



# The Planning Inspectorate

## **Application by Highways England for A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction scheme**

Case Reference: TR010037

### **Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection**

Examining Inspector Matthew Shrigley (the person appointed as the Examining Authority (ExA) for the application for A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction improvements undertook the inspections on Thursday 19 August and Friday 20 August 2021.

A significant proportion of the time taken to carry out the Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI 1) was spent viewing affected areas from publicly accessible land. The USI 1 was undertaken in order to view the areas of proposed improvement works, the existing road network, nearby properties and the local environment.

### **Particulars of the Site Inspection**

There were no other persons in attendance. The inspections were undertaken by a mixture of car use as well as on foot where it was safe and possible to do so. A route was planned having regard to the application material and issues raised in relevant representations, enabling the ExA to obtain views of the application site and the surrounding area.

Weather conditions were dry and cloudy both days. The air temperature was approximately 17 degrees. Weather conditions permitted long range views and good levels of visibility at all times.

Inspections commenced at approximately 17:30 until 18:00 on the 19 August 2021, recommencing at 07:15 finishing at 11:15 on the 20 August. A list of the locations visited is attached in Annex A.

### **Annex A**

#### **A47/Thickthorn Junction**

The ExA walked clockwise around the Periphery of the A47 Thickthorn junction from the side of Cringleford Park and Ride Car Park and Cringleford Travel Lodge terminating at Newmarket Road. Returning anticlockwise where pedestrian accessibility permitted.

The ExA also drove along the A47 from the Thickthorn junction to the south bound junction shared with Ipswich Road.

#### **B1172 Norwich Road/A11 (Hethersett Bypass)/A11 (Newmarket Road)**

The ExA drove along the B1172 (Norwich Road) towards Wymondham from the Thickthorn junction. Then travelling from Wymondham along the A11 turning into and stopping at Station Lane (subject to road closure) on route before heading back to the Thickthorn Junction and then along Newmarket Road.

The ExA also drove along the A11 from Norwich to the A47 Thickthorn junction exiting onto the B1172 (Norwich Road) stopping to walk along part of the footway of the B1172 in the direction towards Lynch Green then returning in the direction of Cringleford Park and Ride Car Park. The driving route also included traveling along Hethersett Lane, Watton Road and Colney Lane. As well as travelling along Station Lane from the side of the B1172.

### **Cantley Lane South/Cantley Lane**

As part of the overall driving routes undertaken the ExA also drove along Ketteringham Lane, Low Street, High street (Ketteringham), leading onto Cantley Lane South and then eventually re-joining the A47 north bound.

Whilst the routes were largely driven, intermittent stops and short walked points where possible were also undertaken. This included access to the existing pedestrian footbridge over the A47.

After travelling southwards on the A47 from the Thickthorn junction, the ExA drove along the B1113 (Main Road) inclusive of traveling along alternative routes via Low Road, Keswick Road, Intwood Road eventually leading into Cringleford.

The ExA also walked along Cantley Lane towards the A47 from Cringleford.

Observations on the above routes included but were not limited to: the location of wooded areas and other landscape features; the proximity of pedestrian routes/footways and accesses, the proximity of Cantley Stream and the River Yare, built structures such as overbridges, pylons and nearby properties including the Cringleford housing development (currently under construction) close to the Thickthorn junction.