



A96 Dualling Hardmuir to Fochabers Community Council Forum 15/16 November 2016

**Mott MacDonald
Sweco**

Introductions



- John MacIntyre, Project Manager, Transport Scotland
- Mike Hodgson, Contract Manager, Mott Macdonald Sweco (MMS)
- Keri Stewart, Stakeholder Coordinator, MMS
- Dave Gowans, Landowner & Communities Manager, MMS
- Fiona Drever, Assistant Landowner & Communities Manager, MMS

Background to A96 Dualling



- **Strategic Transport Projects Review (2008)**
 - Specific intervention: upgrade A96 between Inverness and Nairn to dual carriageway and also a bypass of Nairn
- **Infrastructure Investment Plan 2011**
 - Commitment to complete the dualling of the A96 between Inverness and Aberdeen by 2030
- **Ministerial Announcement, 9th May 2013**
 - Preliminary engineering and strategic environmental assessment work along A96 corridor (May 2015 exhibitions presented outcome of this work)
 - Ongoing route option assessment work between Inverness and Nairn, including Nairn Bypass (preferred option announced in October 2014)
- **Ministerial Announcement, 11th May 2015**
 - Based on outcome of preliminary work, next stage of design to be taken forward based on Western (46km), Central (31km) and Eastern (42km) Sections starting with the Western Section in 2016.
- **A96 Dualling Hardmuir to Fochabers (Western Section)**
 - Mott MacDonald Sweco Joint Venture were appointed in June 2016 to take forward design and assessment of the Western Section.

Assessment Programme

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The A96 Dualling Programme has been split into four sections:

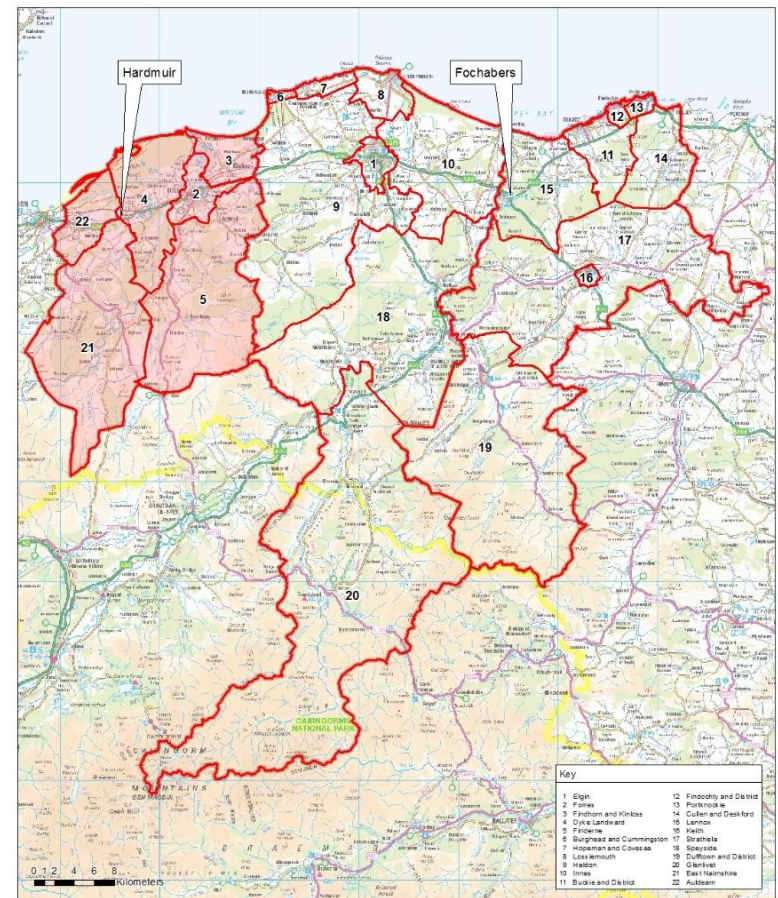


A96 Hardmuir to Fochabers Community Council Forums



West Region (hosted in Forres)

- Forres
- Findhorn & Kinloss
- Dyke Landward
- Finnerne
- Auldearn
- East Nairnshire

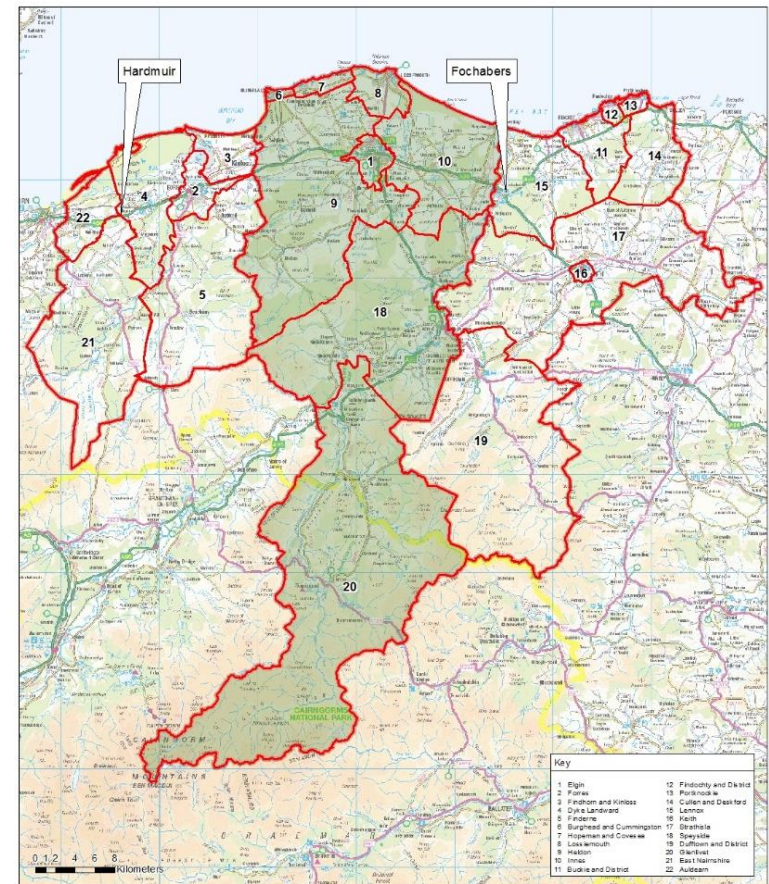


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Central Region (hosted in Elgin)

- Elgin
- Burghead & Cummington
- Hopeman & Covesea*
- Lossiemouth
- Heldon
- Innes
- Speyside*
- Glenlivet*

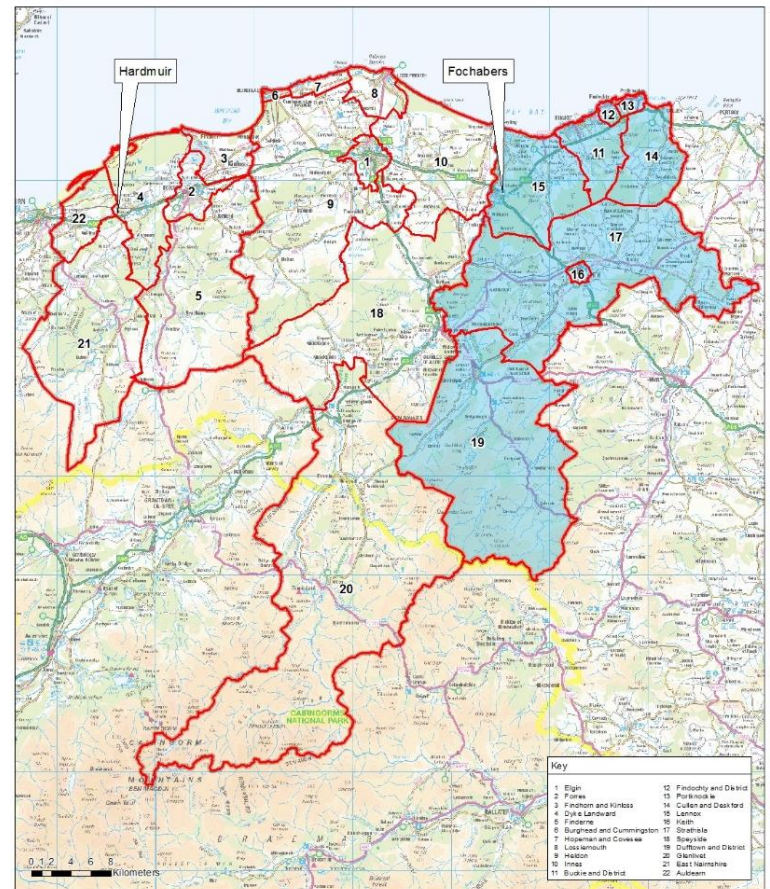


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East Region (hosted in Fochabers)

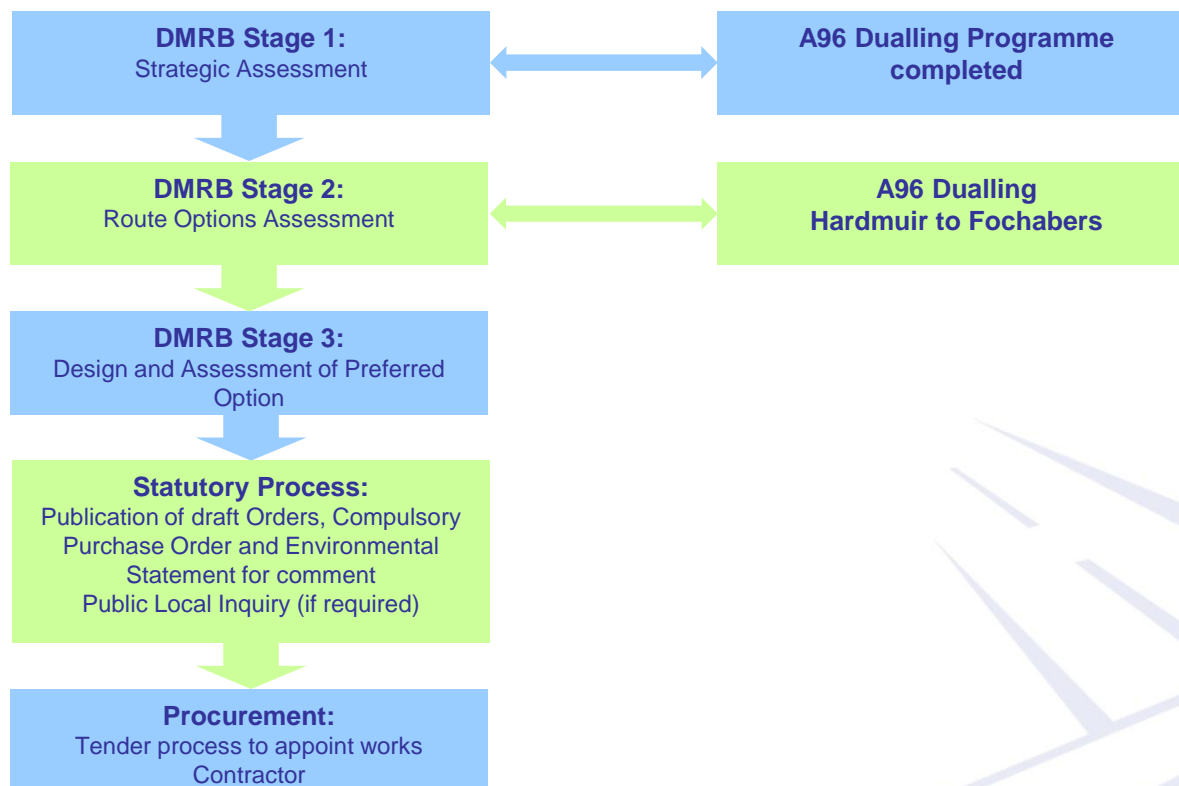
- Buckie & District
- Findochty & District
- Portknockie
- Cullen & Deskford
- Lennox
- Keith
- Strathisla
- Dufftown & District



Scheme Assessment Process

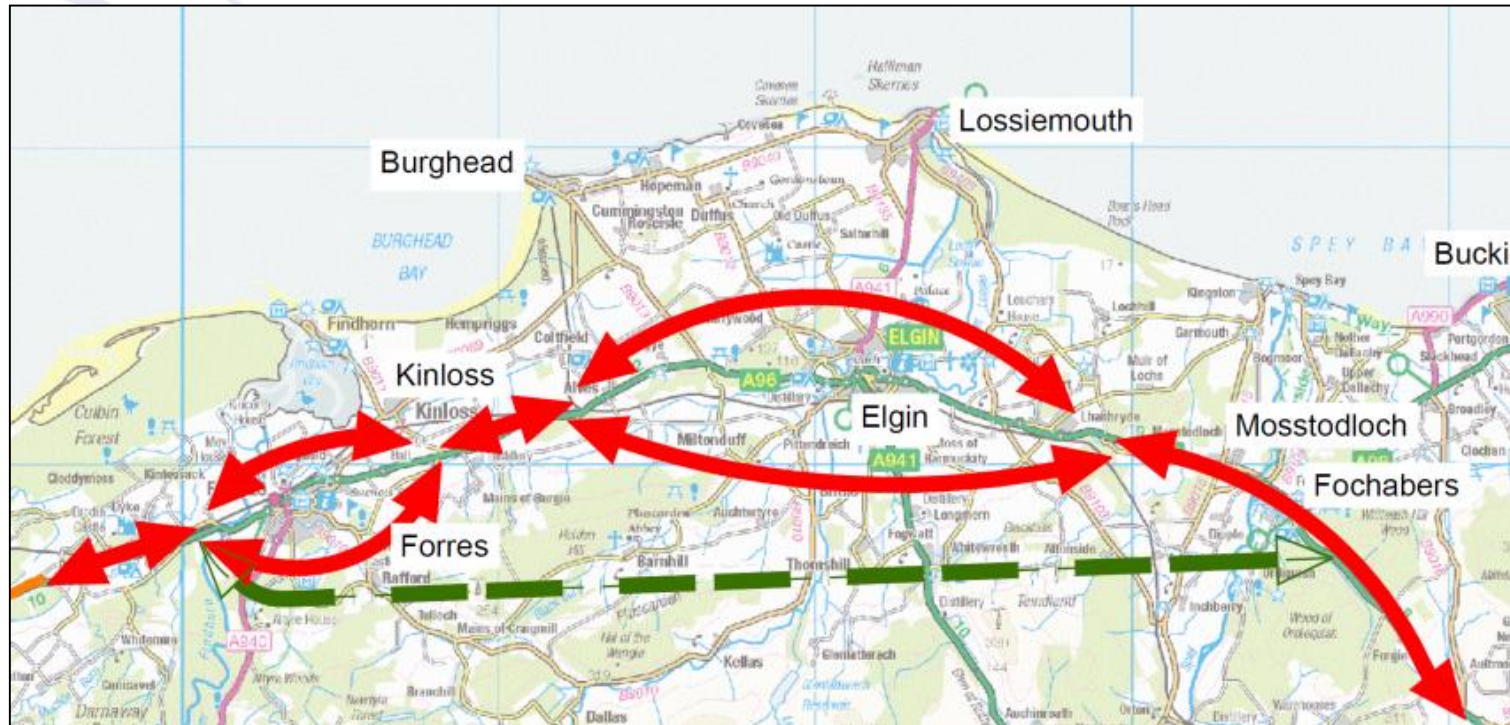


The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) assessment process will be used to establish the preferred line for a trunk road improvement.



DMRB Stage 1 Report

The outcome of DMRB Stage 1 for Hardmuir – Fochabers was to take Improvement Strategy Option B & Option N forward to DMRB Stage 2



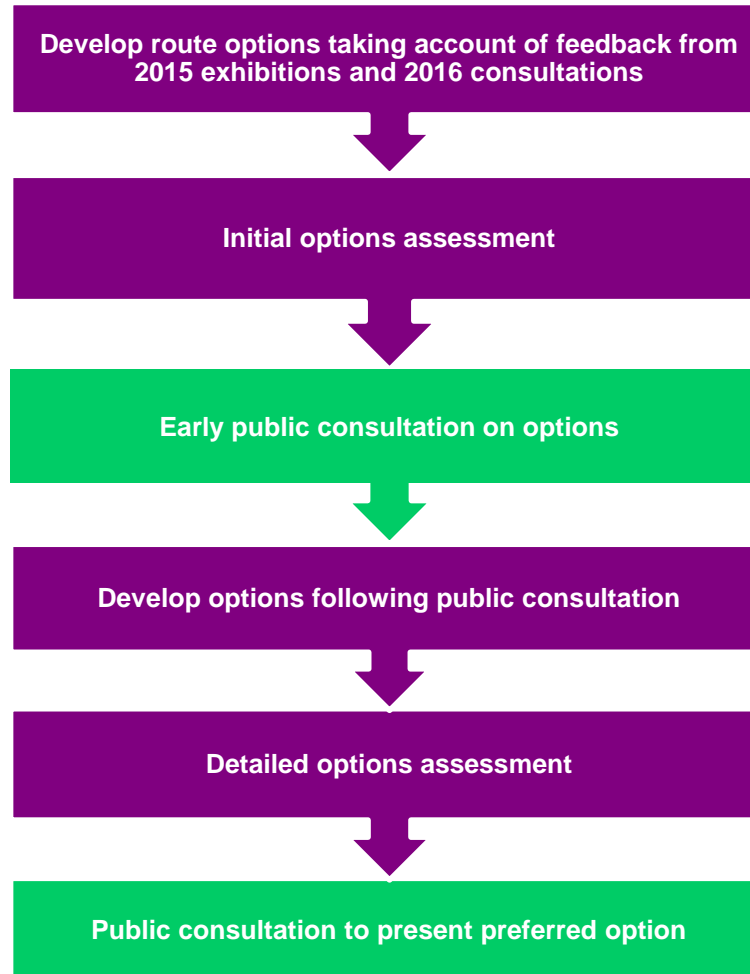
Improvement Strategy Option B (Red)

Primarily following existing A96 corridor with offline bypasses, likely to be offline within existing corridor with A96 retained as local road

Improvement Strategy Option N (Green)

Offline from west of Forres to south of Fochabers

DMRB Stage 2 Assessment

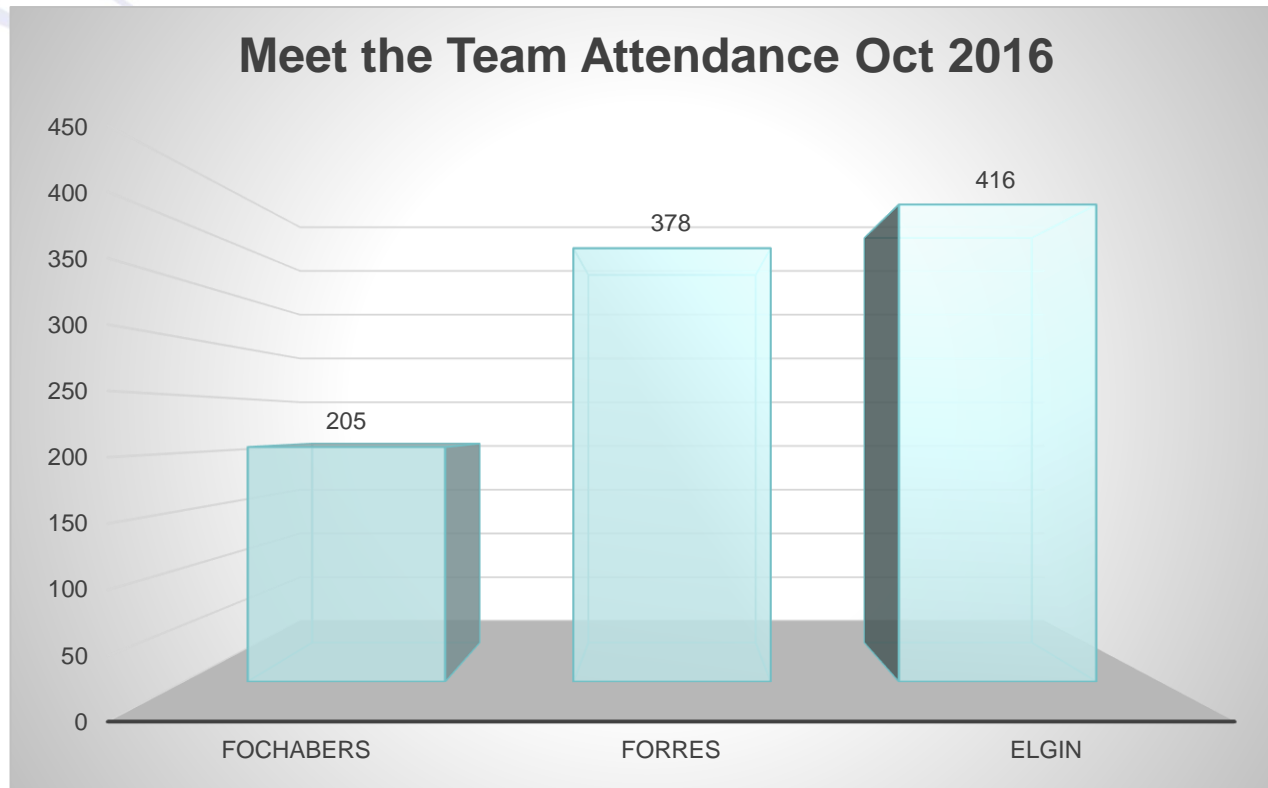


Programme Milestones



- “Meet the Team” public local events Held in October 2016
- Initial Options Consultation Summer 2017
- Preferred Option 2018
- DMRB Stage 3 Assessment 18-24 months

Meet the Team Feedback



Meet the Team Feedback



Summary of Feedback

- When will we know the location of the preferred option?
- Generally positive reaction to benefits of bypasses, as long as they are planned sensitively
- Is online dualling being considered at Forres?
- Northern bypasses may encounter issues with the existing floodplain.
- Concerns about the potential impact of improvement strategy N
- How will bypassing Elgin affect the future development potential of Elgin?
- Concerns about the potential impact of a southern bypass of Fochabers on the water extraction facility.
- Can the Fochabers Bypass be utilised for online dualling?
- How will the scheme tie into the A98?

Work in Progress



Current Work Activities

- Option Design Development and Assessment
- On-going Consultation
 - Statutory Consultees (including SNH/ HES/ SEPA)
 - Local Authorities & Regional Transport Partnerships
 - Community Council Forums
 - Other Stakeholders
- Traffic Modelling
- Data Collection
 - Environmental Constraints
 - Topographical Survey

Key Environmental Issues



- **People and Communities**
 - Forres, Elgin & Fochabers
 - Smaller settlements, farms and scattered properties
 - Areas of high quality agricultural land
 - Importance of good connections (local and strategic)
 - Future development areas & tourism



Key Environmental Issues

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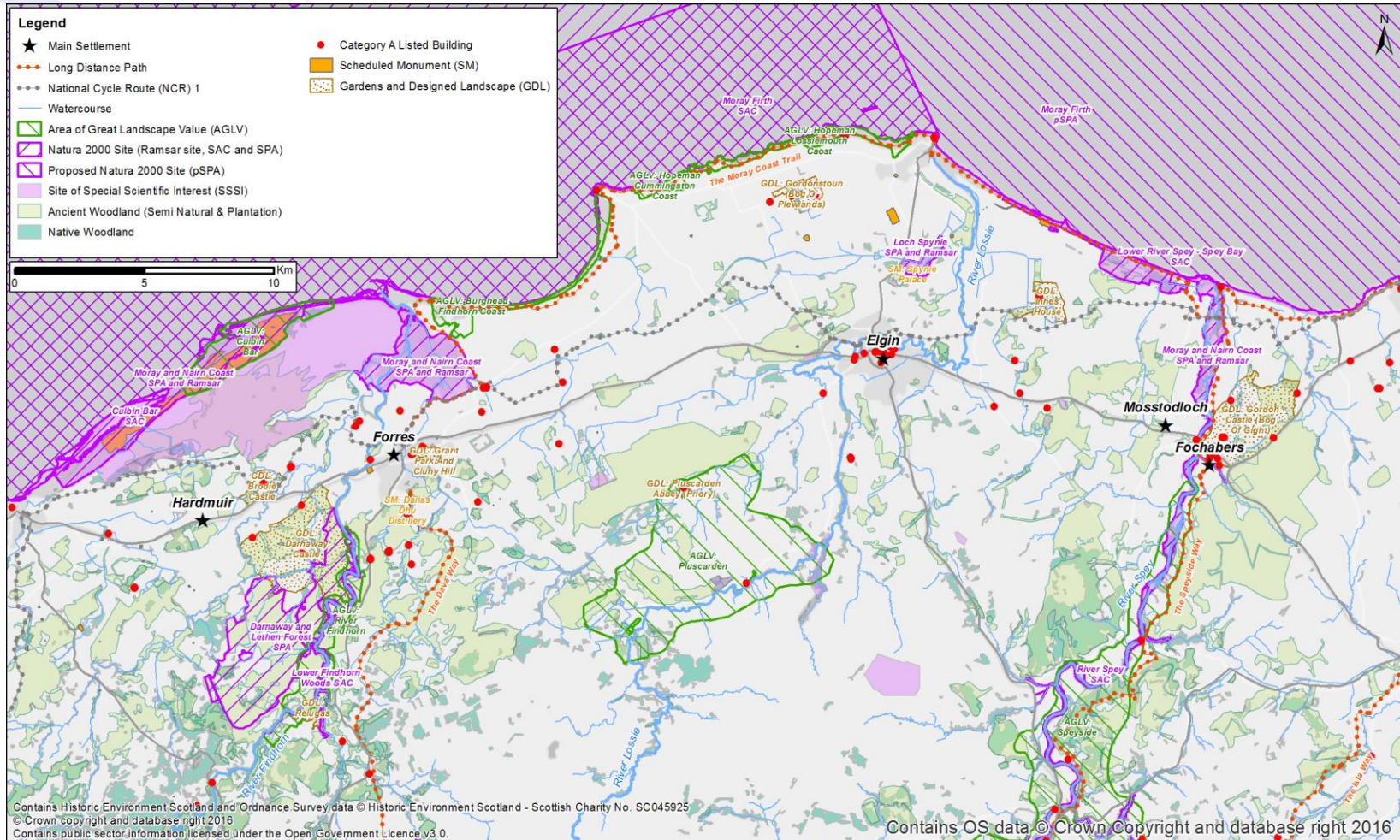


- **Natural and Cultural Heritage**
 - Designated sites including Natura 2000 (Spey Crossing etc)
 - Important watercourses (Findhorn, Lossie, Spey and tributaries)
 - Flooding and flood risk



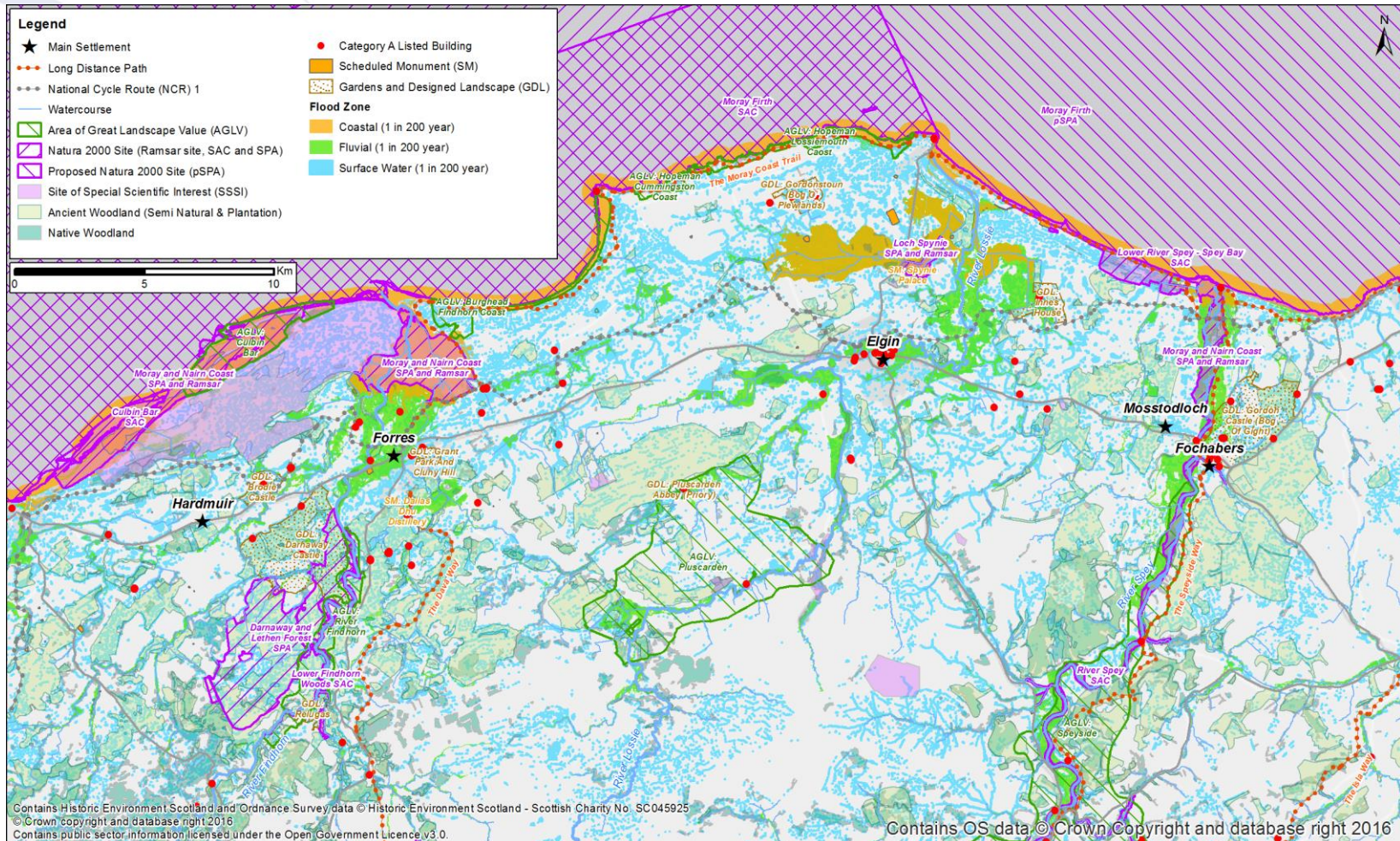
- Ancient and semi natural woodland
- Protected species and important habitats
- Designated historic environment sites
- Varied and sensitive landscape (urban, coastal plain, agricultural, rolling hills with valleys)

Key Environmental Constraints

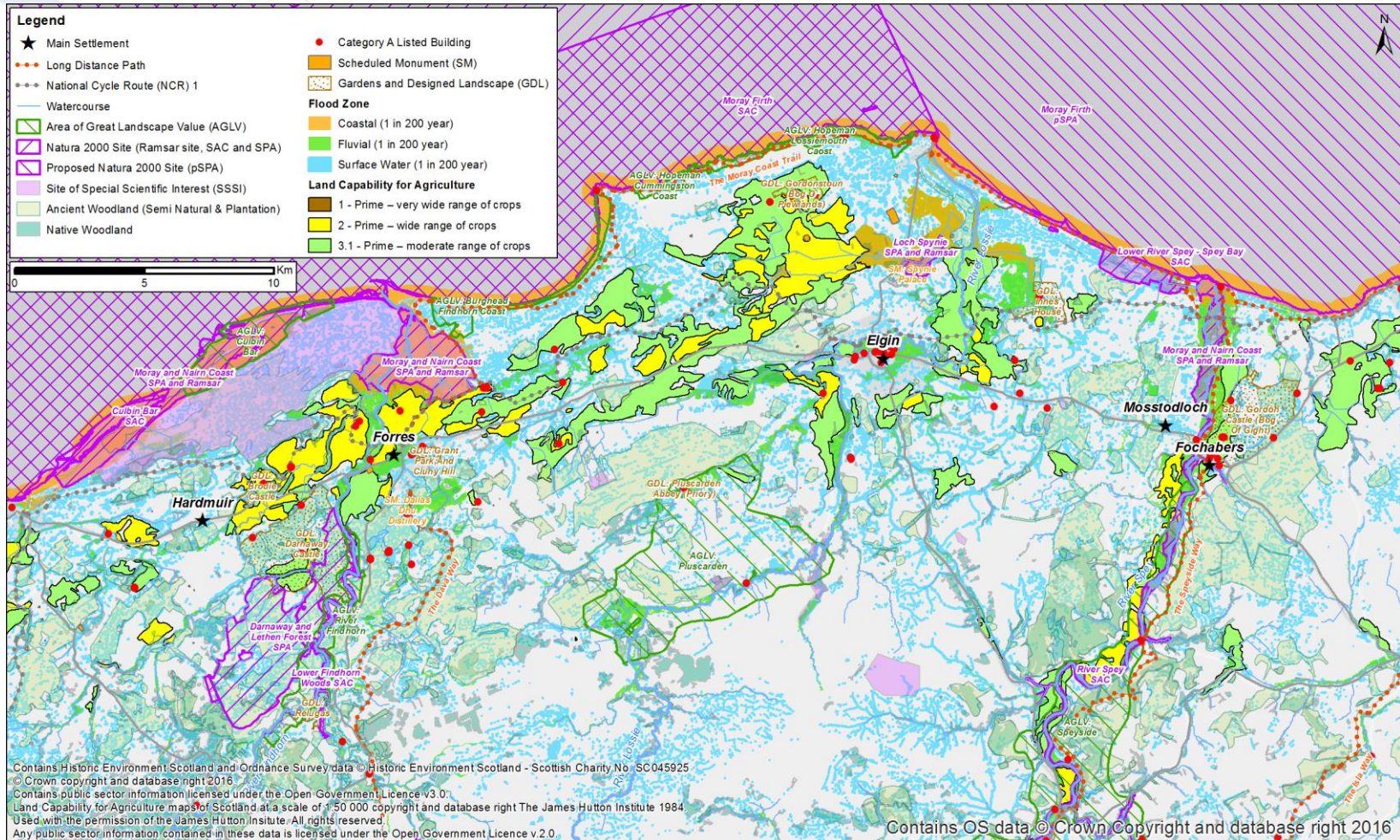


Key Environmental Constraints

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Key Environmental Constraints



Forum Feedback



- Please let us know about any information you would like us to consider in the design process (verbally today/ email/ post/ call)
- Contact us:
 - Keri Stewart (Stakeholder Coordinator), 0141 414 1747, keri.stewart@sweco.co.uk
 - Dave Gowans (Landowner and Communities Manager) 01309 250380, dave.gowans@sweco.co.uk
 - By Post : MMS, Unit 9, Horizon Scotland, The Enterprise Park, Forres IV36 2AB
 - a96dualling@transportscotland.gov.uk
- For Further information:
 - On A96 Dualling Programme, visit [www. transport.gov.scot/a96dualling](http://www.transport.gov.scot/a96dualling)
 - On A96 Dualling Hardmuir to Fochabers, visit www.transport.gov.scot/project/a96-hardmuir-fochabers