

Scheme update – Autumn 2022

A47 North Tuddenham to Easton

Investing in the A47

The A47 is an important route 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 multi-billion investment to improve journeys on England's major A-roads and motorways, the Government is funding a package of six projects on the 115-mile stretch of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together, the programme will convert almost eight miles of single carriageway into dual carriageway and improve key junctions along the A47 road.

Four of these schemes require a Development Consent Order (DCO) which is a special type of planning permission from the Planning Inspectorate. For more information about the DCO process visit www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The A47 road improvement projects are:

- A47/A141 Guyhirn junction (opened for traffic in March 2022)
- A47 Blofield to North Burlingham dualling (DCO granted June 2022)
- A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling (DCO granted August 2022)
- A47/A11 Thickthorn junction (anticipated DCO decision October 2022)
- A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling (anticipated DCO decision January 2023)
- A47 Great Yarmouth junction (construction expected to start late 2023/early 2024)



About the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling scheme

In August 2022, we received development consent from the Secretary of State to proceed with our improvements to the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton. This is the second scheme in the A47 programme to successfully go through the DCO process.

Our work will involve upgrading the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton in Norfolk to a dual carriageway. This will complete the dual carriageway between Norwich and Dereham, supporting economic growth and easing congestion in the area.

To better connect the side roads into the new dual carriageway, we're building two new junctions; the first will be at Berry's Lane and Wood Lane, and the second is at Blind Lane and Taverham Road.

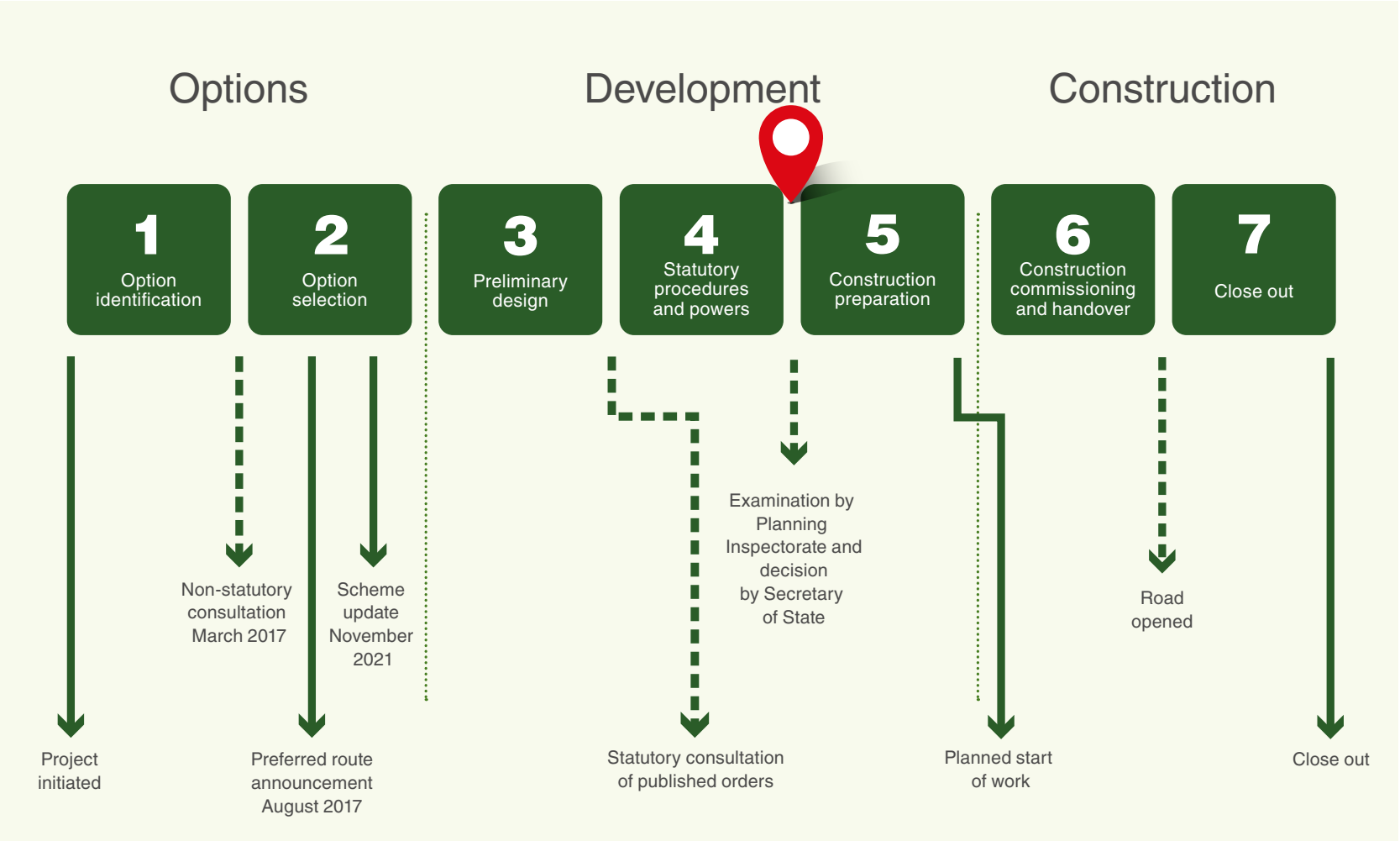
Why is this dual carriageway needed?

This section of the A47 between North Tuddenham and Easton is west of Norwich, and forms part of the main route connecting Norwich and Great Yarmouth to Kings Lynn, and then on to Peterborough. It is used by over 25,000 vehicles a day and has a poor safety record. The scheme will improve road safety by reducing the number of accidents and consequently the number of casualties. Over a 60-year timeframe, the scheme's improvement could save up to 341 accidents and 64 people from being killed or seriously injured.

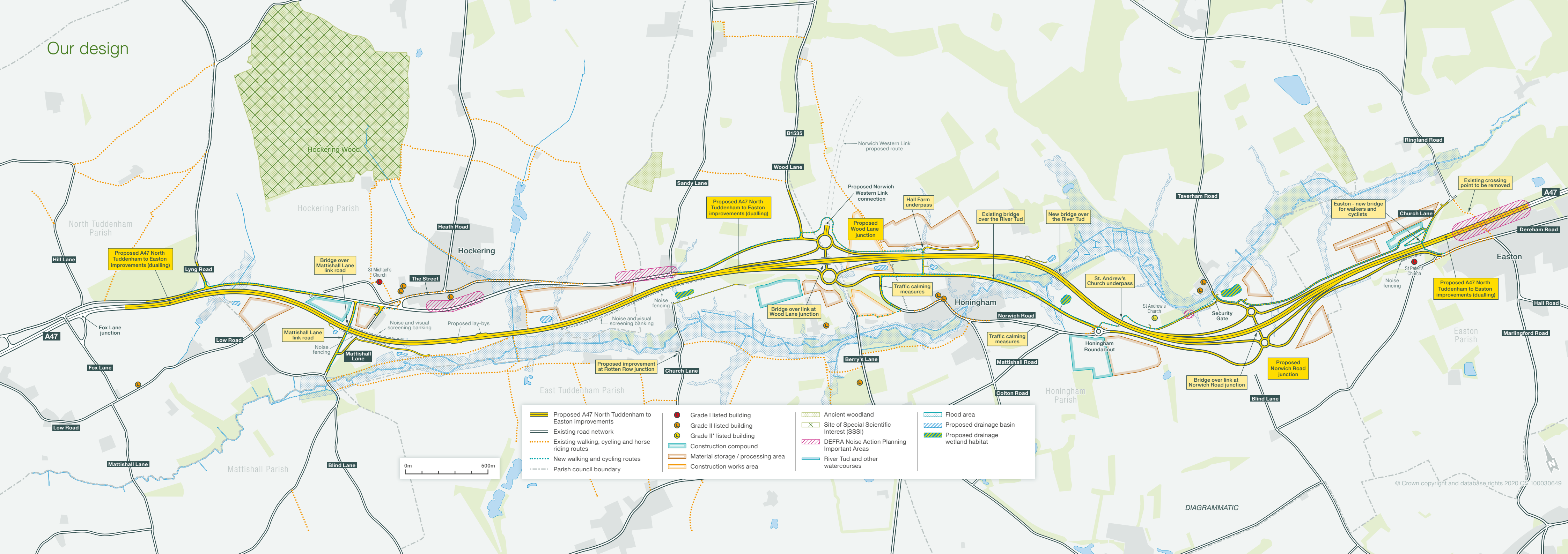
Scheme benefits

- improve safety for all road users and those living in the local area
- reduce congestion, make journey times more reliable and provide capacity for future traffic growth
- provide a safer route between communities for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vulnerable users
- improve resilience of the road to cope with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns and maintenance
- protect the environment by minimising any adverse impacts and where possible, deliver benefits
- help enable regional development and growth in Norwich and its surrounding area

Timeline



Our design



What we'll be building

- 5.5 miles (9km) of new dual carriageway, running to the south of the existing A47 at Hockering and north of the existing A47 at Honingham
- Removing the existing roundabout at Easton to create a free-flowing road
- Building four bridges over:
 - the new Mattishall Lane link road
 - the proposed Wood Lane junction
 - the River Tud
 - the proposed Norwich Road junction
- Connecting Sandy Lane to the A47 via a new side road with access to the new Wood Lane junction
- Two new lay-bys on the A47 between Fox Lane and the new Wood Lane junctions
- Closure of Church Lane, Berry's Lane, Blind Lane, Church Road/Honingham Lane to through-traffic to improve safety
- Constructing a new underpass for walkers and cyclists
- Creating a new route for walkers and cyclists to link
 - Honingham with St Andrews Church via an underpass below the A47
 - Easton with Lower Easton via a bridge over the A47

Construction

At times, some of our work may be noisy and cause construction dust, but we'll work closely with the local authorities and our communities to manage this wherever possible.

Due to the nature of construction, some full road closures may be required for specific activities and will be coordinated to minimise the number of closures required. Details of full closures will be arranged with the local highways authorities and via stakeholder engagement and we'll communicate these as work progresses.

As a founder of the Considerate Constructors Scheme, we aim to always provide a safe environment for all those working on or travelling through our roadworks, while keeping delays to a minimum and motorists informed about our work.

We'll give advance notice of road closures on our website, via social media and road signs, and will share regular progress updates with stakeholders, local councils and residents. Please check for possible road closures and plan your route ahead of your journey.

Working hours

To allow us to complete our work efficiently and limit disruption to traffic, we'll be working Mondays to Saturdays, and occasionally some Sundays. Our daytime working hours will be between 7am to 7pm, although we are likely to work longer hours during the summer to take advantage of the longer days and better weather. This will be agreed in advance with the local planning authority.

Speed limit

A 40mph temporary speed limit will be in place through the roadworks, but this could be lower around the areas we are working for safety reasons.

Public footpaths

We'll keep these paths open for walkers and cyclists during construction, although some temporary changes to the existing routes will be necessary. We'll communicate this information on signs by the roadside.

Lighting

We'll remove the existing street lights and replace them with temporary lights that will be used during construction, to help maintain safety for all road users.

Environmental management

Protecting the environment is a key consideration for our A47 North Tuddenham to Easton scheme. We continue to engage with Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England to identify practical steps we can take to reduce environmental effects and deliver wider benefits.

These include:

- Providing protected species with new habitats in woodland areas
- Using earth banks, noise fences and low noise road surfaces to help reduce road traffic noise for nearby properties
- Building new walking, cycling and horse-riding routes with safe crossing points
- Ensuring heritage and archaeological sites are excavated, recorded and understood
- Planting trees, hedgerows and wildflowers to help blend the road into the landscape to protect and enhance the local wildlife
- Using fences to protect wildlife and providing safe crossings using mammal tunnels
- Creating two new wetland habitats at Oak Farm and Hockering streams



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National Highways creative job number CRE22_0020

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

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