

A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling scheme

**Statement of Community
Consultation (SoCC)**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. Highways England is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in connection with a proposed improvement to the A47 between Wansford and Sutton, between the A1 / A47 junction and the Nene Way Roundabout near Sutton (the Scheme). The purpose of this document is to set out how we will consult the local community about our proposal. The document also provides background to the Proposed Scheme and how the application to develop the Scheme will progress.

2. The application

- 2.1.1. Highways England is developing this Scheme under the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) and is publishing this statement under Section 47 of the Act. As part of the development of this SoCC we have consulted Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the local authorities responsible for administering areas where the scheme is proposed, about 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 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 within the 28-day consultation period. It was also issued in draft at the same time to a number of other key stakeholders, as well as the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), in order to obtain their views.
- 2.1.2. The Act requires Highways England to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the Scheme. The Secretary of State's role is to consider whether authorisation 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 Scheme proposals to respond to the consultation responses where appropriate. The timetable for this Scheme can be found on the Highways England website via the following link:
<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-wansford-to-sutton-dualling/>
- 2.1.3. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the proposed scheme should go ahead.
- 2.1.4. 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 against.
- 2.1.5. 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. Therefore, the best time to provide feedback on the Scheme is now; by taking part in this pre-application consultation.

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- 2.1.6. You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on the Gov.uk website:
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> - or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

3. The Scheme

- 3.1.1. The A47 forms part of the strategic road network and provides for a variety of local, medium and long-distance trips between the A1 and the eastern coastline. The corridor connects 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.
- 3.1.2. The existing A47 single-carriageway between Wansford and Sutton is to be upgraded to dual-carriageway standard. It will be constructed slightly to the north of the existing A47 from the A1 / A47 junction for approximately 800m, before crossing the existing A47, where it will be constructed to the south of the existing alignment until it ties into the existing dual-carriageway at the Nene Way Roundabout near Sutton.
- 3.1.3. The existing western roundabout at the A1 / A47 junction will be upgraded to incorporate additional entry and exit lanes on each arm, except the southern arm (Old North Road). The northern entry will be further amended to include a segregated left turn from the A1 northbound on to the A47 eastbound carriageway.
- 3.1.4. The existing section on the A1 overbridge, between the western and eastern roundabouts, will be opened to 2 lanes in each direction, as permitted within the confines of the existing bridge width.
- 3.1.5. The existing eastern roundabout at the A1 / A47 junction will be enlarged and the part-time traffic signals removed. The roundabout will include a new link to the south for access to the water pumping station and the filling station. A new underbridge is also to be constructed off this new link under the proposed A47, giving access to Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre.
- 3.1.6. The DCO submitted with the application will seek rights and powers required to deliver the Scheme. This may include compulsory acquisition powers.
- 3.1.7. The new link road, including access to the water pumping station, the filling station and Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre, is proposed to be handed over to either Peterborough City Council or another arrangement.
- 3.1.8. To the west of the scheme, a new free-flow slip road is to be constructed connecting the existing A1 southbound carriageway to the new A47 eastbound carriageway. The existing diverge lane off the A1 southbound is retained as part of these arrangements to connect to the eastern roundabout at the A1 / A47 junction for all other movements.

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- 3.1.9. A new bridge will also be constructed, where the proposed A47 alignment crosses over the disused railway line to the west of Sutton Heath Road.
 - 3.1.10. Current direct accesses to Sutton Heath Road and The Drift will be closed, with alternative arrangements proposed for both, connecting slightly further east, at the Nene Way Roundabout. The Drift is proposed to be shortened with turning arrangements to be provided.
 - 3.1.11. The section of existing A47 between Sutton Heath Road and the Nene Way Roundabout is proposed to be de-trunked and handed over to Peterborough City Council.
 - 3.1.12. A larger roundabout is to replace the existing Nene Way Roundabout to the east of the scheme. Here, a connection with a retained section of the existing A47 will also be added for access to Sutton Heath Road.
 - 3.1.13. Drainage ditches and ponds are proposed along the length of the scheme. Existing culverts will also be improved.
 - 3.1.14. Provision for walking, cycling and horse riding is proposed to connect between Wansford, Sutton and local amenities. Existing access tracks will be reinstated.
 - 3.1.15. The layby on the A1 southbound immediately to the north of the A1/A47 junction and the layby on the A47 immediately to the west of Sutton Heath Road will be removed. Alternative provision is proposed on the new link road near the filling station.
 - 3.1.16. The Road Investment Strategy provides clear support for improvements at Wansford to Sutton, where dualling will provide for the forecast highway traffic demand up to 2037.
 - 3.1.17. The East of England Route Strategy Evidence Report (April 2014) records:
 - 3.1.18. “The A47 is a single-carriageway between the A1 Wansford and Ailsworth bypass. Its junction with the A1 experiences peak time congestion particularly on the southbound off slip. There is a history of fatal and serious collisions along this length, mainly associated with right turns at grade junctions and accesses”.
 - 3.1.19. Within the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, the A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling is listed as an improvement needed on the trunk / motorway network.
 - 3.1.20. The dualling is also supported by Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the Peterborough Long Term Transport Plan and the Integrated Development Plan 2011 to 2026, the A47 Alliance, the
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A47 Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Case for Improvement Evidence and
Wider Economic Benefits, January 2014.

4. Consulting the community

- 4.1.1. In accordance with Section 47 of the Act, Highways England is consulting people living in the vicinity of the proposed Scheme.
- 4.1.2. Highways England has previously carried out one stage of consultation in March and April 2017. Consultees were asked for their views on 3 potential options for improving the A47 between Wansford and Sutton:
- dualling the existing A47
 - building a new dual-carriageway partly to the north and partly to the south of the existing A47
 - building a new dual-carriageway to the north of the existing A47
- 4.1.3. More details, including the outcomes of these consultations are included in the Public Consultation Report, which will be available to download from:
<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-wansford-to-sutton-dualling/>
- 4.1.4. Highways England will make sure that the local community, the residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users have the opportunity to fully understand the Scheme and comment on our proposals. To do this we are holding a Statutory Consultation between September and October 2018. It will start on 18 September 2018 and will end on 29 October 2018, during which period we will provide information on a range of relevant issues:
- layout of proposed dual-carriageway section
 - junction layout and strategy
 - works to the existing road (“de-trunking”) and side roads
 - environmental assessments and potential environmental impacts
- 4.1.5. We have carried out a substantial amount of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed scheme. The proposed scheme is an EIA development and 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 give information about the potential environmental effects of the Scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects, such as soft landscaping, to assist well-informed responses to the consultation. The PEIR, the Proposed Scheme layout and other documents outlined in Appendix C of this SoCC, will be made available throughout the consultation period at the deposit locations and on the Scheme website.

4.1.6. 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 and Cambridgeshire. In order for these groups and communities to be kept informed throughout the consultation, Highways England is proposing the following methods of engagement:

- letters containing key information about the consultation will be sent to the public, their elected representative and other key statutory bodies
- notices advertising the consultation will be publicised in key office locations, newspapers, on our webpage and in press releases
- centralised events to allow easy access and convenience

4.1.7. Our consultation will include:

Table 4-1: Consultation details

Method	Detail																				
Public information exhibition	<p>A public information exhibition 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>St Michael and All Angels Church, Nene Way, Sutton, Peterborough, PE5 7XD</td> <td>Saturday 29 September</td> <td>11am</td> <td>5pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haycock Hotel, Wansford, Peterborough, PE8 6JA</td> <td>Monday 1 October</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre, Thornhaugh, Peterborough, PE8 6HJ</td> <td>Thursday 4 October</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mobile Visitor Centre at St John's Square, Exchange Street, Peterborough, PE1 1XB</td> <td>Saturday 6 October</td> <td>11am</td> <td>5pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The exhibitions will give visitors an opportunity to view Scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide feedback comments.</p> <p>The public will be informed of the exhibitions through channels including: advertisements in local media, the Scheme website, direct communications, such as letters, emails and public events, and regular Scheme updates on the Highways England website.</p> <p>Feedback can be submitted online via the Scheme website for members of the public to record their comments. Alternatively, feedback forms will be available at the exhibition events for members of the public, which can either be left with the project team and/or returned to the postal address detailed below.</p>	Location	Date	Opening time	Closing time	St Michael and All Angels Church, Nene Way, Sutton, Peterborough, PE5 7XD	Saturday 29 September	11am	5pm	Haycock Hotel, Wansford, Peterborough, PE8 6JA	Monday 1 October	1pm	8pm	Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre, Thornhaugh, Peterborough, PE8 6HJ	Thursday 4 October	1pm	8pm	Mobile Visitor Centre at St John's Square, Exchange Street, Peterborough, PE1 1XB	Saturday 6 October	11am	5pm
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Scheme website	<p>A full summary of the Scheme, copies of the supporting Scheme documents and a feedback form will be provided on a dedicated Highways England Scheme website: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-wansford-to-</p>																				

	sutton-dualling/
Scheme summary leaflet	A Scheme summary leaflet will be delivered to homes and businesses in the primary consultation zone map shown in Appendix A. A letter shall also be delivered to these residences detailing where online information may be found.
Council and community / area forum briefings	Local councils and community / area forums located in areas where the scheme is proposed will be offered briefings to discuss the proposal. We will contact councils and community / area forums about these briefings shortly.
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: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@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. Additionally, we will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that 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 requests • the consultation brochure and feedback form can be made available in alternative forms on request including large print and languages other than English • information about the consultation is sent directly to addresses within the primary 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: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk or call 0300 123 5000.</p>
Scheme updates	<p>At the launch of the consultation and at the point at which Highways England submits the DCO application, Scheme updates will be produced, providing details on the proposals and reporting on the outcome of the consultation process respectively.</p> <p>These will be distributed to residents and community groups by hard copy mail, by e-mail to road users registering for further communications on our website, and to local authorities and community / area forums who wish to receive them. Copies will be made available on our website and provided on request by the project team. You can contact the project team via the contact details further down in this SoCC.</p>
Consultation feedback	Written comments can be made either online at https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-wansford-to-sutton-dualling/ , by writing to 'FREEPOST Wansford to Sutton' or by email to: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
Media	<p>The consultation will be advertised in the locally circulating newspapers, Peterborough Telegraph and Cambridge News as well as The Guardian national newspaper and the London Gazette.</p> <p>The advert will be in the form of a publicity notice, highlighting the consultation events and other information. Press releases detailing the consultation and how the community and road users can participate will be issued. Advertisements will also be sent to local Parish Councils, to which</p>

	information can be publicised in their magazines and newsletters, which are distributed to local residents freely. By working with clerks and members, information can also be made available on Parish Council websites.
Social media	The consultation will be advertised on: Twitter: @HighwaysEAST

5. Documents available for inspection

5.1.1. This SoCC, policy guidance documents and other relevant technical documents, including those listed in Appendix C, will be available online and will be added to throughout the course of the application process for the Scheme. The online Scheme web site address is: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-wansford-to-sutton-dualling/>

5.1.2. The consultation documents will also be available to view, free of charge, for the duration of the consultation at the inspection locations listed below:

Table 5-1: Inspection locations

Location	Opening times
Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre - Thornhaugh, Peterborough, PE8 6HJ	9:30am – 5pm Monday to Sunday
Peterborough Central Library - Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 1RX	10am – 5pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday 2pm – 5pm Wednesday and Thursday 9am – 3pm Saturday
Haycock Hotel - Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6JA	7am – 11pm Monday to Sunday

5.1.3. Copies of the information made available at the above 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 above venues. A free copy of the consultation documents (listed at Appendix C) can be provided on a USB memory stick on request. Hard copies of the consultation documents can also be provided on request – please contact the project team about the cost of providing hard copies of the consultation documents.

6. Next steps

- 6.1.1. Comments made during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account when further developing the scheme proposal. 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 Act. 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.
- 6.1.2. 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 29 October 2018.
- 6.1.3. If we consider that further information is required after this consultation, we may undertake further engagement with stakeholders to address specific matters.
- 6.1.4. If you want to contact us or find out more about this proposed scheme, you can:
- visit the Scheme webpage: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-wansford-to-sutton-dualling/>
 - e-mail us: A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
 - call us: 0300 123 5000
 - write to us: FREEPOST A47 Wansford to Sutton
 - visit Peterborough City Council's website: www.peterborough.gov.uk/

Appendix B – Additional stakeholders and consultees

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 Scheme under Section 47. In terms of this Scheme, it is also considered that an additional set of stakeholders who may also be impacted by the Scheme 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.

Additional Consultees

Local Parish Councils:

Wansford Parish Council

Sutton Parish Council

Yarwell Parish Council

Southorpe Parish Council

Ailsworth Parish Council

Castor Parish Council

Office for Rail and Road (ORR)

Members of Parliament:

Shailesh Vara MP

Tom Pursglove MP

Rt Hon Sir Alan Duncan MP

Nick Boles MP

Fiona Onasanya MP

Rt Hon John Hayes MP

Stephen Barclay MP

Jonathan Djanogly MP

Local Councillors:

Councillor Diane Lamb

Councillor John Holdich OBE

Councillor Tim Alban

Councillor Marge Lawrie Beuttell

Local Business Partnerships / Chamber:

Greater Cambridge Partnership

Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce
Peterborough Chamber of Commerce
Cambridge Network
The Business Network Peterborough
Greater Peterborough Professional Bodies Group
East of England IOD
Peterborough IOD
RAC Foundation
Cambridge Ahead
A47 Alliance
Peterborough Probus Club 1974
Peterborough Probus Club 87
Peterborough Probus'02

[Local Community / Resident groups:](#)

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Wansford
St Michael & All Angels Church
Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre
Peterborough Ramblers
Peterborough Cycling Club
CTC Peterborough
Stibbington Centre
British Horse Society

[Local bodies which represent hard to reach groups:](#)

Visit Peterborough
Visit East Anglia Tourist Information Centre
Carers Trust Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire Mind
DIAL Peterborough
Nene Valley Harriers Special Needs Athletics Club
Longhurst Group
Cross Keys Homes
Hope Into Action
MENTER
Black and Minority Ethnic Network

AgeUK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

University of the 3rd Age

The Workers Educational Association

VOICE

Salvation Army Peterborough

Peterborough Community Foundation

Vivacity

Thorpe Ventures

Peterborough Environment City Trust

National Farmers' Union

Dial a Ride

Local Schools:

Castor and Ailsworth Pre-School

Castor CofE Primary School

Transport and Road Associations:

Freight Transport Association

Road Haulage Association

Local Taxi Firms:

A-2-B EuroCars

1st Class Travel

3 Star Ambassador

ABC City Link

Allens Airport Travel

Associated Adams

Barrys Private Hire

Environment Groups:

Natural Cambridgeshire

Nene Valley Improvement Area Group

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

Bus/Rail operators and stations:

First Group (Buses)

Stagecoach

Abellio East Anglia

Great Northern Rail

Network Rail

Peterborough Railway Station

Wansford Railway Station

Queensgate Bus Station

Service Stations:

Rontec Wansford

Kates Cabin Service Station

MRH Rock

Wittering Service Station

Media:

Archant

London Gazette

Peterborough Telegraph

Cambridge News

Stamford Mercury

Appendix C - Documents to be made available for inspection at inspection locations listed at table 5.1

Consultation brochure

Response form

Plans / maps of the route

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Non-Technical Summary

Statement of Community Consultation