

Mersey Gateway planning process explained

The detailed plans for the Mersey Gateway Project are being published in two stages this spring.

The first phase of applications for the Mersey Gateway Project was submitted to Halton Borough Council at the end of March.

Phase two of the submission will be a series of applications to central government for legal orders. This will be done in May.

Together, these submissions detail the plans for a new six-lane toll bridge crossing the

River Mersey between Runcorn and Widnes and the work along the access routes through the two towns. They also outline improvements planned for the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

This leaflet describes the different applications and orders and explains how you can have your say.

This is a large and complex project. A number of planning applications and legal orders are being submitted to or made by Halton Borough Council and the Department for Transport. These are summarised below.

Name	Permissions covered	Likely determining authorities
Expressway planning application	To change the road network in Runcorn from the Central Expressway to M56 junction 12 via Weston Link	Halton Borough Council
Silver Jubilee Bridge planning application	To change the road network from Ditton roundabout in Widnes to the Runcorn end of the Silver Jubilee Bridge	Halton Borough Council
Listed Building Consent	To change the Silver Jubilee Bridge road layout and to introduce new pedestrian and cycle routes	Halton Borough Council
Transport and Works Act Order	To build the new bridge, the main tolling plaza in Widnes and a series of new access roads throughout Halton. It will also give compulsory purchase powers to buy land required along the route. There will be no compulsory acquisition of any residential properties. It will also authorise tolls on the new bridge	Department for Transport
Road User Charging Order	To charge tolls or charges on the Silver Jubilee Bridge	Halton Borough Council and Department for Transport
Side Roads Orders	To close off and, where necessary, re-route access routes like side roads, bridleways and footpaths that are affected by the project	Halton Borough Council and Department for Transport
Compulsory Purchase Orders	To use compulsory purchase powers to buy land required along the route where it is not covered by the Transport and Works Act Order. There will be no compulsory acquisition of any residential properties	Halton Borough Council and Department for Transport

The deadlines for responding to the different consultation periods will be published through statutory notices in the local media and online at www.merseygateway.co.uk once they have been confirmed.

Find out more

We are holding exhibitions where you can find out more about the planning applications and legal orders and ask us any questions you might have.

Monday 9th June
Stobart Stadium, Halton

12noon - 8pm

Tuesday 10th June
Stobart Stadium, Halton

10am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 11th June
The Brindley, Runcorn

12noon - 8pm

Thursday 12th June
The Brindley, Runcorn

10.30am - 4.30pm

The full contents of the all the planning applications are available online at www.merseygateway.co.uk.

Details of the orders will be added once these have been submitted.

You can also find more information about the orders and applications at any of the Council's Halton Direct Link one-stop-shops at:

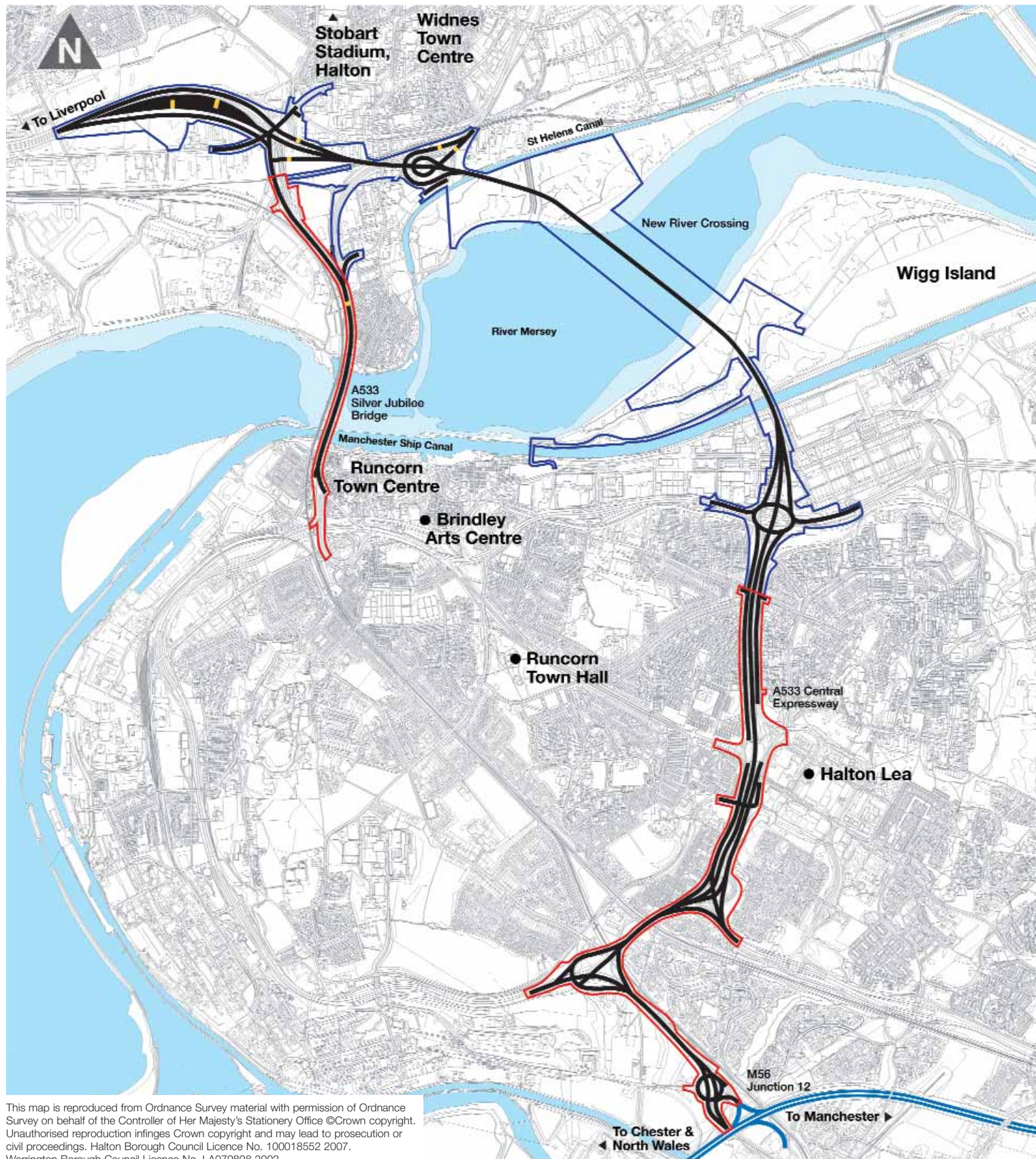
- Halton Lea, Runcorn
- Church Street, Runcorn
- Brook Street, Widnes
- Queens Avenue, Ditton, Widnes

Alternatively, you can contact the Mersey Gateway Project Team on 0151 906 4899 / 906 4898 or email mersey.gateway@halton.gov.uk

The route

The map below shows how the new bridge will fit into the road network in Halton. It also shows the different geographical areas covered by the planning applications and the Transport and Works Act Order.

Key: — Mersey Gateway Project – main works
— Planning applications boundaries
— Transport and Works Act boundary
— Likely location of toll booths



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Next steps

If approved, the Mersey Gateway is due to open in 2014. Before then, there are a number of important stepping stones along the way.

The sections in blue show where you will have an opportunity to give your views.

March – May 2008

Mersey Gateway planning applications and accompanying legal orders submitted

April – July 2008

Halton Borough Council consultation on the planning applications

May – July 2008

Government consultation on the required legal orders

Summer 2008

Halton Borough Council gives formal response to planning applications

Late 2008

Likely public inquiry

Late 2009

Outcome of public inquiry announced

2010

Invite tenders from companies interested in building and operating the Mersey Gateway

2011

Appoint the successful company and start on construction

2014

Mersey Gateway opens

To respond to any aspect of the planning applications, please write to Halton Borough Council:

- **by post** –
Environmental and Regulatory Services Department
Halton Borough Council
Halton Lea
Rutland House
Runcorn WA7 2GW
- **by email** –
dev.control@halton.gov.uk
- **online** –
www.halton.gov.uk
click on the 'planning' section
- **in person** – you can hand in a written response in a sealed envelope at Municipal Buildings in Widnes or any of the Halton Direct Link one-stop-shops across the borough.

Please mark all correspondence clearly: 'Mersey Gateway planning applications response'.

About us

The Mersey Gateway Project team is a dedicated unit set up within Halton Borough Council.

The project is supported by the Mersey Crossing Group, which is made up of representatives from regional government, other local authorities and businesses from across the region.

If you need this information in a different format such as large print, audio tape, Braille or another language, please call 0151 906 4899.