



Preferred Route Announcement A47 North Tuddenham to Easton

August 2017

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

Dereham Library
59 High Street
Dereham
NR19 1DZ

Our public consultation report shows all the feedback to our consultaion 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:

-  A47NorthTuddenhamtoEastonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
-  0300 123 5000
-  <http://www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement>

Highways England creative job number S170173

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 North Tuddenham to Easton

The section of the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton 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



The Preferred Route - Option 2

Having reviewed the feedback following the consultation, and completed a number of other assessments, we are proceeding with an amended version of Option 2 presented at consultation.

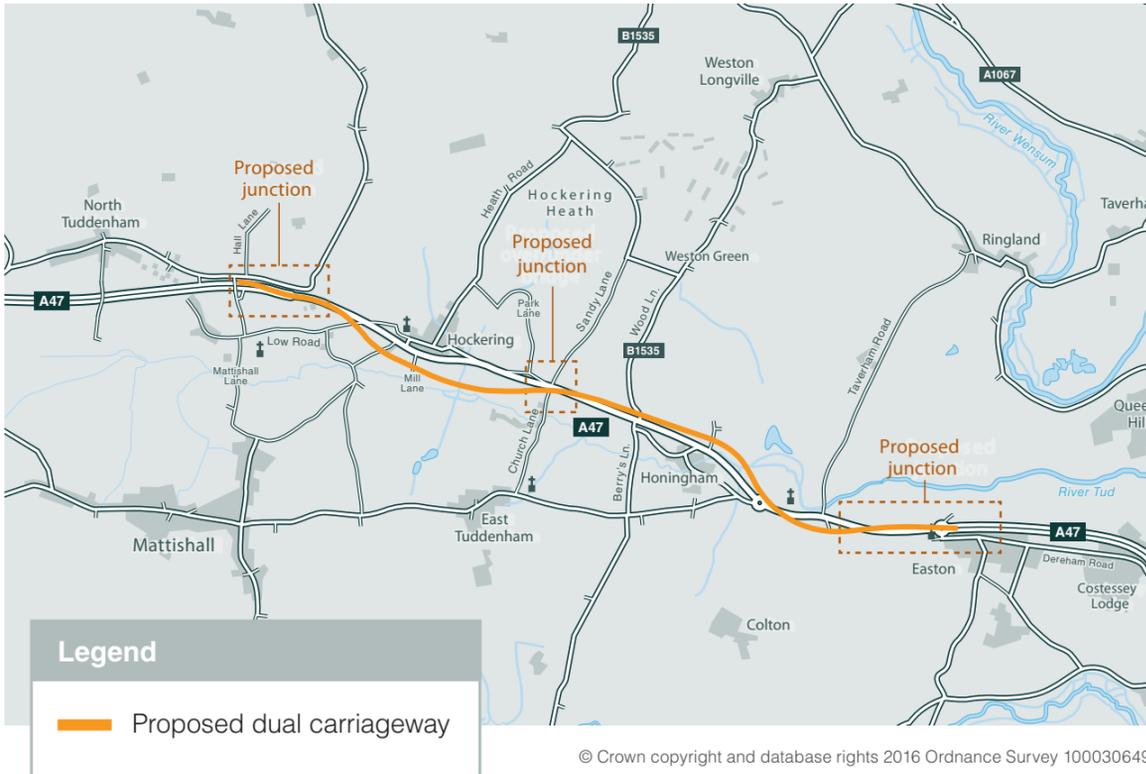
Option 2 was one of the two most favoured options and solves the traffic and safety problems. It also has the least impact on the environment. Key concerns raised by the public regarding Option 2 have influenced a realignment which means it can be built with less impact during construction and the existing road can remain for local traffic movements, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

The proposed Option 2 would benefit from deviating locally from the existing A47 route alignment, which would:

- Reduce the impact at the western end on Oak Farm, minimising the impact on the existing properties on Mattishall Lane.
- Minimise, where possible, the impact on properties close to the existing A47 at Hockering.
- Reduce the impact of the road on the River Tud.
- Keep the road widening to the north side of the corridor as it passes Honingham.
- Keep route to the north at the existing junction at Easton to maximise the chance of the local road reconnection being alongside and to the north of the church at Easton.

These elements will make the road easier to construct and will retain a significant amount of the existing A47 for local access, cycling and walking.

This will now be developed further before statutory consultation.



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 North Tuddenham and Easton.

The options were:

- Option 1 - building a new dual carriageway to the north of the existing A47.
- Option 2 - dualling the existing A47.
- Option 3 - building a new dual carriageway to the south and to the north of the existing A47.
- Option 4 - building a new dual carriageway to the south of the existing A47.

Responses to the public consultation

Around 482 people attended the exhibitions resulting in 530 responses to our consultation.

Around 78% supported the need to improve this section of the A47 and agreed our proposals would be beneficial in reducing congestion and improving journey times.

Concerns were raised regarding the potential for noise and disruption to traffic during construction and the impact on the local rural environment.

Access for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists in the area was an important topic presented by attendees and will be taken into consideration.

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