

**A47 Blofield to North
Burlingham dualling**
Statement of Community
Consultation (SoCC)

Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	3
2.0 The Application.....	3
3.0 The Scheme.....	4
4.0 Consulting the community.....	5
5.0 Next Steps.....	10
6.0 Your data, your rights.....	11
Appendices.....	12

1. Introduction

1.1. Highways England is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in connection with a proposed improvement to the A47 between the villages of Blofield and North Burlingham (the Scheme). The purpose of this document is to set out how we will consult the local community on our proposal. The document also provides background to the project and how the application to develop the Scheme will progress.

2. The Application

2.1. Highways England is developing this scheme under the Planning Act 2008 and is publishing this statement under Section 47 of the Act. As part of the development of this SoCC we have consulted Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council, the local authorities responsible for areas where the project will be built, about our plans to consult the local community and on the terms of this document which were issued in draft to them prior to the formal consultation taking place on the draft SoCC. The document was then issued formally to those local authorities in accordance with Section 47(2) of the Act, in order to obtain their formal response no later than 28 days following receipt of the draft SoCC. It was also issued in draft at the same time to a number of other key stakeholders in order to obtain views. We recorded the comments received and considered them before finalising the SoCC.

2.2. The Act requires Highways England to make an application to the Secretary of State for Transport through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the Scheme. The Secretary of State's role is to consider whether consent should be given for major infrastructure projects like this scheme. Highways England anticipates that a DCO application for the scheme will be submitted after we have considered the consultation responses and further developed the development proposals to respond to the consultation responses where appropriate. The timetable for this project can be found on the Highways England website via the following link:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>

The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the scheme should be granted consent.

2.3. Government policy relating to the development of the national road network is set out in the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS). This provides the framework for DCO applications to be considered.

2.4. When Highways England submits its DCO application, the Secretary of State must consider whether our pre-application consultation has been adequate. This pre-application consultation will be important in shaping the proposed

development and will enable us to better understand your views on what is being proposed. It will also be important once an application is accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate and in relation to the examination process that follows. Therefore, the best time to provide feedback on the Scheme is now, by taking part in this pre-application consultation.

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on the Inspectorate's National Infrastructure website:

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

or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

3. The Scheme

- 3.1. The A47 connects Norwich and Great Yarmouth and Leicester and the Midlands via King's Lynn, Wisbech and Peterborough. This section of the A47 lies to the east of the A47 southern Norwich bypass, stretching for 4km, between two sections of dual carriageway. The Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling scheme is one of the major improvement projects on the A47 trunk road announced as part of the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) in the 2014 Autumn Statement. The scheme was given budgetary approval to begin the initial phase of Option Development in December 2015. This stage ended in December 2016.
- 3.2. The Blofield to North Burlingham single carriageway of the A47 provides transport connectivity to an area of growing economic activity between Norwich and Great Yarmouth on the eastern coastline. The wider area has been the subject of concerted development effort by the public and private sector. The greater Norwich area is set to see major housing and employment growth by 2021. There are also plans for a significant number of new homes in Suffolk at Waveney.
- 3.3. The Preferred Route was announced on Thursday 14 August 2017 and Option 4 was chosen, which is offline dualling of the route to the south of the existing alignment within 70m of the existing carriageway. There is a proposed junction at each end of the scheme. You can find out more about the options consultation and Preferred Route Announcement at: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>
- 3.4. The junction at the western end includes a link road that goes over the new route to join the existing A47 with the Yarmouth Road via a bridge.
- 3.5. The junction at the eastern end is a new two-level junction in the form of a bridge to provide a north-south connection between South Walsham Road and Acle Road, and includes slip roads to access or exit the planned A47. A

more detailed description and illustrations of the scheme are available in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

- 3.6. The Road Investment Strategy (RIS) provides clear support for the dualling of the single carriageway section of the A47 between Norwich and Acle. This section suffers peak time congestion and there is a history of fatal and serious collisions along its length, mainly associated with intersections and side-road type accesses.
- 3.7. The need for improvements in this location is echoed by the Norfolk Local Transport Plan, Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy and Highways England's East of England Route Strategy, and is also supported by Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council and the A47 Alliance group. Support for the scheme is also noted in the Improving accessibility and transport section of Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Core Strategy Local Plan.

4. Consulting the community

- 4.1. In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Highways England is consulting people living near the proposed scheme.
- 4.2. Highways England has previously undertaken one stage of consultation in March and April 2017. Consultees were asked for their views on four potential options for improvements to the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham:
1. Dualling the existing A47
 2. Building a new dual carriageway to the north and to the south of the existing A47
 3. Building a new dual carriageway to the south of the existing A47
 4. Building a new dual carriageway to the south, next to the existing A47
- 4.3. More details, including the outcomes of these consultations, are included in feedback reports that are available to download from <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>, on request from Highways England, or to view for the duration of the consultation period at the display locations detailed in this SoCC.
- 4.4. We want to make sure that the local community, residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users have the opportunity to fully understand the scheme and comment on our proposals. Your comments will contribute towards shaping our proposals. To do this we are holding the next stage of the consultation in September and October 2018. It will start on Monday 10 September 2018 and will end on Friday 19 October 2018, and during this period we will provide information on a range of relevant issues including:

- junction layout and strategy
- work to the existing road (“de-trunking”) and side roads
- environmental assessments, potential environmental impacts and environmental mitigation measures
- arrangements during construction of the scheme

4.5. The environmental assessment, potential environmental impacts and the environmental mitigation measures referred to above will be contained in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR, the proposed scheme layout and other documents outlined in Appendix 4 of this SoCC, will be made available throughout the consultation period at the deposit locations and on the project website at:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>

4.6. Highways England understands that the majority of users who currently use the A47 during peak times are commuters and people within the business communities of Peterborough, northern Cambridgeshire, Norwich and Great Yarmouth. In order for these groups and communities to be kept informed during the consultation, Highways England is proposing the following methods of engagement:

- Distribute consultation brochures and feedback forms with details of public events at key business locations within Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norwich and Great Yarmouth
- notices to be publicised at a number of key business locations within Norwich, Peterborough, northern Cambridgeshire and Great Yarmouth.
- centralised public events to allow easy access and convenience

4.7. The following is a list of some of the key associations and business groups identified as part of the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling consultation. Appendix 2 provides the key associations and business groups.

- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
- A47 Alliance
- Norwich Research Park
- RAC Foundation
- Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
- Norfolk Network

4.8. Our consultation will involve:

Method	Detail																				
Public Events	<p>Public events will be held at:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Opening time</th> <th>Closing time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Castle Mall Norwich, 100 Castle Meadow, Norwich, NR1 3DD</td> <td>Saturday 15/09/2018</td> <td>11am</td> <td>5pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acle Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, Norwich, NR13 3RA</td> <td>Saturday 22/09/2018</td> <td>11am</td> <td>5pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blofield Courthouse, Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JU</td> <td>Monday 24/09/2018</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ</td> <td>Tuesday 25/09/2018</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The events will give visitors an opportunity to view scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide feedback.</p> <p>The public will be informed of the events through channels including this SoCC, publicity notices in the national and local press, news coverage (press release), the scheme website (https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/) and direct communications in the form of leaflets to be delivered to those living in the consultation zone – see appendix 1. Attendees' feedback will be recorded via questionnaires available at the public events. Completed questionnaires can either be left with the project team and/or returned to the postal address detailed below. You can also complete the questionnaire and submit comments via the project website, if you prefer to submit comments electronically.</p>	Location	Date	Opening time	Closing time	Castle Mall Norwich, 100 Castle Meadow, Norwich, NR1 3DD	Saturday 15/09/2018	11am	5pm	Acle Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, Norwich, NR13 3RA	Saturday 22/09/2018	11am	5pm	Blofield Courthouse, Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JU	Monday 24/09/2018	1pm	8pm	Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ	Tuesday 25/09/2018	1pm	8pm
Location	Date	Opening time	Closing time																		
Castle Mall Norwich, 100 Castle Meadow, Norwich, NR1 3DD	Saturday 15/09/2018	11am	5pm																		
Acle Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, Norwich, NR13 3RA	Saturday 22/09/2018	11am	5pm																		
Blofield Courthouse, Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JU	Monday 24/09/2018	1pm	8pm																		
Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ	Tuesday 25/09/2018	1pm	8pm																		
Project website	<p>A full summary of the project, copies of the supporting project documents and a feedback form will be provided on a dedicated Highways England project website: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</p>																				
Documents to be made available for inspection	<p>The supporting project documents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - map of route - plans of the scheme - Statement of Community Consultation - notice of application 																				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - previous consultation feedback reports - Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Technical Appraisal Report - Scheme Assessment Report <p>In addition to being uploaded to the dedicated Highways England project website mentioned above, these will also be made available for inspection at the locations listed in Section 5.1.</p>
Project summary leaflet	A consultation brochure and covering letter will be delivered to homes and businesses in the consultation zone map shown in Appendix 1.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development. Therefore, we are publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the consultation material and we will submit an Environmental Statement (ES) with the application. Both the PEIR and the ES will provide information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects, such as access for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, and landscaping, in order to assist submission of well-informed responses to the consultation.
Council and community / area forum briefings	Where possible, we will offer briefings to local councils and community / area forums within whose area the proposed scheme will be carried out to discuss the proposal. We will contact the councils and community / area forums that we are aware of about these briefings shortly. Please contact the project team via the following email address if you would like to invite us to attend any meetings. Email: A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
Stakeholder forum briefings	When invited, and where it is possible to do so, the project team will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal. Please contact the project team via the following email address if you would like to invite us to attend any meetings. Email: A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
Hard to reach groups	<p>We have identified a range of community organisations with a potential interest in the scheme, including representatives of local 'hard to reach' groups. To ensure these 'hard to reach' groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear. The known local representatives of local hard to reach groups are listed in Appendix 2. Additionally, we will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the contact telephone number and email address for the scheme are prominent on all published material, enabling individuals to contact the team with questions and request;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the consultation brochure and feedback form can be made available in alternative forms on request – large print, Braille, languages other than English; - information about the consultation is sent directly to addresses within the consultation zone. - representatives of ‘hard to reach groups’ will be contacted directly with details about the consultation. <p>We have sought to ensure that venues are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport. For anyone with specific additional requirements in relation to consultation events, please email A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk, or call 0300 123 5000.</p>
Project updates	<p>At the launch of the consultation and at the point at which Highways England submits the DCO application, project updates will be produced, providing details on the proposals and reporting on the outcome of the consultation process respectively. These will be distributed to residents and community groups via the postal service and at public information points, to road users registering for further communications on our website, and to parish and town councils and communities that wish to receive them. Copies will be made available on our website and provided on request by the project team.</p>
Consultation feedback	<p>Written comments can be made either online at https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/ or in writing to FREEPOST A47 Blofield to North Burlingham or by email to A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk. Feedback must be received by 11:59pm on Friday 19 October 2018.</p>
Media	<p>The consultation will be advertised locally in the Eastern Daily Press newspaper and nationally in The Guardian newspaper. Other press adverts will appear at the launch of the consultation in the London Gazette, and further press publicity will appear ahead of the exhibition events. The advert will be in the form of a publicity notice, highlighting the consultation events and other arrangements. Press releases will also be issued to local media detailing the consultation and how the community and road users can participate, and we will hold a media briefing event at the start of the consultation period. Information will also be sent to local parish councils to enable publication in local magazines and/or newsletters/e-shots if they so wish. By working with parish council clerks and members, information can also be made available on parish council websites.</p>
Social Media	<p>Details of the consultation and events will be shared on: Twitter: @HighwaysEAST</p>

Information available at the below locations can be copied where copying facilities are available. Please ask about the copying costs at the relevant venue. Free copies of the consultation brochure will also be available to take away at the below venues and free copies of the consultation documents (listed in Appendix 3) can be provided on a memory stick on request. Hard copies of the consultation documents can also be provided on request. Please contact the project team about hard copy costs.

Location	Opening times
Lingwood Village Hall - Station Rd, Lingwood, Norwich NR13 4AZ	8.45am-3.00pm Monday to Thursday
Blofield Library – North Street, Blofield, Norwich, NR14 4RQ	1.00pm-7.00pm Monday 10.30am-7.00pm Wednesday 4.00pm-7.00pm Friday 12.00pm-4.00pm Saturday
Blofield Post Office - 10 Church Alley, Blofield, Norwich NR13 4JJ	07.30am-8.00pm Monday to Saturday 09.00am-5.00pm Sunday
Norwich Millennium Library - The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW	10.00am-7.00pm Monday to Friday 09.00am-5.00pm Saturday
Norwich City Council – City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich NR2 1NH	08.45am-5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 1.00pm-5.00pm Wednesday
Norfolk County Council - County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH	09.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday
Broadland District Council – Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU	08.30am-5.00pm Monday to Friday

5. Next steps

5.1. All comments made during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account when developing the scheme proposal further. If we consider that further information is required after this consultation, we may undertake further engagement with stakeholders to address specific issues. An explanation of how comments have shaped and influenced our proposals will be reported in a Consultation Report prepared by Highways England which will accompany the DCO application as required by Section 37(3) (c) of the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether Highways England’s pre-application consultation has been adequate.

5.2. Highways England needs to collect and assess all responses to the consultation before compiling the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, feedback must be received by 11:59pm on Friday 19 October 2018.

5.3. If you want to contact us or find out more about this scheme, you can:

- Visit the scheme webpage: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>
- E-mail us: A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
- Call us: 0300 123 5000
- Write to us: FREEPOST A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
- Visit Norfolk County Council's website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/>

6. Your data, your rights

6.1. On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law. The law requires Highways England to explain to you – consultees, stakeholders and customers – how your personal data will be used and stored.

6.2. Highways England adheres to the government's consultation principles, the Planning Act 2008 and the Highways Act 1980 as required, and may collect personal data to help shape development of highways schemes.

6.3. Personal data collected by the project team will be processed and retained by Highways England and its appointed contractors until the scheme is complete.

6.4 Under the GDPR Regulations you have the following rights:

- right of access to the data (Subject Access Request)
- right for the rectification of errors
- right to erasure of personal data – this is not an absolute right under the legislation
- right to restrict processing or to object to processing
- right to data portability

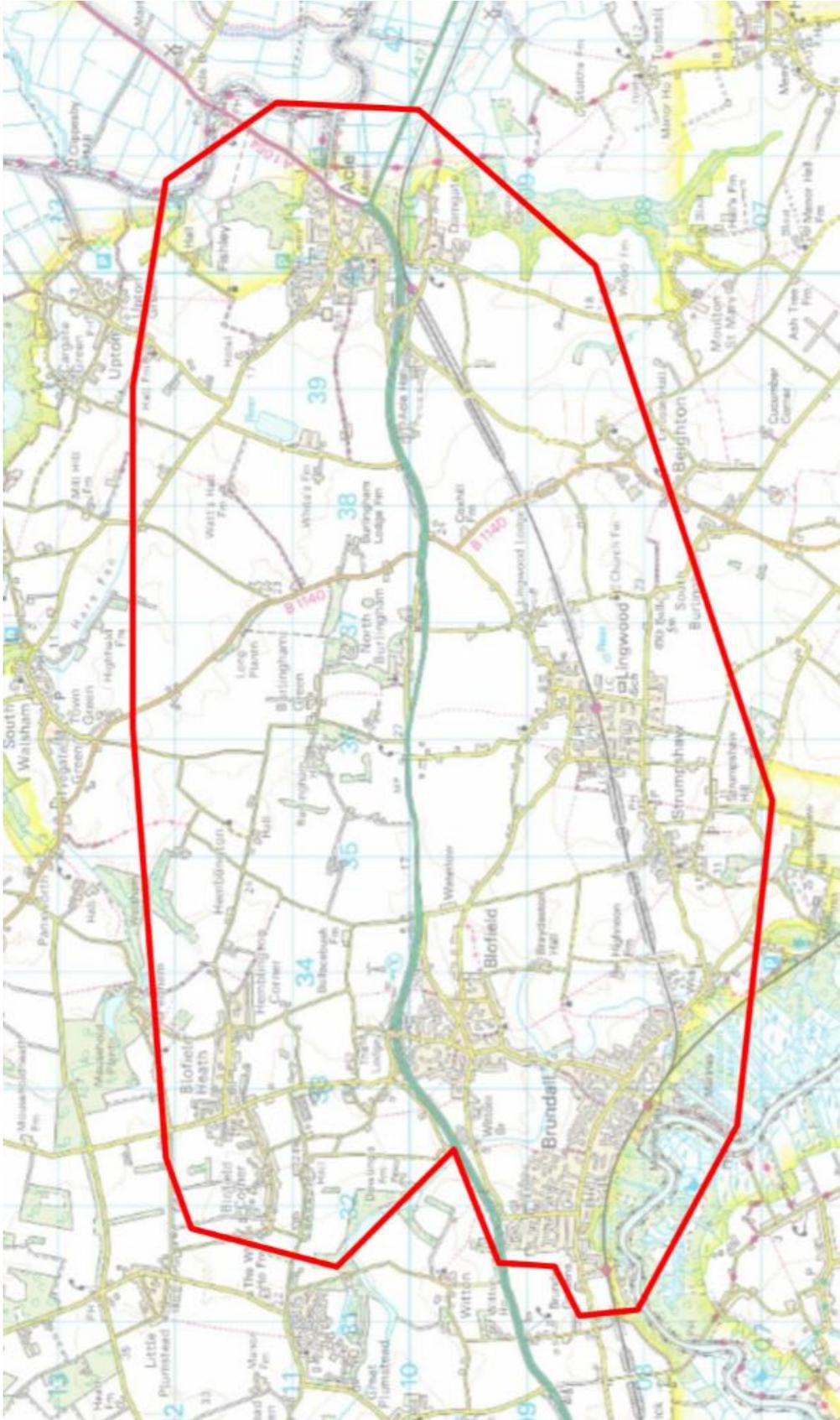
6.5. If, at any point, Highways England plans to process the personal data we hold for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what for which it was originally collected, we will tell you what that other purpose is. We will do this prior to any further processing taking place and we will include any relevant additional information, including your right to object to that further processing.

6.6. You have a right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners Office.

6.7. If you'd like more information about how we manage data, or a copy of our privacy notice, please contact: DataProtectionAdvice@highwaysengland.co.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation Zone



Stakeholders

Highways England has a duty to consult bodies specified under section 42 in the Planning Act 2008, and the local communities living in the vicinity of the proposed project under section 47. In terms of this project, it is also considered that an additional set of stakeholders who may also be impacted by the project or who tend to have a wider reach within the local community should also be informed about this consultation and given an opportunity to participate. We have specified those stakeholders below.

Appendix 2 – Local Authorities

Additional Local Authorities:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Waveney District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council

Additional Parish Councils:

Brundall parish Council
Postwick with Witton parish council
Great and Little Plumstead parish council
Woodbastwick parish council
Hemblington parish council
South Walsham parish council
Upton with Fishley parish council
Cantley, Limpenhoe and Southwood parish council
Strumpshaw parish council
Surlingham parish council
Freethorpe parish council
Halvergate parish council

Office for Road and Rail (ORR)

Members of Parliament:

Sir Henry Bellingham MP – North West Norfolk
Rt Hon Liz Truss MP – South West Norfolk
Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP – West Suffolk
George Freeman MP – Mid Norfolk
Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP – North Norfolk
Chloe Smith MP – Norwich North
Clive Lewis MP – Norwich South
Richard Bacon MP – South Norfolk
Peter Aldous MP – Waveney
Dr Dan Poulter MP – Central Suffolk and North Ipswich
Rt. Hon Keith Simpson – Broadland
Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP – Great Yarmouth

Local and District Councillors:

Councillor Brian John Maxwells – Acle
Councillor Andrew James Proctor – Blofield and Brundall
Councillor Lana Hempsall – Acle
Councillor David Ward – Burlingham

Councillor Vic James Thomson – Henstead
Councillor Ian James Mackie – Thorpe St Andrew

Local Strategic Partnerships:

Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Greater Norwich Growth Board

Local bodies which represent hard to reach groups:

Visit Norfolk
Visit East Anglia Tourism Information Centre
Norfolk Carers Support
Norwich Mind
West Norfolk Disability Information Service
Equal Lives
St Martins Housing Trust
Shelter Norwich
Victory Housing
Broadland Group
Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Service
The Bridge Plus
Norfolk County Council (Senior Consultation and involvement officer)
AgeUK Norfolk
WI Norfolk
University of the 3rd Age
The Workers Education Association
Norfolk Youth Advisory Board
Break
Voluntary Norfolk
Norfolk Community Foundation
Community Action Norfolk
Diocese of Norwich Education and Academics Trust
Educator Solutions
National Farmers' Union

Shopping centres:

Longwater Retail Park
Intu Chapelfield
Castle Mall Norwich

Event organisers/venues:

Norfolk Showground
Theatre Royal
Norwich Playhouse
Carrow Road

Local business groups:

Rotary Club of Norwich

Rotary Club of Norwich Marchesi
Blackfriars Rotary Club of Norwich
Rotary Club of Norwich St Edmunds
Norwich Wensum Probus Club
Norwich Yare Probus Club
Norwich Venta Probus Club
Norwich Tas Probus Club
Kings Lynn Probus
Norwich Research Park
East of England IoD
Norfolk Network

Local tourist/visitor attractions:

Great Yarmouth Tourist Information
Visit Norwich
Sea Life Great Yarmouth
Pleasure Beach Great Yarmouth
Joyland
Seashore Holiday Park

Local bus/rail operators:

First Group
Konectbus
Sanders Coaches
Stage Coach
West Norfolk Community Transport
Abellio East Anglia
Norwich Bus Station
Norwich Railway Station

Local taxi operators:

Courtesy Cars
Five Star Taxis Ltd
Beeline Taxis Norwich
Loyal Taxis
ABC Taxis
Bestway Taxis Norwich
A2B Taxis Norwich
Goldstar Taxis Norwich
Kestral Taxis

Other bodies:

National Express
Network Rail
HS2
A47 Alliance
British Sugar (Cantley)
RAC Foundation

Transport and Road Associations:

The Freight and Transport Association
Road Haulage Association

Media:

Eastern Daily Press
Norwich Evening News
East Anglian Daily Times
London Gazette
BBC Norfolk
ITV News Anglia

Appendix 3 – Documents to be made available for inspection at inspection locations listed at section 5.1:

Consultation brochure
Feedback form
Non Technical Summary
Plans/maps of the route
Preliminary Environmental Information Report
Statement of Community Consultation