height changes to connect to new elements at either end
- Shadowbrook lane is open
- Residents access to Bickenhill from north
- Residents access at south from Shadowbrook
- Autumn 2023



Phase 3 – New Link Road connection

- Catherine de Barnes Lane **permanently** “stopped up”, becoming a cul-de-sac
- New link road (A4545) complete and connected from junction 5a to Clock Interchange
- Install Airport Link Road embankment, **running over** the existing Catherine de Barnes Lane
- Install drainage to attenuation tank
- **Catherine de Barnes Lane works complete Summer 2024**



Questions

If you have any further questions or want more information, please visit our webpage, e-mail or phone:

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- 0300 123 5000