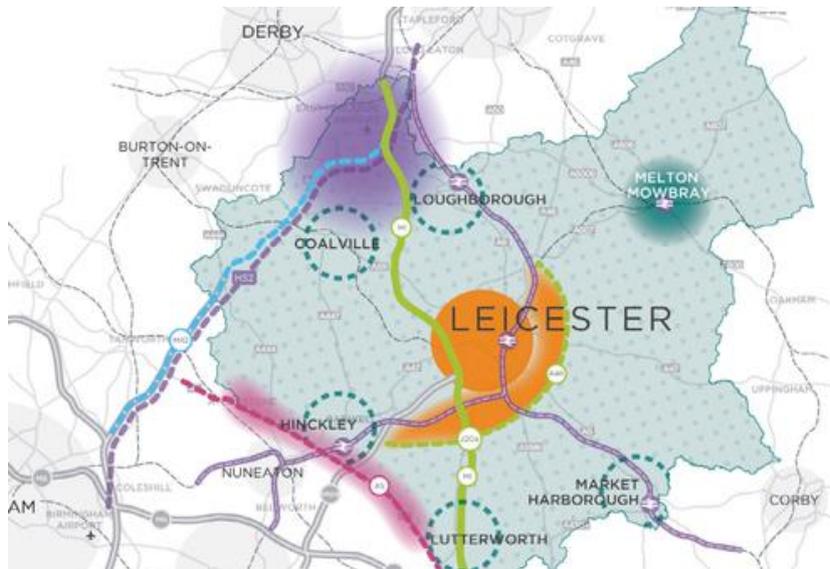


# Revealed: The places in Leicestershire that could be affected by the new A46 Expressway

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No precise route has been yet given for the controversial road but a new document offers some clues



The revised strategic growth plan

The key question for people living east and south of Leicester is where exactly will the route of the proposed new A46 bypass go?

Residents on that side of the county want to know if the major new route will pass close to, or even through, their communities.

So far planners behind the scheme have remain tight-lipped about the exact details and have told [Leicestershire Live](#) a preferred route is unlikely to be specified until the end of 2019.

That leaves thousands of people uncertain about the impact it may have on their lives.

However, a new preliminary environmental risk assessment (PERA), published today by Midlands Connect, reveals some clues about where it might run naming various towns and villages.

## Air Quality

The PERA suggests the road could come close to areas with numerous sensitive air quality receptors.

It lists **Oadby, Bushby and Syston**.

## Cultural Assets

The PERA says the road could pass close to ‘several scheduled monuments and listed buildings’ in **Whetstone, Scraftoft, Wigston and Queniborough**.

## Physical Environment

While the road will not go near any and designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the PERA says: “Visual impacts may arise where the proposals run close to large numbers of potentially sensitive receptors most notably in **Leicester, Sharnford and Broughton Astley**.”

It also says the road could go through **Burbage Wood, and the Aston Firs** Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

It adds: “The bypass could also bring the route closer to **Narborough Bog** SSSI, designated for its areas of wet woodland and meadow.

“It could also intersect the **Kilby-Foxton Canal** SSSI which is designated because of its fluvial fauna interests.

“In addition, as the route passes through open countryside there is high potential for the presence of many protected species; reptiles, badgers, great crested newts, bats etc.”

## Noise

Numerous ‘Noise Important Areas’ have been identified along the existing route especially around **Thorpe Astley and Thurcaston.**

## Flooding

The PERA says the road could intersect flood plains at **Whetstone, Keyham, Beeby, Queniborough and Ratcliffe.**

## Rights of Way

The PERA says the proposed route would intersect several public rights of way and would come close to numerous scheduled monuments.

“It will affect villages such as **Sapcote, Primethorpe and Broughton Astley.**”

## Geology

The route could pass close to former landfill sites near **Kilby, Stoughton and Syston.**

The PERA adds: “The Leicester bypass will require several structures which are very likely to require extensive engineering works. At least 19 new bridges will be required and two railway crossing will be required. The bypass will also need to cross the River Soar and the River Wreake.”

## 'Join the dots'

[Harborough MP](#) Neil O'Brien said it was not acceptable people were having to 'join the dots' to discern the route.

He said: "The process of consulting on the proposed expressway has been unacceptable. People have only been asked about one option.

"There is no estimate of how much it might cost, and people have been asked their view on a road without even being told where it will go."

"Now it seems we are being asked to join the dots.

"We still aren't being told where the road is going but are now being told about specific places it would cause problems."

"This is very poor.

"I hope district councils will demand a rebooting of the growth plan for the county so that we come up with some better alternatives to a road which will never be built but will become an excuse for housing sprawl."