

4. Overview of Options

The next three boards provide an early overview of the three shortlisted options. Further modelling and assessment work will be undertaken on each of these options. They are not definitive, and the final selected option could involve combinations of works currently included within any of the three options.

Each of the options involve a range of different improvements and rearranging works to the roundabouts at the M2 Junction 3 and M20 Junction 6 interchanges.

There are some similarities between all three options as shown in the table below:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Northern end of Blue Bell Hill			
Improvements to the slip road onto the A229 southbound at Lord Lees Roundabout	✓	✓	✓
Increase the road width between Taddington and Lord Lees Roundabouts to four lanes	✓		
A new slip road onto the M2 (westbound) from the A229 immediately after Lord Lees Roundabout	✓	✓	✓
Upgrade of the current signalised junction at Taddington Roundabout allowing traffic travelling from the M2 eastbound to the A229 via a new bridge over the M2	✓		
A new separate left turn lane from the M2 westbound to the A229 at Taddington Roundabout	✓	✓	✓
A new slip road from the M2 eastbound to a new junction arrangement at Bridgewood Roundabout		✓	✓
Southern end of Blue Bell Hill			
Enlarge the Running Horse Roundabout to the west	✓	✓	
Improve the slip road onto the M20 eastbound from Cobtree Roundabout	✓	✓	
A new grade separated junction, where the existing Forstal Road bridge is currently located			✓
Along the length of the A229 Blue Bell Hill			
Widen the A229 to three lanes when travelling southbound towards Maidstone (between Lord Lees and Cobtree Roundabouts)	✓	✓	✓

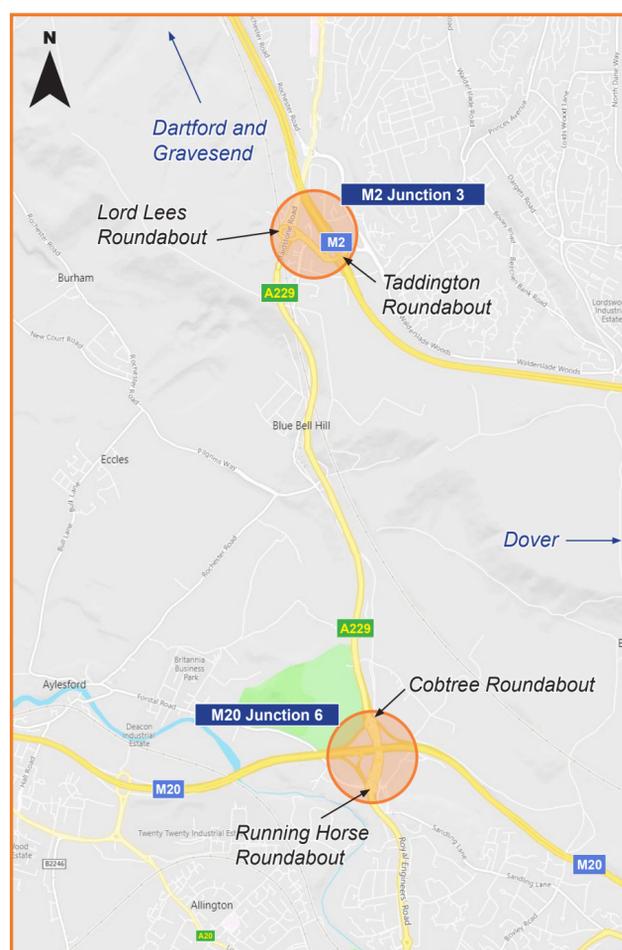
Design Option 1

As shown in the table above, some of the elements for Option 1 (listed below) are also included in Options 2 and 3.

At the northern end of Blue Bell Hill, proposed upgrades around Lord Lees and Taddington Roundabouts aim to improve journey time reliability.

They include:

- Widening the road between Taddington and Lord Lees Roundabouts to four lanes to increase capacity, allowing two left turn lanes to be used to provide direct access to the slip road for the A229 heading southbound, towards Maidstone.
- Improving the slip road at the Lord Lees Roundabout to provide easier entry onto the A229 southbound.
- Adding a new slip road onto the M2 (westbound towards London) from the A229 immediately after Lord Lees Roundabout. This would reduce traffic on Lord Lees and Taddington Roundabouts.
 - This would require the closure of the slip road from Lord Lees Roundabout onto the A229 northbound to Bridgewood Roundabout. Some re-routing of traffic would be required and therefore Walderslade Woods Junction would be converted to a roundabout, which would allow for traffic to navigate the junction more easily and reduce delays.



Plan showing location of proposals

- Upgrading the current signalised junction at Taddington Roundabout through:
 - Dedicated lanes for traffic travelling from the M2 eastbound (towards the coast) to the A229 via a new bridge over the M2, reducing the amount of traffic signals and allowing traffic to pass through the junction more quickly.
 - A separate left turn lane from the M2 westbound to the A229, allowing traffic from the M2 to run freely and avoid traffic signals. This will enable traffic to clear the junction more quickly and reduce delays.

At the southern end of Blue Bell Hill, works are focussed on the Running Horse and Cobtree Roundabouts to improve capacity and safety.

They include:

- Enlarging the Running Horse Roundabout to the west, on the Village Hotel side. This would enable traffic signals to be added to some arms of the roundabout, which would generate gaps in the traffic and allow traffic on non-signalised arms to enter the roundabout more easily. This would address the accident hotspot and improve pedestrian safety through dedicated crossings.
- Improving the slip road onto the M20 eastbound at the Cobtree Roundabout to avoid traffic backing up onto the A229 southbound. This would improve journey time reliability.

Along the length of the A229 Blue Bell Hill works are focussed on increasing capacity.

They include:

- Widening the carriageway between Lord Lees and Cobtree Roundabouts, travelling southbound in the direction of Maidstone, to three lanes.