

# A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction

**Scheme Number: TR010037**

**Volume 5**

## **5.2 Annex L: Targeted Statutory Consultations and Project Update Materials**

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

March 2021

## Infrastructure Planning

### Planning Act 2008

### **The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009**

## The A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Development Consent Order 202[X]

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### **5.2 CONSULTATION REPORT ANNEX L TARGETED STATUTORY CONSULTATION AND PROJECT UPDATE MATERIALS**

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<b>Author:</b>	A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Project Team, Highways England

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## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>PROJECT UPDATE, JULY 2020 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1	Project update leaflet.....	4
1.2	Covering letter to Section 42 (1)(a), (b) and (d) consultees, sent 21 July 2020.....	12
1.3	Covering letter to local Members of Parliament, sent 20 July 2020.....	13
1.4	News release, issued 21 July 2020 .....	14
<b>2</b>	<b>TARGETED STATUTORY CONSULTATION, AUGUST 2020 AND SEPTEMBER 2020 .....</b>	<b>21</b>
2.1	Letter to Section 42(1)(a) prescribed contacts identified since the statutory consultation, sent 31 July 2020 .....	21
2.2	Section 42(1)(d) Category 1 and 2 letter, sent 31 July 2020 .....	24
<b>3</b>	<b>TARGETED STATUTORY CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 2021 AND MARCH 2021 .....</b>	<b>28</b>
3.1	Land interest letters issued, sent 25 February 2021 .....	28
3.2	Correction letter, sent 3 March 2021.....	40

## 1 PROJECT UPDATE, JULY 2020

### 1.1 Project update leaflet



**Project update**  
Read about our latest design

## A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvements

### Investing in the A47

The A47 is an important connection linking the cities of Norwich and Peterborough, the towns of Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and a succession of villages in what is largely a rural area.

As part of a multi-billion investment to improve journeys on England's major A-roads and motorways, the Government is funding a package of six projects on the 115-mile stretch of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together, the proposals will relieve congestion and improve the reliability of journey times for drivers.

The projects include converting almost eight miles of single carriageway to dual carriageway and improving key junctions along the A47 road.

The other A47 road improvement projects are:

- A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling
- A47/A141 Guyhirn junction
- A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling
- A47 Blofield to North Burlingham dualling
- A47 Great Yarmouth junction





## Why are the Thickthorn junction improvements needed?

The A47/A11 Thickthorn junction is already important for commuter, business and commercial traffic, whether on short or long-distance journeys.

Committed developments in Cringleford and Hethersett are expected to increase traffic at Thickthorn junction and the A11/Round House Way junction significantly by 2026.

Around 3,000 new homes are potentially planned near the junction, as well as new commercial businesses. These are also likely to increase congestion near the junction.

The current junction will be unable to cope with the likely increases in traffic. Our proposed changes will help by re-routing traffic away from the existing junction to relieve congestion, reduce journey times, support economic growth and make the road better for motorists, as well as walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

## Project benefits

By delivering these improvements to the junction, we aim to:

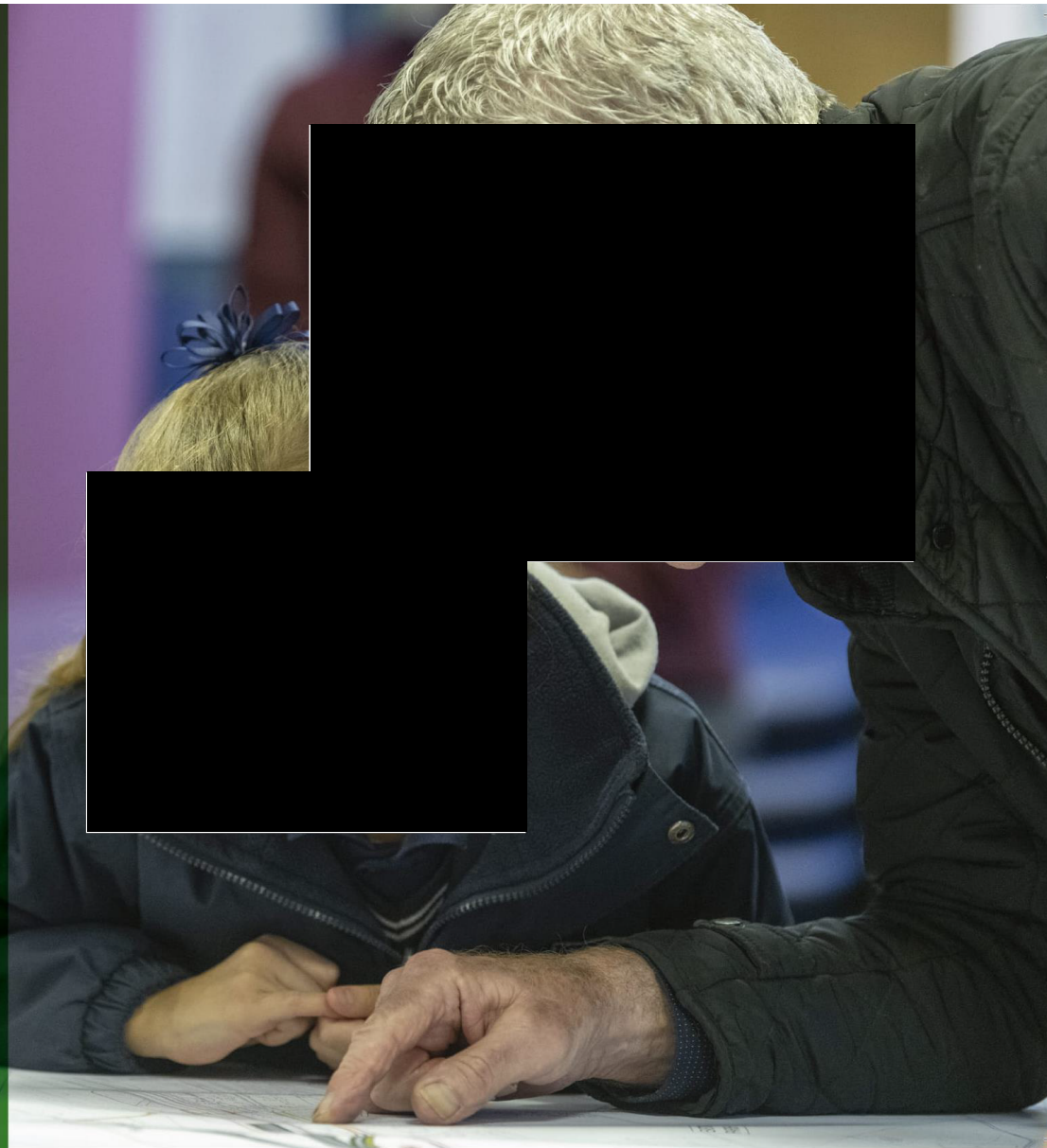
- improve road safety for motorists and for those living near the junction
- reduce congestion, make journey times more reliable, and increase capacity for future traffic growth
- help the road cope better if there are vehicle collisions or breakdowns, and during road maintenance
- help support regional housing and economic growth in Norwich and the surrounding areas
- help protect the environment by minimising adverse impacts and, where possible, deliver benefits
- consider local communities and their access to the roads
- provide a safer route between communities for cyclists, walkers, horse riders and other non-motorist groups

## How you've been involved

In early 2017, we held a public consultation on options to gain your feedback on our proposal and to help shape our plan to improve the Thickthorn junction at an early stage. Over 250 people attended the three days of public events and we received 185 responses to the consultation. Around 74% supported the need to improving the junction and agreed our proposal would be beneficial in reducing congestion and improve journey times.

After considering the feedback, the option taken to consultation was selected as the preferred route with some modifications.

We then developed our design to take into account the concerns raised by the public around the Cantley Lane link. We held a further statutory consultation between June and July 2019, where the public and other consultees were asked for their views on the proposed new junction layout. Over 500 people attended the statutory consultation events and we received 237 responses.



## What's happened since the statutory consultation?

Following the summer 2019 consultation we analysed all the responses and engaged with key stakeholders and affected landowners to fully understand the feedback received.

Based on the feedback, we have refined our proposals to address the common themes and concerns raised, whilst ensuring that the project solves the traffic problem, improves journey times and improves safety as key considerations.

Meanwhile, the proposed Park and Ride extension, Round House Way improvements and local housing developments are progressing; and the proposed route for the Norwich Western Link has been announced. Engagement is ongoing with utility providers to plan for any pipes or cables to be moved.

We've undertaken several surveys, with more to be completed before winter 2020.

Local Road Traffic Survey	Completed	Winter 2019
Air Quality Monitoring	Completed	Winter 2019 to spring 2020
Archaeological Trenching	Ongoing	Summer 2020
Supplementary Ground Investigations	Scheduled	Autumn 2020
Ecological Surveys	Ongoing	Spring 2020 to winter 2020

For more information on the project, visit our webpage at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-thickthorn-junction](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-thickthorn-junction)

**A number of responses to the statutory consultation suggested that the proposed Cantley Lane link road be replaced by a new layout at Station Lane instead. We have assessed various solutions for Cantley Lane South: you can read these in the Side Road Strategy Options Report found at [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-thickthorn-junction](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-thickthorn-junction). The report shows that the current proposal is the best option. Please see Appendix E of the report for more information on our assessment of the side road options.**



## Our proposed design

Our revised layout that we intend to submit for planning approval includes:

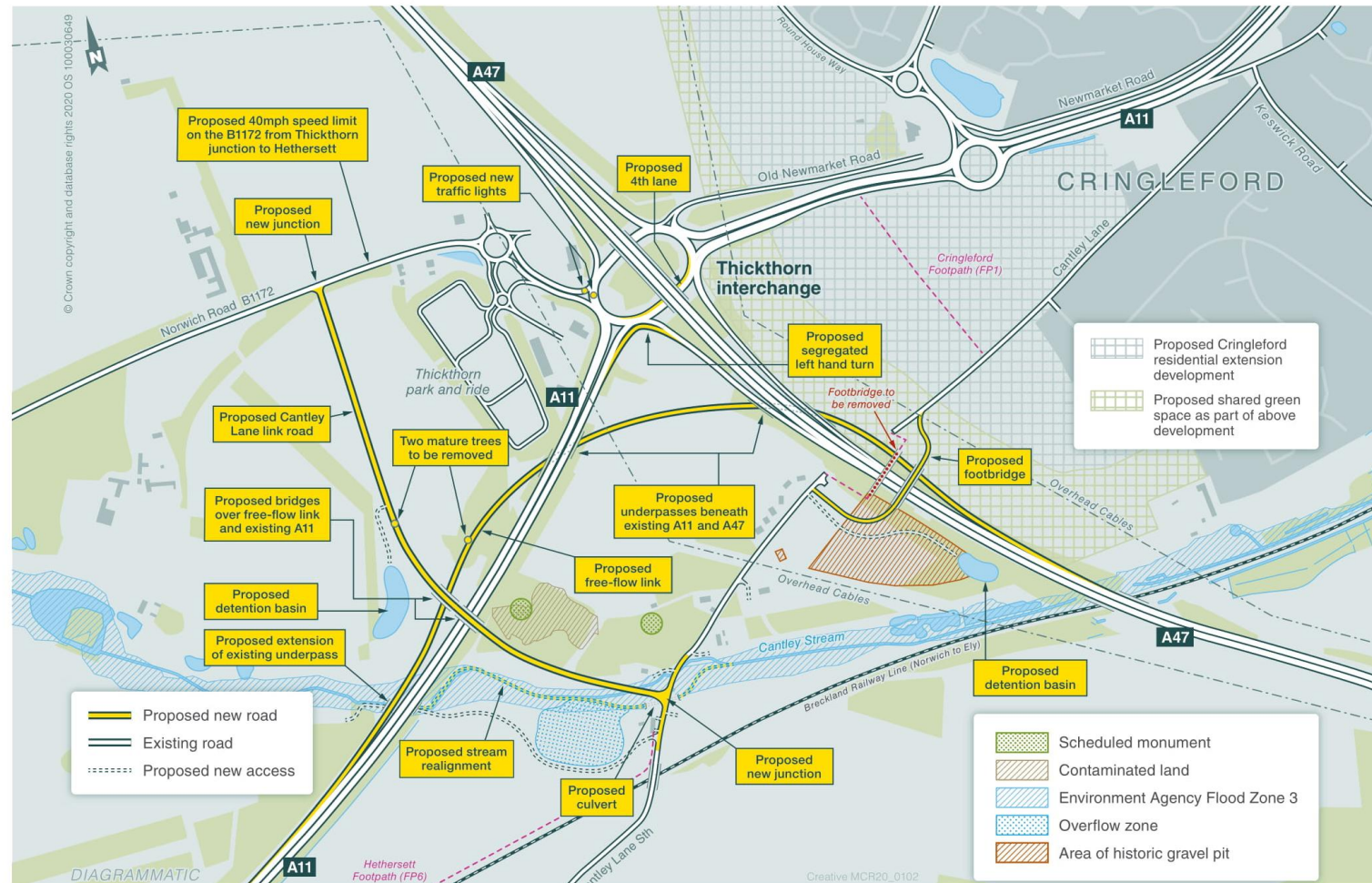
- a single-lane free-flowing link road connecting the A11 northbound to A47 eastbound via two underpasses (under the A11 and A47 respectively)
- improvements to the junction:
  - widening the existing slip road on the A47 westbound and building a dedicated left-hand free flow lane to the A11 southbound.
  - widening the southern section of the roundabout from three lanes to four
  - new traffic lights on the approach to / from the junction with the B1172 Norwich Road
  - a new road surface, new road signs and road markings throughout the junction.
- removal of the Cantley Lane South direct connections between the A11 and A47 exit slip roads
- a new link road connecting Cantley Lane South with the B1172 Norwich Road to the north and construction of two new bridges. The new link road it will have a 40mph speed limit
- from the Thickthorn junction to Hethersett, a 40mph speed limit on the B1172 Norwich Road and a new junction connecting to Cantley Lane Link road.
- a 30mph speed limit on Cantley Lane South

- a new junction connecting Cantley Lane South to Cantley Lane link road
- the existing Cantley Lane stream and access track will be realigned and one new stream culvert constructed
- a new footbridge over the A47 for walkers, cyclists and horse riders approximately 45m east of the existing footbridge (which will be demolished). The footbridge will have higher railings to help improve safety for horse riders
- paths for walking and cycling proposed along the new Cantley Lane link road giving access to local amenities and links to other recreational routes
- access to the Park and Ride from the Cantley Lane link road for walkers and cyclists

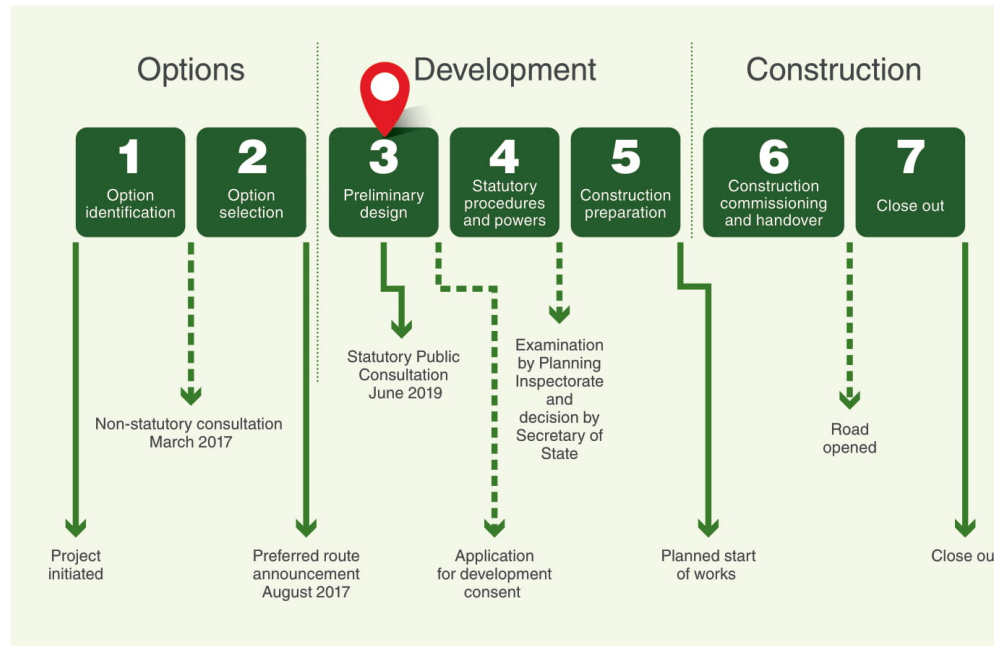
**Further design refinements may be made, in advance of our submission to the planning inspectorate as a result of further engagement with:**

- **Key stakeholders**
- **Lead Local Flood Authority & Environment Agency**
- **Utility providers**

### Our proposed design



## Next steps



## About Development Consent Orders

This scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. This means that we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order to obtain permission to construct the road. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application including holding some hearings in public and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide on whether the project will go ahead. We intend to submit our application in early 2021 and if approved, we expect the road to be open for traffic in autumn 2024.

More information about the Development Consent Order process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website at

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call  
**0300 123 5000** or email: **A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk** and we will help you.

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write to the **Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU**, or email [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk)

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For an accessible version of this publication please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.

If you have any enquiries about this publication email [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or call **0300 123 5000**.\*

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## 1.2 Covering letter to Section 42 (1)(a), (b) and (d) consultees, sent 21 July 2020



Our ref: A47/A11Thickthorn

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Tel: [REDACTED]

Tuesday 21 July 2020

Dear

### A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT – Scheme Update

I am writing to update you about Highways England's A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement Scheme. Thickthorn interchange is an important junction for those living and working around Norwich, connecting the city with Great Yarmouth and Peterborough via King's Lynn and Wisbech. By delivering our improvements at the junction we aim to reduce congestion, improve reliability of journey times and provide capacity for future traffic growth.

Following the completion of our statutory consultation in July 2019, where we asked the public for their views on the proposed scheme, we have analysed all responses and engaged with key stakeholders, affected landowners and the local authority to fully understand the feedback we received.

Based on the feedback, we have refined our proposals to address the common themes and concerns raised, whilst ensuring that the project solves the traffic problem, improves journey times and improves safety as key considerations.

We have enclosed an update leaflet with this letter for your information. If you would like to find out more about the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvements, we would be very happy to brief you. Please contact me using the contact details shown at the end of this letter to make the arrangements.

Alternatively, if you have queries regarding any other Highways England subject, please visit our website, where information on all Highways England policies and procedures can be found: <http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk>.

Yours Sincerely,



Stephen Hedley, Project Manager  
Email: [A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

### 1.3 Covering letter to local Members of Parliament, sent 20 July 2020



Our ref: A47/A11Thickthorn

Peter Havlicek  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Tel: [REDACTED]

Monday 20 July 2020

Dear

#### **A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT – Scheme Update**

I am writing to update you about Highways England's A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement Scheme. Thickthorn interchange is an important junction for those living and working around Norwich, connecting the city with Great Yarmouth and Peterborough via King's Lynn and Wisbech.

By delivering our improvements at the junction we aim to reduce congestion, improve reliability of journey times and provide capacity for future traffic growth.

You may remember that we held a statutory consultation in July 2019, where we asked the public for their views on the proposed junction layout. Following that, we analysed all 237 responses and engaged with key stakeholders, affected landowners and the local authority to fully understand the feedback received.

Based on that feedback, we have refined our proposals to address the common themes and concerns raised, whilst ensuring that the project solves the traffic problem; improves journey times; and improves safety as key considerations.

If you would like to find out more about the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvements, we would be very happy to brief you. Please contact me directly using my contact details shown at the end of this letter to make the arrangements.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me should you or your constituents have any questions about the scheme.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Peter Havlicek  
Programme Leader A47  
Email: [A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)  
Mob: [REDACTED]

## 1.4 News release, issued 21 July 2020



News release  
[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

Tuesday 21 July 2020

### Further improvements made to plans for A47/A11 Thickthorn junction

Highways England has today revealed its latest plans for improving a major junction in the East of England.

The company's proposal for the Thickthorn junction at Norwich is part of a £300 million series of upgrades along the A47 corridor between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth.

The latest plans reveal how the upgraded junction, where the A47 meets the A11, will improve safety for road users, while reducing the environmental impact of the work.

Once complete by 2024, the upgraded junction will improve journey times by up to six minutes for the 53,000 drivers who use the roundabout daily, while also making the junction safer by reducing the number of accidents there.

Highways England programme lead for the A47, Peter Havlicek, said:

"We've continued to refine our plans for the A47, so we can deliver the best possible improvement for this junction. We know that there is a lot of support for this improvement, and these changes show how we're taking onboard people's feedback to deliver what is needed. This upgraded junction is one of six schemes we'll be doing to improve the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth, and it's important that we get it right for road users and the affected communities."



**News release**  
[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

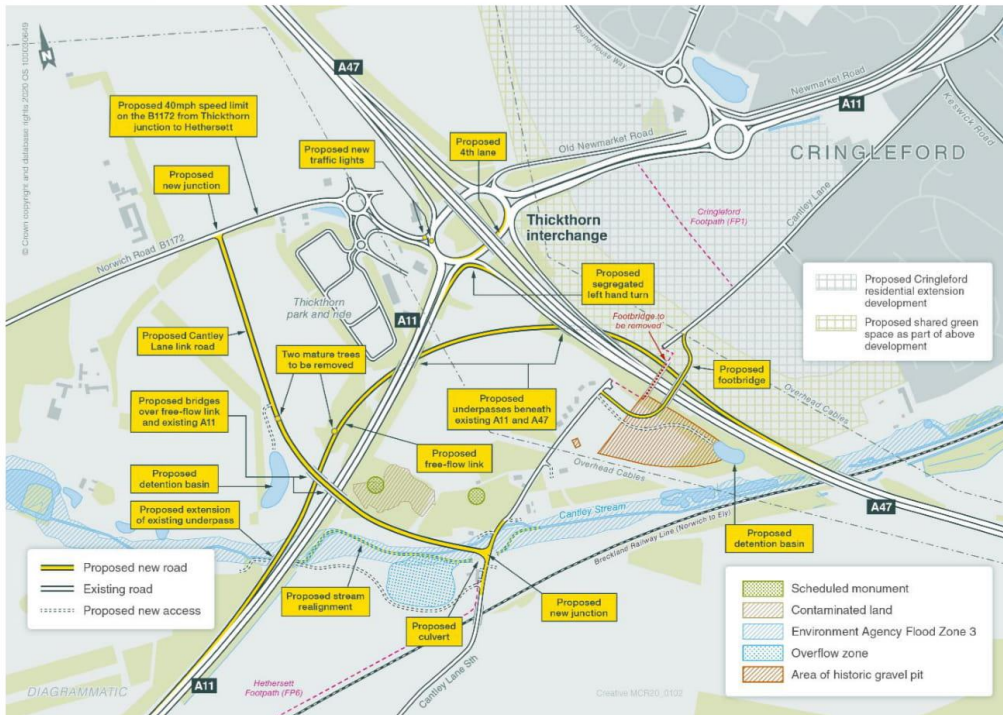
Highways England announced its preferred option for upgrading the Thickthorn junction in August 2017. Since then, plans have been refined based on feedback from the consultation, with the latest designs now ready to be shared with road users.

These new changes see the previously proposed A47 westbound to A11 southbound free-flow link road replaced with a dedicated free-flow left turn lane at the roundabout, reducing the environmental impact of the proposed scheme whilst still improving journey times.

Traffic lights will be installed on the B1172 arm of the Thickthorn roundabout, while a fourth lane will be added to the southern half of the roundabout. The B1172 will also have a reduced speed limit of 40mph between the junction and Hethersett, improving safety. Existing junctions to and from Cantley Lane South to the A11 and A47 will be closed, and replaced with better, safer access via a bridge over the A11 to the B1172.

A footbridge for pedestrians, cyclists and horses has moved closer to its original position, reducing the journey time and providing a safe dedicated crossing of the A47 for those users.



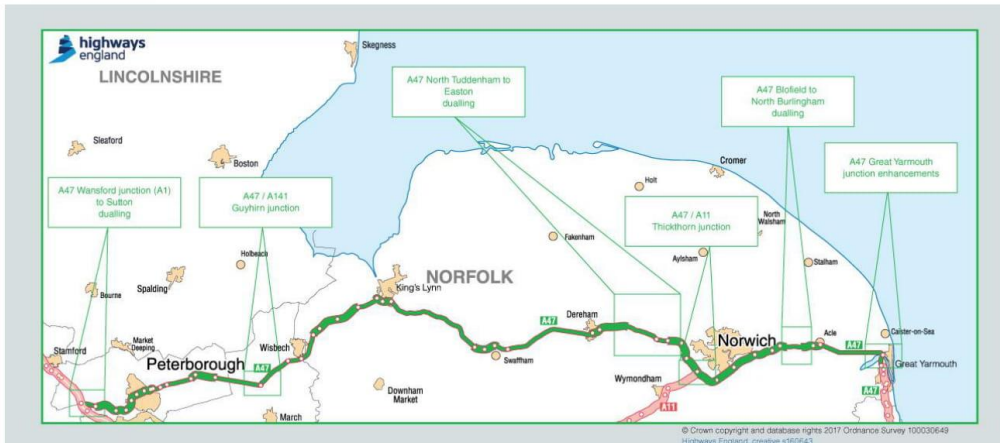


Caption: A plan of the proposals for improving the Thickthorn interchange

The option selected will see a new, free-flowing link road created for drivers heading from the northbound A11 to the eastbound A47. The link road will allow drivers to avoid using the roundabout, which itself will be freed up for drivers making other turns at the junction.



*Caption: The Thickthorn interchange today*



Map showing the different improvements planned along the A47 corridor



Three sections of the 115-mile stretch of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth will be upgraded to dual carriageway. Norfolk sections will be upgraded





News release  
www.highways.gov.uk

between Blofield and North Burlingham and from North Tuddenham to Easton, while in Peterborough the A47 between Wansford and Sutton will also be dualled. There will be further junction improvements at the A141 roundabout in Guyhirn and also in Great Yarmouth.

For more information about the plans, please visit  
[www.highways.gov.uk/a47improvement](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a47improvement)

**Ends**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. Highways England is the wholly government-owned company responsible for modernising, maintaining and operating England's motorways and major A roads.
2. A selection of high resolution images is available to download here:  
<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AoeN9MzdoO48iG1WZs-uHpg4KAbk>
3. **Real-time traffic information** for England's motorways and major A roads is available:
  - From the web at [www.highways.gov.uk/traffic](http://www.highways.gov.uk/traffic) or from a phone or mobile device at [m.highways.gov.uk](http://m.highways.gov.uk)
  - By phone from the Highways England Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 at any time. (Calls to 03 numbers are charged at no more than a national call to an 01 or 02 number and are included in all discount schemes and call allowances. This applies to all landlines, mobiles and payphones. Call costs will vary depending on your landline or mobile supplier.) Make sure it's safe and legal before you call. Before using any mobile, find a safe place to park. Never stop on the hard shoulder of a motorway except in an emergency.
  - On Apple and Android mobile devices via the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).
  - From **Twitter** – there are eight feeds with live traffic information provided by region. For information on roads in the East of England follow us at [@Highways EAST](#) or for the full index visit [www.highways.gov.uk/twitter](http://www.highways.gov.uk/twitter).
4. Highways England held a statutory consultation between June and July 2019 to seek feedback from the public on the proposals.  
**Consultation response:** 237 responses regarding the Thickthorn proposals.
5. As part of the statutory consultation, a number of public exhibitions were held.  
**Exhibition attendance:** 523 people attended the Thickthorn exhibitions.



**News release**  
www.highways.gov.uk

**Issued by Highways England.**

**For further information please contact [SE&Epressoffice@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:SE&Epressoffice@highwaysengland.co.uk), 0300 470 4860. Media enquiries out of hours should be made to Highways England's National Press Office (24hrs) on 0844 693 1448.**

## 2 TARGETED STATUTORY CONSULTATION, AUGUST 2020 AND SEPTEMBER 2020

### 2.1 Letter to Section 42(1)(a) prescribed contacts identified since the statutory consultation, sent 31 July 2020



Our ref: TR010044/S42(1)(a)/082020

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Friday 31 July 2020

Dear

**A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS  
STATUTORY CONSULTATION: MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020 TO THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2020  
PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42(1)(a): DUTY TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSED  
APPLICATION**

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvements (the Scheme) which will create a better junction by relieving congestion and improving safety. The Scheme consists of creating a new free-flow link road connecting the A11 northbound and A47 eastbound via two underpasses to reroute traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction. A new link road will connect Cantley Lane south to the B1172 Norwich Road via two new bridges and the existing footbridge over the A47 will be replaced.

At the statutory consultation last year our design proposal included a second free-flowing link road between the A47 westbound and A11 southbound. This has now been replaced by a dedicated left-hand free flow lane at the junction. Other updates to the 2019 statutory consultation design include refinements to the Cantley Lane link road junctions and the relocation of the replacement footbridge much closer to its original position.

The Scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to construct and operate the Scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. We intend to make our application for a DCO in Spring 2021.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of people and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. We previously wrote to identified consultees on 3rd June 2019 to notify them of our statutory consultation on our proposals from **3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019**.

I am now writing to you as you have been identified as a prescribed consultee for the purposes of Section 42(1)(a) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms



and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). The contact details we had on file had not been updated from the Home and Communities Agency to those for Homes England and consequently you were not written to on 3 June 2019 and therefore at that point not invited to share your views on our proposals through our statutory consultation.

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on the Scheme, which we strongly encourage you to do. This will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining the Scheme in advance of submitting the application to the Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to influence the Scheme once the application has been submitted to the Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say. We have also included a project update brochure (July 2020). The update brochure sets out a refined scheme layout and proposals that follows on from the 2019 statutory consultation. Before we submit our application for a DCO, we will take account of any comments you submit as well as undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders about the refined scheme layout and proposals.

As the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) we have prepared, and provided, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report to help you understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme. We will also submit an environmental statement with the application.

A full set of the consultation documents listed below is available free of charge on the Scheme webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn) to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation brochure (2019)\*
- the consultation response form (2019)\*
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary\*
- the scheme plan (2019)\*
- S47 Notice (2019)\*
- S48 Notice (2019)\*
- Side Road Strategy Options Report (May 2019)
- Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) (January 2018)
- 2017 Non-Statutory Consultation Report

We are enclosing the following documents in paper copy to help you understand our proposals and share your views with us:

- a copy of the Section 48 Notice\* which provides formal notification of the application
- a 2019 statutory consultation brochure\*
- a 2019 statutory consultation response form\*
- a project update brochure (July 2020)

Please note that due to the period of formal consultation having closed on the 11 July 2019, the hard copy documents are no longer available to view at the locations specified in the Section 48 Notice. Furthermore, the current situation with COVID-19 makes it difficult to safely make hard copies of the consultation documents available locally. If you do not have internet access and/or require a printed copy of a consultation documents, please contact us via the contact details below.

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\* Please note that the consultation documents with an asterisk refer to the 3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019 consultation period.

Any responses to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be sent to the following:

- **By post:** Freepost A47 THICKTHORN JUNCTION
- **By email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

To allow us time to collect and assess all responses to this consultation before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by **11:59pm on Thursday 3 September 2020.**

Further information about the 2008 Act process and Development Consent Orders can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Hedley**

Highways England Project Manager

**Tel :** [Redacted]

**Email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

## 2.2 Section 42(1)(d) Category 1 and 2 letter, sent 31 July 2020



Our ref: S42(1)(d)/082020

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

  
Friday 31 July 2020

Dear

**A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS  
STATUTORY CONSULTATION MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2020 TO THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER  
2020  
PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42(1)(d) and 44: DUTY TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSED  
APPLICATION**

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47/A11 Thickethorn junction improvements (the Scheme) which will create a better junction by relieving congestion and improving safety. The Scheme consists of creating a new free-flowing link road connecting the A11 northbound and A47 eastbound via two underpasses to reroute traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickethorn junction. A new link road will connect Cantley Lane South to the B1172 Norwich Road via two new bridges and the existing footbridge over the A47 will be replaced.

At the statutory consultation last year our design proposal included a second free-flowing link road between the A47 westbound and A11 southbound. This has now been replaced by a dedicated left-hand free flow lane at the junction. Other updates to the 2019 statutory consultation design include refinements to the Cantley Lane link road junctions and the relocation of the replacement footbridge much closer to its original position.

In view of the refinements we have made to the scheme, we now believe that you have:

- a Category 1 interest in land or property in the area of the Scheme under section 44 of the Planning Act 2008. This means that we believe you are an owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land or property affected by the proposed scheme; and/or
- a Category 2 interest in land or property in the area of the Scheme under section 44 of the Planning Act 2008. This means that we believe you have an interest in the land; or have power to sell and convey the land, or to release the land

We are writing to you now as we have identified that you may have an interest in land which falls within our proposed development boundary and want to ensure that you have the opportunity to provide feedback.



To enable construction and ongoing operation of the Scheme, we may need to take permanent or temporary possession of your land or your rights over land. We could also need to seek legal powers to compulsorily acquire your land, or rights over land.

The proposed Scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means that in order to obtain powers of compulsory acquisition and to secure consent to build and operate the scheme we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), who will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will ultimately decide whether the application is granted permission and whether we are able to use compulsory acquisition powers. We intend to make our application in Spring 2021.

Before submitting our application, we must consult people that have a legal interest in the land required for the scheme. As such, we are now consulting you on the proposed project **from Monday 3 August 2020 to Thursday 3 September 2020**.

This statutory consultation is an important opportunity for you to share your views. It will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining our proposals in advance of submitting to PINS. There will be limited opportunity to influence the proposals once the application has gone to PINS, so now is the best time to have your say on the Scheme. We have also included a project update brochure (July 2020). The update brochure sets out a refined scheme layout and proposals that follows on from the 2019 statutory consultation. Before we submit our application for a DCO, we will take account of any comments you submit as well as undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders about the refined scheme layout and proposals.

We would like to use this consultation to understand the potential impacts that the Scheme may have on your land or interest. We would also like to work with you to reduce any impact as far as possible and we can do that more effectively if we fully understand how you use the land and how our Scheme will affect that use. You may also wish to consider whether your interests in any surrounding land not acquired by the Scheme will be affected. Please use the contact details below to give us your comments.

Please note that while you will be entitled to compensation if your land or interests are acquired, or if temporary possession is taken, this is not a matter which will be taken into account when considering the application for the DCO. The amount of compensation due will be a matter to be determined at the time when land/rights are taken by Highways England and any disputes will be determined by the Lands Tribunal (Upper Chamber) and not by PINS.

The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations). This is where investigations are conducted to understand the likely effects a development may have on the environment, before deciding whether it should be permitted. Therefore, we have prepared and provided a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to help you understand our initial assessment of the likely effects of our proposals. An Environmental Statement will be submitted with the application.

A full set of the consultation documents listed below is available free of charge on the Scheme webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn) to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:



- the consultation brochure (2019)\*
- the consultation response form (2019)\*
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary\*
- the scheme plan (2019)\*
- S47 Notice (2019)\*
- S48 Notice (2019)\*
- Side Road Strategy Options Report (May 2019)
- Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) (January 2018)
- 2017 Non-Statutory Consultation Report
- Project update brochure (July 2020)

As you have an interest in the affected land, we are enclosing the following documents in paper copy to help you understand our proposals and share your views with us:

- a copy of the Section 48 Notice\* which provides formal notification of the application
- a 2019 statutory consultation brochure\*
- a 2019 statutory consultation response form\*
- a Project update brochure (July 2020)
- a land plan (July 2020)

Please note that due to the period of formal consultation having closed on the 11 July 2019, the hard copy documents are no longer available to view at the locations specified in the Section 48 Notice. Furthermore, the current situation with COVID-19 makes it difficult to safely make hard copies of the consultation documents available locally. If you do not have internet access and/or require a printed copy of a consultation documents, please contact us via the contact details below.

Highways England has produced the following guidance in relation to compulsory acquisition and compensation that can also be viewed on the project website [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn):

- your property and Highways England road proposals
- your property and discretionary purchase
- your property and compulsory purchase
- your property and blight

Any responses to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be sent to the following:

- **By post:** Freepost A47 THICKTHORN JUNCTION
- **By email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

To allow us time to collect and assess all responses to this consultation before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by **11:59pm on Thursday 3 September 2020**.

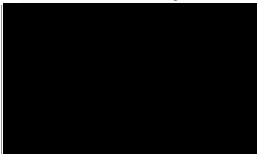
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\* Please note that the consultation documents with an asterisk refer to the 3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019 consultation period.

Further information about the 2008 Act process and Development Consent Orders can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the proposals or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Hedley**  
Highways England Project Manager  
**Tel :** [REDACTED]  
**Email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

### 3 TARGETED STATUTORY CONSULTATION, FEBRUARY 2021 AND MARCH 2021

#### 3.1 Land interest letters issued, sent 25 February 2021



Our ref: S42(1)(d)/022021

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Thursday 25 February

Dear

**A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 TO FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021**

**PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42(1)(d) and 44: DUTY TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSED APPLICATION**

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvements (the scheme) which will create a better junction by relieving congestion and improving safety. The Scheme consists of creating a new free flow link road connecting the A11 northbound and the A47 eastbound via two underpasses to reroute traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction. A new link road will connect Cantley Road south and the B1172 Norwich road via two new bridges and the existing footbridge over the A47 will be replaced.

The scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to construct and operate the Scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. We intend to make our application in Spring 2021.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of people and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. We previously wrote to identified consultees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 to notify them of our statutory consultation on our proposals from 3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019.

I am now writing to you as you have been identified as a prescribed consultee for the purpose of Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

I am writing to you because you own or have an interest in property which has been identified as having a shared interest in the subsoil up to centreline of the highway that will be acquired permanently for the purposes of the Scheme. I enclose with this letter a plan showing the area of land that we require. This consultation relates specifically to Plot [REDACTED] shown on the plan which is identified as public adopted highway.

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on the Scheme, which we strongly encourage you to do. This will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining the Scheme in advance of submitting the application to the Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to influence the Scheme once the application has been submitted to the Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say. We have also included a project update brochure (July 2020). The update brochure sets out a refined scheme layout and proposals that follows on from the 2019 statutory consultation. Before we submit our application for a DCO, we will take into account any comments you submit as well as undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders about the refined scheme layout and proposals.

As the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) we have prepared and provided, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report to help you understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme. We will also submit an environmental statement with the application.

A full set of the consultation documents listed below is available free of charge on the Scheme webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn) to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation brochure
- the consultation response form
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary
- the scheme plan (2019)
- S47 Notice (2019)
- S48 Notice (2019)
- Side Road Strategy Options report (May 2019)
- Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) (January 2018)
- 2017 Non-Statutory Consultation report
- A project update brochure (July 2020)

Any response to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be sent to the following:

- By email: [A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

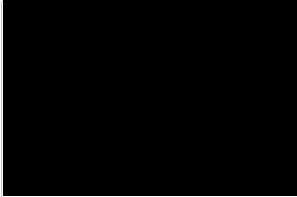
To allow us time to collect and assess all responses to this consultation before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

Further information about the 2008 Act and Development Consent Orders Can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Hedley**  
Highways England Project Manager

**Tel :**




**Email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk





Our ref: S42(1)(d)/Cat3\_022021

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

  
Thursday 25 February

Dear

**A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 TO FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021**

**PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42(1)(d) and 44: DUTY TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSED APPLICATION**

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvements (the scheme) which will create a better junction by relieving congestion and improving safety. The Scheme consists of creating a new free flow link road connecting the A11 northbound and the A47 eastbound via two underpasses to reroute traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction. A new link road will connect Cantley Road south and the B1172 Norwich road via two new bridges and the existing footbridge over the A47 will be replaced.

We are writing to you because we believe that you might be entitled to make a relevant claim for compensation due to the effects of construction or when the new or altered road is in use. If your property or business has been adversely affected by the construction works carried out for the scheme you may be able to claim compensation under section 152 of the Planning Act 2008 or under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase act 1965. Or, under Part I of the Land Compensation Act 1973 compensation can be claimed by people who own and occupy property that has been reduced in value by physical factors caused by the use of a new or altered road. Physical factors are noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, artificial lighting and the discharge on to the property of any solid or liquid substance.

Being consulted under this category does not confirm entitlement to a future claim. Entitlement to compensation is assessed by our professional valuers at the time that a claim is made. We recommend that you take professional advice before making a claim.

The scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to construct and operate the Scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. We intend to make our application in Spring 2021.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of people and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. We previously wrote to identified consultees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 to notify them of our statutory consultation on our proposals from 3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019.

I am now writing to you as the property is identified as a prescribed consultee for the purpose of Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended). It is our understanding that the property has changed ownership since our Statutory Consultation.

This letter is notice of Highways England's **statutory consultation from Thursday 25 February to Friday 26 March 2021.**

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on the Scheme, which we strongly encourage you to do. This will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining the Scheme in advance of submitting the application to the Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to influence the Scheme once the application has been submitted to the Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say. We also released a project update brochure in July 2020. The update brochure sets out a refined scheme layout and proposals that follows on from the 2019 statutory consultation. Before we submit our application for a DCO, we will take into account any comments you submit as well as undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders about the refined scheme layout and proposals.

As the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) we have prepared and provided, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report to help you understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme. We will also submit an environmental statement with the application.

A full set of the consultation documents listed below is available free of charge on the Scheme webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn) to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation brochure
- the consultation response form
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary
- the scheme plan (2019)
- S47 Notice (2019)
- S48 Notice (2019)
- Side Road Strategy Options report (May 2019)
- Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) (January 2018)
- 2017 Non-Statutory Consultation report
- A project update brochure (July 2020)

Any response to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be sent to the following:



- By email: [A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

To allow us time to collect and assess all responses to this consultation before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

Further information about the 2008 Act and Development Consent Orders Can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Hedley**  
Highways England Project Manager

**Tel :** [Redacted]

**Email:** [A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)



Our ref: S42(1)(d)/022021

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW



Thursday 25 February

Dear

**A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 TO FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021**

**PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42(1)(d) and 44: DUTY TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSED APPLICATION**

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvements (the scheme) which will create a better junction by relieving congestion and improving safety. The Scheme consists of creating a new free flow link road connecting the A11 northbound and the A47 eastbound via two underpasses to reroute traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction. A new link road will connect Cantley Road south and the B1172 Norwich road via two new bridges and the existing footbridge over the A47 will be replaced.

The scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to construct and operate the Scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. We intend to make our application in Spring 2021.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of people and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. We previously wrote to identified consultees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 to notify them of our statutory consultation on our proposals from 3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019.

I am now writing to you as you have been identified as a prescribed consultee for the purpose of Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

I am writing to you because you own or have an interest in property which has been identified in respect of Restrictive Covenants as contained within a Deed dated 17 September 1990 of the highway that will be acquired permanently for the purposes of the Scheme. I enclose with this letter a plan showing the area of land that we require. This consultation relates specifically to [REDACTED] shown on the plan which is identified as public adopted highway.

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on the Scheme, which we strongly encourage you to do. This will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining the Scheme in advance of submitting the application to the Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to influence the Scheme once the application has been submitted to the Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say. We have also included a project update brochure (July 2020). The update brochure sets out a refined scheme layout and proposals that follows on from the 2019 statutory consultation. Before we submit our application for a DCO, we will take into account any comments you submit as well as undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders about the refined scheme layout and proposals.

As the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) we have prepared and provided, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report to help you understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme. We will also submit an environmental statement with the application.

A full set of the consultation documents listed below is available free of charge on the Scheme webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn) to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation brochure
- the consultation response form
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary
- the scheme plan (2019)
- S47 Notice (2019)
- S48 Notice (2019)
- Side Road Strategy Options report (May 2019)
- Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) (January 2018)
- 2017 Non-Statutory Consultation report
- A project update brochure (July 2020)

Any response to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be sent to the following:

- By email: [A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

To allow us time to collect and assess all responses to this consultation before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

Further information about the 2008 Act and Development Consent Orders Can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Hedley**  
Highways England Project Manager

**Tel :**



**Email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk





Our ref: S42(1)(d)/022021

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW



Thursday 25 February

Dear

**A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2021 TO FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021**

**PLANNING ACT 2008 SECTION 42(1)(d) and 44: DUTY TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSED APPLICATION**

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvements (the scheme) which will create a better junction by relieving congestion and improving safety. The Scheme consists of creating a new free flow link road connecting the A11 northbound and the A47 eastbound via two underpasses to reroute traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction. A new link road will connect Cantley Road south and the B1172 Norwich road via two new bridges and the existing footbridge over the A47 will be replaced.

The scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to get the consent we need to construct and operate the Scheme. This application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), who will examine the application on behalf of the Secretary of State. We intend to make our application in Spring 2021.

During the pre-application process, we must consult with a variety of people and organisations about our proposed application in accordance with the requirements of the 2008 Act. We previously wrote to identified consultees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 to notify them of our statutory consultation on our proposals from 3 June 2019 to 11 July 2019.

I am now writing to you as you have been identified as a prescribed consultee for the purpose of Section 42(1)(d) of the 2008 Act and Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

I am writing to you because you own a land parcel which has been identified that will be acquired permanently for the purposes of the Scheme. I enclose with this letter a plan showing the area of land that we require. This consultation relates specifically to [REDACTED] shown on the plan which is identified as public adopted highway.

This statutory consultation is an opportunity for you to share your views on the Scheme, which we strongly encourage you to do. This will enable us to take your views into account in developing and refining the Scheme in advance of submitting the application to the Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to influence the Scheme once the application has been submitted to the Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say. We have also included a project update brochure (July 2020). The update brochure sets out a refined scheme layout and proposals that follows on from the 2019 statutory consultation. Before we submit our application for a DCO, we will take into account any comments you submit as well as undertake engagement with relevant stakeholders about the refined scheme layout and proposals.

As the Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) we have prepared and provided, a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report to help you understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme. We will also submit an environmental statement with the application.

A full set of the consultation documents listed below is available free of charge on the Scheme webpage [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn) to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the consultation brochure
- the consultation response form
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary
- the scheme plan (2019)
- S47 Notice (2019)
- S48 Notice (2019)
- Side Road Strategy Options report (May 2019)
- Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) (January 2018)
- 2017 Non-Statutory Consultation report
- A project update brochure (July 2020)

Any response to this consultation in respect of the scheme should be sent to the following:

- By email: [A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

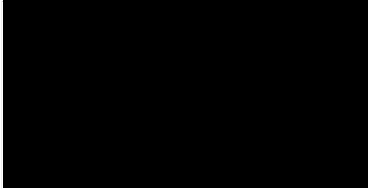
To allow us time to collect and assess all responses to this consultation before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.

Further information about the 2008 Act and Development Consent Orders Can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the Scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



**Stephen Hedley**  
Highways England Project Manager

**Tel :**



**Email:** A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

## 3.2 Correction letter, sent 3 March 2021



Our ref: S42(1)(d)/022021(2)

Stephen Hedley  
Project Manager  
Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Wednesday 3 March 2021

Dear

### **A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS**

I am writing further to my letter of 25 February 2021 regarding the Statutory Consultation for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement Scheme.

It has come to our attention that the scheme website address stated in the letter is not currently working. Please use the full web address below where you can access the consultation materials.

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-thickthorn-junction/>

Please also find enclosed a hard copy of the 2019 Statutory Consultation Brochure and a 2020 Scheme Update leaflet.

I apologise for any confusion or inconvenience caused.

Should you have any queries about this correspondence, the scheme or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,

**Stephen Hedley**  
Highways England Project Manager

Tel :

Email: [A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)