

# A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION

**Scheme Number: TR010037**

**Volume 9**

## **9.5 Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) Itinerary (DRAFT)**

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010  
Rule 16

Planning Act 2008

October 2021

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

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

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**ACCOMPANIED SITE INSPECTION (ASI) ITINERARY**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared in response to the letter from the Planning Inspectorate titled Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 etc (the “Rule 8 letter”) dated 23 September 2021.
- 1.1.2 The Examining Authority (ExA) has requested an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) during the week commencing 17 January 2022.
- 1.1.3 Annex A to the Rule 8 letter sets out the Examination Timetable for the Development Consent Order (DCO) application by the Examining Authority (ExA). Item 1 states that at Deadline 1 (D1) the Applicant should submit a draft ASI itinerary.
- 1.1.4 As per Item 1 in Annex A of the Rule 8 letter, the draft itinerary is to allow all parties to comment on the draft itinerary and propose additional locations, with supporting justification, by Deadline 2 (26 October 2021). A revised itinerary will be submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 3 (23 November 2021).
- 1.1.5 This itinerary has been prepared in response to these requirements and has taken into consideration the Examining Authority’s Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI) note (**EV-001**)<sup>1</sup>. Annex A to this document presents a copy of the ExA’s report of their USIs in August 2021.

## 2 PROPOSED ACCOMPANIED SITE INSPECTION ITINERARY

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Examining Authority’s inspection of sites is an opportunity for the ExA to look at physical features that can be seen on, or from the sites. Participants may be invited by the ExA to point out specific features or sites of interest. It is not an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the project or discuss evidence.
- 2.1.2 Owing to limited daylight hours, the itinerary has focused on those locations only accessible across private land and/or the focus of concerns raised by the Relevant Representations or during the Preliminary Meeting in September 2021.
- 2.1.3 The proposed itinerary is presented in Table 2.1 while the proposed route has been illustrated in Figure 2.1.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010038/TR010038-000359-210712\\_A47\\_NTT2E\\_USI1\\_note.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010038/TR010038-000359-210712_A47_NTT2E_USI1_note.pdf)

## 2.2 Advising of wish to join the site visit

- 2.2.1 It may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany the ExA for logistical and safety reasons, but it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary. Please notify the Planning Inspectorate Case Team if you wish to be considered for joining for the whole day or meet the inspection at a specific location within the itinerary, or at a new location, as proposed in your comments. Those joining for the whole day are referred to hereafter as the Core Team.
- 2.2.2 The final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website at least a week before the ASI. Interested Parties should be aware that ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development. However, the Examining Authority may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.
- 2.2.3 To ensure the smooth running of the ExA's inspection, it is requested that Interested Parties wishing to attend the site visit:
- provide a contact mobile number to the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team for the day,
  - notify the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team if there are any changes in attendance, and
  - ensure the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team is made aware of any special access requirements for any participants.

## 2.3 Joining the site visit on the day

- 2.3.1 For those joining the Core Team, detail of the start location will be provided in due course. All Core Team participants are asked to arrive and report to the Applicant no later than 7:45am. This is to allow for a Health and Safety briefing and allocation of people to vehicles to be given to participants prior to departure. The Applicant will be at the venue by 7:30am to welcome participants.
- 2.3.2 The Health and Safety briefing will start promptly at 7.45am. We are not able to wait or delay the briefing so as to enable the site visit to start promptly with the departure of vehicles from the venue at 8.15am; any parties who are not present at the requested time or arrive late cannot be accommodated. Transportation for the ASI will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 2.3.3 It is not possible to predict precisely how long each part of the inspection will last. For those Interested Parties wishing to join at an alternative location, the Applicant will use their mobile contact number to keep those Interested Parties notified of progress and expected arrival times where they are due to meet.

## 2.4 Transport arrangements

2.4.1 The Applicant will provide a vehicle(s) for the site visit which will take place around the A47, B roads and local roads. This approach has been proposed to minimise transport emissions and disruption along the local road network and around the limited locations for parking.

2.4.2 The vehicle(s) will be used to convey those attending the visit for the whole day, from start to finish, as a member of the Core Team. Interested Parties planning to join for part of the visit along the route will be expected to arrange their own mode of transport, but have regard to the itinerary timings, locations and parking arrangements with the Planning Inspectorate's Case Manager in advance; see Section 2.3 above.

## 2.5 Safety Instructions

2.5.1 Some of the locations will be observed on foot, possibly on uneven, wet or frozen ground and accessed via local roads with narrow or no footway provision. There will be limited daylight hours at this time of the year and visibility will be reduced towards the end of the day. A safety briefing will be provided to the Core Team at the beginning of the day. For those Interested Parties joining along the route for part of the visit, they will be sent the briefing pack in advance to read and acknowledge in writing prior to the site visit.

2.5.2 High visibility vests will be provided for attendees and must be worn at all times when out of the vehicle. When stopping on a live road, a mini-briefing will be provided before attendees exit the vehicle, which will include where to stand and how to remain safe. All attendees:

- Must follow instructions given to them by the Health and Safety staff representative from GallifordTry and provided by the risk assessment.
- Are responsible for their own safety and must never act in a manner that might reduce the safety of themselves or others.

2.5.3 With regards COVID, the appropriate controls in accordance with the latest Government guidelines at the time of the site visit will be applied and managed through the risk assessments and safety briefings.

## 2.6 Clothing

2.6.1 It will be necessary for all parties to wear appropriate sturdy footwear and weather-proof clothing appropriate for the time of the year. All parties are advised to bring their own high visibility jackets, if they have them, but the Applicant will provide high visibility vests for all attendees to wear.

## 2.7 Sites on private land

2.7.1 The Applicant will arrange visits to private land, however access onto private land is at all times by the permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances, the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of the inspection and may ask those refused access to wait outside.

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## 2.8 Refreshments and welfare facilities

- 2.8.1 Please note refreshments and lunch will not be provided. A lunch break has been included in the itinerary and attendees should bring their own lunch with them. However, we will arrange for stops along the route to access to welfare facilities.

## 2.9 Cancellations

- 2.9.1 Please note that in the unlikely event that the accompanied site inspection is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, we would ask that you regularly check the Planning Inspectorate's website for updates prior to the visit; the website can be viewed <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/> here:

## 2.10 Detailed itinerary for accompanied site inspection

- 2.10.1 The times are approximate and whilst we will endeavor to meet persons along the route, the timings cannot be guaranteed. A site inspection pack will be provided on the day containing a copy of Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1.

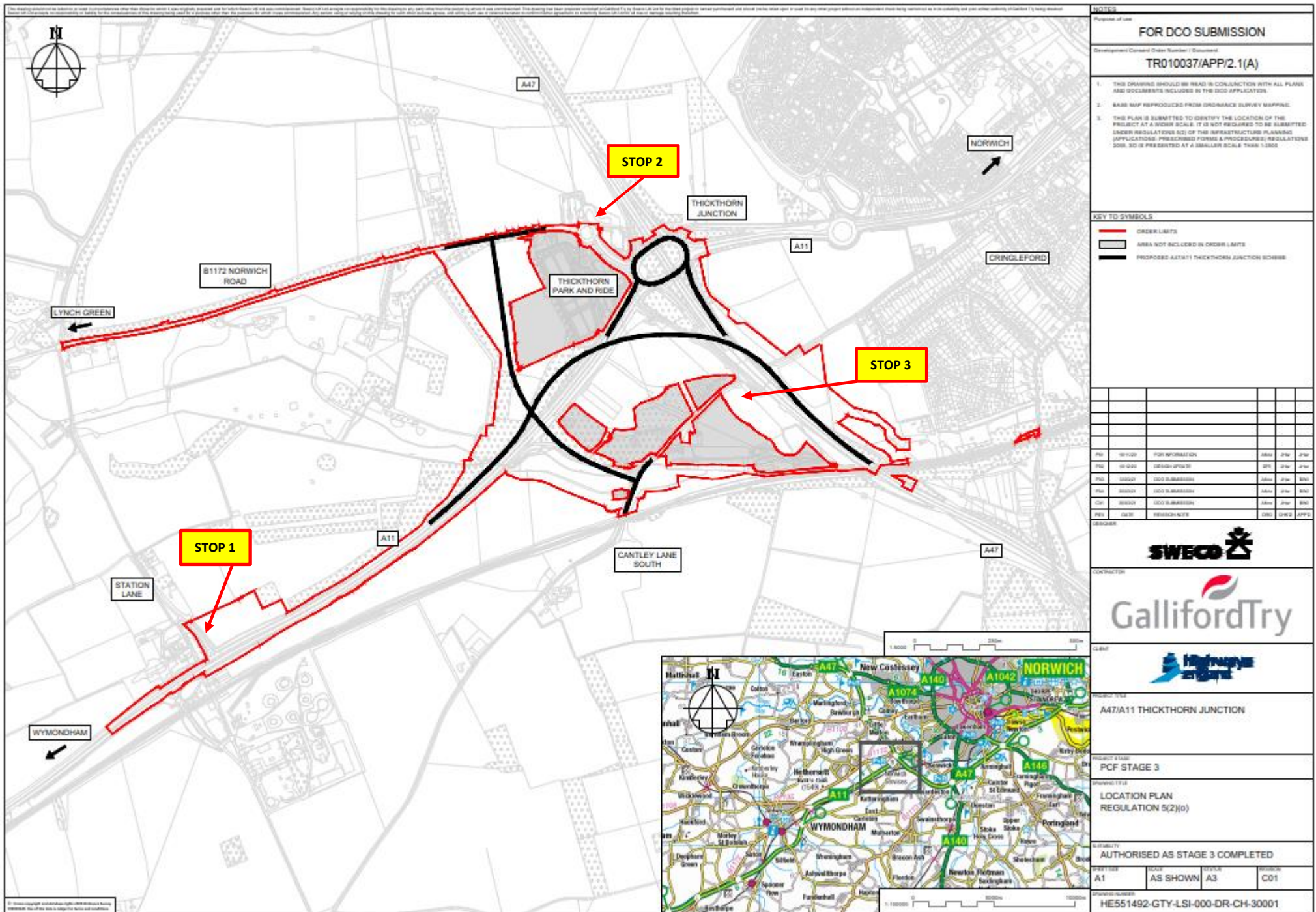
**NOTE: Timings and travel / parking locations and travel guidance will be confirmed in the final issue of this document.**

Table 2.1 – Accompanied Site Inspection itinerary

Stop / Travel	Arrival Timings	Location	Guidance Notes	Reason for Visiting Location
START	07:30 to 07:45	TBC	TBC Only for those attending whole day.	Arrival and registration.
	07:45 to 08:15			Health & Safety briefing and departure
Travelling A	08:15 to XX	Travel to Stop 1	TBC	TBC
Stop 1	XX to XX	Station Lane Layby on the eastern side on the approach to A11 junction	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station Lane junction design</li> <li>• Location of proposed compound</li> </ul>
Travelling B	XX to XX	Travel to Stop 2	TBC	TBC
Stop 2	XX to XX	B1172 Norwich Road roundabout, northern arm	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of the proposed Cantley Lane Link Road junction with B1172.</li> <li>• Proposed compounds</li> </ul>
Travelling C	XX to XX	Travel to Stop 3	TBC	TBC
Stop 3	XX to XX	Cantley Lane South, northern end	TBC	<p>Interested Party invited ExA to see safety concerns at Thickthorn Junction during peak traffic flows. Location also allows views of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Cantley Lane footbridge</li> <li>• Cantley Lane footbridge (Cringleford) location</li> <li>• Proposed location of the A11/A47 Connector Road</li> <li>• Location of proposed compound</li> <li>• Proposed segregated left turn lane</li> <li>• Cringleford residential extension development</li> <li>• Proposed compound</li> <li>• Cantley Lane South Realignment</li> <li>• Cantley Stream</li> </ul>
END	TBC	Travel back to start point or directly home	Everyone to sign-out before leaving.	Confirm everyone has safely completed the visit.



Figure 2.1: Site Inspection route



## **ANNEX A – EXAMINING AUTHORITY’S AUGUST 2021 UNACCOMPANIED SITE INSPECTION NOTES**

### **The Planning Act 2008**

Application for Development Consent for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction.

Case Ref: TR010037

### **Examining Authority’s Record of Unaccompanied Inspection of Sites to which the Application Relates (USI1).**

The Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI1) on 19 and 20 August 2021. The purpose of the Inspections was for the ExA to become familiar with the proposed route and look at specific locations particularly in relation to general surrounds, heritage, noise, visual and landscape considerations.

Inspections were undertaken by car and on foot from publicly accessible land including highways and public rights of way. No inspections were undertaken on private land and therefore advance permission to enter land was not required. This allowed the inspections to be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

The purpose of this note is to inform the Applicant and Interested Parties (IPs) of actions already taken by the ExA and to enable the Applicant and IPs to consider which, if any, additional sites the ExA might need to inspect.

Arrangements for any Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs) will be advised in due course. In addition, further USIs may be carried out by the ExA as required to inform them and without notice. However, if further USIs are carried out, further Inspection notes will be published.

The inspections were undertaken to view the proposed application site as shown on the Location Plan [APP-004], General Arrangement Plans [APP-005], Land Plans [APP-006], Works Plans [APP-007] and Rights of Way and Access Plans [APP-008] submitted with the application.

### **Particulars of the Inspection**

USI1 was undertaken by the Examining Inspector Mr Matthew Shrigley. No other persons were in attendance.

#### **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.

### **Source Reference:**

[https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000317-TR010037\\_Note%20of%20USI.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000317-TR010037_Note%20of%20USI.pdf)