

Chelmer Valley Park and Ride Expansion

Part of the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package

Public Consultation



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Introduction

Park and Ride remains a crucial part of Essex County Council's vision and strategy for Chelmsford, as outlined in the [Chelmsford Future Transport Network Strategy](#).

It provides a quick and easy way to travel into the city centre and reduces the number of cars on the city's road network, helping reduce congestion and carbon emissions.

Although passenger numbers have dropped following the COVID-19 pandemic, use of our Park and Ride sites is increasing again and we expect passenger numbers to recover over time.

There is also significant growth planned, including in the north Chelmsford area and the Braintree district. Therefore, demand for Park and Ride services is forecasted to increase in the future and we need to ensure there is enough capacity to meet this future demand.

Through the [Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package](#), we have an opportunity to increase Park and Ride capacity in Chelmsford, as well as redesign the Army and Navy junction and make much-needed walking and cycling improvements, providing better options for people to travel and encouraging safer, greener, and healthier ways of getting around the city.

As part of the package, we are now proposing to expand the existing Chelmer Valley Park and Ride site and are running a public consultation to provide an opportunity for you to have your say specifically on those plans.

We launched the consultation on Monday 30 January 2023 and it will run until Sunday 12 March 2023.

This brochure sets out our proposals for Chelmer Valley Park and Ride and the next steps for the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package.



Background

Chelmer Valley Park and Ride

The proposed expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride is an important part of the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package – a package of measures developed to improve journeys through the city's Army and Navy junction and help provide better travel options in Chelmsford.

When we originally consulted on the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package in 2021, it included a proposed new Park and Ride to the west of Chelmsford in Widford, with two potential site options considered. However, in March 2022, we announced we would not be taking those plans forward as part of the package because of the significant construction costs and greater financial risks with operating a new Park and Ride site, particularly following the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Essex County Council would still like to develop a new Park and Ride site to the west of Chelmsford and hope to be able to take that forward as part of a different project in the future.

We are now proposing to include the expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride as part of the package, as well as continuing with our proposals to expand Sandon Park and Ride. With significant growth planned to the north of Chelmsford, it was always anticipated that Chelmer Valley Park and Ride would require expansion in the future and land for the expansion was safeguarded within Chelmsford City Council's Local Plan (a document which sets out planning policies and guides future development). The removal of a new Widford Park and Ride from the package provided the opportunity to fund this expansion.

The expansion is not about providing for current demand, but providing for the future.

This public consultation focuses specifically on the proposed expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride and is the chance for you to have your say on that particular element of the package.

Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package

The Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package is an unmissable opportunity to re-design the Army and Navy junction - a crucial gateway to Chelmsford – while also providing better options for people to travel and encouraging safer, greener, and healthier ways of getting around the city.

By delivering a comprehensive package of measures which encourage increased walking, cycling, bus and Park and Ride travel, alongside an improved Army and Navy junction, we can provide a long-term and sustainable solution, improving journeys for everyone.

A dedicated Army and Navy Task Force, made up of elected members of Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council and Great Baddow Parish Council and the local MP, has been supporting us in driving forward the project and lobbying for funding.

Having thoroughly assessed a number of potential junction layouts and sustainable

transport improvements, we asked you to help shape the package by taking part in our public consultation in 2021.

In March 2022, Essex County Council's Cabinet formally approved a Hamburger Roundabout (a roundabout with a road through the centre of it) as the preferred option for the Army and Navy junction. The decision came after the public consultation showed the majority of respondents favoured the Hamburger Roundabout option.

In October 2022, we submitted an Outline Business Case to the Department for Transport (DfT) for the proposed Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package – the next stage of the bidding process for Major Road Network (MRN) funding.

We are currently awaiting a decision from the DfT. If the Outline Business Case is approved, the next step will be to work towards submission of planning applications for the different elements of the package.

For more information about the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package, please visit: www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy



What is the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package?

The proposed Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package includes:

- A new Hamburger Roundabout junction layout at the Army and Navy junction
- Expansion of Sandon Park and Ride
- Expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride
- Walking and cycling improvements at the Army and Navy and on the approaches to and from the junction
- Extension of Essex Yeomanry Way bus lane
- Improved bus priority on Parkway

Chelmsford Future Transport Strategy

Vision

The vision for Chelmsford is to have a transport system which is best in class, offering enhanced connectivity, access and choice to residents, commuters, visitors and businesses.

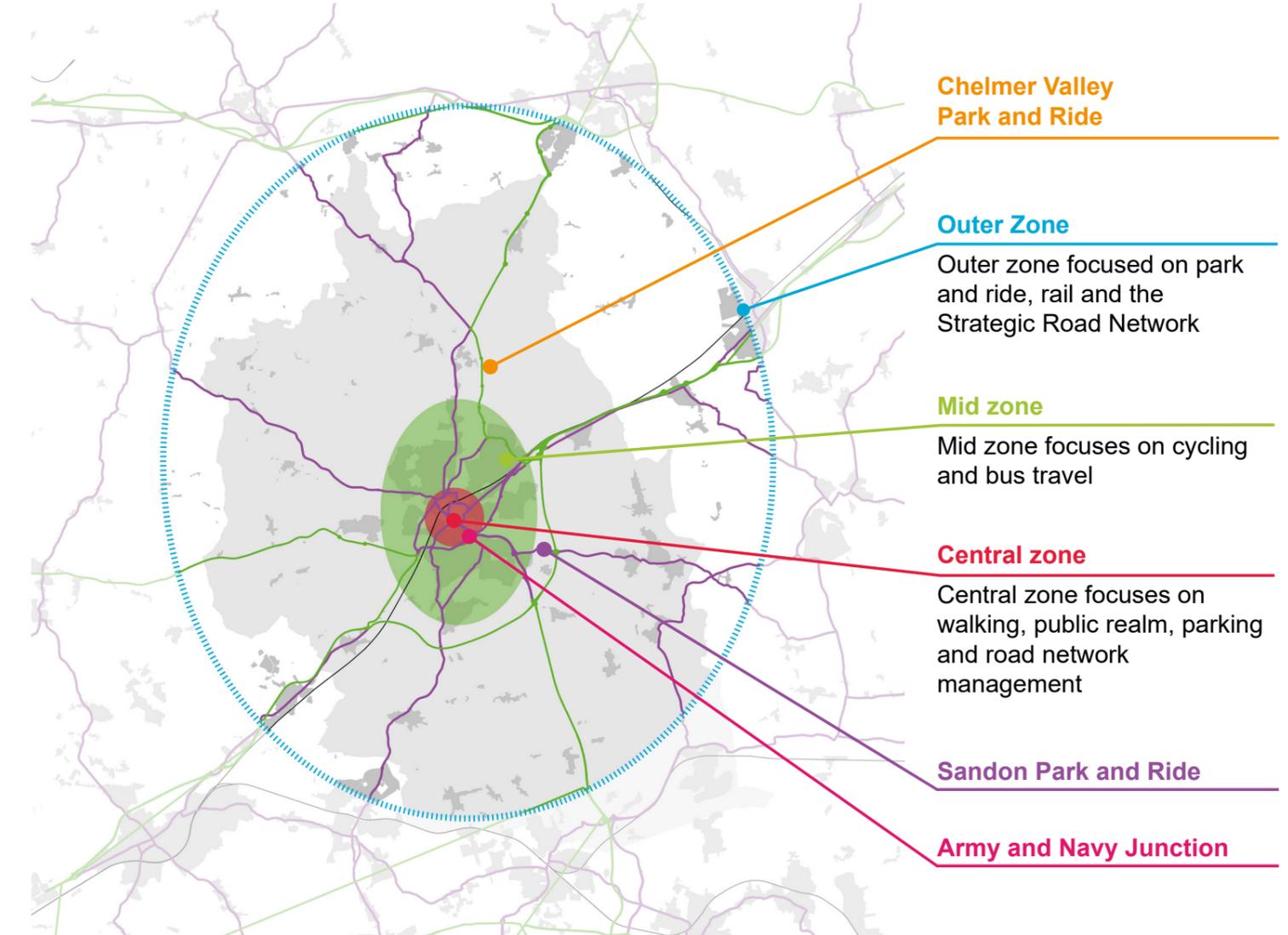
Strategy

With the vision in mind, the Chelmsford Future Transport Network Strategy sets the approach to the city's transport network to give people real choice in the way they travel, helping keep the city moving, improve people's health and wellbeing, protect the environment and support economic growth.

It focuses on the type of journey – short, medium and long distance – and, through a zonal approach, prioritises specific modes of transport in different areas of Chelmsford, with an increasing focus on sustainable travel towards the city centre.

The Army and Navy junction is on the border of the central and mid zones, meaning any scheme must include sustainable travel measures such as walking, cycling and buses.

Chelmer Valley Park and Ride is located in the outer zone as part of the strategy to encourage people travelling into Chelmsford from outside of the city to use Park and Ride as an alternative to driving, helping reduce traffic on the city's roads.



The strategic need for Park and Ride

Park and Ride passenger numbers have fallen since the COVID-19 pandemic, however, usage is beginning to recover and Park and Ride remains a crucial part of Essex County Council's vision and strategy to provide an attractive alternative means of transport into the city centre. This is in line with the council's Chelmsford Future Transport Strategy and its Safer, Greener, Healthier agenda.

Park and Ride expansion will also provide potential opportunities for further sustainable transport improvements in Chelmsford in the future.

The adopted Chelmsford Local Plan outlines 9,579 new homes in and around Chelmsford, including the proposed Chelmsford Garden Community in north-east Chelmsford. In addition, the Local Plan sets out 55,000 square metres (sqm) of office space and 13,400 sqm of food retail floorspace. There are also additional large development sites proposed in the Braintree district, such as Great Notley,

Towerlands and Panfield. As a result, a large increase in demand for Park and Ride services is expected in the coming Local Plan periods (up to 2036) and beyond. The forecast demand can only be accommodated by increasing the number of parking spaces at the existing Park and Ride sites.

In recognition of this, the proposed expansion of Park and Ride is a key element of Chelmsford City Council's vision for Chelmsford. The city council's [Chelmsford Local Plan Issues and Options Paper: Transport](#) (published in August 2022) outlines the need to re-think how we all move around to help address the global climate emergency. It emphasises the need for a much stronger emphasis on sustainable transport and ensuring people have a meaningful choice to pick the most appropriate transport for their different types of journey. Park and Ride is an important part of this.



Chelmer Valley Park and Ride expansion



Description:

We are proposing an upgrade and approximate 500-space expansion of the existing Chelmer Valley Park and Ride.

Expansion of the site, which is located off the A130 Essex Regiment Way, would be made to the east and slightly to the north of the existing site.

Construction works at Chelmer Valley are expected to take about seven months and would be phased, with specific areas of the site closed in turn to ensure the Park and Ride service remains open throughout.

The expanded site would be expected to run at about 90% occupancy in 2041.

Impacts:

The expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride would reduce the number of car trips in the city centre by about 104,000 per year (based on the 2041 forecast).

Changes in traffic movements are not expected to have any significant impact on the Pratts Farm Lane Roundabout because users of the Park and Ride would generally have already been passing through the junction.

We are undertaking environmental studies and assessments to assess the environmental impact of the proposed extension of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride site. Mitigation and enhancement measures will be proposed to offset any adverse effects, including archaeological mitigation fieldwork and a detailed landscape and environmental planting scheme.



Key features:

- Approximately 1,500 total parking spaces, including designated electric vehicle, disabled and parent and child spaces
- Clockwise one-way system in car park maintained and expanded
- Various pedestrian and cyclist improvements throughout the site, including crossings and direct cycleway/footway connections between the terminal building, expanded area of the site and proposed new Chelmsford Garden Community development
- Additional new cycle lockers to promote cycling between the Park and Ride, new housing areas in the vicinity of the site and the city centre
- We will explore potential sustainable energy options within the revised Park and Ride site.

Consultation events

Please have your say on the proposed expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride as part of the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package by completing our online consultation survey via: www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy.

To find out more about our proposals and ask any questions you may have, we are hosting a couple of consultation events.



Drop-in events

Members of our project team will be available to answer your questions and provide you with information about the proposals at High Chelmer Shopping Centre in Chelmsford (outside Next) on:

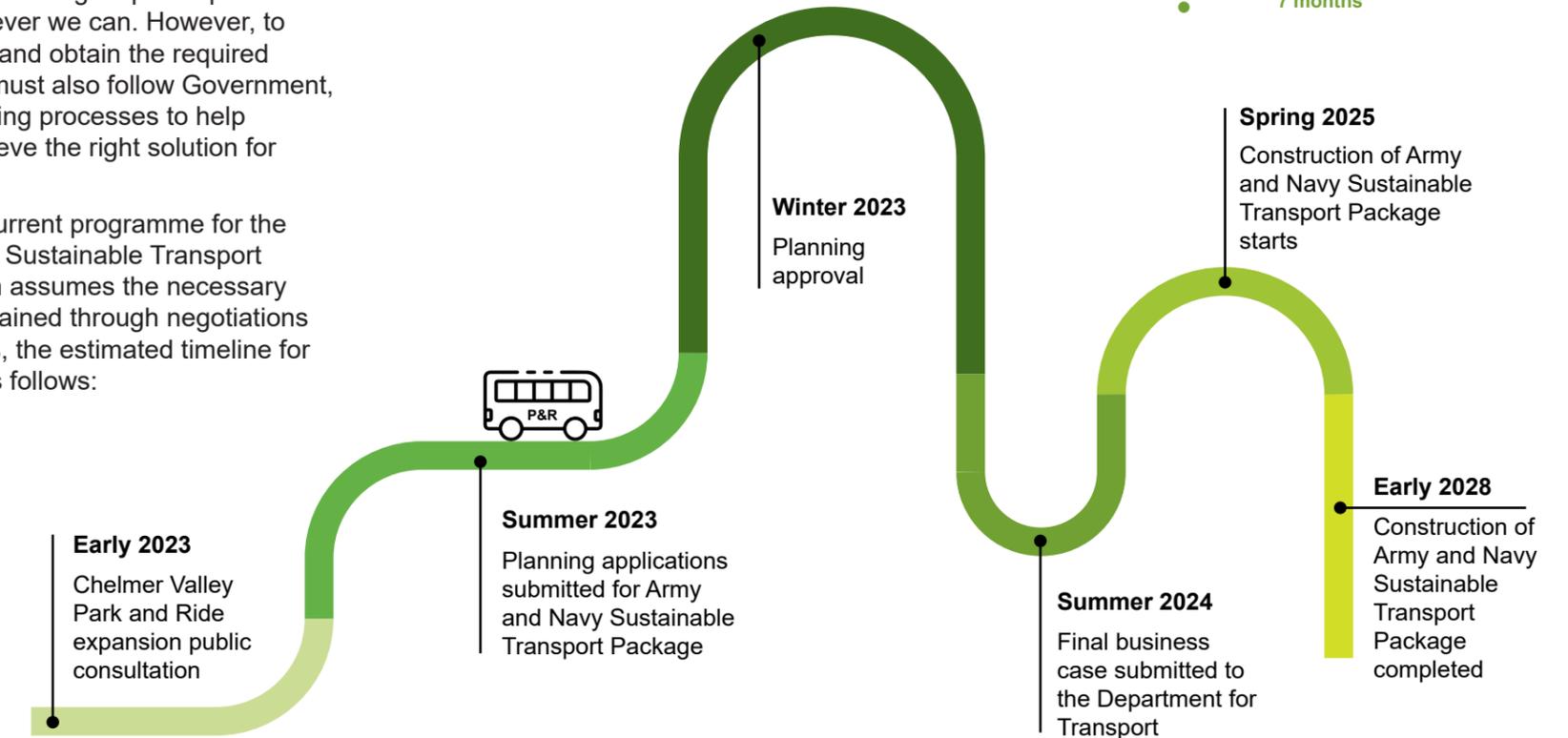
- **Thursday 9th February 2023**
10am – 4pm
- **Saturday 25th February 2023**
10am – 3pm

There is no need to sign up, so you can pop by at the best time to suit you.

Next steps

We understand people want a solution at the Army and Navy junction as quickly as possible and are taking steps to speed things up wherever we can. However, to secure funding and obtain the required approvals, we must also follow Government, legal and planning processes to help ensure we achieve the right solution for Chelmsford.

Based on the current programme for the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package, which assumes the necessary land can be obtained through negotiations with the owners, the estimated timeline for the project is as follows:



During the overall construction period, works are expected to take:

Sandon Park and Ride

11 months

Army and Navy junction

24 months

Chelmer Valley Park and Ride

7 months

Have your say

We want to hear your thoughts on our proposals for the expansion of the Chelmer Valley Park and Ride.

Your views are very important to us and this public consultation is an opportunity to help us refine the proposals for the expansion before we submit a planning application.

The best way to tell us what you think is by completing our online consultation survey via the project website at:



www.essex.gov.uk/armyandnavy

The survey opened on Monday 30 January 2023 and will close on Sunday 12 March 2023.

The survey questions are also available at the back of this brochure and can be printed, filled out and posted to the following address (please note the address is case sensitive): FREEPOST ESSEX HIGHWAYS ENGAGEMENT TEAM

They can also be returned by email to armyandnavy@essexhighways.org. Alternatively, you can request a printed copy is sent to you by post by emailing armyandnavy@essexhighways.org. Please return your survey responses via the Freepost address.

Please respond to the survey only via one of the methods. We cannot accept responsibility for ensuring that responses sent in any other way are considered. All responses must include at least your name and postcode. When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation.

You have until 11:59pm on Sunday 12 March 2023 to respond to the survey. There is no guarantee that any responses received after this date will be considered. If they are, they will be labelled as late responses



Consultation survey

This survey is for you to provide information to be used by the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package project. Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we have a legal duty to protect any information we collect from you. The information will only be used for the purposes of this project and will not be kept longer than is necessary to do so, up to a maximum of five years. We share this information with our partners Jacobs and Ringway Jacobs but we will not share your personal details with any other agency unless we have concerns that you or another individual may be at risk of harm or if it is required by law. We do not collect personal information for commercial purposes.

If you would like to find out more about how Essex County Council uses personal data, please go to



www.essex.gov.uk/privacy



or call:

03457 430 430

Essex County Council has a Data Protection Officer who makes sure we respect your rights and follow the law. If you have any concerns or questions about how we look after your personal information, please contact the Data Protection Officer at DPO@essex.gov.uk or by calling 03457 430 430 and asking to speak to the Data Protection Officer.



Personal information

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Any personal information you provide is confidential and will be used solely for monitoring purposes.

1. What is your full name?

2. What is your postcode?

3. What is your email address?

- 4. Are you happy to be contacted by email about the Army and Navy Sustainable Transport Package in the future?**

5. Which of the following best describes you?

- Someone who lives in the Chelmsford area
- Someone who works in the Chelmsford area
- Someone who lives and works in the Chelmsford area
- Someone who visits the Chelmsford area
- Someone responding on behalf of a business or organisation in the Chelmsford area
- Someone responding on behalf of a business or organisation outside the Chelmsford area, but which operates in the area
- Other

6. If you are responding on behalf of a business or organisation, what is the name of that business or organisation?

7. Which mode of transport do you most commonly use when travelling into

- Bicycle
- Walk
- Bus
- Park & Ride bus
- Train
- Motorcycle or moped
- Taxi
- Car, van or lorry
- Not applicable

Chelmer Valley Park and Ride expansion

8. Do you currently use the Chelmer Valley Park and Ride?

- Yes
 No

9. To what extent do you support the proposed expansion of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride as part of Essex County Council's long-term strategy for transport in Chelmsford?

- Strongly support
 Support
 Neutral
 Oppose
 Strongly oppose

For more information about Essex County Council's long-term strategy for transport in Chelmsford, please see pages 8-11.

10. Do you have any comments about our proposals to expand Chelmer Valley Park and Ride?

Consultation feedback

11. How did you hear about this public consultation?

- Social media
 Email newsletter
 Email
 Online
 Radio
 Poster
 Flyer
 Word of mouth
 Newspaper advert
 Newspaper article
 If other, please specify

12. How helpful was the information we provided to you as part of this public consultation?

- Very helpful
 Fairly helpful
 Neither helpful nor unhelpful
 Fairly unhelpful
 Very unhelpful

13. Do you have any comments about the public consultation?

About you

We are requesting the following information for monitoring purposes and to help us assess whether the consultation has reached a representative section of the community. The information you supply is confidential and will not be collated with any information which makes you identifiable. You are not obliged to answer any of the questions and if you choose not to answer the questions it will not affect your participation.

14. Which age group do you belong to?

- Under 18
- 18 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65+
- Prefer not to say

15. To which gender identity do you most identify?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe (please state)

16. To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong?

White

- English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- Irish
- Gypsy/Irish Traveller

Any other white background, please describe

Mixed/multiple ethnic origins

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian

Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background, please describe

Asian/Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese

Any other Asian background, please describe

Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

- African
- Caribbean

Any other Black/African/Caribbean background, please describe

Other ethnic group

- Arab

Any other ethnic group, please describe

- Prefer not to say

17. Do you consider yourself to have a health condition, disability or impairment? Please tick all that apply.

- No impairment
- Hearing impairment/deaf
- Visual impairment/blind
- Deafblind
- Mental health needs
- Physical impairment
- Learning difficulties/disabilities
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Prefer not to say
- If other, please specify

This information is issued by Essex County Council.

You can keep up to date with the latest updates on the Army and Navy Sustainable transport Package and subscribe to the project e-newsletters at:



You can contact us about this project in the following ways:
Email – armyandnavy@essexhighways.org
Post - FREEPOST ESSEX HIGHWAYS ENGAGEMENT TEAM



The information contained in this document can be translated and/or made available in alternative formats upon request.

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