

# Wansford Parish Council

## Deadline 7 Submission

### Comments on Document 9.26 Applicant's Comments on Deadline 5 Submissions

#### A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

##### Section 3 Wansford Parish Council (REP5-027 and REP5-028) Points 1-4

In their response to Wansford Parish Council's comments, the Applicant refers to the criteria used to decide that it was not possible for the route of the A47 to go through the gap in the Scheduled Monument.

The criteria to be applied when deciding whether a development can impinge on a Scheduled Monument are set out in the Historic England document REP2-074. When the findings of the route selection meeting were published, Wansford Parish Council asked for the exact reasons why the commonly supported northern route had been discarded. The response from the Highways England project manager at the time was "It is Highways England's policy not to challenge Historic England as we always lose such challenges". This was said in front of numerous witnesses and shows that Highways England did not apply the correct criteria in deciding not to impinge on the Scheduled Monument.

Clearly there is a public interest case for the road to be routed away from the Nene Valley for all the reasons that have been set out previously by Wansford Parish Council (including large savings of costs, construction programme and risk) and yet this test appears not to have been applied.

The Applicant's Responses make frequent reference to the Historic England document REP2-074. This document makes no reference to an option for the route to go through the Scheduled Monument avoiding all the identified features and it is clear that such an option was never raised seriously with Historic England. Face to face discussions with Historic England at a meeting requested by Wansford and Sutton Parish Councils, which Highways England declined to attend, produced the comment from Historic England that they had never analysed the layout of the individual features of the Scheduled Monument. Had Highways England raised the "through the middle" option, Historic England would no doubt have looked at the relationship between the various identified features.