

## A47/A11 Thickthorn junction

### Scheme update – Autumn 2022

#### 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](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 (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/A11 Thickthorn junction scheme

We are expecting to receive a decision on our DCO from the Secretary of State in October 2022. This will be our third scheme in the A47 programme to go through the DCO process.

The Thickthorn junction is important for commuter, business and commercial traffic, on both short and long-distance journeys.

Due to future developments of approximately 3,000 new residential houses planned and commercial business units, this local growth means the junction will be unable to cope with the increase in congestion. The scheme will help relieve congestion by providing two new free flowing slip roads that will connect the A47 with the A11 and re-route traffic away from the existing junction.

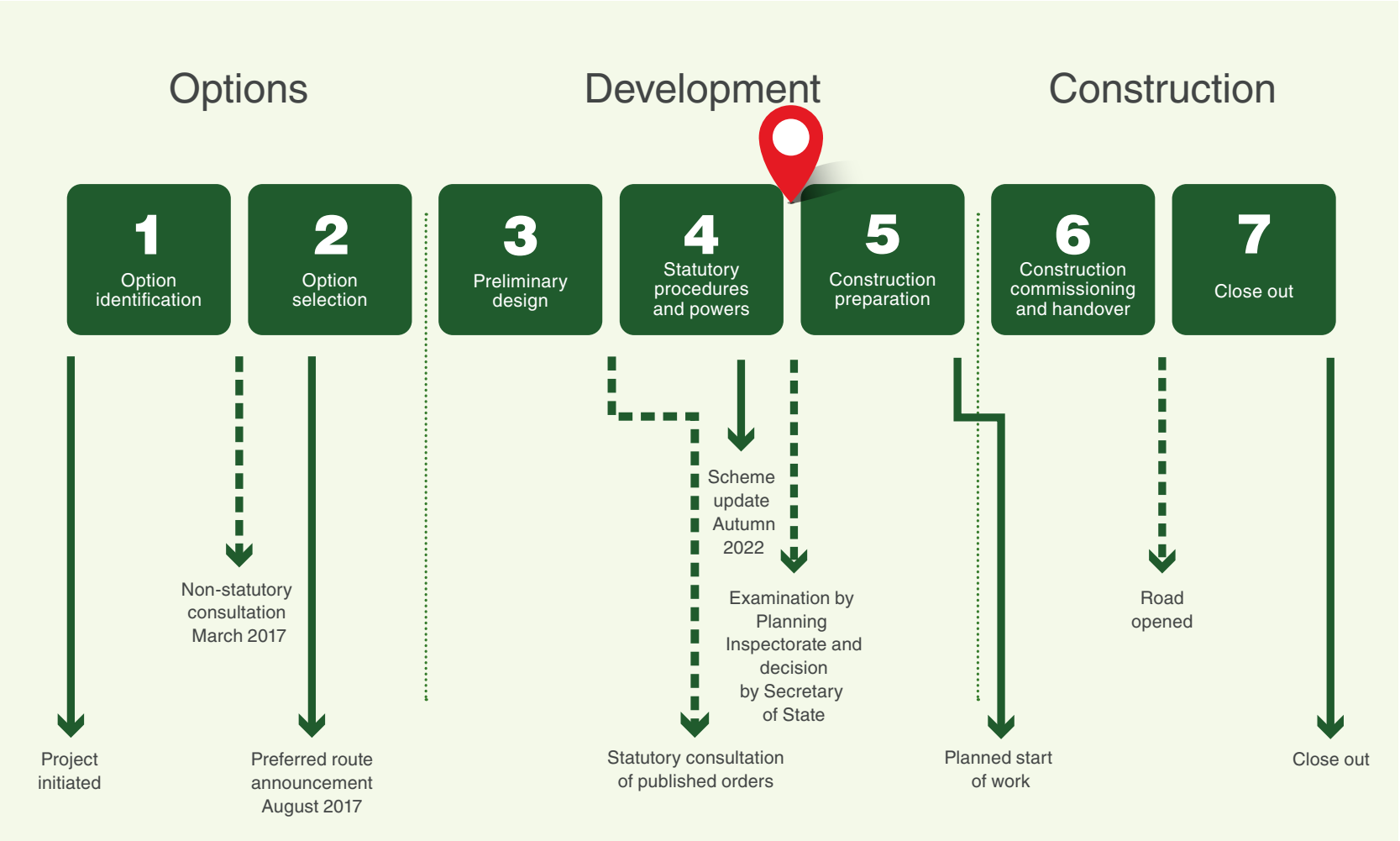
Changes will be made to the existing roundabout at the A47/A11 Thickthorn junction, providing additional lanes for traffic, improving traffic signals and pedestrian crossings.

In addition, a new 0.5 mile (0.95km) road between Cantley Lane South and the B1172 Norwich Road will be constructed to allow continued access to the Thickthorn junction. A new footbridge crossing the A47 between Cantley Lane South and Cantley Lane will accommodate walkers, cyclists and horse riders and replace the existing footbridge.

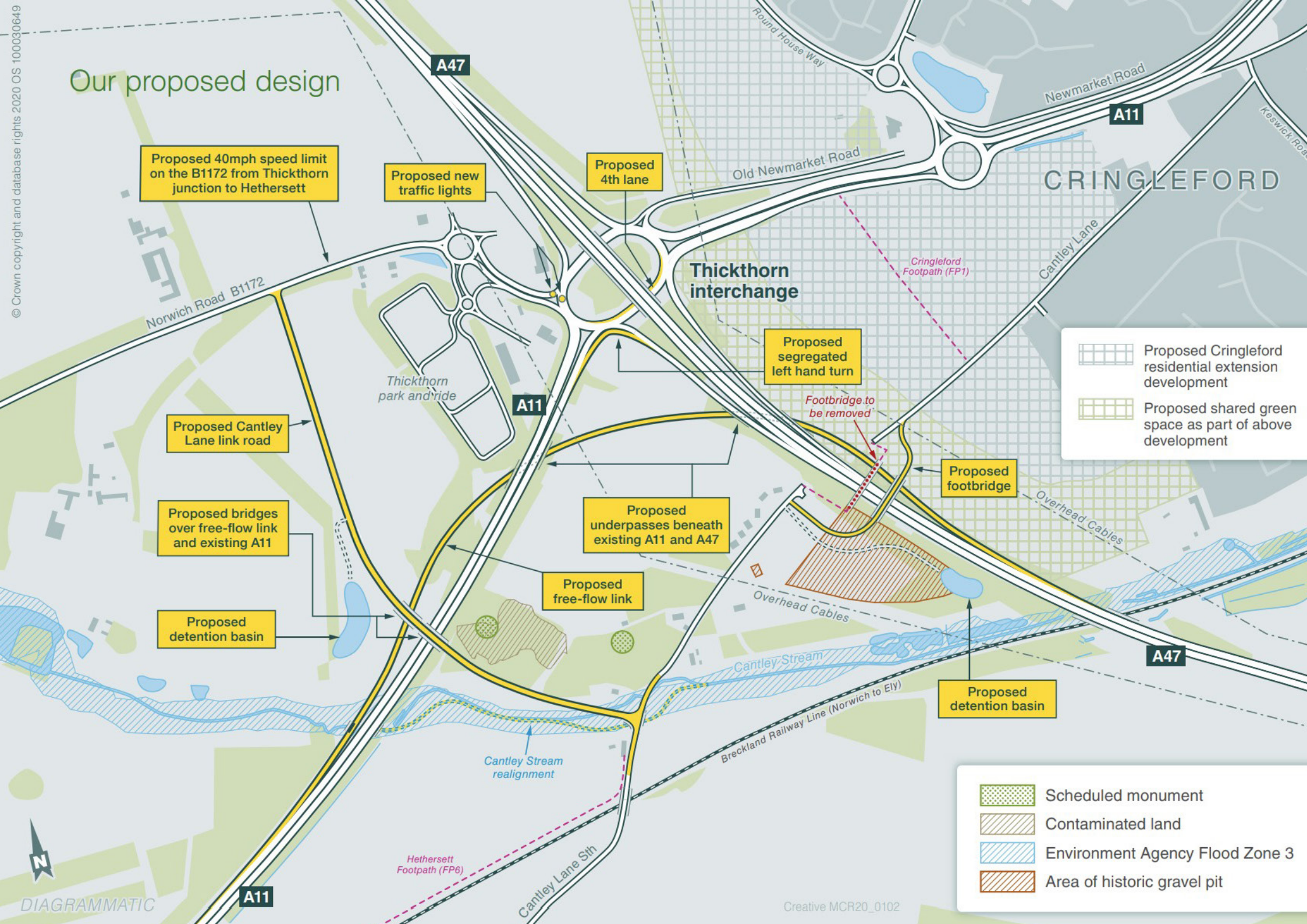
# Scheme benefits

- improve road safety for motorists and for those living near the junction
- provide a safer route for walkers, cyclist, horse riders and vulnerable users
- reduce congestion, make journey times more reliable, and increase capacity
- help the road cope better if there are vehicle collisions or breakdowns, and during road maintenance
- support regional housing and economic growth in Norwich and the surrounding areas
- protect the environment by minimising adverse impacts and, where possible, deliver benefits
- improve access roads for local communities

# Timeline







## The design

- A single-lane free-flowing link road connecting the A11 northbound to A47 eastbound via two underpasses (under the A11 and A47 respectively)
- Improve the junction by:
  - widening the existing slip road on the A47 westbound and building a left-hand free-flow, dedicated exit lane to the A11 southbound
  - widening the southern section of the roundabout from three lanes to four
  - new traffic lights on the approach to / from the junction with the B1172 Norwich Road
  - new road surface, road signs and road markings throughout the junction
- Add a new link road connecting Cantley Lane South with the B1172 Norwich Road to the north
- A new junction at the B1172 Norwich Road connecting to the new Cantley Lane link road
- A new junction at Cantley Lane South connecting to the new Cantley Lane link road
- The existing Cantley Lane stream and access track will be realigned, and a new stream constructed
- A new footbridge over the A47 for walkers, cyclists and horse riders featuring higher railings for horse riders
- Paths for walking and cycling along the new Cantley Lane link road with access to the Park and Ride





## 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 highway authorities and via stakeholder engagement. 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 open for walkers and cyclists during construction, although some temporary changes to the existing routes will be necessary whilst we carry out our work. 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/A11 Thickthorn junction scheme. We have regularly engaged with the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England throughout the planning process, and will continue to work with them as the scheme progresses. This has helped to identify practical steps we can take to reduce environmental impacts, deliver wider benefits such as protecting wildlife and their habitats, and control noise for residents.





If you need help accessing this or any other National Highways information, please call **0300 123 5000** or email: **a47a11thickthornjunctionris@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/A47thickthorn](http://www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A47thickthorn)**



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