

# Preferred Route Announcement

## A47/A141 Guyhirn 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/A141 Guyhirn junction

The junction between the A47 (Fen Road to South Brink) and the A141 (March Road) at Guyhirn, currently experiences high levels of congestion leading to long delays. The proposed scheme will increase the size of 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 one option to upgrade the junction at Guyhirn. This option would:

- Increase the size of the roundabout.
- Create 3 lanes on all approaches to the junction.
- Widen the existing carriageway on the River Nene bridge to accommodate an additional lane of traffic.

## Responses to the public consultation

Over 77 people attended the 3 days of public events and we received 70 responses to the consultation.

Around 71% 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 access for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists.

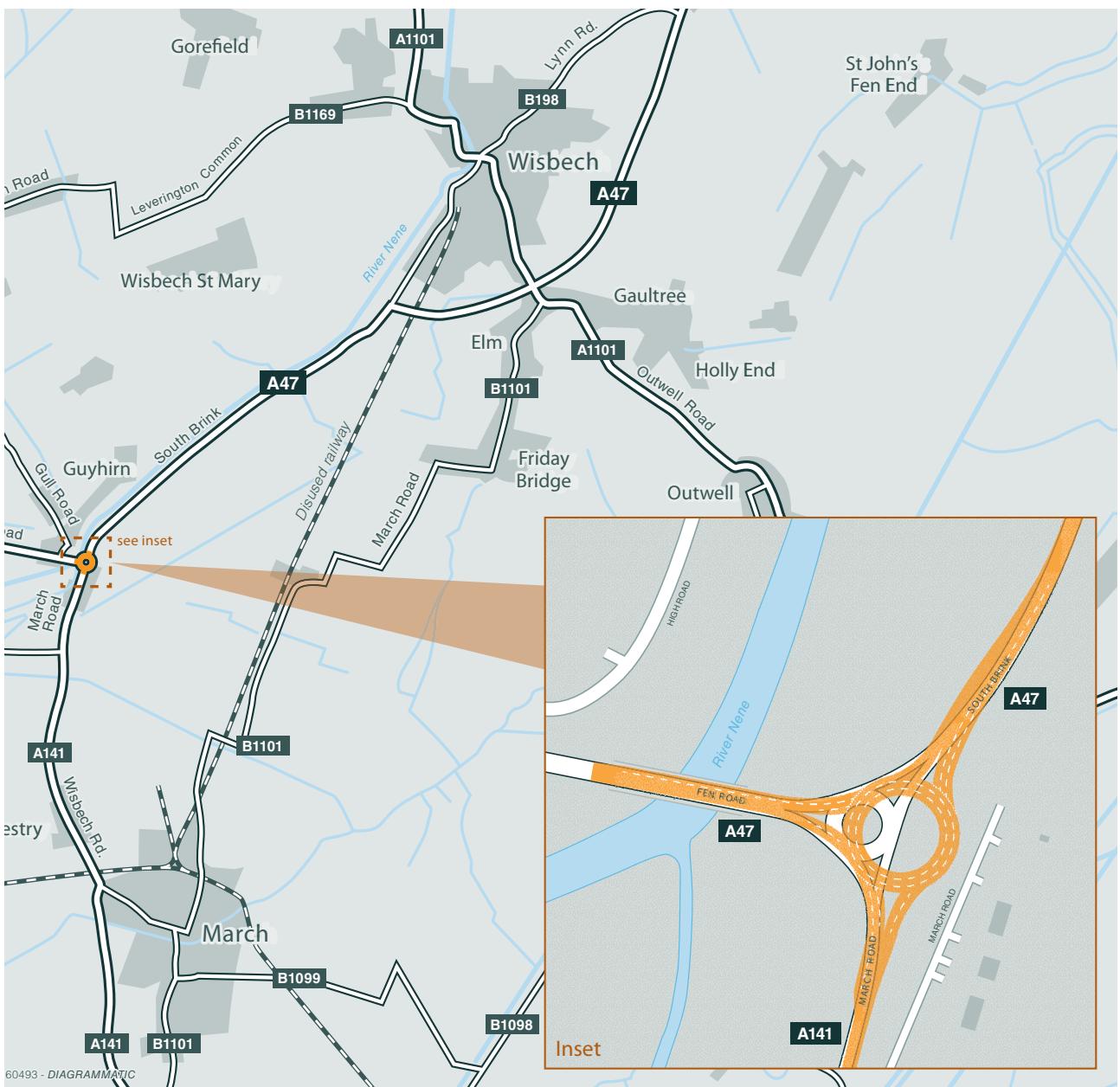
Concerns were also raised around potential noise and traffic disruption during construction.

Going forward, we will consider your concerns and address them as part of our final design and construction plan.

## The Preferred Route

Having reviewed the feedback following the consultation, and completed a number of other assessments, we are proceeding with the option presented at consultation. This will now be developed further prior to statutory consultation.

This preferred route will reduce congestion and provide good value for money. The scheme will look to improve pedestrian crossings and footpaths particularly between March Road, Guyhirn village and local amenities.



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## 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:

### Peterborough Town Hall

Town Hall, Bridge Street  
Peterborough  
PE1 1HF

### Wisbech Library

Ely Place  
Wisbech  
PE13 1EU

### Wisbech TESCO

Cromwell Road  
Wisbech  
PE14 0RG

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:

 A47GuyhirnJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

 0300 123 5000

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