

Exceat Bridge, Seaford

Exceat Replacement Bridge Project

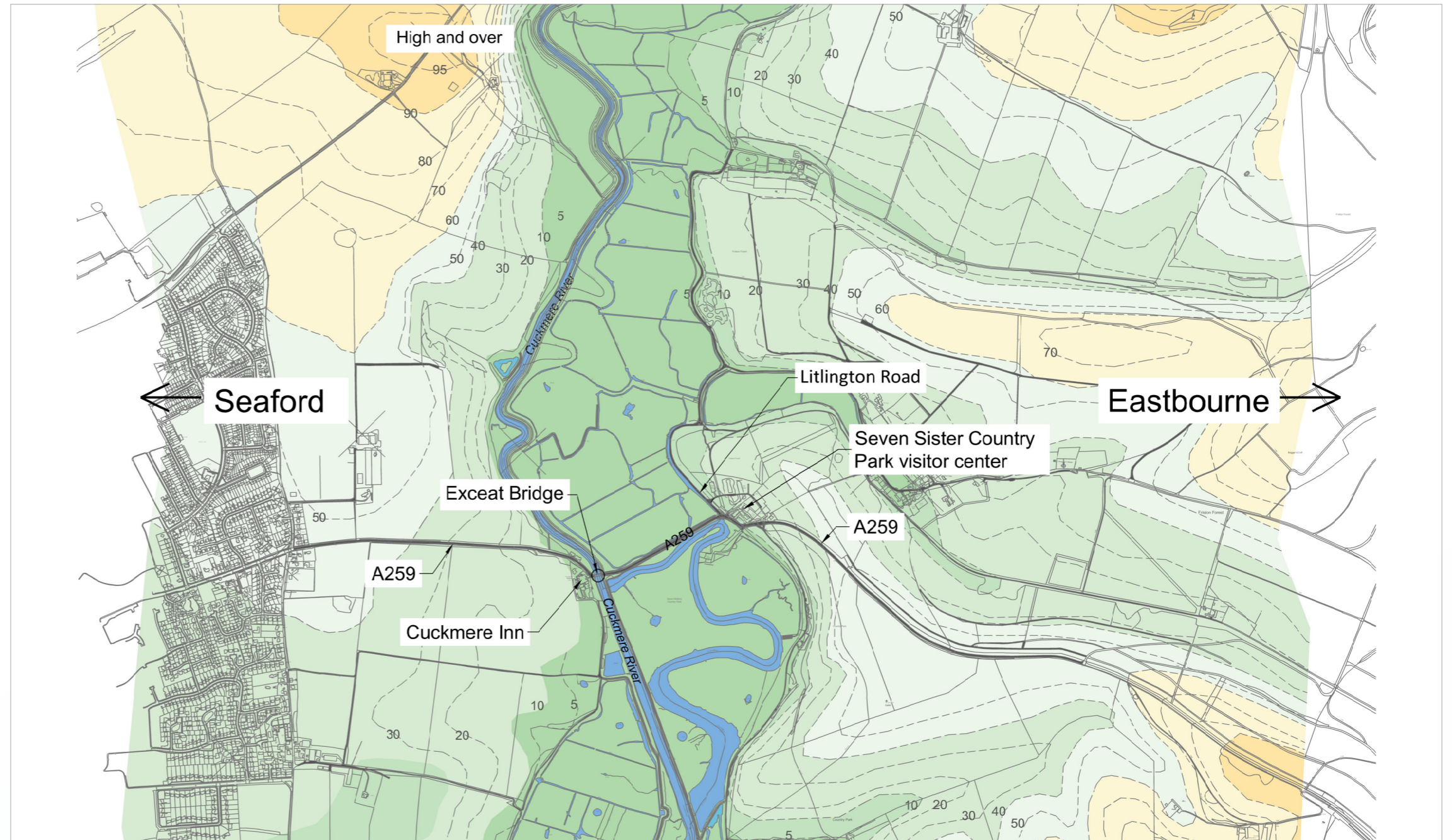
July 2020



Introduction

East Sussex County Council are currently developing plans to replace the existing bridge at Exceat with a new two-lane two-way bridge which will ensure the free flow of traffic and include safer crossing points for pedestrians, whilst taking into consideration the landscape and environmental sensitivities of the area.

This public engagement exercise will be used to inform our planning application to the South Downs National Park Planning Authority in early 2021. We expect a planning decision in Summer 2021.



Location plan of the site

Why replace the Bridge at Exceat?

The Seven Sisters Country Park is a popular part of the South Downs National Park that attracts many visitors. Exceat Bridge is located next to the visitor centre in the Cuckmere valley. The existing bridge was built around 1870 so that horses and carts could cross the River Cuckmere. It is a one-way single-lane bridge which means that peak traffic backs up in both directions.

It was extensively repaired in the 1970s, but the bottleneck for traffic still exists. This is frustrating for drivers and unpleasant for cyclists and pedestrians who need to cross the road twice to access the footway on the north side.

Replacing Exceat Bridge with a new bridge would give an opportunity to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and improve crossing facilities.

At the moment the bridge is functional but does not aesthetically benefit its natural setting. A replacement bridge could be designed sympathetically to the natural environment, with viewing points where people can appreciate the landscape.

The project could also be used to restore natural habitats like salt marshes along the river and scrub along the road.



Existing Bridge

What will the new bridge look like?

Option 1

Arched parapets which separate the pedestrian areas from the road, resembling the hills from the surrounding landscape.



Artists impression

Option 2

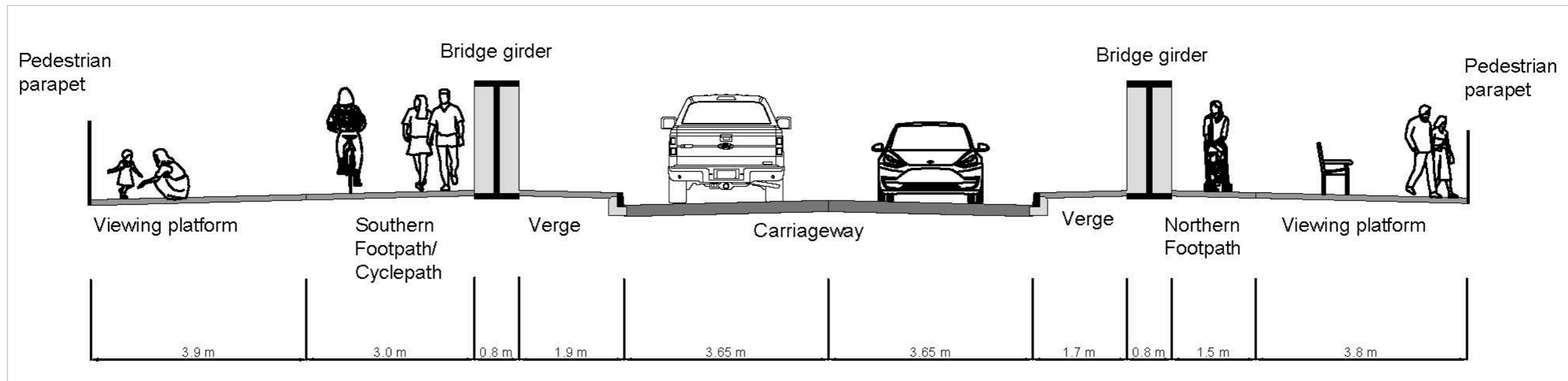
Straight parapets which is more in keeping with the horizontal form of the causeway and the flat valley floor.



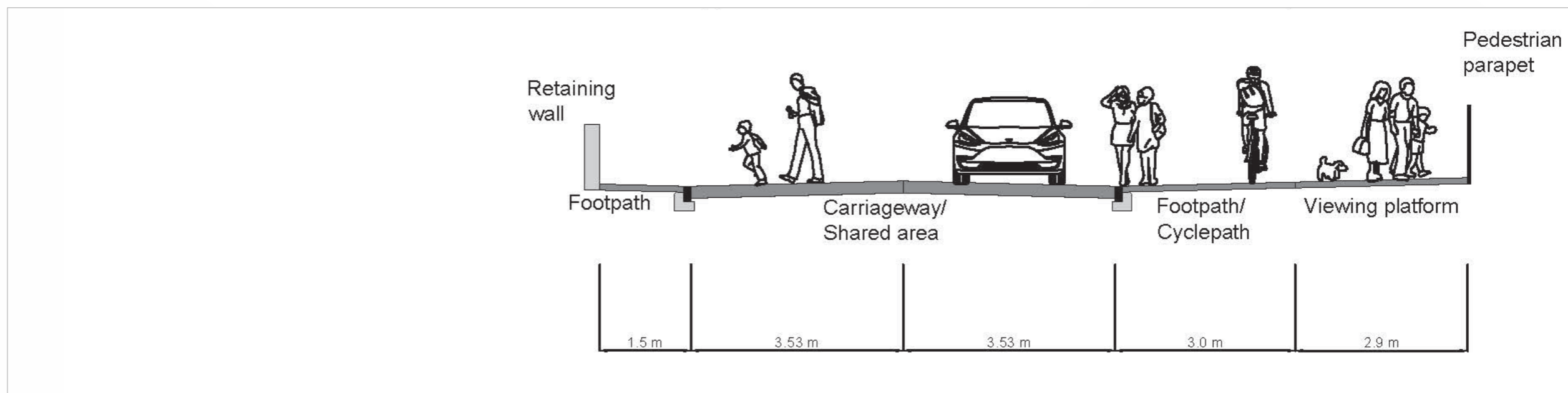
Artists impression

What will the new bridge look like?

Typical cross section on the bridge

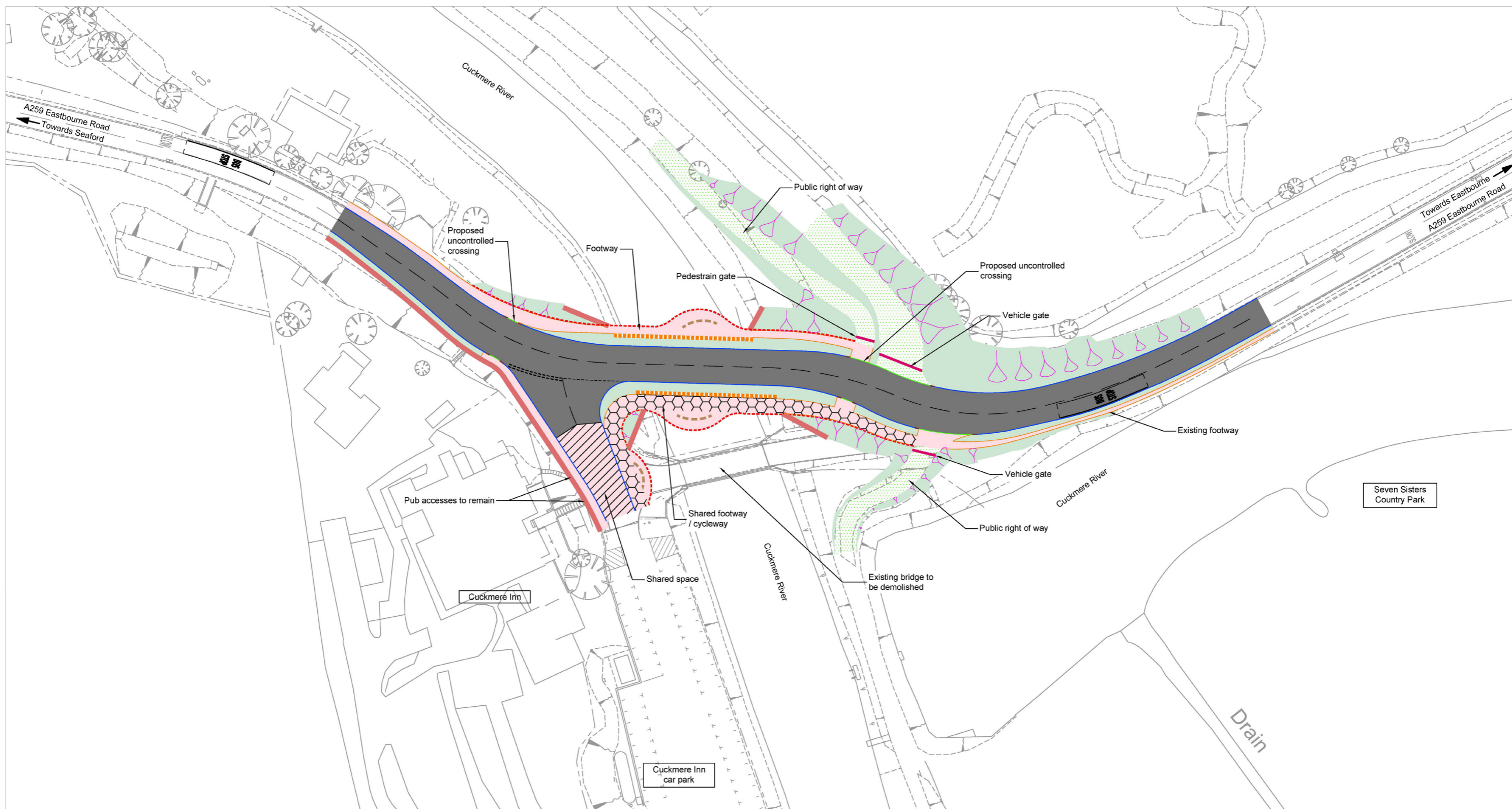


Typical cross section on the access to the car park



What will the new bridge look like?

Proposed alignment of the new Exceat Bridge

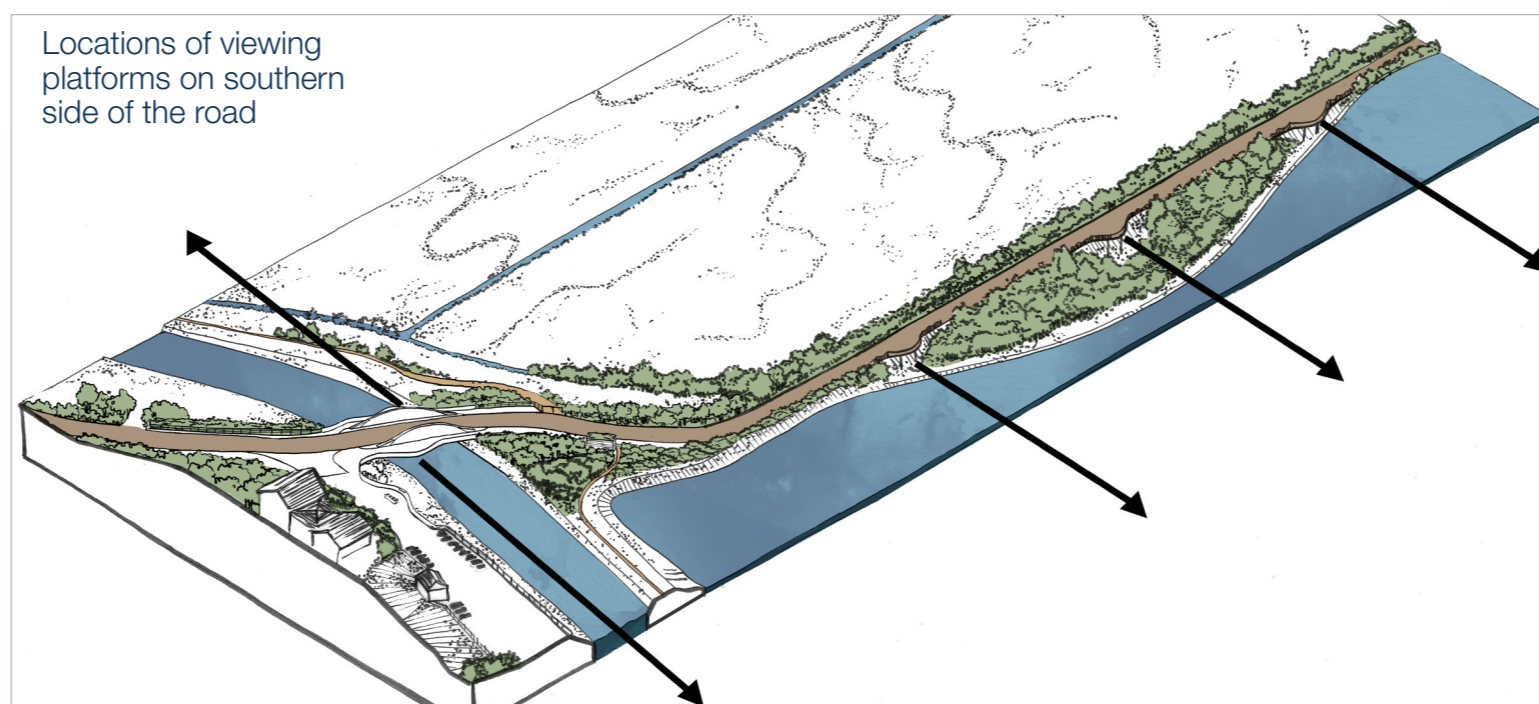


New Viewing Platforms

Two viewing platforms will be created on each side of the new bridge along the footway.

In addition, three viewing platforms will be provided on the southern side of the road between the bridge and the visitors centre which will afford pedestrians an opportunity to view the everchanging landscape of the Seven Sisters County Park.

Artists impression of possible viewing platforms



What will the impact be on the Landscape and National Park?

The aim is for the new bridge to have as little impact on the surrounding landscape and National Park as possible.

This will be achieved by:

- Keeping the location of the new bridge as close as possible to the existing one
- Designing a small, simple structure which blends in with the landscape

The structure and final colour of the bridge will be discussed with South Downs National Park landscape and design officers well in advance of the submission of the planning application.

The bridge will have viewing platforms so that users can enjoy the views.

Any trees scrub, vegetation and habitats lost or damaged during the construction works will be replaced. We are working with Natural England to develop mitigation measures.



View towards existing Exceat Bridge

Impact on Roads

The existing bridge is narrow with a sharp bend, and it operates a give-way priority system.

These factors severely restrict traffic movement across the bridge, leading to tailbacks that can extend for over a kilometre at peak times.

Our proposed two-way, two-lane layout will significantly decrease congestion and improve traffic flow along this stretch of the A259.

A full transport assessment will form part of the planning submission.



Traffic heading towards Exceat Bridge

Environmental Constraints and Opportunities

Exceat Bridge is located in a Site of Special Scientific Interest within the South Downs National Park which is used by many different user groups. The potential impact on all aspects of the environment have been and continue to be considered throughout the design process.

Consideration has been given to the environmental impact of the new project since the outset. A detailed Environmental Statement is being prepared that will give due regard to the heritage of the local community, and the environment of the local area.

The Environmental Statement provides a detailed assessment of the effects on protected species, plants, trees, heritage, the landscape and visitor experience, including the effects on pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle users, air quality and noise.

A full mitigation strategy is being developed to maximise the benefits that the project can deliver and to address any negative impact. It will include habitat enhancements and proposals to support and celebrate local heritage and landscape.



View of the Cuckmere River

Impact on Local Businesses

The proposed location of the new bridge (north of the existing bridge) will increase public space at the front of the Cuckmere Inn.

The area will be a shared space with people given priority over motor vehicles. The area will be carefully designed using local materials to enhance the setting of the Inn and provide new facilities like viewpoints with seating, information boards, and cycle parking.



The Cuckmere Inn



Artists impression of the area outside of the Cuckmere Inn

What happens next

Thank you for taking the time to let us know what you think about the plans for Exceat Bridge.

We are not able to respond to individual comments. However all feedback will be analysed and will be used to help us to develop our designs and inform our planning application. We will post updates on the outcomes on our consultation page and on our website: eastsussexhighways.com/exceat-bridge-project.

Contact us

A questionnaire is provided at the back of this document with a section for comments on these proposals.

The questionnaire should take about 5 - 10 minutes to complete. We ask that you provide your feedback by:

Friday 7th August 2020.

If you have any further questions or need the questionnaire in another format, please contact us at:

Exceat.BridgeConsultation@eastsussex.gov.uk

FAQ

How much will the project cost?

The estimated construction costs are £5.25 million.

Why are works to the footway along the causeway and improvements outside the Seven Sisters Visitors Centre not included in these proposals?

Other works within the immediate area are not included within this project. East Sussex County Council hope to work with the South Downs National Park to provide further improvements when funding is made available.

What provisions are being made for cyclists?

The footway on the southern side of the bridge is being designed with both cyclists and pedestrians in mind. If planning permission is granted the opportunity for additional infrastructure for cyclists will be explored.

What provisions are being made for bus passengers given the high level of bus usage in this area?

The existing bus stops either side of the bridge will be maintained, and both will be illuminated by new sensitive directional street lighting.

Will the bridge be designed to allow for increased river levels, given the flooding events experienced recently?

We are very aware of the potential flooding in the Cuckmere Valley, and the bridge is being designed to allow for increased river levels and any other possible flooding scenarios.

Will traffic volume increase along the A259 as a result of the new bridge?

Traffic volume is predicted to increase on all roads over the next ten years but it is not anticipated that the bridge will drive this growth. Heavy Goods Vehicles will continue to be encouraged to use the strategic road network i.e. A26 and A27, through signing and satellite navigation systems. It is not anticipated there will be an increase in these vehicles using this route.

Will the road be closed to traffic during construction?

The construction works are subject to planning permission being granted and funding being available. The new bridge is being designed to allow it to be built whilst the existing bridge remains in place for use, which will avoid lengthy diversions. Local traffic management measures and night closures may be required.

How can I receive future updates about this project?

Updates will be regularly provided here: www.eastsussexhighways.com/exceat-bridge-project

Questionnaire

Q1. What is your overall view on the proposal to replace Exceat Bridge?

- a. Good
- b. Unnecessary
- c. Too focused on motorised traffic
- d. Too focused on pedestrians
- e. Don't know
- f. Neutral

Comments: _____

Q2. What impact do you think replacing Exceat Bridge will have on the following?

a. Pedestrians and other non-motorised users

- Positive
- Negative
- Don't know
- Neutral

b. Traffic

- Positive
- Negative
- Don't know
- Neutral

c. Landscape

- Positive
- Negative
- Don't Know
- Neutral

d. Environment and Wildlife

- Positive
- Negative
- Don't know
- Neutral

Comments: _____

Q3. What is important to you when using the existing Bridge?

- a. Crossing from one side of the river to the other
- b. To view the surrounding landscape to the north and south
- c. Both

Comments: _____

Q4. What bridge structure would you like to see? See page 6 for options

- a. Arched parapet option
- b. Straight parapet option
- c. Don't know
- e. Neutral

Comments: _____

Q5. What do you think about the proposal to add viewing platforms?

- a. I would like viewing platforms to be added
- b. I think viewing platforms are unnecessary
- c. Don't know
- e. Neutral

Comments: _____

Q6. Do you think that making the bridge two-way traffic flow is necessary?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Don't know
- e. Neutral

Comments: _____

Any other comments: _____

We welcome your comments on these proposals.

Please return your comments by **Friday 7th August 2020.**

About you

You don't have to answer the questions in this section, but it will help us to make sure that every one is treated fairly and equally if you do. Your information will only be used and reported anonymously to support the consultation, engagement or feedback activity you are taking part in. We will keep your individual information for a period of up to five years and we won't keep it any longer than is necessary. Please get in touch with the named contact for this activity if you would like more information. Read the full privacy notice here: www.eastsussex.gov.uk/privacy/about-you-survey/

Q1. Are you? (Please select one box)

- Male Female Prefer not to say

Q2. Do you identify as a transgender or trans person? Please select one box

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q3. Which of these age groups do you belong to? Please select one box

- under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-59 60-64 65-74 75+ Prefer not to say

Q4. What is your postcode?

- Tick here if you prefer not to say

Q5. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong? (source: 2011 census)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Indian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Pakistani |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Gypsy/Roma | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British other* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White other* | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British other* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed other* | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group* | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

*If your ethnic group was not specified in the list please describe your ethnic group.

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q6. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010? Please select one box

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q7. If you answered yes to Q6, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you. You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these apply to you please select other and give brief details of the impairment you have.

- Physical impairment
 Sensory impairment (hearing and sight)
 Long standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, heart disease, diabetes or epilepsy
 Mental health condition
 Learning disability
 Prefer not to say
 Other*

Q8. Do you regard yourself as belonging to any particular religion or belief? Please select one box

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q9. If you answered yes to Q8, which one? Please select one box

- Christian Hindu Muslim Any other religion, please specify:
 Buddhist Jewish Sikh

Q10. Are you...? Please select one box

- Bi/Bisexual Gay woman/Lesbian Other
 Heterosexual/Straight Gay Man Prefer not to say

Q11. Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant in the last year? Please select one box

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Q12. Are you married or in a civil partnership? Please select one box

- Yes No Prefer not to say

Thank you for providing this information.

East Sussex Highways

The Broyle

Lewes

BN8 5NP