

A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

Scheme Number: TR010039

Volume 5

5.2 Annex L: Targeted Consultations and Project Update

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

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

July 2021

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

The A47 Wansford to Sutton Development Consent Order 202[x]

5.2 CONSULTATION REPORT ANNEX L TARGETED CONSULTATIONS AND PROJECT UPDATE

Regulation Number:	Regulation 5(2)(q)
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference	TR010039
Application Document Reference	TR010039/APP/5.2
Author:	A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling Project Team, Highways England

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1 TARGETED CONSULTATION, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2020

1.1 Letter to identified category 1 and 2 land interests, 19 October 2020



Our ref: TR010039/S42(1)(d)/102020

Craig Stirzaker
Project Manager
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

0300 123 5000

Monday 19th October 2020

**A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON STATUTORY CONSULTATION MONDAY 19th OCTOBER
2020 TO THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 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 Wansford to Sutton Scheme (the Scheme) which will improve journeys along the A47 to the west of Peterborough.

The Scheme is an upgrade to the existing 1.6 mile section of single carriageway of the A47 between Wansford and Sutton by providing a new dual carriageway and junction improvements. The existing A47 from Wansford to Sutton experiences delays and high levels of congestion during peak hours. Highways England's aim is to improve traffic flow, journey times, route safety and resilience. The scheme aims to support economic growth by making journeys safer and more reliable.

The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). This means we will apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the Scheme. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate. If the application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, a panel will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will ultimately decide whether the application is granted consent and whether we are able to use compulsory acquisition powers. We intend to make our application in mid-2021.

Highways England carried out its formal pre-application consultation in 2018. Since then, our proposals have been amended to reflect the feedback we received from that consultation, and further work that has been undertaken to progress the design. We have undertaken a review of the design and some further survey works. This has led to some key changes to the scheme design presented at the 2018 consultation, and we are now proposing an alternative northern route at the eastern end of the scheme which addresses the public and stakeholder feedback and a number of other changes throughout the scheme.

We have enclosed a project update brochure (Autumn 2020). The brochure sets out how the scheme has developed since the 2018 statutory consultation.

In view of the refinements we have made to the scheme design, 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 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.

To enable construction and ongoing operation of the scheme, we may need to take permanent ownership or temporary possession of your land or impact on existing rights you hold over land. We could also need to seek legal powers to compulsorily acquire new rights over your land.

We are therefore writing to you to ensure that you have the opportunity to provide feedback on our proposals before we submit them. 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 are consulting with you on the proposed scheme from **Monday 19th October 2020 to Thursday 19th November 2020**.

This formal 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 our application to the Planning Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to amend the proposals once the application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say on the scheme.

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 may affect that use. You may also wish to consider whether your interests in any surrounding land not acquired by the scheme may 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. Compensation disputes will be determined by the Lands Chamber of the Upper Tribunal and not by the Planning Inspectorate.

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 prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in 2018 to help consultees understand our initial assessment of the likely effects of our proposals. An Environmental Statement will be submitted with the application. Our changes since 2018 do not significantly alter our assessment as set out in the PEIR.

A full set of the 2018 consultation documents listed below is available to download free of charge on the scheme webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-Wansford-Sutton

- the statutory consultation brochure (2018)*
- the feedback form (2018)*
- the PEIR accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary*
- the Proposed Red Line Boundary (2018)*
- S47 Notice (2018)*
- S48 Notice (2018)* which provides formal notification of the application

The above documents have been enclosed on a USB stick.

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

- a copy of the Section 48 Notice*
- a Project Update Brochure (Autumn 2020)
- a plan showing the proposed DCO boundary with permanent and temporary land take (October 2020)
- a copy of the scheme Design Development Report (October 2020)

Please note that the consultation documents with an asterisk refer to the 10th September 2018 to 9th October 2018 consultation period. As stated elsewhere in this letter, any response you wish to make to us should be provided by **11:59pm on Thursday 19th November 2020.**

As the period of the original formal consultation closed on the 12th November 2018, 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 also produced the following guidance in relation to compulsory acquisition and compensation that can be viewed on the project webpage:

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-Wansford-Sutton

- your property and our 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:** A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON, Highways England, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7LW
- **By email:** A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@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 19th November 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 proposals or the consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact details provided.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Stirzaker
Highways England Project Manager
Tel : 0300 123 5000
Email: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

2 PROJECT UPDATE, OCTOBER 2020

2.1 Project update letter to local people, identified relevant organizations and section 42(1)(a), (b) and (d) consultees, 19 October 2020



Our ref: TR010039/Eng/092020

Craig Stirzaker
Project Manager
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford MK41 7LW

0300 123 5000

Monday 19th October 2020

Dear

A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON – SCHEME UPDATE

I am writing to you regarding Highways England's proposed A47 Wansford to Sutton Scheme (the Scheme) which will improve journeys along the A47 to the west of Peterborough

The Scheme consists of upgrading the existing 1.6 mile section of single carriageway between Wansford and Sutton by providing a new dual carriageway to dual carriageway and junction improvements. The existing A47 from Wansford to Sutton experiences delays and high levels of congestion during peak hours. Highways England aim to improve the traffic flow, reducing journey times on the route, increasing the route safety and resilience. The Scheme is also intended to support economic growth by making journeys safer and more reliable.

The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the 2008 Act). This means we will apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) 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 mid-2021.

Highways England carried out its formal pre-application consultation in 2018. Since then our proposals have been amended to reflect the feedback we received from that consultation and further work that has been undertaken to progress the design. This has led to some key changes to the scheme design and we are now proposing an alternative northern route and several other changes which address the public and stakeholder feedback.

We have included with this letter a Project Update Brochure (Autumn 2020). The brochure sets out the refined Scheme layout and proposals and shows how the scheme has developed since the 2018 formal consultation. These do not significantly alter our preliminary environmental impact assessment as set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in 2018.

This update also gives you an opportunity to give us your views on the updated and refined Scheme, before the DCO application is submitted. Currently we intend to submit the application in mid- 2021. We will take

account of comments you submit; whilst also undertaking further engagement with relevant stakeholders about the revised Scheme.

Any responses to this update in respect of the Scheme should be sent to the following:

- **By post:** A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7LW
- **By email:** A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

To allow us time to collect and assess all responses before finalising our application, please ensure your response reaches us by **11:59pm on Thursday 19th November 2020**.

Although the enclosed Project Update Brochure reflects our current intentions for the Scheme, the Scheme Design Development Report (October 2020) and a full set of the 2018 consultation documents, including those listed below, are available free of charge to download on the Scheme webpage www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-Wansford-Sutton to help you understand the proposals and share your views with us:

- the statutory consultation brochure (2018)
- the Preliminary Environmental Information Report accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary
- S47 Notice (2018)
- S48 Notice (2018) which provides formal notification of the application

As the period of the original formal consultation closed on the 12th November 2018, 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.

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 updates to the Scheme since the 2018 formal consultation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Stirzaker
Highways England Project Manager
Tel : 0300 123 5000
Email: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

2.2 Project update brochure



Project update autumn 2020
Read about our latest design

**A47 Wansford to
Sutton dualling**

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



Why are the Wansford to Sutton improvements needed?

The Wansford to Sutton section of the A47 is approximately 1.6 miles long, located to the west of Peterborough between the existing junction with the A1 and the Nene Way roundabout near Sutton.

Whilst around half of the A47 is already built to dual carriageway standard, the Wansford to Sutton section is not. This section of the A47 acts as a bottleneck, and this causes congestion, resulting in longer and unreliable journey times. In addition, this section of the A47 has a poor safety record.

Our proposed changes will help to relieve congestion, reduce journey times, support economic growth and make the road better for motorists.

Project benefits

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

- improve road safety for all road users, ensuring the road design meets modern standards for a major A-road
- shorten journey times, make journey times more reliable, and provide capacity for a rise in future traffic
- contribute to sustainable economic growth
- help the road to better cope with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns, road maintenance and extreme weather
- ensure the proposals consider the local communities
- provide a safer route between communities for walking, cycling and horse riding



How you've been involved

In early 2017, we held a public consultation on three potential route options to gain your feedback and to help shape our plan to improve the Wansford to Sutton stretch of the A47 at an early stage. These were:

Option 1	Dualling the existing A47
Option 2	Building a new dual carriageway partly to the north and partly to the south of existing A47
Option 3	Building a new dual carriageway to the north of the existing A47

Over 170 people attended the four days of public events and we received 170 responses to the consultation. Around 86% supported the need to improve this section of the A47 and agreed that our proposals would be beneficial in reducing congestion and improving journey times.

Having reviewed the feedback following the consultation, and following further assessments, Option 2 was announced as the preferred route in August 2017.

We then developed our design further to reduce the impact on the River Nene and its flood plain.

A Statutory Consultation was held between September and November 2018 where the public and other consultees were asked for their views on the project proposals. We received over 680 responses to this consultation. For more information on the project and consultations, visit our webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-wansford-sutton

What's happened since the statutory consultation?

Since the consultation in 2018, we have analysed all the responses and engaged with key stakeholders to fully understand the feedback received. As a result, we are now proposing changes to the design, including an alternative northern route at the eastern end between Sutton Heath Road and the A47/Nene junction.

We have compared our latest proposed design against the 2018 design and have considered environmental and economic factors, as well as the complexity of the scheme construction, and traffic levels. You can read about the comparisons in the Scheme Design Development Report on the project webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-wansford-sutton

A number of responses to the Statutory Consultation suggested that a road to the north of the existing A47 would be preferred. As a result of that feedback, we have considered that

However, a road entirely north of the existing A47 is not feasible due to the location of the Scheduled Monument at Sacrewell Farm. Scheduled Monuments are nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings and are given protection by Historic England from unauthorised changes to legally protect them from damage and destruction. We are also aware of a Neolithic barrow and a Roman farmstead that could be in the area.

Therefore, a route north of the existing A47 at the eastern end of the scheme between Sutton Heath Road and the A47/Nene junction has been developed. This means that the new A47 would avoid Ancient Woodland and would also have less ecological impact.

Our proposed design

Our proposal is for a new stretch of dual carriageway which largely follows the existing A47 at the Wansford end, crossing to the north and running parallel to the existing A47 after the Scheduled Monument.

There will also be a dedicated slip road from the A1 southbound to the A47 eastbound to alleviate congestion at the junction.

The existing single carriageway for westbound traffic across the A1 bridge at Wansford will be kept the same.

There will be a new southern arm coming from the eastern Wansford roundabout for the filling station and access to Sacrewell Farm.

The Nene roundabout will be relocated further to the west, close to the current Sutton Heath Road junction.

The village of Upton will now access the A47 via Sutton Heath Road, joining at the new roundabout.

The existing A47 will be kept for local access to Sutton village.

The revised proposals that we intend to submit for planning approval include alterations to the roundabouts at Wansford.

- Improvements at the Western Wansford roundabout:
 - improved entry from the A1 northbound slip road
 - improved exit to the A47 eastbound
 - new left turn lane between A1 northbound slip road and the A47 eastbound, rather than a merged lane
 - new cycle crossing on the A47 west of the Wansford roundabouts, removing cycles from the A1 bridge

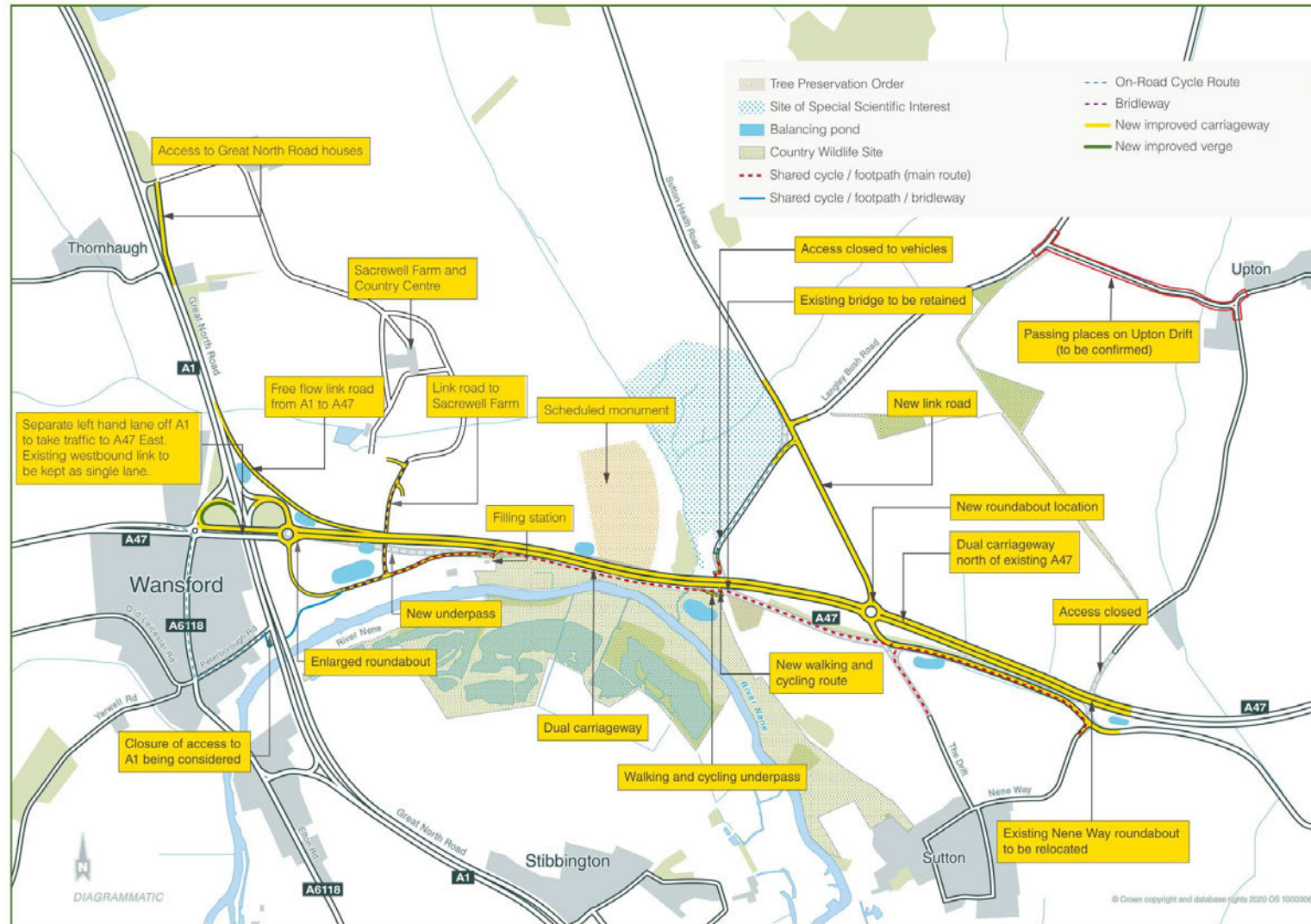
- Improvements at the Eastern Wansford roundabout:

- enlarged roundabout
- new lane to the south of the roundabout, providing access to the filling station and to Sacrewell Farm under the new A47

The latest proposed design also includes the following changes to the existing A47 and surrounding roads:

- removal of the bus stop and the direct road access to the A1 from the properties adjacent to Windgate Way due to the close proximity to the proposed southbound A1-A47 slip road
- the Sutton Drift will be closed to vehicles
- a new walking and cycling route will pass under the A47 at the existing Sutton Heath junction
- a straight link road will be formed from the relocated A47 Sutton roundabout, linking into the existing Sutton Heath Road at its junction with Langley Bush Road
- a new junction will be created to allow access to Heath House.
- Upton Road will no longer be directly accessed from the A47
- new passing places will be discussed with the local authority

Additional design refinements may be made ahead of our planning application as a result of further engagement with key stakeholders, for example closing the Peterborough Road access onto the A1 northbound is being considered.





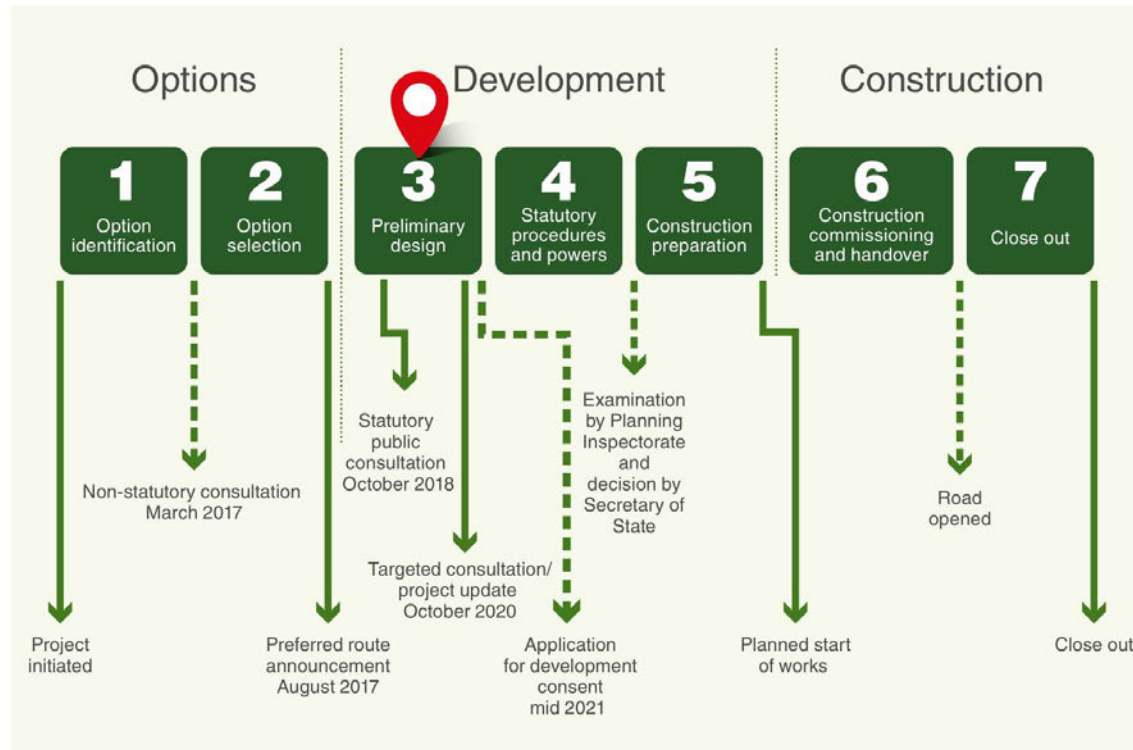
About Development Consent Orders

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. The Planning Inspector then makes 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 mid 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:

www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Next steps



Contact us

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** or email: **A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk** and we will help you.

If you would like to contact us in respect of the Scheme comments should be sent to the following:

By post: **A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON, Highways England, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford MK41 7LW**

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3 TARGETED CONSULTATION, MAY AND JUNE 2021

3.1 Letter to category 1 and 2 land interests, 6 May 2021



Our ref: TR010039/S42(1)(d)/06052021

Craig Stirzaker
Project Manager
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

0300 123 5000

6th May 2021

Dear

**A47 WANSFORD TO SUTTON STATUTORY CONSULTATION 2021 FROM MONDAY 10th
MAY 2021 TO WEDNESDAY 9th JUNE
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 Wansford to Sutton Scheme (the Scheme) which will improve journeys along the A47 to the west of Peterborough.

The Scheme is an upgrade to the existing 1.6 mile section of single carriageway of the A47 between Wansford and Sutton by providing a new dual carriageway and junction improvements. The existing A47 from Wansford to Sutton experiences delays and high levels of congestion during peak hours. Highways England's aim is to improve traffic flow, journey times, route safety and resilience. The Scheme aims to support economic growth by making journeys safer and more reliable.

The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). This means we will apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct and operate the Scheme. The application will be made to the Planning Inspectorate. If the application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, a panel will examine the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will ultimately decide whether the application is granted consent and whether we are able to use compulsory acquisition powers. We intend to make our application in mid-2021.

Highways England carried out its formal pre-application consultation in 2018. Since then, our proposals have been amended to reflect the feedback we received from that consultation, and further work that has been undertaken to progress the design. Some key changes were made to the scheme design presented at the 2018 consultation, including an alternative northern route at the eastern end of the Scheme which addresses the public and stakeholder feedback and a number of other changes throughout the Scheme.

In Autumn 2020 we provided a project update brochure which set out how the Scheme had developed since the 2018 statutory consultation. We received further feedback responding to the information in the brochure and have made some further refinements to the Scheme. These include:

- Changes to the alignment of the Scheme in the vicinity of the Scheduled Monument
- Inclusion of areas for compensatory flood storage
- Changes to the proposed passing places on the Upton Drift and improvements at the junction of the Langley Bush Road and Sutton Heath Road
- Inclusion of areas for environmental mitigation
- Refinements of the areas required for the diversion of statutory utilities needed for the Scheme

In view of the refinements we have made to the Scheme design, we 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 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.

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

We are therefore writing to you to ensure that you have the opportunity to provide feedback on our proposals before we submit them. 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 are consulting with you on the Scheme from **Monday 10th May 2021 to Wednesday 9th June 2021**.

This formal 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 our application to the Planning Inspectorate. There will be limited opportunity to amend the proposals once the application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, so now is the best time to have your say on the Scheme.

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 may affect that use. You may also wish to consider whether your interests in any surrounding land not acquired by the Scheme may be affected. Please use the contact details below to give us your comments.

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A full set of the 2018 consultation documents listed below is available to download free of charge on the scheme webpage at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47-Wansford-Sutton

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- Project Update Brochure (Autumn 2020)
- Scheme Design Development Report (October 2020)

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

- a plan showing the proposed DCO boundary with permanent and temporary land take and proposed new rights (April 2021)

Please note that the consultation documents with an asterisk refer to the 18th September 2018 to 9th October 2018 consultation period. As stated elsewhere in this letter, any response you wish to make to us should be provided by **11:59pm on Wednesday 9th June 2021**.

As the period of the original formal consultation closed in 2018, 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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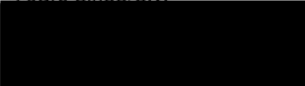
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- **By email:** A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

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<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,



Craig Stirzaker
Highways England Project Manager
Tel : 0300 123 5000
Email: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

3.2 Enclosed development boundary plan

