

# Preferred Route Announcement A47/A11 Thickthorn junction

August 2017



## Improving 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 £15.1 billion investment to improve journeys on England's major A roads and motorways, the Government announced a package of 6 schemes 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 schemes include converting almost 8 miles of single carriageway to dual carriageway and improving key junctions along the route.

## Improving the A47/A11 Thickthorn junction

The junction is currently unable to accommodate increase in traffic movement between the A11 south and the A47 east. The proposed scheme will increase capacity by re-routing traffic away from the existing junction to relieve congestion, reduce journey times, encourage economic growth and improve the customer experience.

### Scheme objectives:

- Supporting economic growth
- A safe and serviceable network
- A more free-flowing network
- Improved environment
- An accessible and integrated network
- Value for money



## Public consultation

From 13 March to 21 April, we ran a public consultation to gain people's feedback on our proposals and help shape our plans at an early stage of the scheme's development.

We publicised the consultation widely, with posters, leaflets and letters to local communities and stakeholders as well as gaining coverage in the press and other media. Information was available on our website, public libraries and community halls.

There were also 3 exhibitions for the public to attend and view our plans.

## Options taken to public consultation

We presented 1 option to upgrade the junction to a high-quality interchange.

This option would:

- Create new free-flow links in both directions between the A11 and the A47 eastern link.
- Improve the existing A11 signalised junction.
- Improve the existing A11 Round House Roundabout.
- Reconnect Cantley Lane with Cantley Lane South.

## Responses to the public consultation

Over 250 people attended the 3 days of public events and we received 185 responses to the consultation.

Around 74% supported the need to improve the junction and agreed our proposals would be beneficial in reducing congestion and improve journey times.

A significant number of concerns were raised over the reconnection of Cantley Lane South to Cantley Lane. These included:

- The potential for increased traffic on Cantley Lane and rat-running.
- The environmental impact on Cantley Lane and unacceptable land severance.
- Concerns were also raised around potential noise and traffic disruption during construction.

Going forward, we will consider your concerns and responses and address them as part of the final design.

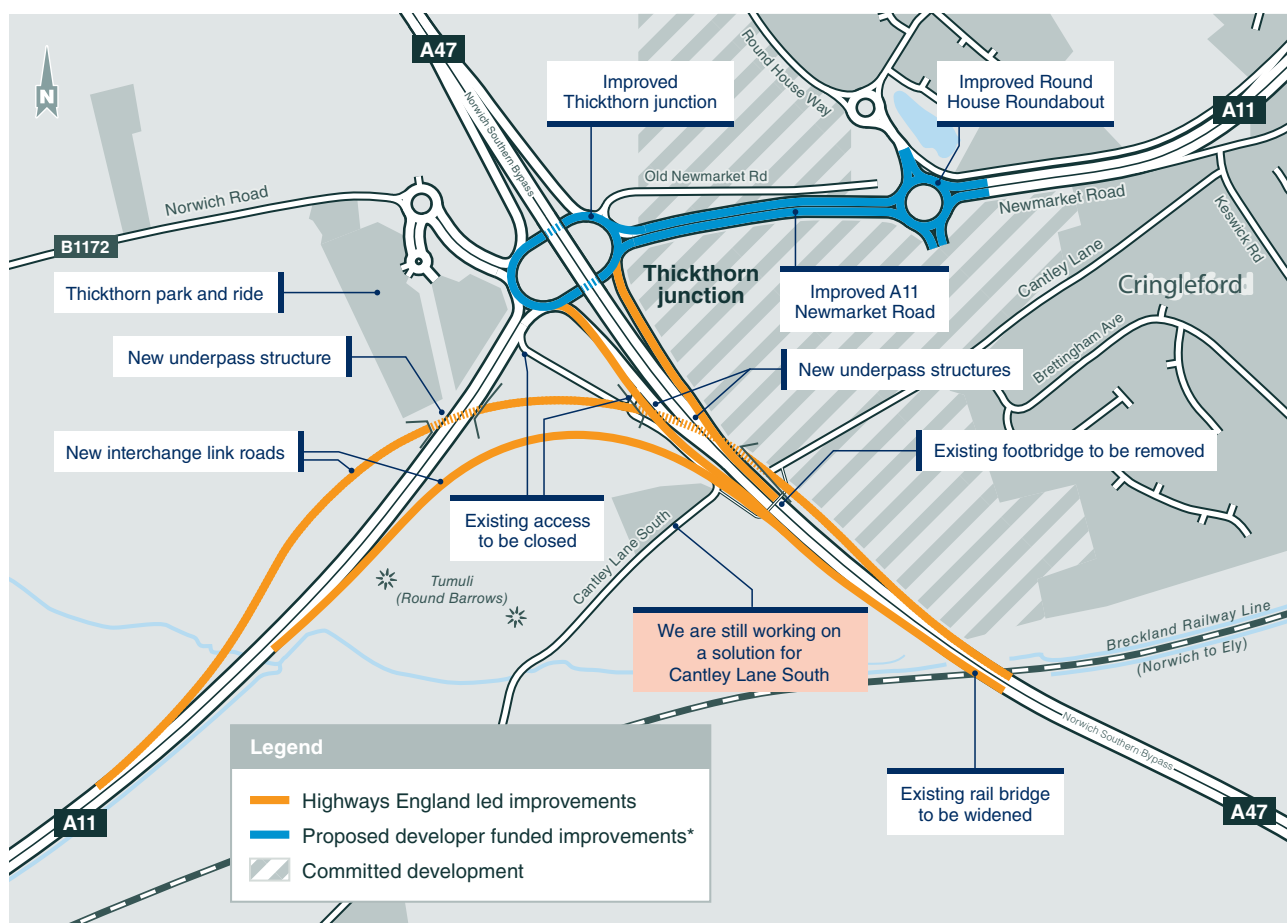
## The Preferred Route

The option taken to consultation has been selected as the preferred route with some modifications. This will allow us to develop our designs to take into account the concerns raised by the public around the Cantley Lane link.

By re-routing strategic traffic away from the existing junction, the scheme solves the main transportation problem of congestion during peak periods and will allow local traffic to flow more freely.

The scheme will look to improve facilities for pedestrians, and cyclists, by upgrading pedestrian crossings and footpaths.

Further work is needed to refine our plans for the Cantley Lane Link and we will address the concerns raised at the consultation. We will be engaging with your parish council and will put forward options for local residents to consider in advance of any statutory consultation in the next few months.



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\*A local scheme progressed by developers with South Norfolk District Council





## What happens next?

Our team will continue to develop the design of the preferred route, working closely with key stakeholders including local authorities, parish councils, statutory environmental bodies and the emergency services. We will also contact any affected land owners to discuss the details of the scheme and how it may impact on their property or interests.

This scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the Planning Act 2008. As such, we are required to make an application for a Development Consent Order in order to obtain permission to construct the scheme. The application will be made to

the Planning Inspectorate who will examine the application in public hearings and then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport who will decide on whether the project will go ahead.

Prior to the application, you will have another opportunity to have your say during a public consultation on our detailed design proposals.

More information about the Development Consent Order process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk>

## View a hard copy of the public consultation report at:

**Norwich Library**  
The Forum  
Millennium Plain  
Norwich, NR2 1TF

**The Willow Centre**  
1-13 Willowcroft Way  
Cringelford, Norwich  
NR4 7JY

Our public consultation report shows all the feedback to our consultation and is available at the above venues for 6 weeks

## Further information

For further information on the scheme and copies of the public consultation report:

@ A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

☎ 0300 123 5000

www [www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement)