

Introduction

The purpose of the following Community Engagement material is to present an update on the design for the Ravenscraig Access Infrastructure South (RAIS) project.

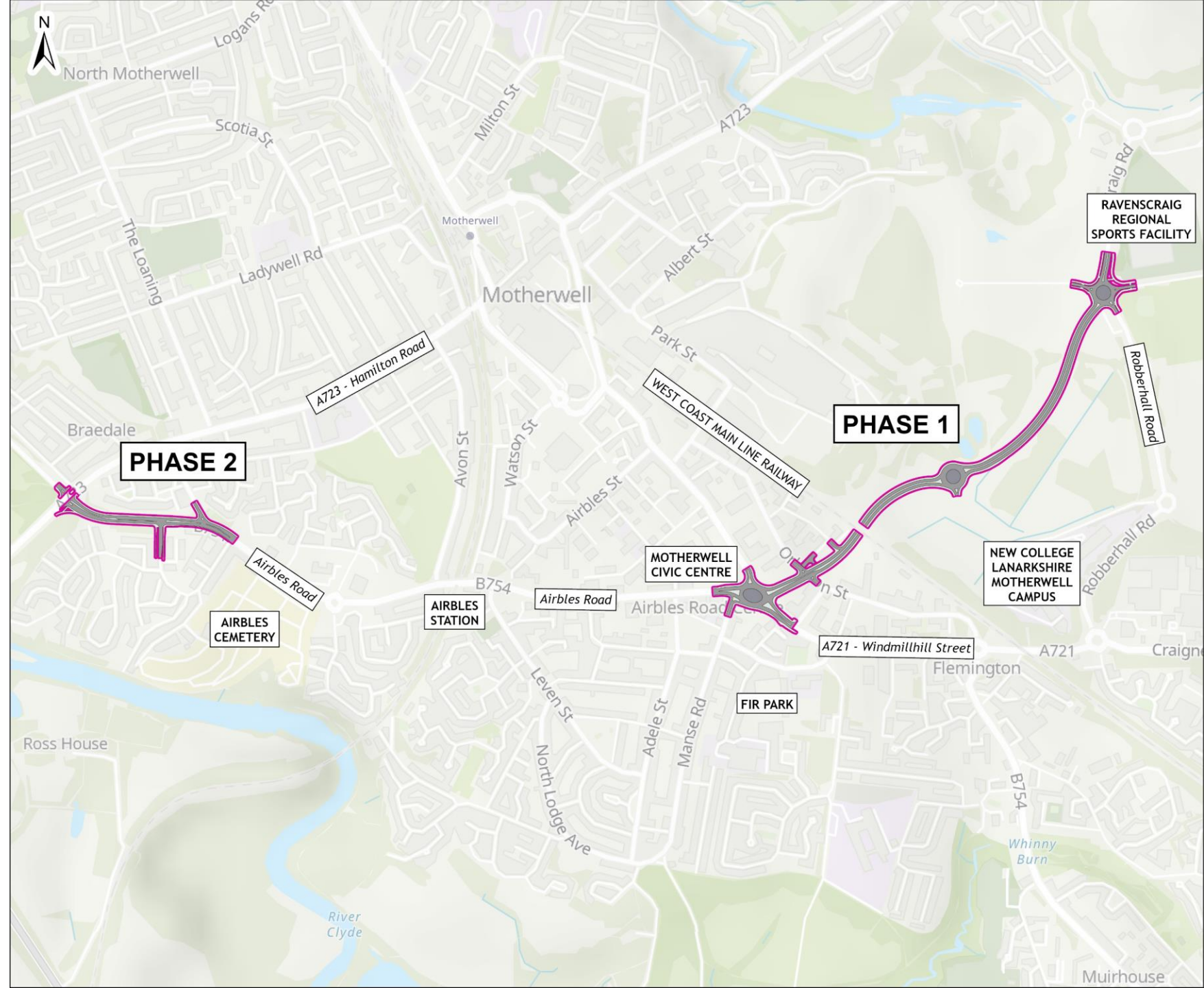
RAIS, as part of the council's City Deal Programme, critically supports the regeneration of Ravenscraig. The infrastructure works create the road and public transport network required to support the development of a further 3,300 homes (in addition to the 900 already completed or under construction/approved) alongside over 160,000 square metres of civic/community, office, retail, and employment development.

The project will be delivered in two phases:

- **PHASE 1 – Windmillhill St to Ravenscraig**
- **PHASE 2 – Airbles Rd Improvements**

This update offers members of the public an opportunity to provide feedback on the revised design proposals.

A link to an online feedback form is provided at the end of this storyboard.



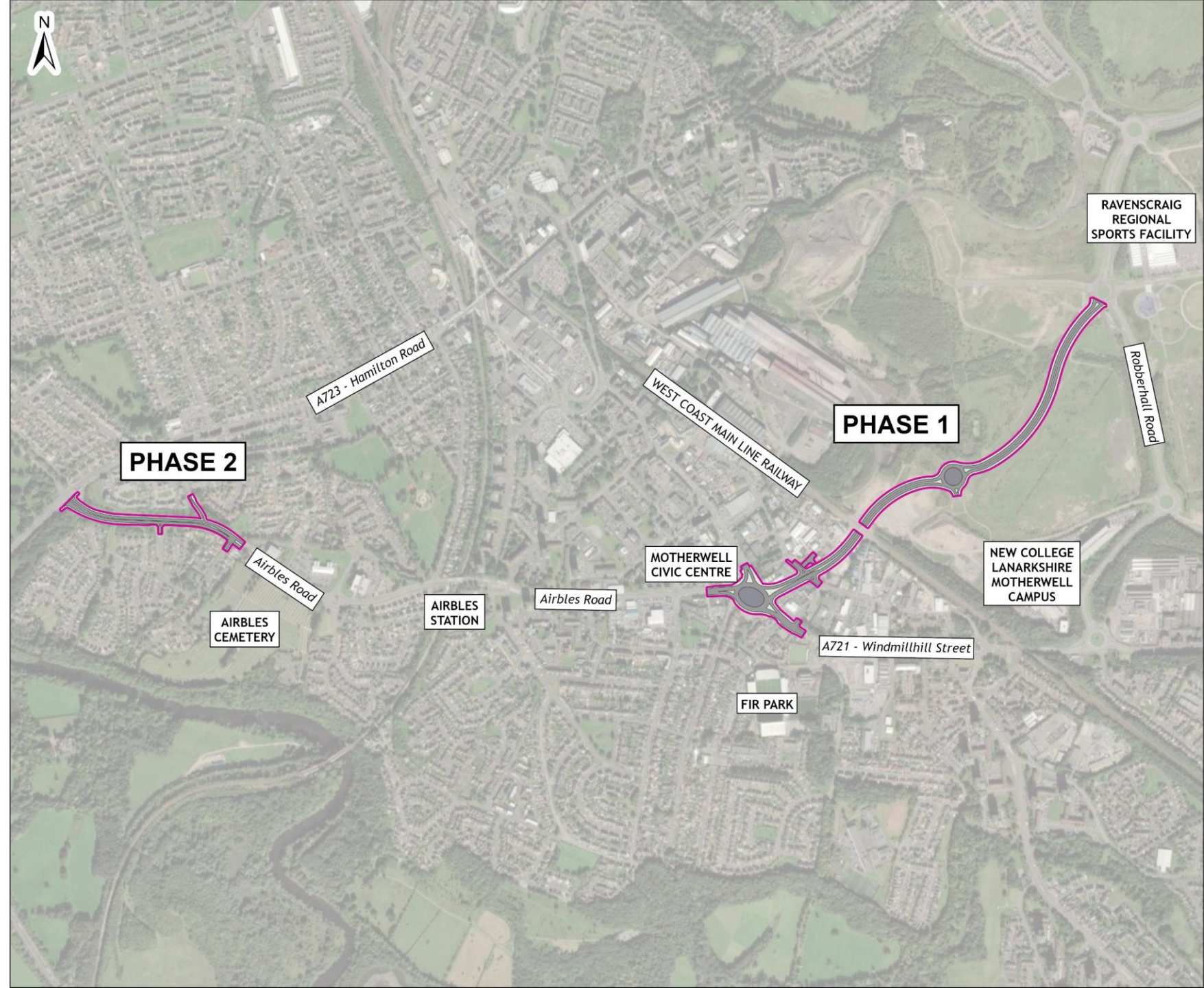
Progress to Date

Detailed planning permission for Phase 1 was granted in September 2022. In June 2022, a Certificate of Lawfulness was granted in respect of Phase 2, which removed the need to apply for Planning Permission for those works.

Following this, a design for both Phases was developed, shown here. This included a new road/under rail bridge crossing of the West Coast Main Line. The new bridge was constructed in 2023.

The project has since been subject to a Value Engineering Review. The key objectives of the Review were to reduce or where possible, eliminate project risks; minimise disruption to residents, businesses, and commuters during construction; and help the council to identify opportunities to facilitate development opportunities within Motherwell and Ravenscraig.

Improvements and refinements identified through the Review have now been incorporated into updated designs for both Phase 1 and Phase 2.



Phase 1: Windmillhill Street to Ravenscraig

A new dual carriageway road, linking the junction of the A721 Windmillhill Street/ Airbles Road, through the Ravenscraig site to the junction of New Craig Road/ Robberhall Road/ O'Donnell Way.

The works include a new traffic signal-controlled roundabout at the junction of the A721 Windmillhill Street/ Airbles Road; a new road under rail bridge crossing of the West Coast Main Line (already constructed in 2023); a new roundabout to provide linkages to the New College Lanarkshire Motherwell Campus and future development sites; and converting the existing roundabout at the junction of New Craig Road/ Robberhall Road/ O'Donnell Way to a traffic signal-controlled roundabout.

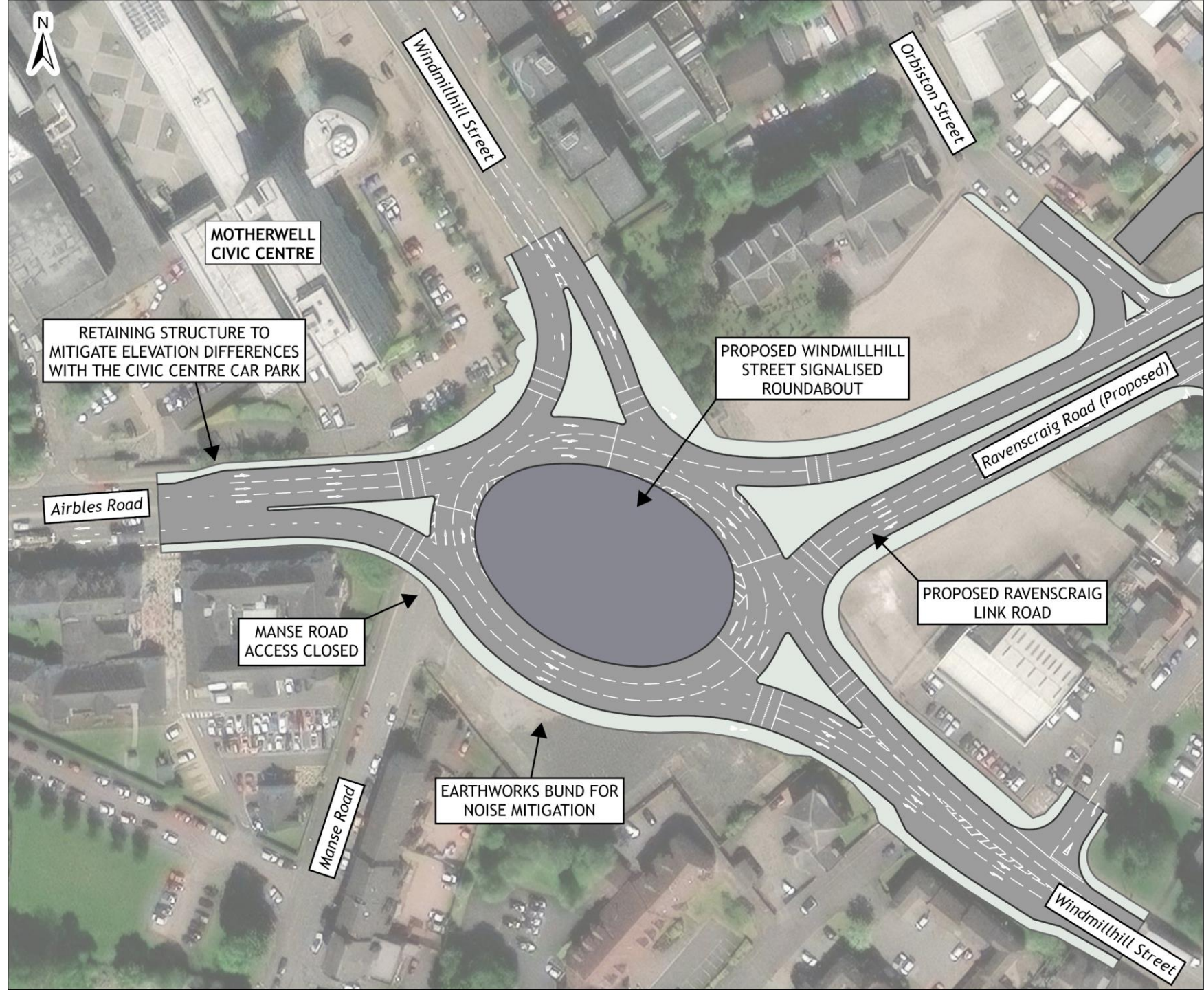
The works also include active travel infrastructure along the whole length of the new road, incorporating traffic signal-controlled pedestrian/ cycle crossings.



Windmillhill Street Roundabout: Previous Layout

The previous layout of the new roundabout had a large footprint which encroached into the Civic Centre car park and required a large retaining wall to support the widened road.

One of the main disadvantages of the previous layout was that it required the permanent closure of Manse Road at the roundabout. The displaced traffic from Manse Road would be expected to place increased pressure on the nearby junctions at Airbles Road/ Adele St to the west of the roundabout and Windmillhill Street/ Knowetop Avenue to the east at peak times.



Windmillhill Street Roundabout: Revised Layout

The revised layout for the signalised Windmillhill Street roundabout was developed through improvements identified during the Value Engineering Review.

The overall footprint of the roundabout has been reduced significantly, which has enabled vehicular access to Manse Road to be retained.

The reduced footprint also moves the roundabout further way from residential properties and removes the need for a large retaining structure within the Civic Centre car park.

The proposed changes are intended to reduce construction cost and time; impacts on existing infrastructure; and disruption to residents and businesses during construction.

Proposals for the two areas of land shown shaded in red are being developed separately. These will be subject to separate planning applications, which will include a separate public consultation exercise.



Windmillhill Street Roundabout: Art Concept

Given the scale and prominent location of the upgraded Windmillhill Street roundabout, a concept art installation has been developed.

The three weathered steel sculptures are a reference to the cooling towers of the former Ravenscraig steelworks, which were demolished in 1996.

Motherwell's identity is closely tied to its industrial heritage, with the Ravenscraig cooling towers once symbolising the town's steelmaking industry.

The purpose of this concept is to obtain feedback on the cooling towers or ideas for an alternative installation.

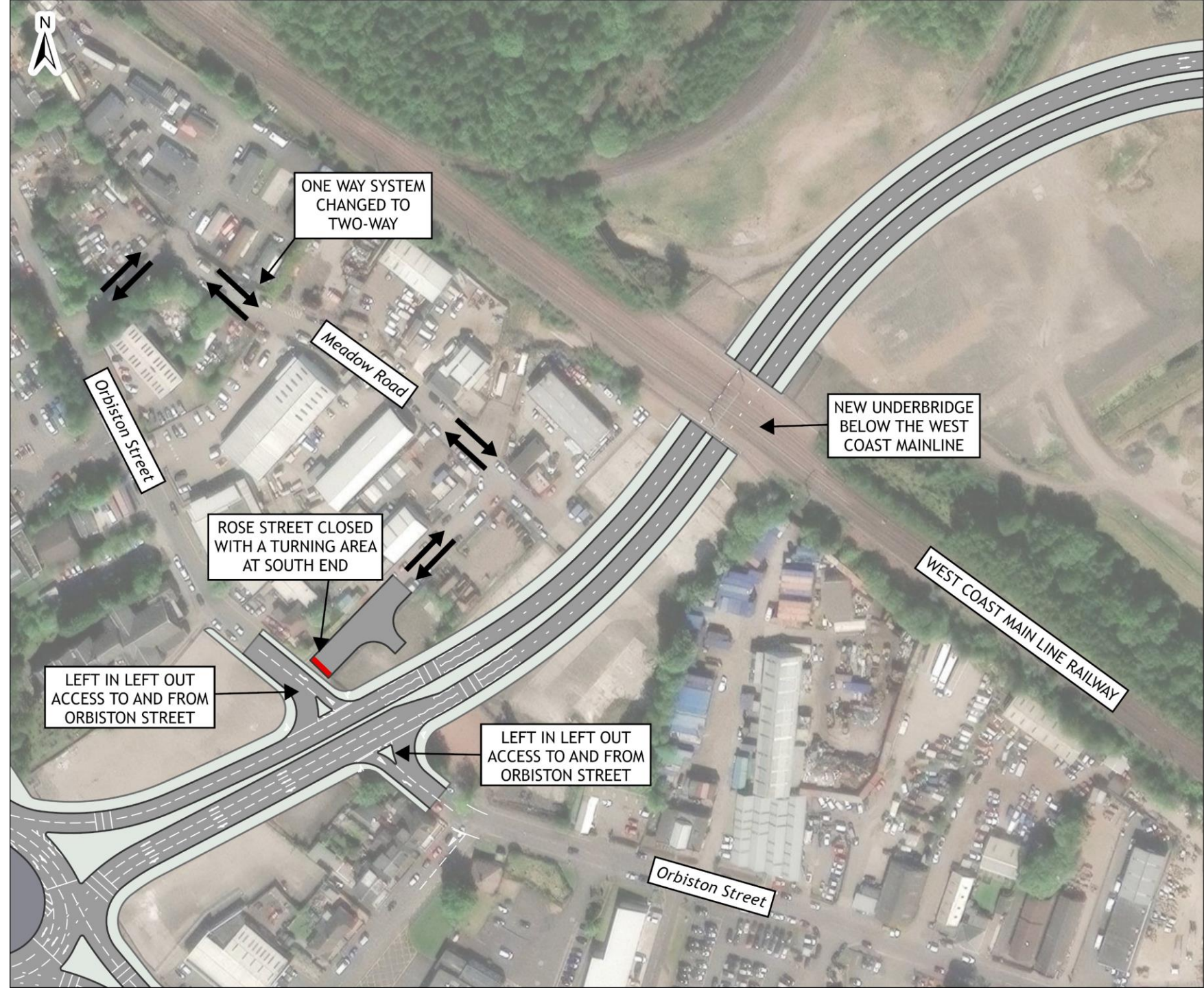


Orbiston Street, Rose Street and Meadow Road Junctions: Previous Layout

As the new dual carriageway will carry large volumes of traffic, it was not possible to signalise the junction with Orbiston Street without causing very long delays. Consequently, it was simplified to left in/ left out traffic operation for the east and west arms.

Rose Street was to be closed at its junction with Orbiston Street due to the close proximity of the new dual carriageway junction, and the existing one-way traffic system was to be changed to two-way operation.

One disadvantage of this proposal was that the existing tight geometry through Meadow Road makes two-way operation difficult for large commercial vehicles that require access to the commercial premises in this area. In addition, a commercial vehicle turning facility would be required in Rose Street.

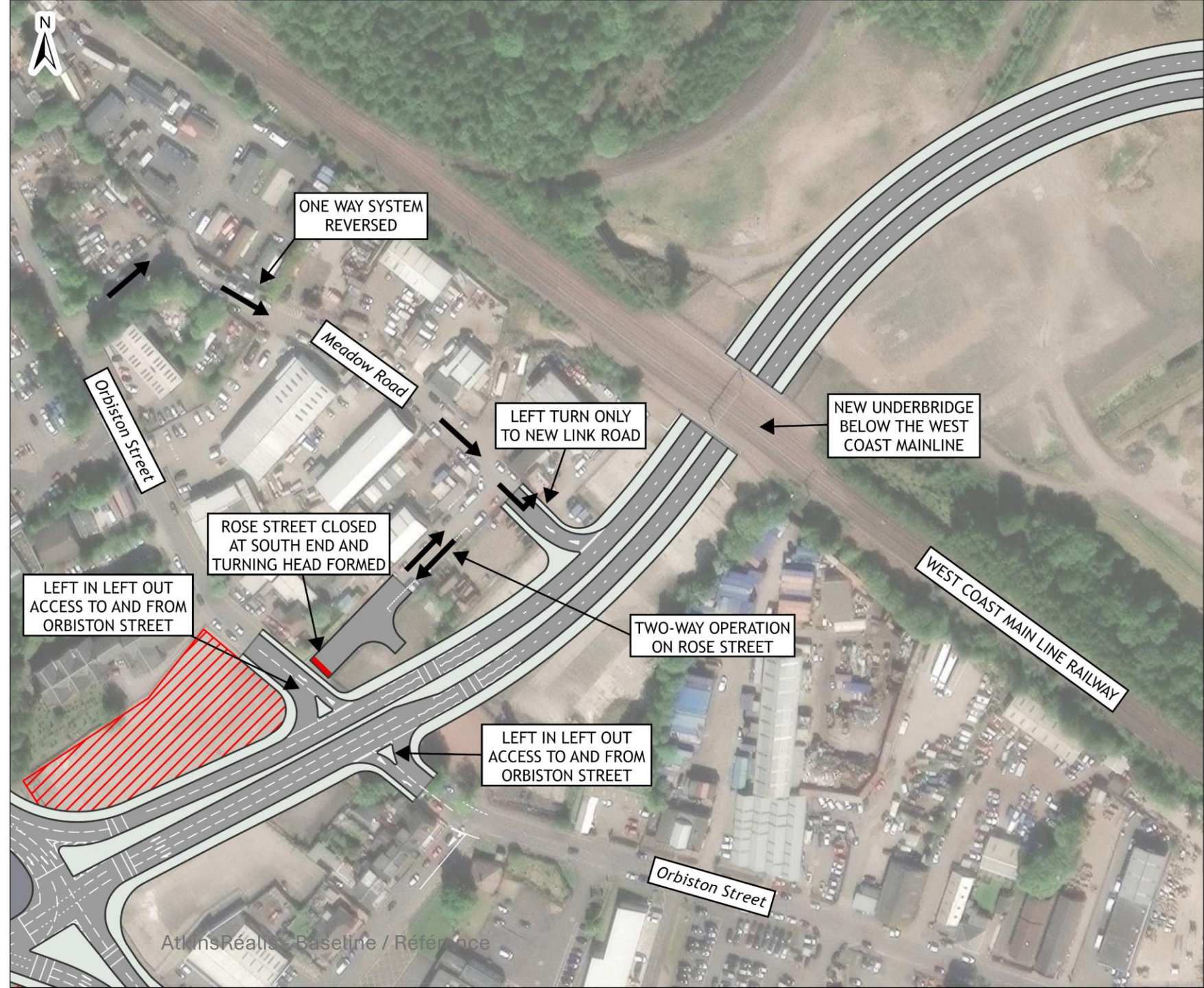


Orbiston Street, Rose Street and Meadow Road: Revised Layout

It is proposed that one-way traffic operation on Meadow Road is retained, but the direction reversed to clockwise. This would reduce potential conflicts on the tight bends at either end and avoid the need for large commercial vehicles to turn into Rose Street. All traffic from Meadow Road and Rose Street would exit via a left turn only lane onto the new dual carriageway. Traffic wishing to travel to Airbles Road/ Windmillhill Street would make a 'U' turn manoeuvre at the new roundabout immediately north of the railway.

The proposal to close Rose Street at its south end is retained from the previous layout, but with a residential standard turning facility.

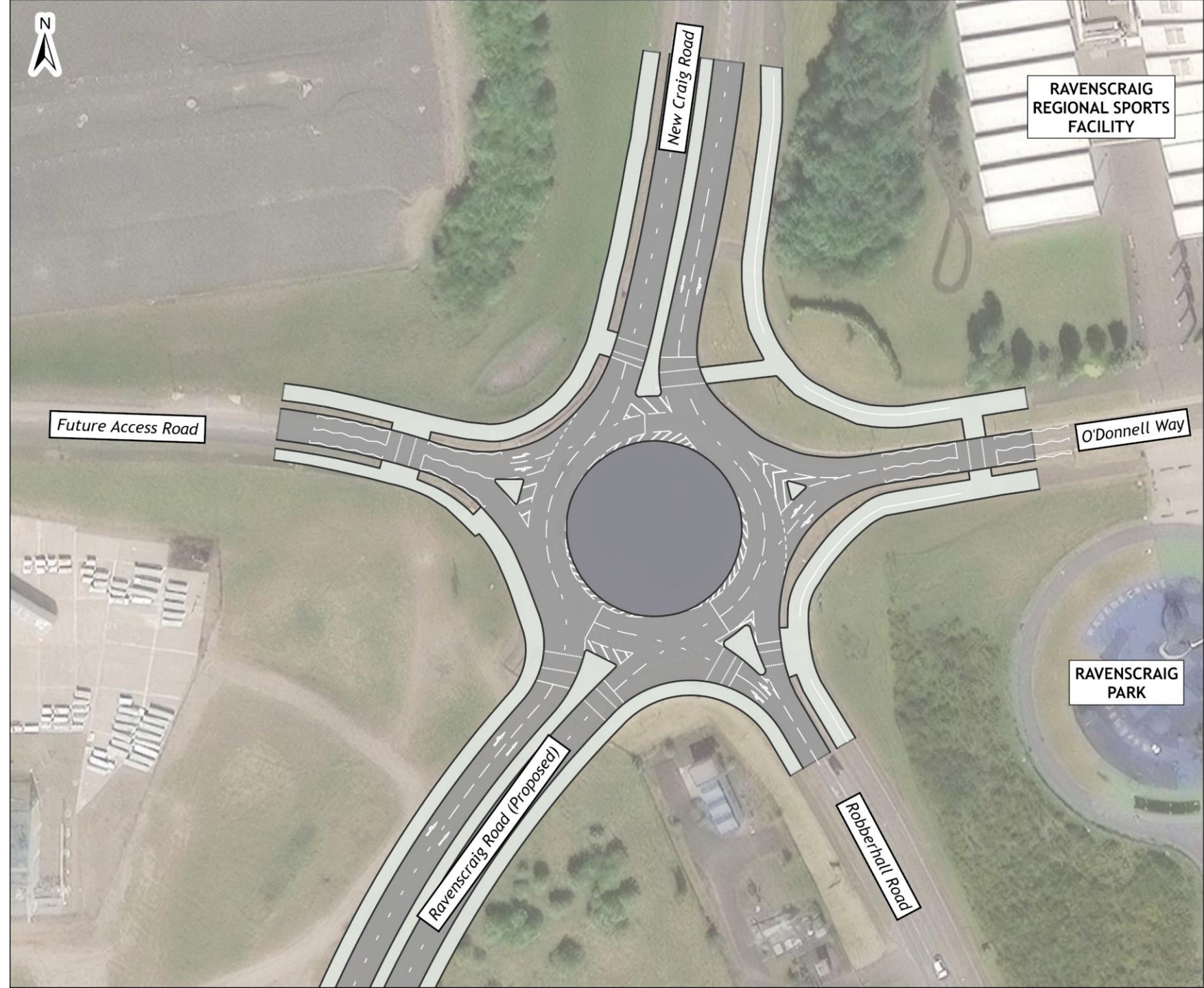
The layout at the junctions of Orbiston Street with the new dual carriageway link road remains as proposed previously, with left in/ left out traffic operation.



Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility Roundabout: Revised Layout

The layout at the roundabout is largely unchanged from the previous proposals. It is proposed to signalise the roundabout and provide controlled crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists on all five approaches.

The revised layout incorporates some minor adjustments to the lanes on the roundabout, which will result in smoother traffic flow and more comfortable turning movements.



Phase 2:

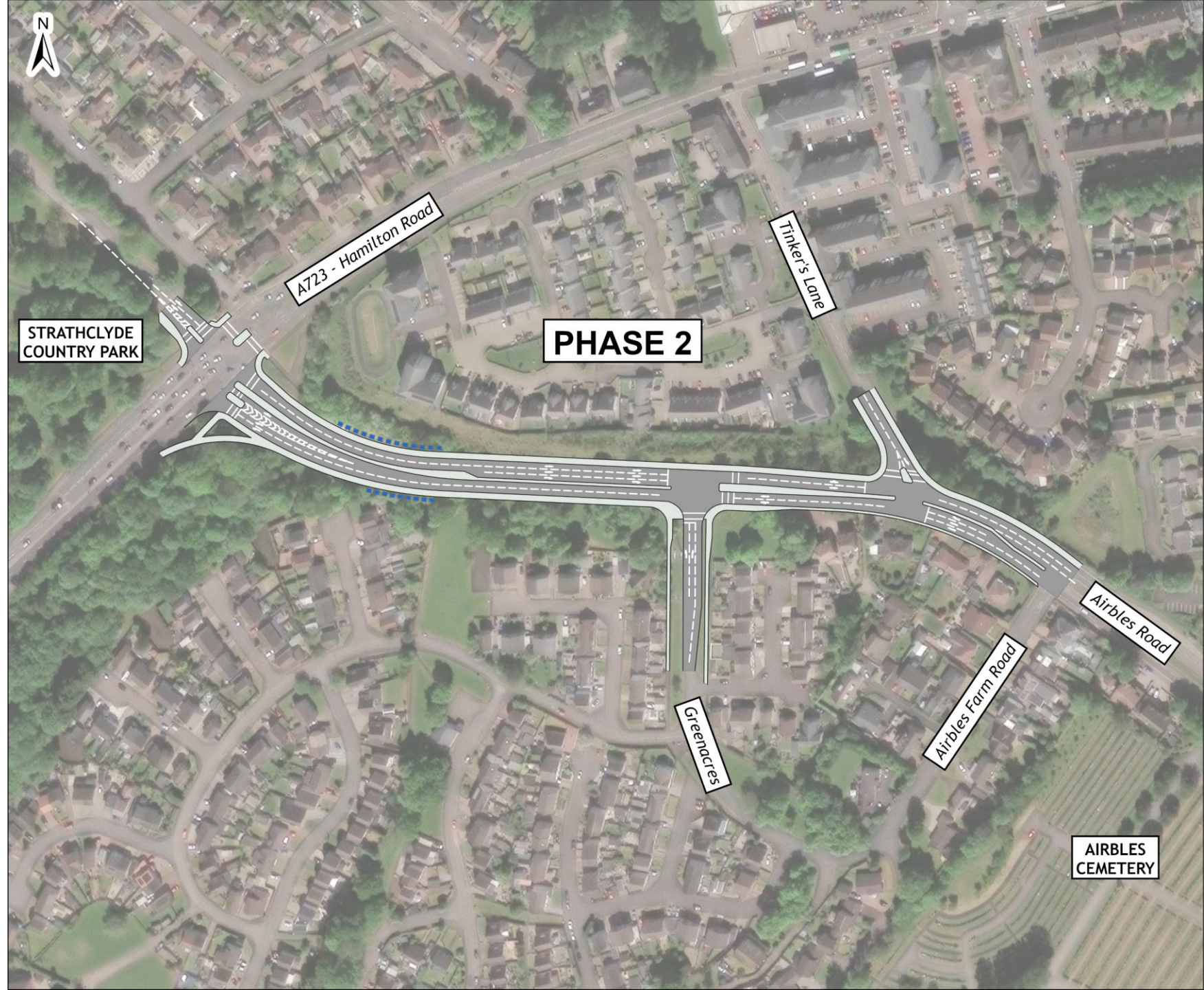
Airbles Rd Improvements

Works to widen the existing Airbles Road from three lanes to dual carriageway, between the junctions with the A723 Hamilton Road and Airbles Farm Road.

The works include improvements to the junctions at Greenacres and Tinkers Lane, which incorporate traffic signal control.

New Active Travel infrastructure incorporating additional traffic signal-controlled pedestrian/ cycle crossings will also be provided.

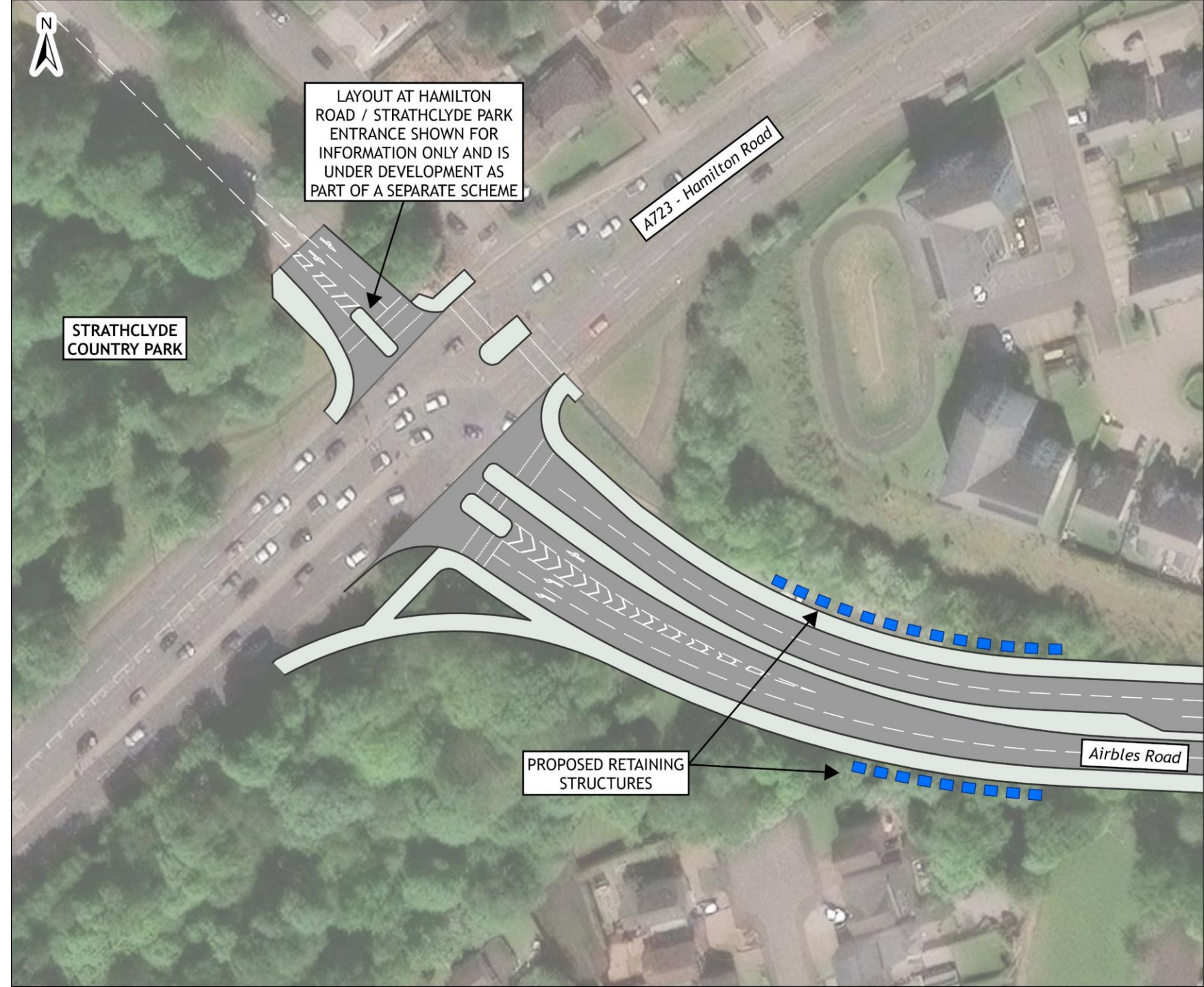
When complete, these improvements will significantly improve connectivity to the M74 motorway and provide attractive Active Travel links to Strathclyde Country Park and Hamilton.



Hamilton Road Junction: Revised Layout

The layout at the junction is largely unchanged from the previous proposals. The revised layout incorporates reduced lane widths to minimise the footprint of the widening works, and the scale and extent of retaining walls required to support the road. These changes are intended to reduce construction cost and time, as well as minimising disruption during the construction stage.

The upgrades to the crossing points at Hamilton Road and at Strathclyde Country Park are not part of the RAIS project and are being progressed separately. These upgrades, together with the Airbles Road Improvements will greatly improve Active Travel facilities at this junction.

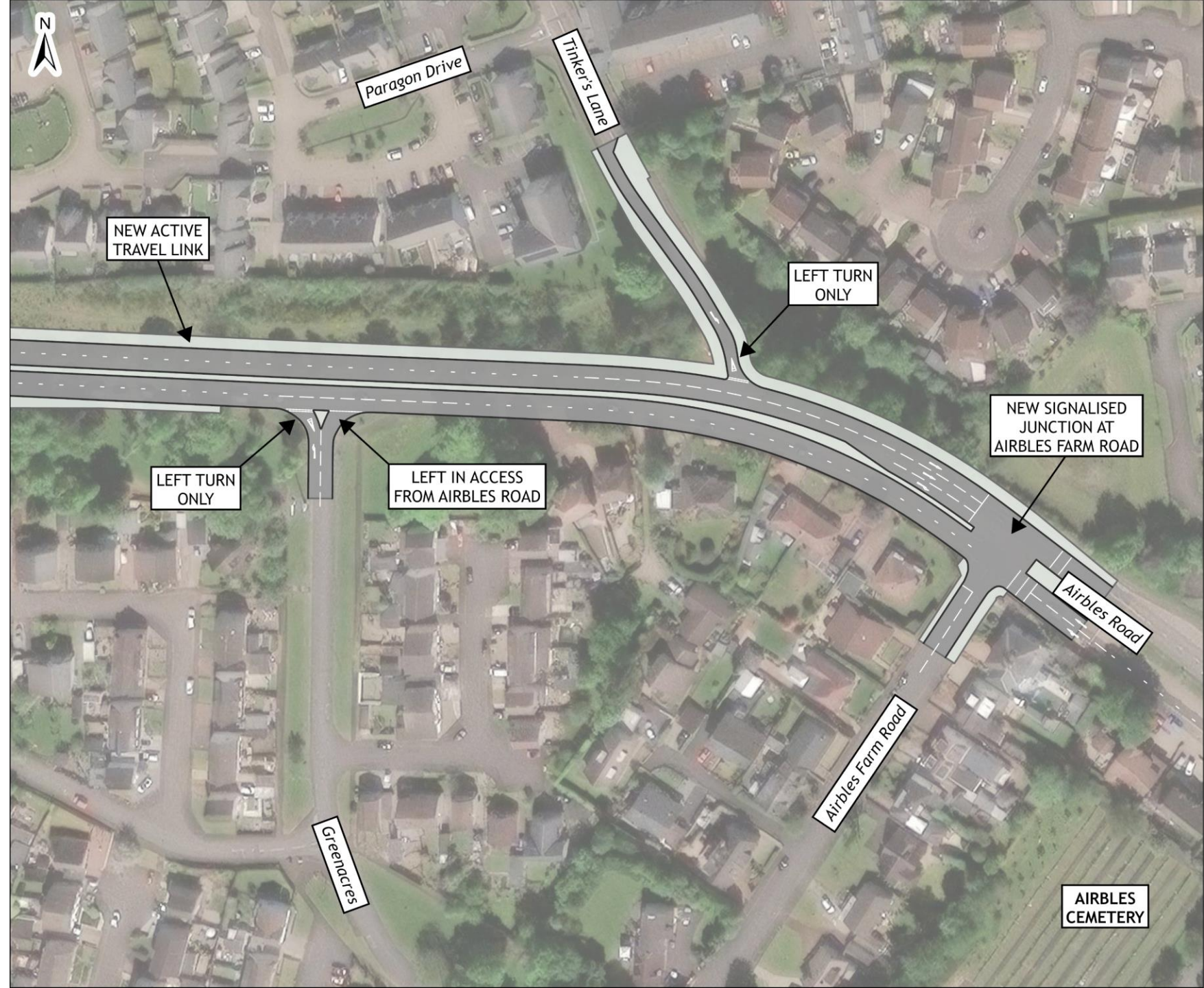


Greenacres, Tinker's Lane and Airbles Farm Road Junctions: Previous Layout

The previous layout had no gap in the central reserve, which would have stopped right-turn manoeuvres into and out of Greenacres. Access and egress was therefore to be provided via a left in/ left out arrangement at Airbles Road.

The previous layout at Tinkers Lane incorporated one-way traffic operation between Paragon Drive to the north and Airbles road, There was no gap in the central reserve, with the only vehicle movement at the junction being a left turn from Tinkers Lane onto Airbles Road to travel east.

The previous layout for Airbles Farm Road incorporated traffic signal control, with all existing vehicle movements retained.



Greenacres, Tinker's Lane and Airbles Farm Road Junctions: Revised Layout

At Greenacres, it is now proposed that full vehicular access is retained to and from Airbles Road. A fully traffic signal-controlled junction is proposed, which incorporates a dedicated right turn lane on Airbles Road. This has been made possible by reducing the proposed lane widths on Airbles Road.

At Tinker's Lane, it is proposed to fully signalise the junction, incorporating a right turn lane on Airbles Road. Due to the high traffic volumes on Airbles Road, it has not been possible to cater for right turns out of Tinkers Lane, but all other manoeuvres will be possible. Again, this has been made possible by reducing the proposed lane widths on Airbles Road.

At Airbles Farm Road, the layout reverts to the existing arrangement with give-way operation. Due to the close proximity of the Tinkers Lane junction, it is not possible to signalise the Airbles Farm Road junction. However, the gaps in traffic flow created by the traffic signals at Tinkers Lane will make it much easier to exit Airbles Farm Road.

