

# A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION

## Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

HE551492-GTY-GEN-000-RP-ZH-0001

May 2019

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## Document control

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Job no.	HE551492
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P02	For Approval	B Arthur	M Murrell	D Owen	D Procter	30/04/2019
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# 1. Scheme introduction

- 1.1.1. Highways England is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in connection with proposed improvements to the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction between the A11 South and the A47 Eastern link located west of the village of Cringleford (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 project and how the application to develop the Scheme will progress.

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## 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 that Act. As part of the development of this SoCC we have consulted Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District Council, the local authorities responsible for areas where the Scheme 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 by no later than 28-days following receipt. It was also issued in draft at the same time to a number of other key stakeholders, as well the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate), in order to obtain their views.
- 2.1.2. The Planning Act 2008 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 proposals to respond to the consultation responses where appropriate. The timetable for this project can be found on the Highways England website: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn)
- The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the Secretary of State will decide whether or not the Scheme should be granted consent.
- 2.1.3. Government policy relating to the development of the national road network is set out in the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS), which provides the framework for DCO applications to be considered.
- 2.1.4. 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.

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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.

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## 3. The Scheme

- 3.1.1. The A47 is part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The Thickthorn Junction is located on the south-western edge of Norwich and is the intersection between the A47 and A11. The A47 connects Norwich with Great Yarmouth to Leicester and the Midlands via King's Lynn, Wisbech and Peterborough. The A11 is the main route connecting Norwich with Thetford, Cambridge and London (via the M11 and A14).
- 3.1.2. The junction is connected through a roundabout which splits the A11 South from the A11 North (into Norwich).
- 3.1.3. New free-flowing link roads will be provided in both directions between the A11 South and the A47 East to re-route traffic away from the existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction. The new link road connecting the A11 to the A47 will go underneath both of the existing trunk roads via three underpasses. The other link that connects the A47 to the A11 will be at grade.
- 3.1.4. The existing A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction roundabout will be upgraded to incorporate an additional lane on the southern section. Traffic signals will be provided when approaching the junction from the B1172.
- 3.1.5. The existing A47 westbound exit connecting to Thickthorn Junction will be realigned to create a single exit point from the A47. This will require widening to the existing Cringleford railway bridge including demolition of existing retaining walls and construction of new retaining walls to support the widened highway embankment. A signage gantry will be provided within the verge and a small length of noise mitigation.
- 3.1.6. To the west of the Thickthorn Junction a new link road will connect Cantley Lane South with the B1172 to the north. This will require the construction of two new overbridges.
- 3.1.7. The existing Cantley Lane South connection to the A47 exit will be closed off as part of the works, with a turning head facility provided to allow vehicle movements.
- 3.1.8. The existing Cantley Lane stream and nearby access track will be realigned to the west. This will require an extension of the existing stream culvert underneath the A11 and provision of a new stream culvert underneath Cantley Lane South.
- 3.1.9. A new footbridge will be constructed over the A47 for walkers, cyclists and horse riders approximately 200m East of the existing footbridge, which is to be demolished as part of the Scheme.

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- 3.1.10. Drainage ditches are proposed along the length of the Scheme, with an attenuation pond located to the west of the A11, discharging into the Cantley Lane Stream. A pumping station is required, situated to the west of Thickthorn Junction on the A11 to A47 link road. These are illustrated in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.
  - 3.1.11. Provision for walking, cycling and horse riding is proposed along the new Cantley Lane link Road to provide access to local amenities as well as a link to other recreational routes for users.
  - 3.1.12. As part of the Scheme construction, there may be some localised diversions of statutory undertaker infrastructure required.
  - 3.1.13. The construction site compound, storage areas and temporary vehicle parking will be located within the Scheme boundary.
  - 3.1.14. The need for improvements at Thickthorn Junction is supported by the New Anglia LEP Strategic Economic Plan, Highways England's East of England Route Strategy, the Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy, the Norwich Area Transport Strategy Updated Implementation Plan 2013 and Norfolk's third Local Transport Plan.
  - 3.1.15. The Cringleford Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) also supports improvements at the Thickthorn Junction. Requirements contained in the Cringleford NDP for green buffer zones adjacent to the A47/A11 and improved pedestrian accessibility will inform the Scheme design.



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## 4. Consulting the community

- 4.1.1. In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Highways England is consulting people living in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.
- 4.1.2. Highways England has previously undertaken one stage of consultation in March and April 2017. Consultees were asked for their views on a single proposed option to create new free-flowing links between the A11 South and the A47 Eastern link, provide improvements to the existing A47/A11 signalised junction, improve the existing A11 Roundhouse Way roundabout and reconnect Cantley Lane North and South of the existing A47 mainline carriageway.
- 4.1.3. More details, including the outcomes of the consultation mentioned above, are included in the 2017 Consultation Report available to download from <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction-improvement/results/public-v2-a47-thickthorn-cons-report.pdf> , on request from Highways England or to view for the duration of the consultation period at the public information point locations detailed in this SoCC.
- 4.1.4. At the public consultation events in 2017, some of the feedback expressed concern over access arrangements for Cantley Lane and other side roads. In November 2017 Highways England issued a letter to residents in the immediate vicinity regarding the possible alternative solutions to address concerns expressed.
- 4.1.5. 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 statutory stage of the consultation during June and July 2019, which will start on Monday 3rd June 2019 and will end on Thursday 11th July 2019. During this consultation we will provide consultation information on a range of relevant issues including:
- The proposed scheme layout
  - Environmental assessments and potential environmental impacts
  - Environmental mitigation measures
- 4.1.6. We have carried out a substantial amount of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Scheme. The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development, and therefore we are publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the consultation material and we will submit a full Environmental Statement (ES) with the application.
- 4.1.7. Both the PEIR and the ES will provide information about potential environmental effects of the Scheme and measures proposed to reduce these effects, such as

access for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and landscaping, thereby helping to give well-informed responses to this consultation.

- 4.1.8. The environmental assessment, potential environmental impacts and the environmental mitigation measures referred to above will be contained in the PEIR. The PEIR, the proposed scheme layout and other documents outlined in Appendix 3 of this SoCC, will be made available throughout the consultation period at the public information point locations (See 5.1) and on the project website at: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn)
- 4.1.9. Highways England understands that the majority of users during A47/A11 peak times are commuters and people within the business communities of Peterborough, 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:
- Consultation brochure with details of public events, and consultation response form
  - Notices to be publicised in key business locations within Norwich and the surrounding area
  - Centralised public consultation exhibitions to allow easy access and convenience
- 4.1.10. The following is an example of key business groups/associations identified as part of the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction improvements consultation:
- New Anglia LEP
  - A47 Alliance
  - Norwich Research Park
  - RAC Foundation
  - Norfolk Chamber of Commerce

4.1.11. Our consultation will involve:

Table 4.1: Public consultation exhibitions locations and opening times

Method	Detail																				
<b>Public Consultation Exhibition</b>	Public consultation exhibitions will be held:																				
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Location</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Opening time</th> <th>Closing time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hethersett Village Hall, Back Lane, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3JJ</td> <td>Monday 10 June 2019</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ketteringham Village Hall, High Street, Ketteringham, Wymondham, NR18 9RU</td> <td>Thursday 13 June 2019</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Willow Centre, 1-13 Willowcroft Way, Cringleford, Norwich, NR4 7JJ</td> <td>Friday 14 June 2019</td> <td>1pm</td> <td>8pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number 47, 47 Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1JR</td> <td>Saturday 15 June 2019</td> <td>11am</td> <td>5pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Location	Date	Opening time	Closing time	Hethersett Village Hall, Back Lane, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3JJ	Monday 10 June 2019	1pm	8pm	Ketteringham Village Hall, High Street, Ketteringham, Wymondham, NR18 9RU	Thursday 13 June 2019	1pm	8pm	The Willow Centre, 1-13 Willowcroft Way, Cringleford, Norwich, NR4 7JJ	Friday 14 June 2019	1pm	8pm	Number 47, 47 Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1JR	Saturday 15 June 2019	11am	5pm
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The exhibitions will give visitors an opportunity to view scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide feedback.																					
The public will be informed of the exhibitions through channels including publicity notices in the local press, the Scheme website and directly contacted by post for those living in the consultation zone – see Appendix 1.																					
Attendees' feedback will be recorded via consultation response forms available at the exhibitions. Completed consultation response forms can either be left with the project team and/or returned to the postal address detailed below. Comments can also be submitted via the project website.																					
<b>Project website</b>	A full summary of the project, the SoCC, copies of the supporting project documents and a consultation response form will be provided on a dedicated Highways England project website: <a href="http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn">www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn</a>																				

<b>Project summary information</b>	A project summary and details of the public consultation exhibitions will be delivered to homes and businesses in the consultation zone map shown at Appendix 1.
<b>Project updates</b>	<p>Project updates will be sent to residents, community groups, road users, people with an interest in land, local authorities, parish councils and other parties when appropriate.</p> <p>All such updates will also be available on the project website or electronically upon request. For certain documents, supply of a printed version may incur a charge.</p>
<b>Consultation feedback</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Online:</b> <a href="http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn">www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn</a></li> <li>▪ <b>By post:</b> to FREEPOST A47 Thickthorn Junction</li> <li>▪ <b>In person:</b> By visiting one of the public consultation exhibitions listed above</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	<p>The consultation will be advertised in the local Eastern Daily Press (EDP). Other press adverts will appear at the launch of the consultation and further press publicity will appear ahead of the public consultation exhibitions. The adverts will be in the form of a SoCC notice informing the public about community consultation and a publicity notice, highlighting the consultation events and other arrangements.</p> <p>Press releases will be issued detailing the consultation and how the community and road users can participate.</p> <p>Advertisements will also be sent to local Parish Councils to enable publication in local magazines and/or newsletters/e-shots.</p>
<b>Social media</b>	The consultation will be advertised on Twitter: @HighwaysEAST

## 5. Documents available for inspection

- 5.1.1. This SoCC and other relevant technical documents, including those listed in Appendix 3, will be available online and will be updated during the project. The online project web site address is: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn)  
The information made available at the public information points will be available to view, free of charge during the consultation, at the locations listed below:

Table 5.1: Public information point locations and opening times

Public information point locations	Opening times
North Wymondham Community Centre, 44 Lime Tree Avenue, Wymondham NR18 0HH	10am - 4pm Monday-Saturday <i>* please phone ahead (01953 606 709) to confirm the opening time before you visit.</i>
Hethersett Library, Queen's Road, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3DB	10am - 1pm and 2pm - 5pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2pm - 7pm Thursday 10am - 2pm Saturday <i>* please phone ahead (01603 810 188) to confirm the opening time before you visit.</i>
The Willow Centre, 1-13 Willowcroft Way, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 7JY	9am – 5pm Monday to Friday <i>* please phone ahead (01603 457 222) to confirm the opening time before you visit.</i>
Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW	10am - 7pm Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm Saturday <i>* please phone ahead (01603 774 709) to confirm the opening time before you visit.</i>
Norwich City Council, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich NR2 1NH	8:45am - 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 1pm - 5pm Wednesday <i>* please phone ahead (0344 980 3333) to confirm the opening time before you visit.</i>
Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH	9am - 5pm Monday-Friday <i>* please phone ahead (0344 800 8020) to confirm the opening time before you visit.</i>

- 5.1.2. Free copies of the consultation brochure and response forms will be available to take away at the above venues. Other consultation documents available at the above locations (listed in Appendix 3) can be copied if facilities are available. Please ask about copying costs at the relevant venue. Free copies of these documents can be provided on a memory stick on request and hard copies can also be provided on request. There may be a charge applied for hard copies of the PEIR.

## 6. Next steps

- 6.1.1. All comments submitted during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account when further developing the Scheme proposal. If we consider that further information is required after this consultation, we may undertake further engagement with stakeholders to address specific matters. 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.
- 6.1.2. Highways England will collect and take account of all responses to the consultation in the process of compiling the DCO application submission to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, feedback must be received by 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2019.
- 6.1.3. If you want to contact us or find out more about this scheme, you can:
- Visit the Scheme webpage: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47Thickthorn)
  - E-mail us: [A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)
  - Call us: 0300 123 5000

Figure 6.1: Your data, your rights

### Your data, your rights

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.

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.

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

**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

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 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.

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



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

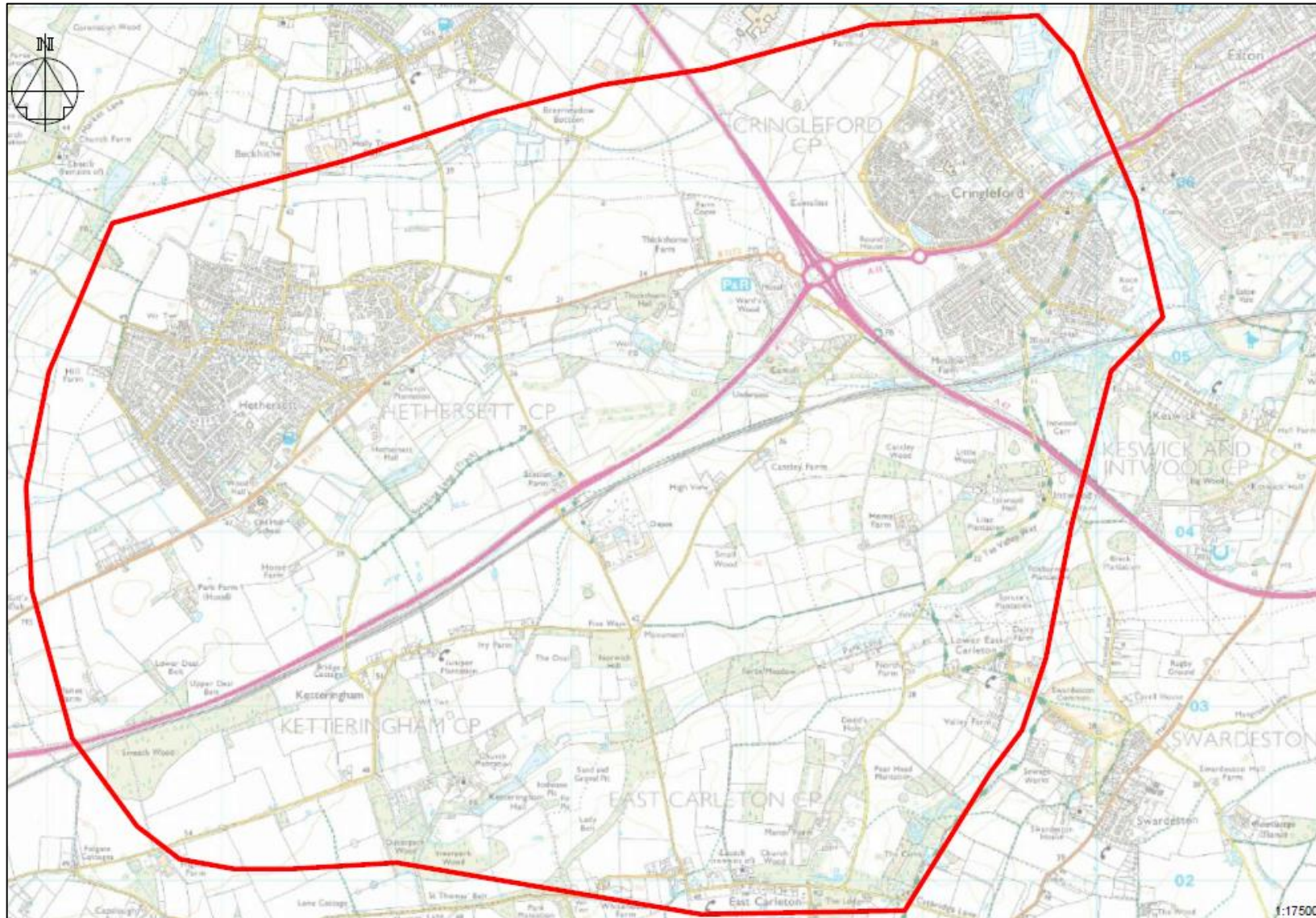
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## 7. Stakeholders

- 7.1.1. 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 as referenced in Appendix 1.
- 7.1.2. 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 in Appendix 2.



## Appendix 1 – Consultation zone





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## Appendix 2 – Additional consultees

### **Adjoining Local Authorities:**

Cambridgeshire Combined Authority

### **District councils:**

King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council

North Norfolk District Council

Fenland District Council

East Cambridgeshire District Council

West Suffolk District Council

### **Local Parish Councils:**

Little Melton Parish Council

Colney Parish Council

Swardeston Parish Council

Wymondham Parish Council

Mulbarton Parish Council

Bracon Ash Parish Council

Great Melton Parish Council

### **Office for Road and Rail (ORR):**

John Larkinson – Chief Executive

### **Members of Parliament:**

Sir Henry Bellingham MP – NW Norfolk

Rt Hon Liz Truss MP – SW Norfolk

Rt Hon Matthew Hancock MP – West Suffolk

George Freeman MP – Mid Norfolk

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP – N Norfolk

Chloe Smith MP – Norwich N

Clive Lewis MP – Norwich S

Richard Bacon MP – S Norfolk

Peter Aldous MP - Waveney

Dr Dan Poulter MP – Suffolk N

Rt. Hon. Keith Simpson – Broadland

Brandon Lewis MP – Great Yarmouth

### **Local councillors:**

Councillor Andrew Proctor - Leader of NCC– Governance and Strategy

Councillor Graham Plant – Deputy leader of NCC – Growing the Economy

Councillor Bill Borrett – NCC Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention

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Councillor Margaret Dewsbury – NCC Communities and Partnerships  
Councillor John Fisher – NCC Children’s Services  
Councillor Tom Fitzpatrick – NCC Innovation, Transformation and Performance  
Councillor Andy Grant – NCC Environment and Waste  
Councillor Andrew Jamieson – NCC Finance  
Councillor Greg Peck – NCC Commercial Services and Asset Management  
Councillor Martin Wilby – NCC Highways and Infrastructure  
Councillor David Rowntree – University (NCC)  
Councillor David Bills – Humbleyard (NCC)  
Councillor Colin Foulger – Forehoe (NCC)  
Councillor Joe Mooney – Wymondham (NCC)  
Councillor John Fuller – Leader of SNDC –The Economy & Central Affairs  
Councillor Vic Thomson – SNDC Development Management  
Councillor Lisa Neal – SNDC Regulation and Public Safety  
Councillor David Bills – Hethersett (SNDC)  
Councillor Phil Hardy – Hethersett (SNDC)  
Councillor Adrian Dearnely – Hethersett (SNDC)  
Councillor Nigel Legg – Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross (SNDC)  
Councillor Vivien Clifford-Jackson – Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross (SNDC)  
Councillor Gerald Francis – Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross (SNDC)  
Councillor William Kemp - Cringleford (SNDC)  
Councillor Daniel Elmer – Cringleford (SNDC)  
Councillor Jack Hornby – North Wymondham (SNDC)  
Councillor Tony Holden – North Wymondham (SNDC)  
Councillor Robert Savage – Central Wymondham (SNDC)  
Councillor Kevin Hurn – Central Wymondham (SNDC)  
Councillor Julian Halls – South Wymondham (SNDC)  
Councillor Suzanne Nuri – South Wymondham (SNDC)  
Councillor Margaret Dewsbury – Easton (SNDC)

**Local strategic partnerships:**

Norfolk Chamber of Commerce  
New Anglia LEP  
Greater Norwich Growth Board  
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

**Shopping centres:**

Longwater Shopping Centre  
Chapelfield Shopping Centre  
Castle Mall

**Local airports/ports:**

Norwich Airport

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Great Yarmouth Port  
The Port of Lowestoft  
King's Lynn Port

**Local employers:**

McDonalds Thickethorn  
Shell Thickethorn  
Travel Lodge Thickethorn  
John Kemp Ltd  
Eaton Vets  
Jewson Ltd  
Auction House East Anglia  
Waitrose  
The Cellar House  
P1 Technology Partners  
Mangreen Country House  
P & V Quality Cars  
Park Farm Hotel and Leisure  
Wymondham Leisure Centre  
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Trust  
University of East Anglia  
Norwich Research Park (NRP)

**Local community groups:**

Cringleford Hub  
Hethersett Environmental Action Group (HEAT)  
Norwich Community Foundation

**Local schools:**

Cringleford Primary School  
Little Melton Primary School  
Hethersett Junior School  
Hethersett Academy  
Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School  
Hethersett Old Hall School  
City College  
Eaton Primary School  
Eaton Hall Specialist Academy  
Ashleigh Primary School  
Robert Kett Primary School  
Browick Road Primary School  
Wymondham College  
Wymondham High Academy

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**Local interest groups:**

A47 Alliance  
Norfolk Wildlife Trust  
Voluntary Norfolk  
Iceni Velo  
Velo club Norwich  
Norwich Amateur Bicycle Club  
East Anglia Cycling Club  
Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF)

**Local taxi companies:**

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

**Transport and road associations**

Freight Transport Association  
Road Haulage Association  
RAC Foundation

**Local bus/rail operators:**

First Group  
Konect  
Sanders Coaches  
Stage Coach Norfolk  
West Norfolk Community Transport  
Abellio Greater Anglia

**Non-statutory bodies:**

Transport Focus Greater Anglia  
RAF Marham  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
Norfolk Constabulary

**Local media:**

Norwich Evening News

East Anglia Daily Times  
BBC Norfolk  
ITV News Anglia  
Eastern Daily Press (EDP)  
London Gazette

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## **Appendix 3 - Documents to be made available for inspection at public information point locations listed at section 5.1:**

The proposed scheme layout

SoCC

Publicity notice

2017 consultation report

PEIR (Preliminary Environmental Information Report)

PEIR NTS (Preliminary Environmental Information Report – Non-Technical Summary)

Consultation brochure

Consultation response form

SAR (Scheme Assessment Report)

Sideroad Strategy Options Report