

Preferred Route Announcement A47 Blofield to North Burlingham

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 from Blofield to North Burlingham

The section of the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham is still a single carriageway. This acts as a bottleneck, resulting in congestion, leading to longer journey times and a poor safety record. The proposed scheme will relieve congestion, reduce journey times, encourage economic growth and improve our customers' 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 4 options to upgrade the single carriageway to a high-quality dual carriageway between Blofield and North Burlingham.

The options were:

- Option 1 – Dualling the existing A47.
- Option 2 – Building a new dual carriageway to the north and to the south of the existing A47.
- Option 3 - Building a new dual carriageway to the south of the existing A47.
- Option 4 - Building a new dual carriageway to the south of the existing A47.

Responses to the public consultation

Around 323 people attended the exhibitions over the three days and we received 441 responses to the consultation.

Around 63% supported the need to improve the section and agreed our proposals would be beneficial in reducing congestion and improving journey times.

A significant number of concerns were raised over access for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists.

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 our final design and construction plan.

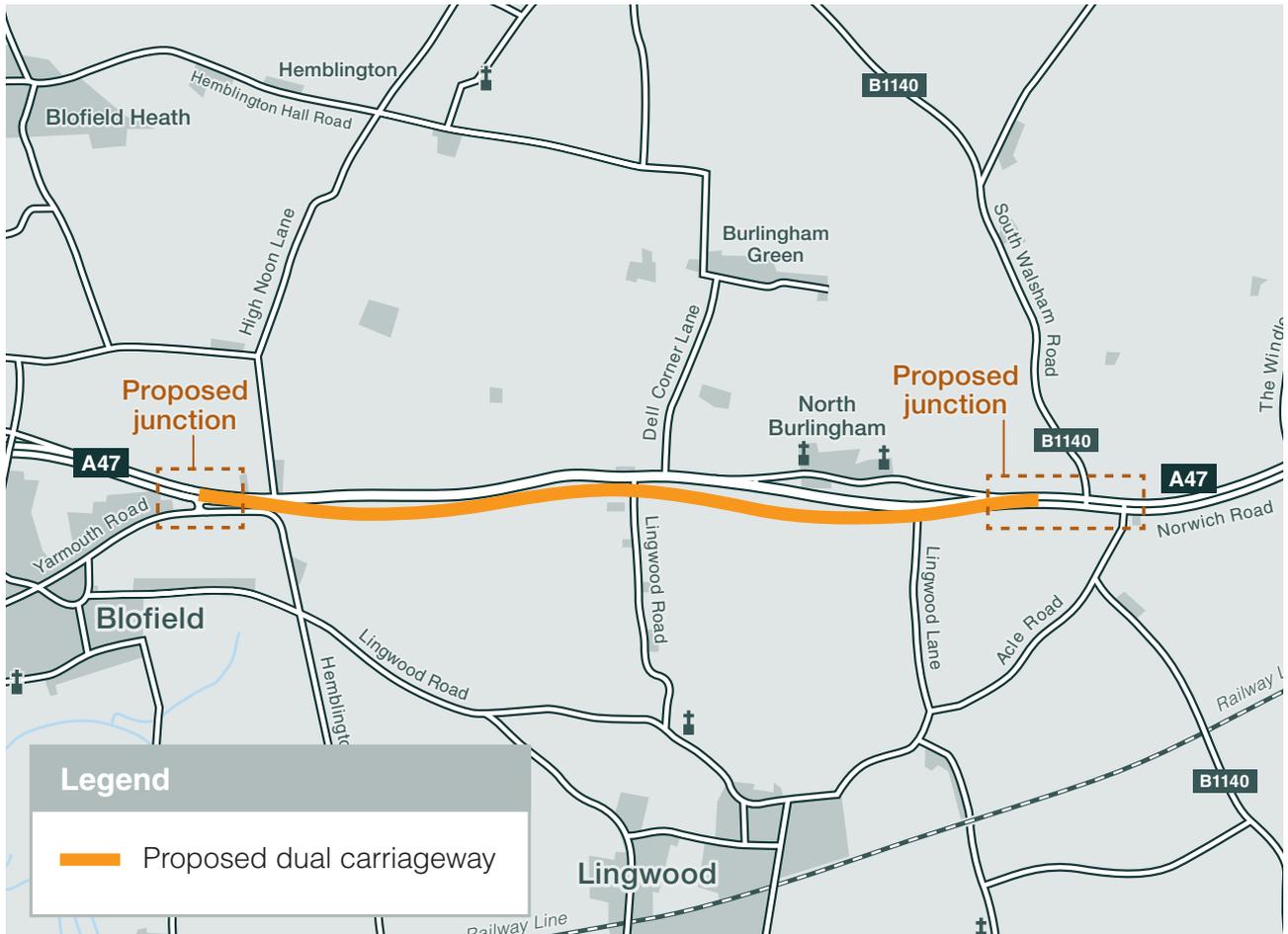
The Preferred Route - Option 4

Having reviewed the feedback following the consultation, and completed a number of other assessments, we are proceeding with Option 4 presented at our consultation.

Option 4 was the favoured option by the public by a significant margin and solves the traffic and safety problems.

It can be built with the least disruption to drivers during construction, has the least impact on the environment and the existing road can remain for local traffic, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

This will now be developed further before a statutory consultation.





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

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

Further information

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

@ A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

☎ 0300 123 5000

www <http://www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement>