

# A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

**Scheme Number: TR010039**

## **Volume 8**

### **8.16 Statement of Common Ground with Sutton Parish Council**

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010  
Rule 8(1)(e)

May 2022

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

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

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**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

**This statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by (1) National Highways Company Limited and (2) Sutton Parish Council**

Signed .....

Chris Griffin  
Programme Leader  
On behalf of National Highways

Date: .....

Michael Grange  
Chair, SPC

**X**

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Michael Grange  
On behalf of Sutton Parish Council

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) relates to an application made by National Highways (“the Applicant”) to the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (“PA 2008”) for a Development Consent Order (a “DCO”). If made the DCO would grant consent for the Applicant to undertake the A47 Wansford to Sutton Scheme (“the Scheme”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme (**REP2-008**).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available on the Planning Inspectorate website.
- <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-wansford-to-sutton/?ipcsection=overview>
- 1.1.3 The SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. The ExA has received extensive written and oral submissions on the issues relevant to the parties, and is well aware of the parties’ positions. However, the parties consider that this SoCG remains a useful aide memoire as to the issues between them, and a record of where agreement has been reached, which may assist the ExA.
- 1.1.1 For the ExA’s convenience, the Parties have prepared a table at Annex A which provides an easy reference to the various submissions made by the Parties at Deadlines 1 to 6 on the issues between them.

### 1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) National Highways as the Applicant and (2) Sutton Parish Council.

### 1.3 Format of this SoCG

- 1.3.1 Section 3 of this SoCG and the tables within it summarises the Parties’ positions on issues which have been agreed and issues which are outstanding.
- 1.3.2 In relation to those issues not agreed, the SoCG seeks to define the issues remaining in a succinct and neutral manner with the intention of assisting the ExA in addressing the Parties’ respective positions on them in his report.
- 1.3.3 Highways England became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. In September 2021 Highways England Company Limited changed its name to National Highways Limited. National Highways is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways made provision for all legal rights and obligations of the Highways Agency, including in respect of the Application, to be conferred upon or assumed by National Highways.

## 2 RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT

2.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between National Highways and Sutton Parish Council in relation to the Application is outlined in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1: Record Of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence:	Key topics discussed
25/04/2022	MS Teams Meeting	Meeting to discuss draft SoCG
08/04/2022	MS Teams Meeting	Meeting to discuss draft SoCG
11/03/2021	Email	Biodiversity - Request consultation on HRA
04/02/2021	MS Teams Meeting	Project Update – Wansford, Stibbington and Sutton Parish Councils
21/07/2020	MS Teams Meeting	Update on revised Design and latest proposals
05/02/2020	MS Teams Meeting	Discuss outcomes of Scheduled Monument with Historic England, Wansford and Sutton Parish Councils
19/09/2018	Letter to Parish Council	To inform of change in Project Manager and provide an update with next steps following Statutory Consultation
20/09/2018	Face to Face Haycock Hotel	Statutory Consultation Update Sutton and Wansford Parish Councils
20/08/2018	Face to Face meeting Haycock hotel	Environment Archaeology and Junction design with Sutton and Wansford Parish
11/06/2018	Face to Face Meeting Haycock Hotel	Update on latest designs and proposals – Wansford and Sutton Parish Environment, archaeology update
04/05/2018	Open Floor Meeting at the Haycock Hotel	Traffic Design meeting with Wansford and Sutton along with the Environment and Archaeology
04/05/2018	Open floor Meeting at the Haycock Hotel	Walkers, Cyclists and Horse riders update on scheme
19/03/2018	Meeting at St Mary's Church, Wansford	Project Discussion – Sutton and Wansford Parish Councils
19/09/2017	Meeting at Sutton Church	Project Discussion - Sutton PC, Wansford PC and local residents

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) National Highways and (2) Sutton Parish Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

### 3 ISSUES

3.1.1 This section summarised the key issues explored between National Highways and Sutton Parish Council.

3.1.2 This summary is based on the key issues raised by Sutton Parish Council over the course of the Examination, and the various documents are detailed in Annex A.

#### Matters Agreed Between the Parties

3.1.3 The Parties are agreed in principle in respect of the following issues set out in Table 3-1 below

Table 3-1 Matters Agreed

Ref No	Issue	Summary of Agreement	National Highways Response
1	Dualling of the A47 between Wansford and Sutton RR-043	Sutton Parish Council supports the proposals submitted to Planning inspector by Highways England (with comments and provisos).  The Parish Council support the need to dual this very dangerous section of road.	Agreed
2	Statement of Common Ground REP3-031	Sutton Parish Council and National Highways should have a Statement of Common Ground.	Agreed
3	The Drift REP3-029	For safety reasons and to reduce the risk of unsocial behaviour, Sutton Parish Council wish The Drift in Sutton to be closed off to through vehicular traffic other than for resident and farm access only. The road would then become a perfect and safe alternative walking, cycling and horse riding (WCHR) route.	Agreed
4	Sutton Conservation Area REP3-032	Sutton Parish Council does not consider that the historic interest of the Sutton Conservation Area will be reduced by the closure of the Drift to vehicular traffic.	Agreed
5	WCHR	National Highways proposals provide major WCHR route improvements east to	Agreed

Ref No	Issue	Summary of Agreement	National Highways Response
	RR-043 REP3-029	west. Sutton Parish Council welcome the WCHR provision made adjacent to the new road, under the A1 (with some reservations on the route steepness) and the North/South underpass using the old rail bridge.	
6	Ongoing consultation REP4-030	National Highways will continue to consult with Sutton Parish Council on a regular basis during the ongoing development and construction of the scheme	Agreed

### Matters Not Agreed Between the Parties

3.1.4 The Parties are not agreed in respect of the following issues set out in Table 3-2 below

Table 3-2 Matters Not Yet Agreed

Ref No	Issue	Summary of Disagreement	National Highways Response
1	Route alignment and relationship to the Scheduled Monument RR-043 REP3-032 (ExAQ1.5.6)	<p>The initial route alignment was pre-determined without proper consultation, using only preliminary reports on geology, environment, and construction risks was wrong, wasting public time and funds.</p> <p>Highways England failed to properly engage with Historic England to allow investigation over part of the Scheduled Monument site causing an inferior initial route alignment close to the river and in a County Wildlife site. Local interest brought Historic and Highways England together to create a much more satisfactory alignment and saved an estimated £5-7million.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council believes more could and should have been done at an earlier stage to encroach further into the monument.</p> <p>The view of the Parish Council is that Historic England could have or could do</p>	<p>REP1-010 (Common Response H)</p> <p>REP1-010 RR-043-2, RR-043-3, RR-043 (Pages 152 – 153)</p> <p>REP2-035 (Page 70 - 71)</p> <p>REP4-017 (Page 11-12)</p> <p>REP4-018 (Page 6)</p>



Ref No	Issue	Summary of Disagreement	National Highways Response
		<p>more in regards to the Scheduled Monument to further alleviate impacts on the County Wildlife Site.</p>	
2	<p>Station House REP3-030 REP3-032 (ExAQ1.4.20) REP4-031 Email on SoCG 13/05/2022</p>	<p>Sutton Parish Council believes the demolition of Station House and potential site relocation should keep this historically relevant building within the parish, enabling this village asset to remain within its historical context.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council strongly supports the views stated by Historic England and Peterborough City Council to maintain the Station House close to the group setting of the Rail Bridge, gates, and Station Masters House as an important local and railway historic asset.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council believes that any future proposals for Old Station House should be considered as part of the DCO and not a Designated Funds scheme.</p> <p>The NH Project Director gave a long awaited explanation on 13/05/2022 as to the reasoning why a proposal for the building put forward by a resident of Sutton was rejected in favour of that put forward by Nene Valley Railway. Whilst understanding project time limitations and constraints plus his personal assurances that it was a robust process we are still puzzled and insist on a satisfactory explanation as to why decision minutes, selection criteria and scoring have not been made publicly available.</p> <p>We believe key selection criteria was omitted from the process hence our strong disappointment of their decision and disagreement with the selection. A recognised building of historic local importance, as agreed by Historic England and PCC representatives, is being removed and moved from its historic location to another area without full disclosure of the reasoning why, another example of National Highways ignoring a democratically elected body which represents the opinion of local residents.</p> <p>An alternative proposal for a community hub, what we intended to use the repositioned Station house for, has been suggested by NH which is</p>	<p>REP2-035 (Pages 64 - 67) REP4-017 (Pages 10 - 11) REP4-018 (ISH3 items 3.4 – 3.7.) (Pages 7 - 9) REP5-019 (Page 20)</p>

Ref No	Issue	Summary of Disagreement	National Highways Response
		<p>acknowledged and with reluctance we are forced to move forward on however, this does not mean we agree with what has happened, the process nor the decision by NH.</p>	
3	<p>WCHR Improvements RR-043</p>	<p>Although National Highways proposals provide major WCHR route improvements east to west connectivity either crossing or going under the A1 to Wansford remains very unsatisfactory for most users.</p> <p>Sutton Parish Council believes but this is a one time opportunity to make a major difference to all WCHR users. More could be done on the steepness of the WCHR A1 underpass and linking of Bridleways from Upton to the Sacrewell Farm WCHR route which is North of the A47.</p>	<p>REP1-010 RR-043-5, RR-043-6 Pages 153 - 154 REP4-017 (Page 5) REP4-018 (Page 53) REP5-019 (Page 21)</p>
4	<p>WCH Surveys REP3-032</p>	<p>Sutton Parish Council believes the existing A47 from Sutton Roundabout to Wansford is not only dangerous to vehicles but very high risk for cyclists and horse riders. Any movement analysis therefore only reenforces its negligible usage.</p> <p>Residents in the area should be surveyed as to the potential usage if safe routes were made available.</p>	<p>REP4-017 (Pages 14 - 16) REP5-019 (Page 21)</p>
5	<p>Connectivity with Castor and Ailsworth RR-043 RR3-029 REP4-033</p>	<p>Sutton Parish Council believes the historic WCHR connectivity between Upton to Sutton, Ailsworth, and Castor is being made a much longer route for all users.</p> <p>The Parish Council have put forward proposals for an addition WCHR route under the new dual carriageway in the vicinity of the existing Sutton Roundabout which would maintain the close historic connectivity.</p> <p>If the Upton Road from the existing Sutton roundabout is to be closed then Sutton Parish Council supports the use of Upton Road as a WCHR route with an underpass under the new dual-carriageway.</p> <p>This would be a relatively simple and cost effective way to keep the close historic and services connectivity for Upton to Sutton, Ailsworth and Castor.</p>	<p>REP1-010 RR-043-5 (Pages 153 – 154) REP4-017 (Page 5) REP5-019 (Page 21)</p>

Ref No	Issue	Summary of Disagreement	National Highways Response
6	Access to Upton RR-043 REP3-029	Sutton Parish Council supports the safety concerns of Upton and the need for improvements to adjacent roads linking to the new dual carriageway. The Upton Road closure means the safety access on adjacent link roads is imperative for the residents and local farm community and should not be left to chance for work to be done by Peterborough City Council.	REP1-010 RR-043-4 (Pages 152 – 153) REP4-017 (Page 5) REP4-018 (Pages 53 – 54)
7	Langley Bush Road REP4-035	Sutton Parish Council are concerned about traffic flow increase along Langley Bush Road and the lack of improvements along this route.	REP4-18 (Pages 45-48)
8	Improvements to the Upton Drift and Langley Bush Road REP4-032	Although positive commitment statements have been made by PCC and National Highways to Sutton Parish Council regarding road safety improvements to the Upton Drift and Langley Bush Road and its connectivity to Sutton Heath Road the Parish Council does not consider that these commitments will be delivered.	REP4-18 (Page 48) REP5-019 (Page 20)
9	Wansford Western roundabout RR-043	Not including any major improvements to the west roundabout at Wansford within the project objectives gives major concern for the whole community. The inevitable west bound queues at the roundabout will create tailbacks to and beyond the east roundabout and negatively impact free flow of traffic. With the anticipated increase in traffic volumes, safe access from Wansford onto the west roundabout is, as it is now, going to become an increasingly dangerous manoeuvre.  The project team have raised this issue as agreed with the National Highways operations team for consideration for a future roads period.	REP1-010 (RR-043-8 Pages 154-155)
10	Traffic Modelling	Sutton Parish Council considers there are weakness in the traffic model in relation to the Wansford western roundabout and Langley Bush Road.	REP4-18 (Pages 36-39)

Ref No	Issue	Summary of Disagreement	National Highways Response
	REP4-035		
11	Consultation REP3-032 REP4-040	Sutton Parish Council considers that they should be made direct consultees on all matters of relevance to them as they have the best knowledge on the impacts of the proposed design and any future modification on the local villages They are a Statutory body with elected officials to represent the residents.	REP4-018 (ISH4 item 4.3) REP5-019 (Page 20)

## **ANNEX A - SUBMISSIONS BY THE PARTIES IN RELATION TO THE ISSUES BETWEEN THEM**

This section summarises the submissions made by the Parties in their representations on the issues between them to the ExA during the Examination.

The issues relate to or are set out within the following documents lodged during the DCO application process: -

- Relevant Representations and Written Representations submitted by Sutton Parish Council and National Highways' responses and further comments on those responses submitted by both parties
- National Highways' and other IPs' responses to ExQ1 and Wansford Parish Council's comments upon them.
- Responses by lodged by both parties in respect of the hearings (ISH 2, ISH 3 and ISH 4)
- Other documents with comments on respective submissions lodged during the Examination process.

The table below sets out in tabular form the references in the Examination Library documents referred or above.

Ref	Category	Sutton Parish Council Submission	National Highway's Response or Submission	Follow up Comments by Both Parties
1	Relevant Representations	RR-043 Scheduled Monument	REP1-010 (RR-043-3Page 153)	NH = REP2-035 (Pages 70 - 71) SPC = REP3-032 (ExAQ1.5.6) (Page 62) NH = REP4-017 (Pages 14 - 15) NH = REP4-018 (Page 6)
2	Relevant Representations	RR-043 Route Alignment	REP1-010 (RR-043-2 Page 152)	
3	Relevant Representations	RR-043 Engagement with Historic England	REP1-010 (RR-043-3 Page 153)	NH = REP4-017 (Pages 11 – 12)
4	Relevant Representations	RR-043 Accessibility for Upton residents	REP1-010 (RR-043-4Page 153)	
5	Relevant Representations	RR-043 WCHR	REP1-010 (RR-043-5 and RR-043-6 Pages 153 – 154)	SPC = REP3-029 NH = REP4-017 (Page 5, 9 and 14 - 15) NH = REP5-019 (Page 21)
6	Relevant Representations	RR-043 Wansford western roundabout	REP1-010 (RR-043-7 and RR-043-8 Pages 154 – 155)	
4	Deadline 3 Submission	REP3-029	REP4-017 (Page 5)	SPC = REP4-034

Ref	Category	Sutton Parish Council Submission	National Highway's Response or Submission	Follow up Comments by Both Parties
		(Comments for ISH 3 Traffic and Transport)		NH = REP5-019 (Page 21)
5	Deadline 3 Submission	REP3-030 (Comments for ISH 2 Environmental Matters)	REP4-017 (Page 6)	SPC = REP4-031 NH = REP5-019 (Page 20)
6	Deadline 3 Submission	REP3-031 Consultation /SoCGs	REP4-017 (Pages 7 – 8, Page 12)	SPC = REP4-030 NH= REP5-019 (Page 20)
7	Responses to ExA FWQ	REP3-032 Upton Drift	REP4-017 (Pages 8 - 15)	NH = REP4-018 (Page 6) SPC = REP6-012 and REP6-013
8	Deadline 4 Submission	REP4-029 David Longfoot Comments	REP5-019 (Page 19)	
9	ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 1)	REP4-030 Consultation	REP5-019 (Page 20)	
10	ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 2)	REP4-031 Station House	REP5-019 (Page 20)	
11	ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 3)	REP3-032 PCC and NH Commitments re Upton Drift and Langley Bush Road	REP5-019 (Page 20)	
12	ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 4)	REP4-033 WCHR	REP5-019 (Page 21)	
13	ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 5)	REP4-034 WCHR – A1 underpass	REP5-019 (Page 21)	

Ref	Category	Sutton Parish Council Submission	National Highway's Response or Submission	Follow up Comments by Both Parties
14	ISH Post Hearing Submission (Part 6)	REP4-035 Traffic modelling	REP5-019 (Page 21)	
	Deadline 6 Submission	REP6-012 REP6-013 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting		