This case study focuses on the implementation of Environmental Statement (ES) mitigation commitments. An ES was produced for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling in 2013 setting out environmental mitigation measures for the scheme. A Public Inquiry for the scheme was held in 2013. Construction started on site in 2014 and the upgraded A21 is due to open fully to traffic in 2017.

This case study examines the process of delivering environmental commitments, following consent, in the context of a sensitive local environment. Designations relevant to the scheme include an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, ancient woodland, Scheduled Monument, listed buildings, and a registered historic park and garden.

Scheme environmental requirements include those relating to ecology, landscape, cultural heritage, archaeology, noise, air quality and the water environment.

Objectives for the scheme are to relieve congestion, improve road safety for all travellers, improve journey time reliability, whilst minimising adverse impacts on the environment - including ancient woodland.

### Description of the project

Highways England is upgrading the existing A21 single carriageway between Tonbridge and Pembury to a dual carriageway, including junction improvements and a route for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders separate from the A21 traffic.

Environmental mitigation commitments include the creation of 18 hectares of woodland along the scheme through translocation of ancient woodland soils and coppice stools, natural regeneration and tree planting.
### Lessons learnt

Arcadis is providing an environmental technical assurance role, on behalf of Highways England, for the A21 scheme. This role has included attendance of environmental staff at Public Inquiry; input to the Contract documentation (Works Information) to ensure environmental commitments are clearly set out to the Contractor from the outset; review of detailed environmental design and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP); site environmental progress meetings and site visits to monitor the delivery of environmental commitments, and continued liaison with environmental consultees.

The delivery of A21 environmental requirements has been facilitated by the following to date:

- Early engagement of stakeholders and ongoing use of forums during construction (including Environmental Advisory Group and Environmental Liaison Forum) to focus on key issues.

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### Lessons learnt cont. –

- Clear translation of environmental commitments from the ES to appropriate sections of the contract documentation (Works Information) – setting out measures to be implemented through the detailed environmental design and the construction environmental management plan (CEMP).

- Coordinated specialist review of environmental design and management documents, to enable cross-discipline evaluation of detailed documentation.

- Collaborative working of all parties, to facilitate monitoring and corrective action including on-site meetings, lessons learnt workshops, and sharing of information via business collaborator web portal.

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