



HIGHWAYS ENGLAND

A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION

SECTIONS 91, 93 AND 94 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

RULE 13(6) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

NOTICE OF HEARINGS RELATING TO THE A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION SCHEME

PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: TR010037

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at the dates, times and locations set out below, issue specific hearings and an open floor hearing will be held by the Examining Authority (appointed by the Secretary of State) for the examination of the application made by Highways England for a Development Consent Order ("the DCO") for the **A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Scheme** ("the Application").

The Application was made to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) under sections 14(1)(h), 22(1) and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 on 31 March 2021 and was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 28 April 2021. The Application has been given the Planning Inspectorate reference number **TR010037**.

SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME

The Application seeks development consent for the A11/A47 Thickthorn Junction Scheme in the East of England, located within the administrative areas of Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District Council ("the Scheme").

The main aspects of the Scheme comprise:

- a single-lane free-flowing link road connecting the A11 northbound to the A47 eastbound via two underpasses (under the A11 and A47 respectively)
- improvements to the existing Thickthorn 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 lanes
 - new traffic lights on the approach to / from the junction with the B1172 Norwich Road
 - new road surface on the circulatory, plus 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
- new link road connecting Cantley Lane South with the B1172 Norwich Road to the north and construction of two new bridges
- new junction connecting the B1172 Norwich Road to Cantley Lane Link
- new junction connecting Cantley Lane South to Cantley Lane Link

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

If the DCO is made by the Secretary of State, it would allow Highways England, for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the Scheme, to acquire compulsorily interests in and rights over land, including the power to create and acquire new rights over land, and to take possession of and to use land temporarily.

HEARINGS

The Examining Authority's Rule 8 letter dated 23 September 2021 contains a programme for the examination of the Application, including a number of hearings. The Examining Authority's Rule 13 letter dated 14 October 2021 contains details of the confirmed dates for the hearings taking place in November 2021 which will be held at the dates and times set out in the table below.

Date	Hearing Type	Time	Joining Details
<i>Tuesday 16 November 2021</i>	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH 1)	<i>Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am</i>	<i>Virtually via Microsoft Teams *Joining instructions will be issued via email in advance of each hearing to parties who notified the Planning Inspectorate of their wish to speak at the hearing. A link to the 'live stream' (where the hearing can be followed live but without participation) will be posted on the Planning Inspectorate's project website (see link below) the day before each hearing via a banner.</i>
<i>Wednesday 17 November 2021</i>	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH 1): On Environmental Matters	<i>Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am</i>	
<i>Thursday 18 November 2021</i>	Draft DCO Hearing 1: DCO 1	<i>Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am</i>	

LOCATION OF THE HEARING — The hearings will be held virtually with participants attending at different locations, such as their home or office. A web address and/or telephone number will be provided on the Planning Inspectorate's project website (see below) or directly to pre-registered participants in advance of the hearing to allow access to the hearing by a tablet or computer connected to the internet and/or by telephone.

ARRANGEMENTS CONFERENCE — All participants will be required to attend an Arrangements Conference before each session of the hearing. This will be held with the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team 30 minutes before the start of each session. This gives time for the Case Team to admit everyone to the hearing.

CANCELLATION OF A HEARING — If the above hearings are no longer required, reasonable notice will be provided of the Planning Inspectorate’s decision to cancel the hearing by the posting of a banner on the Planning Inspectorate’s project website.

REQUEST FOR NOTIFICATION OF A WISH TO SPEAK AT A HEARING — Advance notice must be provided by email to the Planning Inspectorate’s Case Team of a wish to speak at a hearing: A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Any hearings further to those listed above will be advertised by one or more further notices. In accordance with Rule 13(3) of Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, as amended, the Planning Inspectorate will also notify interested parties of the date, time and place fixed for each hearing.

For more information on the above hearings, the examination of the Application and full examination timetable (and any amendments to it), including how and when to register to speak at the hearings and how and when to make written submissions, please contact the Planning Inspectorate using the details at the end of this notice, or visit the Planning Inspectorate’s project website where procedural decisions and notices of hearings are available to download:

[A47 – A11 Thickthorn Junction | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/national-infrastructure-planning/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction)

Annex C of the Planning Inspectorate’s Rule 8 letter dated 12 August 2021 provides further information on hearings procedure and is available to download via the following hyperlink: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000341-TR010037_Final%20Rule%208%20Letter.pdf

Additional information about DCO hearings and examination procedure is included in the Planning Inspectorate’s Advice Note 8 which can be found here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>

COPIES OF THE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Copies of the Application documents, including the draft Development Consent Order, the compulsory acquisition information (including the Land Plans, Book of Reference, Funding Statement and Statement of Reasons) and the Environmental Statement can be viewed and downloaded online at the Planning Inspectorate’s project website:

[A47 – A11 Thickthorn Junction | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/national-infrastructure-planning/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction)

The Application documents can also be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following public locations:

Location	Opening Times
Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library The Forum Millennium Plain Norwich NR2 1AW	Monday: 10am-7pm Tuesday: 10am-7pm Wednesday: 10am-7pm Thursday: 10am-7pm Friday: 10am-7pm Saturday: 9am-5pm
Hethersett Library Queens Road	Monday: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm Tuesday: Closed

Hethersett
Norwich
NR9 3DB

Wednesday: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
Thursday: 2pm-7pm
Friday: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm
Sunday: Closed

Venue copying charges will apply. Check with the location before you leave to confirm opening times, and whether you need to register as a library member in order to use a computer.

In addition to the above hearings, the Examining Authority has arranged an accompanied site inspection in the company of interested parties during the week commencing **17 January 2022**. An itinerary for the accompanied site inspection will be published in advance of the site visit on the **Planning Inspectorate's project website**:

[A47 – A11 Thickthorn Junction | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

The format and detail of this will depend on the Government's public health restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic in force at the time. If restrictions remain, the inspection may not take place and if it does take place, attendance will be limited and socially distanced.

If you wish to attend the site inspection please contact the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team at the email or postal address provided at the end of this notice.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the Application, the hearings and accompanied site inspection, and how to take part in the examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate or the Highways England A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Project Team using the following contact details:

The Planning Inspectorate

Please note that as a result of ongoing Government guidance relating to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, there are limited staff at Temple Quay House. Postal submissions made to the address below may therefore be subject to delay and the Planning Inspectorate cannot guarantee that they will be received in time to be considered.

Email: A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Phone: 0303 444 5000

Post: The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Website: [A47 – A11 Thickthorn Junction | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Please quote the Application reference number **TR010037** in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate about this Scheme. Correspondence about this Scheme should be marked FAO A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Case Team.

Highways England

During the current Covid-19 period and in the interests of public health, Highways England requests that written correspondence is directed to the following email address:

Email: A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Post: A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction, Highways England, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7LW

Correspondence about this Scheme should be marked: "FAO A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Project Team"

22 October 2021