

A96 Fochabers Bypass



Moray Council
15 August 2007

Project Overview

- **Background**
- **Scheme Details**
- **The Statutory Process**
- **Implementation Process**
- **Next Steps**

Background

- **Grampian Regional Council 1989 & 1992**
Studies identified potential options for Fochabers bypass
- **Scott Wilson appointed 1993**
- **Scott Wilson Route Options Assessment 1995**
Recommended examination of a Mosstodloch Bypass
- **Scott Wilson Preferred Route Report 1996**
- **Ministerial Announcement 1996**
Decision to proceed on northern route
- **Draft Orders 2001**

Background

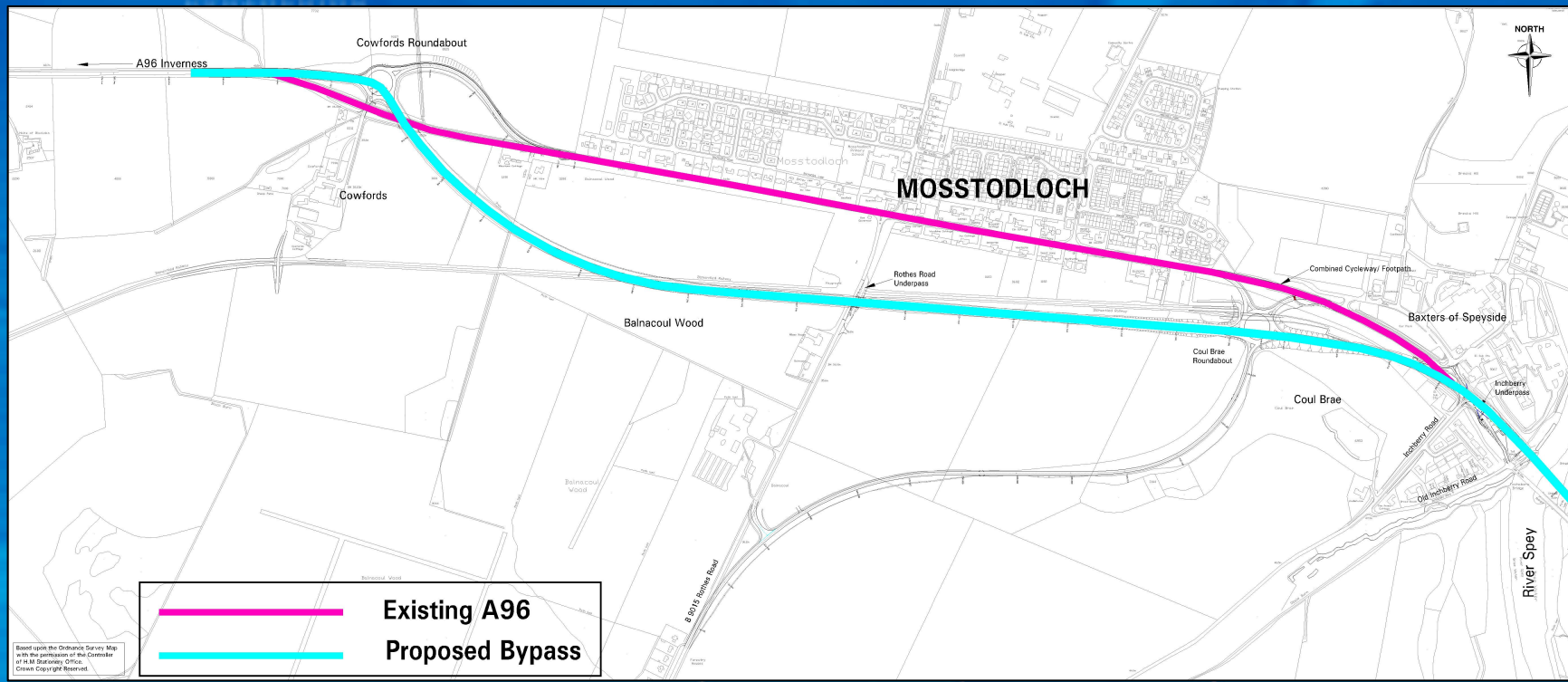
- **A96 Inverness to Aberdeen Trunk Road**
 - Traffic flows – c. 11,000 vehicles / day
- **Need for Scheme**
 - Substantial traffic volumes resulting in congestion and delays
 - Safety concerns
 - Environmental impact – noise, air, community severance
- **Fochabers**
 - Increasing incidence of minor accidents
 - Loss of amenity in town centre
- **Mosstodloch**
 - Road safety - tendency for excessive speed within the village

Background

Recent history

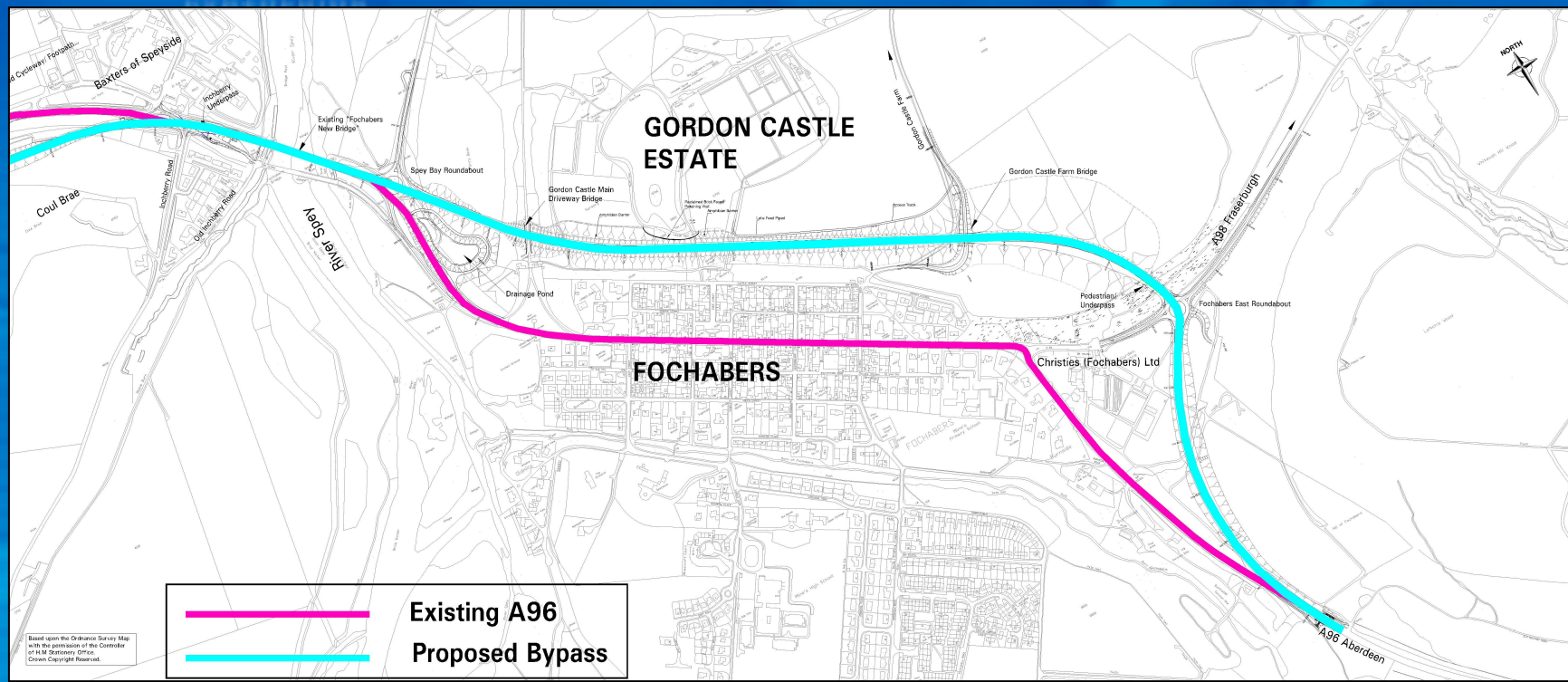
- Various traffic calming measures have been introduced
- Improved road safety but traffic congestion and environmental impact remain
- Existing problems will be intensified as traffic flows increase

Scheme Details



Mosstodloch - Cowfords to Coul Brae

Scheme Details



Fochabers - Spey Bay to Fochabers East

Scheme Details

- **Construction cost**
£19 – 25 million
- **Length of Scheme**
5.1km plus 2.8km of side roads
- **Number of structures**
2 Bridges, 4 Cycle/Pedestrian Underpasses
- **Lighting**
Required at new roundabouts and underpasses
- **Trees**
Planting proposals currently provide native tree and shrub belts to link with existing woodland and hedges and provide ornamental planting at junctions

Scheme Details

- **Post-Bypass Opening**
- **Traffic Calming Measures**
 - **Fochabers**
 - **Mosstodloch**
- **Details in consultation with Moray Council**

The Statutory Process

- **Draft Orders - 2001/2002**
- **Objections - 2001/2002**
- **Public Local Inquiry - Autumn 2003**
- **Made Order / Decision Letter - 2005**
- **Court of Session Challenge - May 2005**
- **Court of Session Challenge Dismissed – June 2007**
- **Next Activities**

The Statutory Process

Contents of Decision letter

- **Endorsed alignment**
- **Re-examine environmental / heritage / landscape mitigation strategy in Gordon Castle Estate**
- **Consider options for Gordon Castle Farm access**

Implementation Process

Key activities and dates

- **Resolve decision letter issues** Autumn 2007
- **Pre-qualification process** Autumn 2007
- **Tender period** May 2008
- **Tender assessment** September 2008
- **Construction start** Late 2008 / early 2009
- **Construction completion** Late 2010

Next Steps

Re-examine environmental conditions since ES

- **Environmental surveys**

 - Badgers

 - Bats

 - Crossbills

 - Otters

 - Pine Martens

- **Landscape**

 - Impacts to be reviewed

Next Steps

Decision letter requirements

- **Initial evaluation of alternatives**
5 appraisal criteria for Environment, Safety, Economics, Integration and Accessibility
- **Statutory Consultation**
Moray Council, HS, SNH and SEPA
- **Public consultation**
Questionnaire, exhibition
- **Publish proposed strategy**

Conclusion

- **Statutory Process successfully completed**
- **Scheme development to address local concerns**
- **Construction start 2008/09**

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ANY QUESTIONS?

**Moray Council
15 August 2007**