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**A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON
GRADE SEPARATION
VOLUME 1**

**PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

DRAFT

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**A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON
GRADE SEPARATION
VOLUME 1**

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ASSESSMENT SUMMARY**

**27 AUGUST 1993
FIRST DRAFT**

**RPS CLOUSTON
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OXON OX13 6SY**

tc585/v1/2205

Preface

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This report provides a preliminary environmental assessment of options to improve existing at-grade junctions on the A14 Thrapston to Brampton. It should be read in conjunction with Volume 2 which lists the options which have been considered and contains annotated engineering drawings, prepared by BCP and PTP of each option.

The report is in draft and provides initial internal guidance to BCP to allow the junction layouts and choice of junction to be refined. A full environmental assessment will be produced for the chosen options at a later date.

A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 10A
Access:		Denford Road Option 1
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		C T Bletsoe
Address:		Elm Lodge Thrapston
Telephone:		0012 2241
Comments	Agriculture:	Arable land. No agricultural movements. Severed triangle between depot and C100 Denford Road would continue to be farmable.
	Archaeology:	No interest.
	Ecology:	No interest.
Conclusions:		No comment as impact is insignificant.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 11A
Access:		Denford Road Option 2
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		C T Bletsoe
Address:		Elm Lodge Thrapston
Telephone:		08012 2241
Comments	Agriculture:	Arable/pasture land following field boundary. Severed triangle farmable. No agricultural movements along or access proposal as parallel PMA located to the south.
	Archaeology:	Loss of feature reference 1901 which is undated and more information required.
	Ecology:	Valuable coppice woodland but not connected to other ecological features therefore low value as wildlife corridor. Potential badger/deer feeding area, but no access for survey option could sever feeding tracks. Mature oak could be lost at western end.
Conclusions:		Severance of hedgerow/woodland and potential impact on badgers/deer. Potential loss of archaeological feature.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 12
Access:		Denford Road Option 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		C T Bletsoe
Address:		Elm Lodge Thrapston
Telephone:		08012 2241
Comments	Agriculture:	Arable/pastureland follows field boundaries, but severs buildings, Bottom Lodge. No agricultural movements as existing access track to the south and access to buildings can be taken from north south paved track.
	Archaeology:	No interest.
	Ecology:	No ecological interest. Proposal cuts across some end of hedges with poor structure. Not species rich.
Conclusions:		No significant impact.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 13
Access:		Denford Road Option 4
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		C T Bletsoe
Address:		Elm Lodge Thrapston
Telephone:		08012 2241
Comments	Agriculture:	Arable/pastureland. Follows field boundaries. No agricultural movements.
	Archaeology:	No interest. Potential impact on N1901 dependent on further survey.
	Ecology:	No effect on woodland. Potential impact on badgers and on feeding tracks. Not surveyed due to no public access.
Conclusions:		No significant impact. Potential impact on badgers and unknown on archaeological feature.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 14
Access:		Polopit Junction Option 1
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		C T Bletsoe J G Cheney R Brown
Address:		Elm Lodge Wood Lodge Bottom Thrapston Thrapston Farm Covington
Telephone:		08012-2241 08012-2479 0480-860202
Comments	Agriculture:	Provide grade separated access to C T Bletsoe severed field north of A14. Junction would not be used by Cheney or Brown who would only lose land. <100 movements/annum along proposal. Land within loops unfarmable apart from large plot to east of Polopit Road.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	*Ecology:	Interest only on open woodland at eastern end. Careful design required for locating PMA through existing open area some woodland loss.
Conclusions:		Some severance, but improve access to severed field. Minimal ecological and archaeological impact.

NB. Note to Sue Radley, PTP. RPS did not collect information on the pond and associated tree groups. Further survey will be required to establish its ecological value unless you have information.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 15
Access:		Polopit Junction Option 2
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		C T Bletsoe J G Cheney
Address:		Elm Lodge Wood Lodge Thrapston Thrapston
Telephone:		08012-2241 08012-2479
Comments	Agriculture:	Same comments as SK 14 although Brown would not lose land. Severed areas within loops unlikely to continue to be farmed.
	Archaeology:	No interest.
	Ecology:	No ecological interest.
Conclusions:		Potential land take through severance will be higher than Option 1. No ecological and archaeological interest.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 16
Access:		Polopit Junction Option 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		J G Cheney R Brown
Address:		
Telephone:		
Comments	Agriculture:	Bad severance to field on north of A14 would lead to additional landtake. Increased distance to severed field on C T Bletsoe. Movements <100 along track.
	Archaeology:	No interest.
	Ecology:	See SK 14.
Conclusions:		Severance effect will increase land take and additional distance to severed land. Minimal ecological and archaeological impact.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 17
Access:		B663 Option 1
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		R Brown
Address:		Bottom Farm Corrington Huntingdon
Telephone:		0480 860202
Comments	Agriculture:	Arable land to south and vacant land to the north. Creates severed areas which still farmable. Agricultural movements only to vacant land although the overbridge could become an alternative to using Bythorn accommodation bridge located to the east.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	Newly planted woodland and species rich hedge located to south of A14 along western boundary of Toll Bar Lane should be avoided. Realign B663 southwards.
Conclusions:		Agricultural and archaeological impact minimal. Ecological impact on species rich hedge should be avoided by realignment.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 18
Access:		B663 Option 2
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		R Brown T J Nichols
Address:		Bottom Farm Home & Manor Covington Farm Bythorn
Telephone:		0480-860202 08014-264
Comments	Agriculture:	Disruption and potential land take is lower than SK 17. No agricultural movements. NB. Accommodation track from Bythorn Accommodation bridge needs to run through to slip road.
	Archaeology:	No interest.
	Ecology:	Destroys, planting and species rich hedge located to south of A14.
Conclusions:		No archaeological or agricultural impact. Ecological impact can not be avoided.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 19
Access:		B663 Option 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		Unknown
Address:		landowner to the north
		T J Nichols Home & Manor Farm Bythorn
Telephone:		08014-264
Comments	Agriculture:	Increased land take although land occupancy to the north is not known. Creation of difficult field shape to the north and south. Minimal movements, but need to cater for Bythorn accommodation bridge PMA which follows southern boundary of A14.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	Following features would be affected: a) A604 7m tall, 4m thick ash/elm/sloe hedge - high value b) low discontinuous hawthorn sloe hedge c) narrow elm tree belt. All could be significantly affected.
Conclusions:		No archaeological impact, but loss of ecological features and significant severance.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 20
Access:		B663 Option 4
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:	R Brown	T J Nichols Unknown
Address:	Bottom Farm Covington	Home & Manor Farm Bythorn
Telephone:		0480-860202 08014-264
Comments	Agriculture:	Land affected to the north is vacant. Creation of 2 unworkable areas to the south. Need to cater for Bythorn Accommodation bridge PMA. No agricultural movements.
	Archaeology:	No interest.
	Ecology:	Combines the significant effects of SK 18 and SK 19, but avoids narrow belt of elm.
Conclusions:		Combines most significant impacts of Options 2 and 3.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		616A
Access:		Chainbridge Lane
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		J Chapman R S G Ward
Address:		65 Church Road Manor Farm Catworth Molesworth
Telephone:		08012-456 08014-315
Comments	Agriculture:	Minimal land take impact. 289 movements per annum over bridge and track eastwards. 24 movements along track westwards.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	Loss of streamside hawthorn/willow and semi-mature ash tree. Stream of low ecological value.
Conclusions:		No impact upon archaeology and agriculture. Minimum impact upon ecology.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 21
Access:		Chainbridge Lane Option 2
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		J Chapman R S G Ward
Address:		65 Church Road Manor Farm Catworth Molesworth
Telephone:		08012-456 08014-315
Comments	Agriculture:	Significantly higher land take to west although minimal impact on overall unit. Same movements as Option 1.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	Loss of streamside hawthorn/sloe scrub and loss of some hawthorn/elm/elder at junction of A604 and Chainbridge Lane.
Conclusions:		No significant impact upon agriculture, archaeology or ecology.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 22
Access:		Chainbridge Lane Option 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		R S G Ward
Address:		Manor Farm Molesworth
Telephone:		08014-315
Comments	Agriculture:	Same comment as Option 2, but land take is to the east of Chainbridge Lane. Same movements as Option 1.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	Hedge at A604 avoided, but still loss of streamside hawthorn/willow.
Conclusions:		No significant impact.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 23
Access:		B660 Option 1
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		Minimal effect through slip road variations.
Address:		
Telephone:		
Comments	Agriculture:	No effect.
	Archaeology:	No effect.
	Ecology:	No effect.
Conclusions:		No impacts, but more detailed design plans yet to be assessed.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 25
Access:		Leighton Brownswold Junction: Option 1
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		S A Brookes J Day
Address:		Staunth Hill Farm Little Catworth L Bromswold Farm Little Catworth
Telephone:		08014-261 08014-232
Comments	Agriculture:	Creates awkward severed areas within junction loops - unlikely to be farmed. 64 movements per annum through junction excluding movements along PMA extending eastwards through Catworth Gorse - see SK 7, Option 1
	Archaeology:	No effect.
	Ecology:	Oak trees on western boundary of Leighton Brownswold Road should be avoided. No other impact. Impact of PMA through Catworth Gorse considered in SK 7, Option 1
Conclusions:		Minimal impact if oak trees avoided.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 26
Access:		Leighton Brownswold Option 2
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		S Picton J Day
Address:		Manor Farm Little Catworth L Bromswold Farm Little Catworth
Telephone:		0480-980244 08014-232
Comments	Agriculture:	Land take reduced due to loss of woodland at Catworth Gorse. Movements as for Option 1.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	Significant impact on Catworth Gorse - woodland loss of low importance compared to loss of deer fielding grounds.
Conclusions:		Impact on Catworth Gorse should be avoided due to rarity of woodland area for deer habitat.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 27
Access:		Leighton Brownswold Option 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		S A Brookes J Day
Address:		Staunch Hill Farm Little Catworth L Bromswold Farm Little Catworth
Telephone:		08014-261 08014-232
Comments	Agriculture:	As for Option 1.
	Archaeology:	No impact.
	Ecology:	As Option 1.
Conclusions:		As for Option 1.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 32
Access:		Barham Road Junction Options 1 & 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		P M Racey
Address:		West Lodge Farm Spaldwick
Telephone:		0480-891124
Comments	Agriculture:	Minimum increase in land take to the south of A14. >1000 movements spread between 4-6 farm units would occur through the junction, but not along A14.
	Archaeology:	C723 Medieval stone bridge, SAM/ listed also known as Rectory Bridge (?) Direct impact should be avoided, but also need to consider setting.
	Ecology:	No interest.
Conclusions:		Significant potential archaeological impact upon Rectory Bridge should be avoided.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 33
Access:		Barham Road Junction Option 4
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		P M Racey
Address:		West Lodge Farm Spaldwick
Telephone:		9480-891124
Comments	Agriculture:	Slight increase in land take over Options 1 and 3. >1000 movements.
	Archaeology:	C723 medieval stone bridge SAM and listed. Direct impact unless slip road construction terminates to the west.
	Ecology:	No interest.
Conclusions:		Potential impact upon C723, but unlikely if construction terminates to west.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 7
Access:		Catworth Farm Options
Affected Occupiers:		Option 1 Option 2 Option 3
Name:		J Day P M Racey -
Address:		Little West Lodge
		Catworth Farm Farm
		Catworth Farm Spaldwick
		Little Catworth
Telephone:		08014-232 0480-891124
Comments	Agriculture:	Option 1 minimal land take, but 548 movements continue along A14. Option 2 minimum land take and would remove 548 from A14. Total movements along track would be 1244-548. Option 3 500-650 movements with no land take and no movements along A14.
	Archaeology:	Cockway Lane adjacent to medieval field system itself probably part of medieval landscape.
	Ecology:	Option 1 - loss of deer habitat at Catworth Gorse Option 2 - No interest Option 3 - Hedges etc. trees important, but 5m+ track would avoid impact. Careful construction would avoid impact upon tree roofs
Conclusions:		Option 2 preferred and provides most direct access to Catworth Farm.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 29
Access:		Woolley/Easton Option 1
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		J L Edwards W H Skinner
Address:		78 Windmill Close Brook House Ellington Farm Ellington
Telephone:		0480-980380 0480-891372
Comments	Agriculture:	Significant severance to Edwards Unit. Minimum movements through junction.
	Archaeology:	Direct impact on medieval field layout - crop marks in vicinity. Considered to farm part of medieval landscape.
	Ecology:	Effect on 2 hawthorn hedges and crab, sloe, ash and elm - reasonably species rich. Important wildlife corridors. Semi-mature ash at Woolley Hill Road requires southern realignment.
Conclusions:		Significant severance impact upon small farm unit, direct impact upon medieval field layouts and loss of species rich hedgerows and wildlife corridor junction.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 30
Access:		Woolley/Easton Option 2
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		as SK 29
Address:		
Telephone:		
Comments	Agriculture:	Significant increase in land take and severance of land between option and hauliers yard.
	Archaeology:	Minor impact on field system.
	Ecology:	2 gappy and tall hedges of poor ecological value will be severed. Ellington Brook provides important bankside habitat which should be surveyed eg. invertebrates/riverside birds.
Conclusions:		Increased land take, but on large farm unit. Archaeological impact slight. Ecological impact dependent upon quality of Ellington Brook which should be surveyed in detail.

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A14 THRAPSTON TO BRAMPTON GRADE SEPARATION: PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Plan:		SK 31
Access:		Woolley/Easton Option 3
Affected Occupiers:		
Name:		As SK 30
Address:		
Telephone:		
Comments	Agriculture:	As SK 30 - Option 2
	Archaeology:	As SK 30 - Option 2
	Ecology:	As SK 30 - Option 2
Conclusions:		As SK 30 - Option 2