

Scheme update

Spring 2023

A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling

Investing in the A47

The A47 is an important route linking the cities of Norwich and Peterborough, the towns of Wisbech, King's 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 [infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk](https://www.infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

The A47 road improvement schemes 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 (DCO granted October 2022)
- A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling (DCO granted February 2023)
- A47 Great Yarmouth junction



About the A47 Wansford dualling scheme

In February 2023, we received development consent from the Secretary of State to proceed with our improvements to the A47 between Wansford and Sutton. This is the fourth scheme in the A47 programme to successfully go through the DCO process.

The Wansford to Sutton section of the A47 is approximately 1.6 miles long, located to the west of Peterborough between the existing junction with the A1 and the Nene Way roundabout near Sutton.

Our work will involve upgrading the A47 between Wansford and Sutton from a single carriageway to a dual carriageway. This will also include a new free-flow link road from the A1 southbound to A47 eastbound, roundabout improvements, and an enhanced route for walking, cycling and horse riding.

Why is this dual carriageway needed?

Whilst around half of the A47 is already a dual carriageway, the Wansford to Sutton section is not. This section of the A47 acts as a bottleneck and causes congestion, with longer and less reliable journey times.

The existing A47 has one of the highest recorded accident rates for an A-road in the UK. Traffic data from 2019 shows this section of the road is used by over 34,000 vehicles a day.

The scheme aims to improve road safety by reducing the number of accidents and consequently the number of casualties. Over a 60-year timeframe, the scheme's improvements could prevent up to 160 accidents and save 42 people from being killed or seriously injured.

Scheme benefits:

- Improve safety for all road users, ensuring the design meets modern standards for major A-roads
- Make journey times shorter and more reliable, and provide capacity for an increase in future traffic
- Contribute to sustainable economic growth
- Cope better with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns, road maintenance and extreme weather
- Provide an enhanced route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders

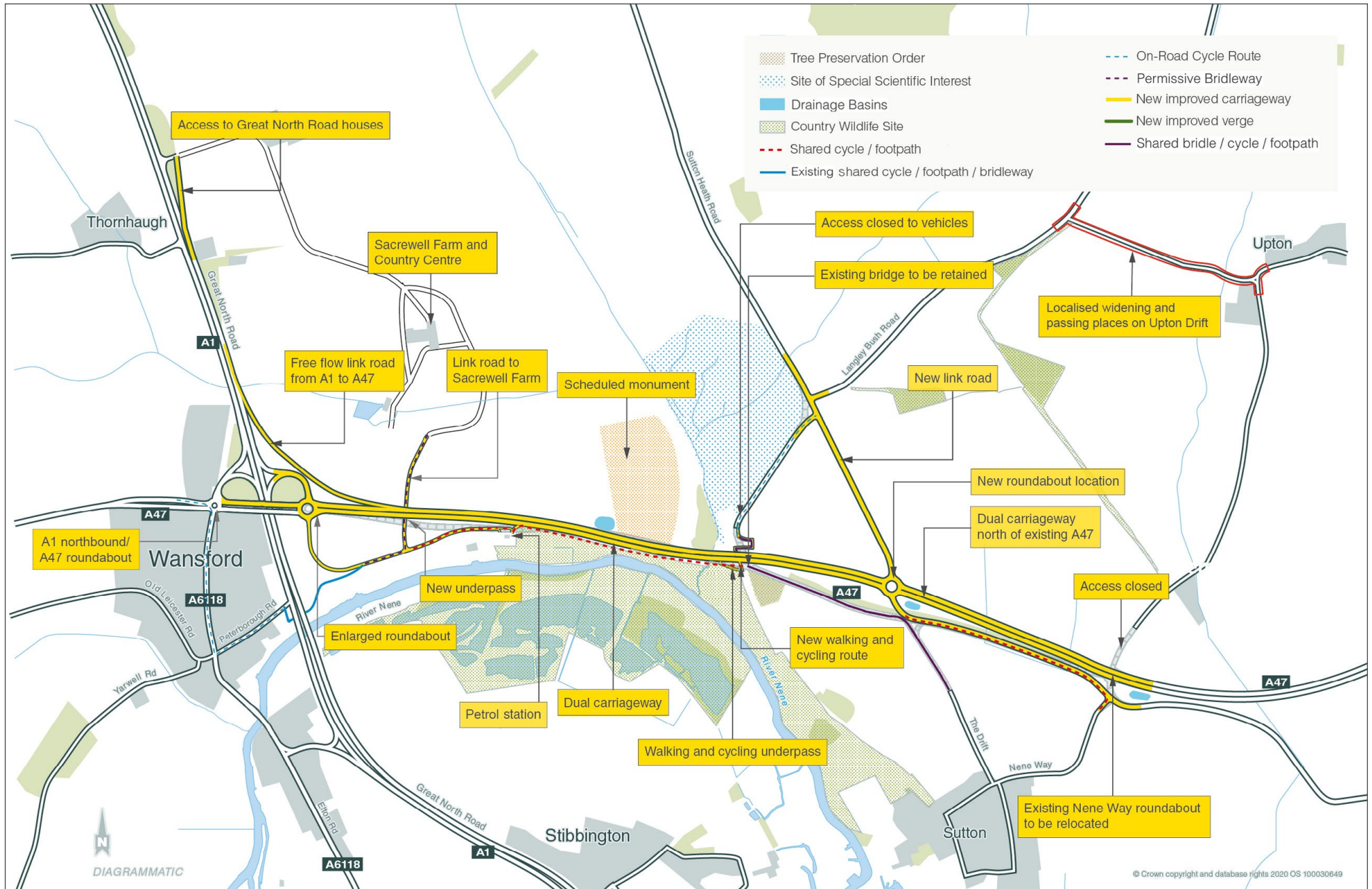


What we'll be building:

- Approximately 1.6 miles of new dual carriageway
- A dedicated slip road from the A1 southbound to the A47 eastbound
- A new link road from A1 southbound/A47 roundabout to provide access to Sacrewell Farm, the petrol station and the Anglian Water pumping station
- A link road from the new A47 Sutton Heath roundabout, linking into Sutton Heath Road and Langley Bush Road
- New junction arrangements for access to Sutton Heath Road and Langley Bush Road
- New passing places and some widening along Upton Drift (also referenced as Main Road)
- A new walking and cycling route will pass under the A47 at the existing Sutton Heath junction
- A new access to the A47 for the village of Upton via Sutton Heath Road, joining at the new roundabout
- Improve the A1 northbound/A47 roundabout by:
 - improving the eastbound exit onto the the A47
 - providing a new cycle crossing on the A47 west of the Wansford roundabouts
- Improve the A1 southbound/A47 roundabout by enlarging it and providing access to the new link road



A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling – scheme map



Construction

At times, some of our work may be disruptive, but we'll work closely with the local authorities and our communities to limit this wherever possible.

Due to the nature of construction, some full road closures may be required for specific activities. We will coordinate our activities with the local highways authority and stakeholders to minimise the number of closures required. Details of full closures will be communicated 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 scheme webpage, 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 generally be working Mondays to Saturdays, and occasionally on some Sundays.

Where possible, our daytime working hours will be between 7am and 7pm but may be shorter during the winter months. We will consult with the local authority about night time working, which if required, will be between 8pm and 6am.

Speed limit

Where necessary, a 30mph temporary speed limit will be in place through the roadworks for safety reasons.

Lighting

We may need to remove some existing street lights. Where required, we'll replace them with temporary lights during our work to maintain safety for all road users.



Environmental management

Improving the environment is a key consideration for our A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme.

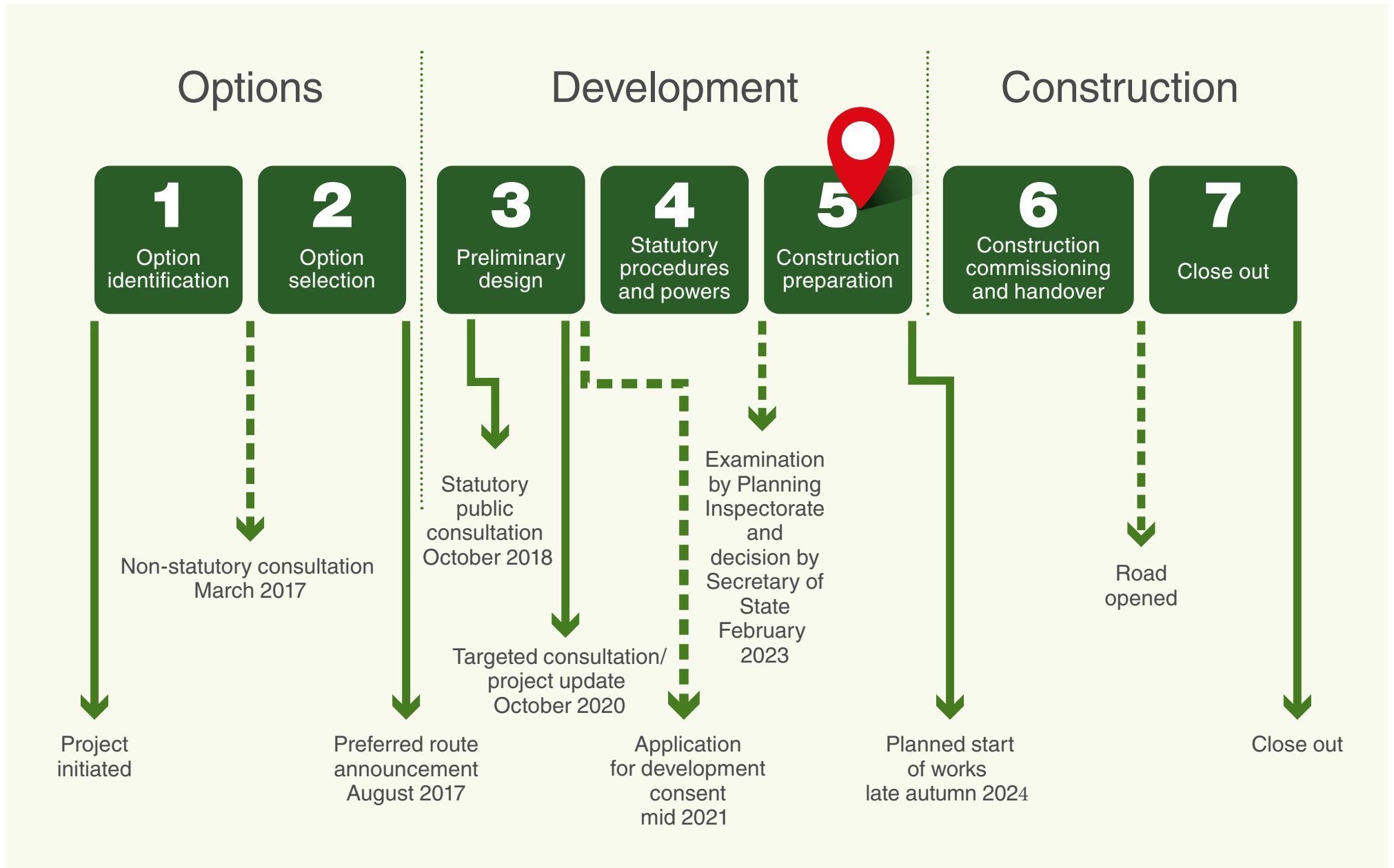
We continue to engage with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England to identify practical steps we can take to reduce environmental impacts and deliver wider benefits.

These include:

- Providing protected species with new habitats in woodland areas
- Installing new bird and bat boxes on existing trees and nesting banks
- Ensuring heritage and archaeological sites are carefully excavated, recorded and understood
- Planting native trees, hedgerows and wildflowers will protect and enhance the local wildlife and help to blend the road into the landscape
- Using fences to protect wildlife and providing safe crossings using a mammal tunnel



Timeline



If you need help accessing this or any other National Highways information, please call **0300 123 5000** or email: **A47WansfordtoSuttonRIS@nationalhighways.co.uk** and we will help you.

Stay informed

Stay informed by following us on social media or visiting our scheme website, where you can also sign up for regular updates, or please contact us using the details below:

You can sign up to receive updates on our scheme website at:

www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A47Wansford

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Tel: 0300 123 5000

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

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