

On the road to good design

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Presentation to the Principal Designer Working Group

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On the road to good design

- We must ensure our network is well designed as required by our Licence and planning and wider government policy.
- We are supported by our Strategic Design Panel, chaired by Executive Director Mike Wilson.
- Good design can reduce objections and delays, enhance user experience and reduce maintenance. It can also help ensure wider benefits beyond safety and capacity, such as supporting growth, active travel, net-zero and biodiversity.

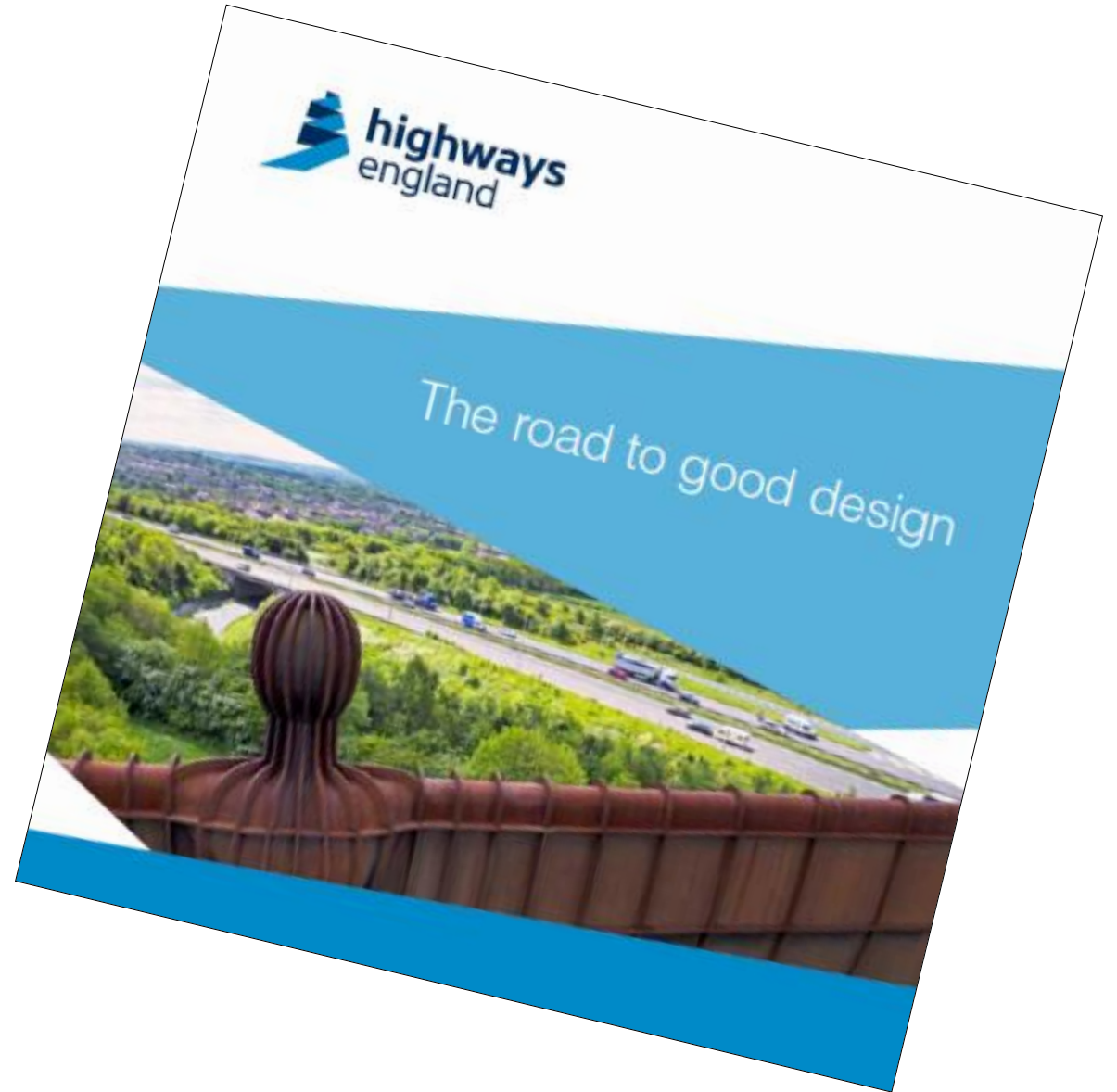


Connecting the country

- Our design vision published in 2018:

“We aim to put people at the heart of our work by designing an inclusive, resilient and sustainable road network; appreciated for its usefulness but also its elegance, reflecting in its design the beauty of the natural, built and historic environment through which it passes, and enhancing it where possible.”

- Our vision is supported by 10 principles of good road design:



Connecting people

1. **Safe and useful:** good design creates safe roads that meet users' needs and support other wider objectives.
2. **Inclusive:** all users and communities are considered to reduce barriers to access and participation.
3. **Understandable:** 'Self-explaining roads' focus on the essentials and eliminate unnecessary and confusing clutter.



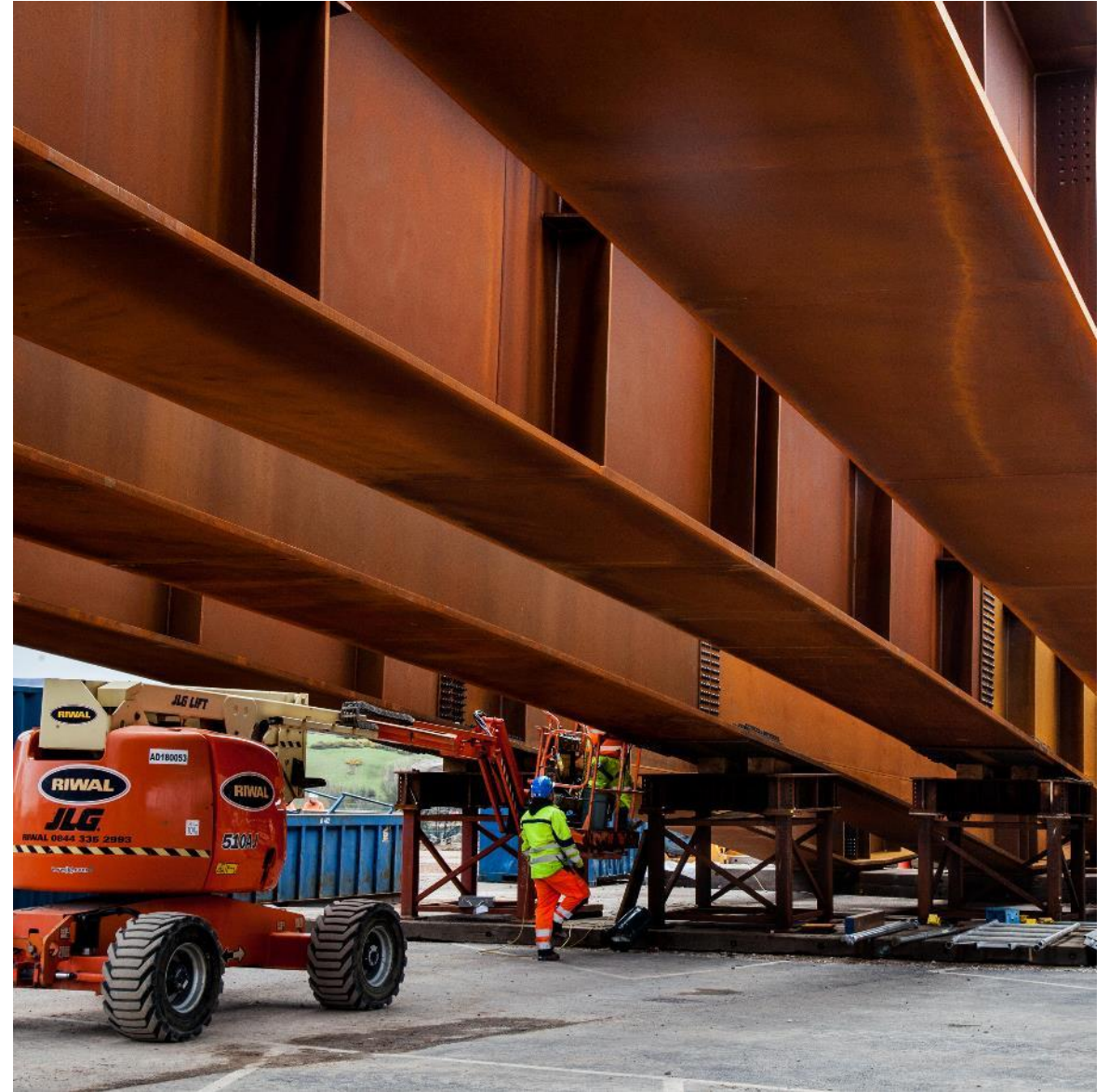
Connecting places

- 4. **Fits in context:** Good road design demonstrates sensitivity to the landscape, heritage and local community.
- 5. **Restrained:** Good road design can enhance a sense of place and add to what we have inherited.
- 6. **Environmentally sustainable:** Multi-functional, resilient and sustainable, good roads achieve net environmental gain.



Connecting processes

- 7. **Thorough:** The design of all elements of the road environment are considered together and integrated.
- 8. **Innovative:** An innovative and resourceful approach that is mindful of context is necessary for better outcomes.
- 9. **Collaborative:** Collaborative working is a rigorous process that finds both dependencies and opportunities.
- 10. **Long-lasting:** With quality materials and careful detailing, good road design brings lasting value.



Good design

- Understands and reflects the places the road passes through and the people who use it
- Ensures projects teams have the broad range of skills necessary to deliver
- Is enabled through having robust processes, including design review
- Adds value by identifying and maximising opportunities
- Is not just about appearance – good design is safe, efficient, functional *and* responsive to people and place



Publications 5 July

- Three documents published 5th July to help us on the road to good design:
 - *On the road to good design: Design review at National Highways*
 - *People, places and processes: A guide to good design at National Highways*
 - *Learning on the road to good design: Case studies*
- Webinars planned for the autumn with further advice and learning
- We also now have a new [good design page](#) on our website under information for suppliers



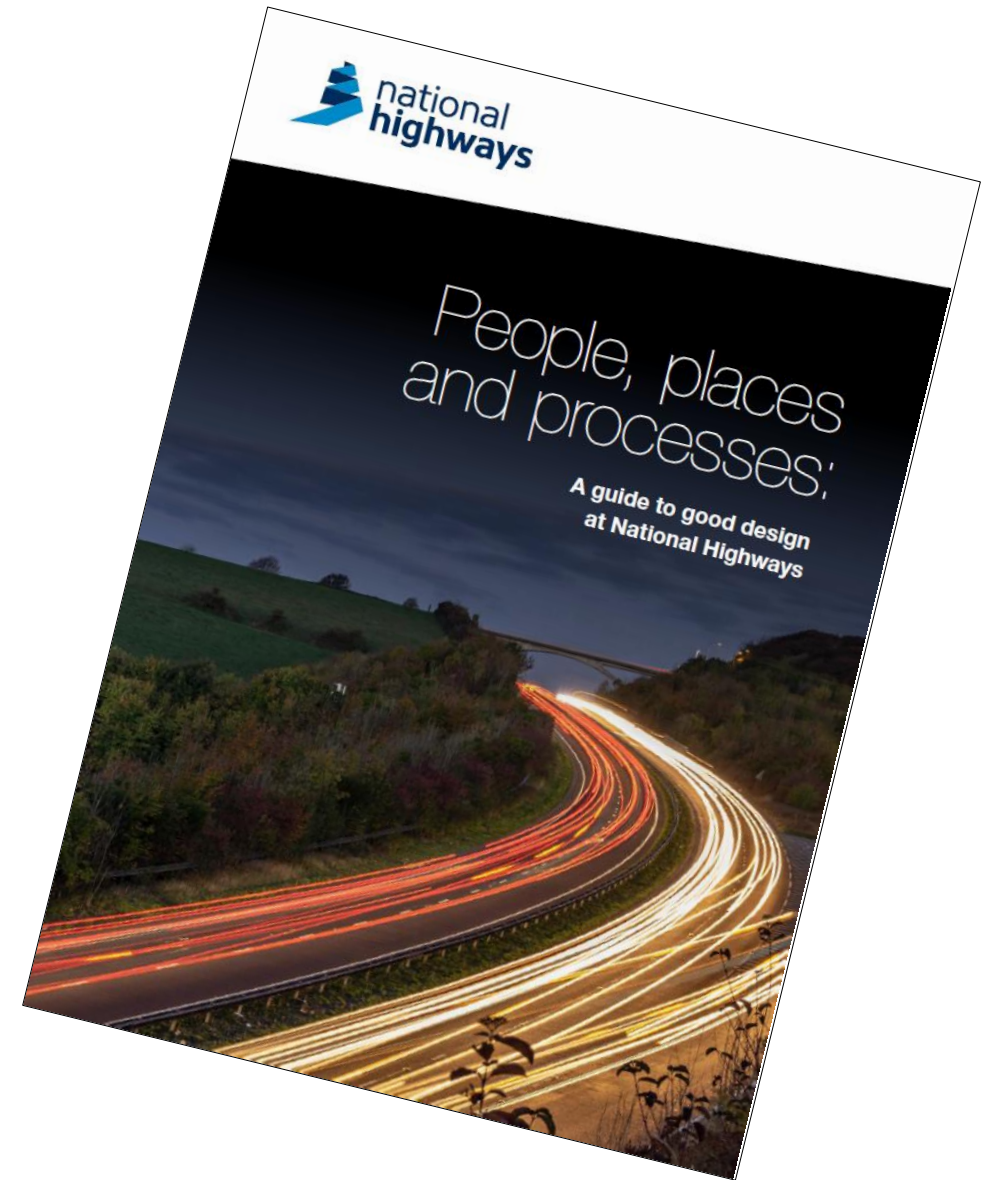
Design review report

- A report from our Strategic Design Panel on design review 2017-2021
- 30 schemes and standards reviewed to end of 2021
- Outlines the process of independent design reviews and benefits
- Identifies design review outcome trends
- Sets out key learning, actions and recommendations from reviews to date



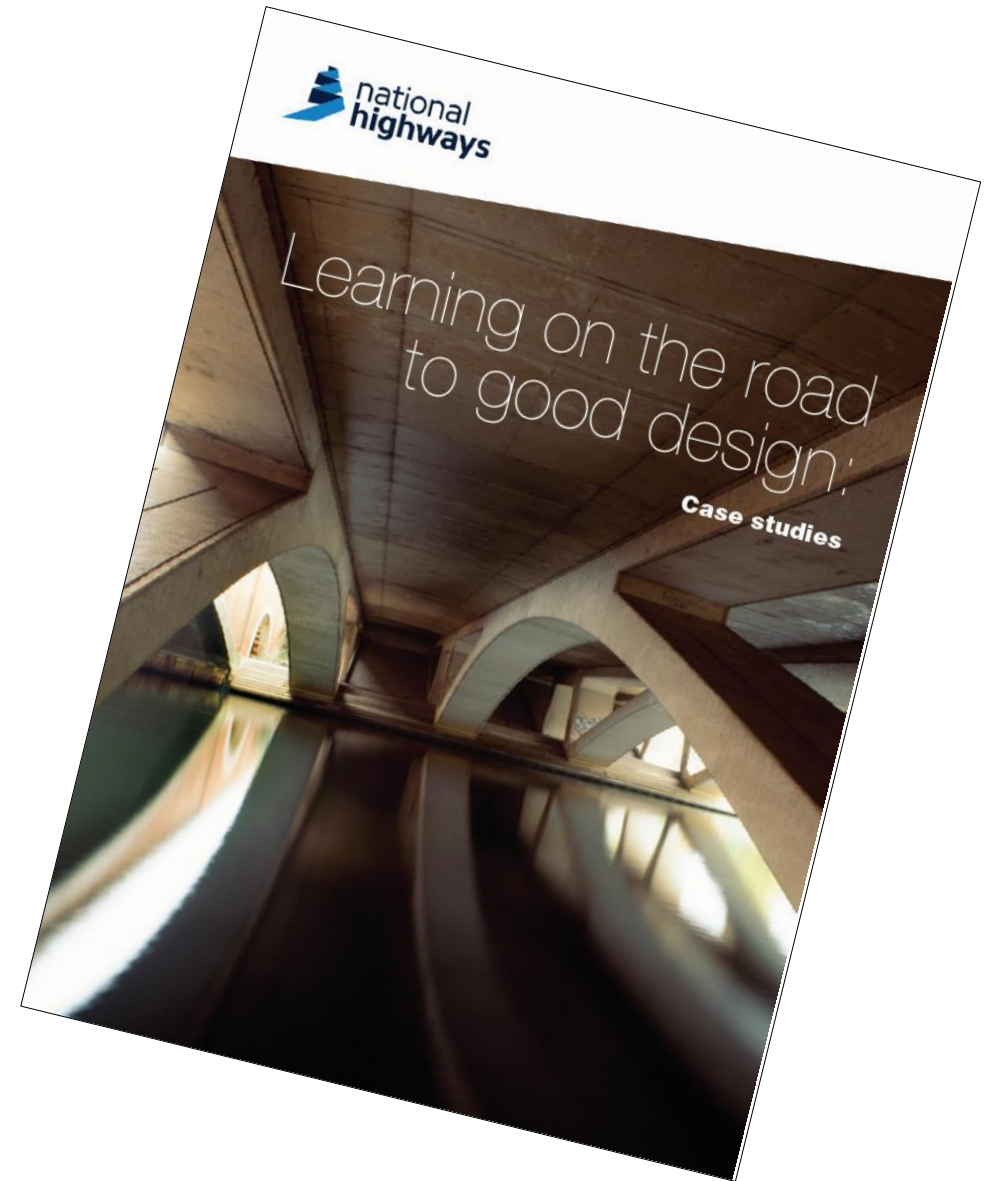
Good design guidance

- Guidance for our 10 principles of good road design
- Focusses on the three principle themes of connecting:
 - *people*
 - *places*
 - *processes*
- Additional guidance on:
 - *context*
 - *climate change*
 - *beautiful roads*
 - *view from the road*



Good design case studies

- 25 good design case studies from UK and beyond
- Case studies focus on the wider benefits of good design
- Help to answer, 'what does good design look like?'
- Encourages learning from best practice and use of precedents in design



Summary

- We need the supply chain to help us improve the quality of the network through good design.
- Support design review and recognise value of independent advice from our Panel.
- Champion good design in your organisation and check out the recent publications.
- Further activity planned in autumn.
- Get in touch:
gooddesign@nationalhighways.co.uk



