

Preferred Route Announcement A47 Great Yarmouth junctions

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 Great Yarmouth junctions

The stretch of the A47 through northern Great Yarmouth, experiences heavy congestion during peak times. The proposed schemes will increase capacity of the existing junctions 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 1 option for Vauxhall Roundabout, Station Approach and Gapton Roundabout. These options included:

Station Approach

- Minor improvements at the existing junction, including the addition of a dedicated right turn at the existing left turn only junction;
- Changes to the existing traffic signals;
- Realignment of existing traffic islands.

Responses to the public consultation

A total of 23 people attended the 3 days of public events and we received 51 responses to the consultation.

Around 69% supported the need to improve the junctions through Great Yarmouth, with 74% supportive of the Vauxhall roundabout option and 77% supportive of the Station Approach junction option. 46% were supportive of the Gapton roundabout option.

A number of responses identified that congestion at Gapton Roundabout was caused by poor access to the Gapton Hall Retail Park. This causes queues to back-up towards and onto the Gapton Roundabout.

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

The Preferred Route

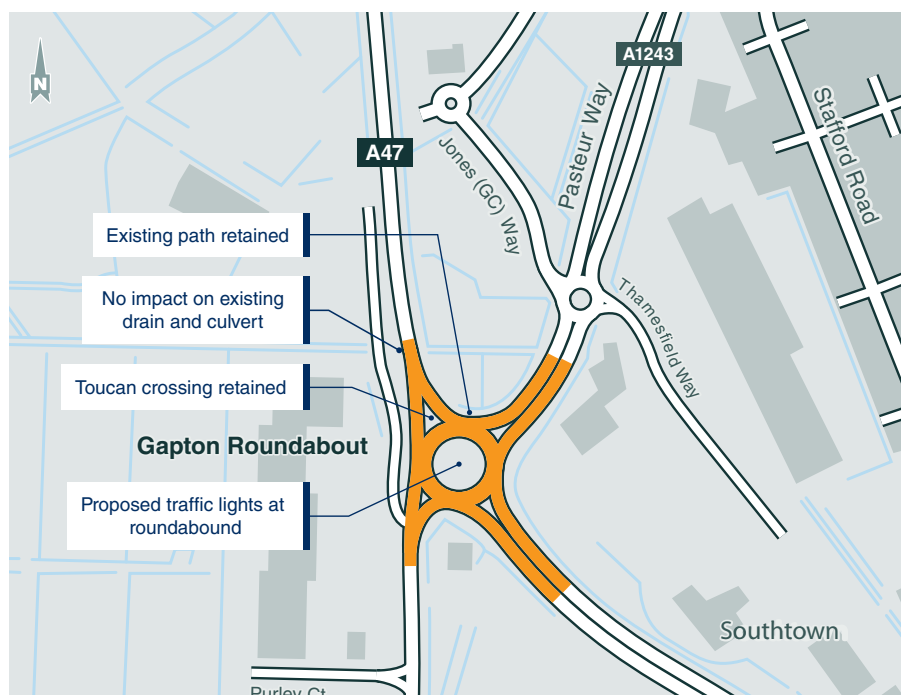
Our assessments of the A47 Great Yarmouth junction improvements confirm that the options shown at the public consultation will reduce congestion and provide good value for money.

The diagrams below show the preferred route for each of the junction improvements that will be taken forward to statutory consultation.



Vauxhall Roundabout

- A larger, roundabout with traffic lights and a widened bridge over the railway line to accommodate widening of the A47 southern exit and approach
- Realignment to current highway standards to improve driver experience and safety
- We are also considering improving provision for pedestrians, cyclist and other non-motorised users.



Gapton Roundabout

- Installing traffic signals on the existing roundabout
- We are also considering improving provision for pedestrians, cyclist and other non-motorised users.



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 the 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:

Great Yarmouth Town Hall
Hall Plain
Great Yarmouth
NR30 2QF

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 venues for 6 weeks

Further information

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

@ A47GreatYarmouthJunctionsRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk

☎ 0300 123 5000

www www.highways.gov.uk/a47Improvement