# Wansford Parish Council

## Deadline 5 Submission

## Comments on Document 9.16 Applicant's Response to Written Representations

## A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling

The applicants written response to written representations raises a number of issues as set out below:

Section 3 Responses to Wansford Parish Council (Rep2-071)

Ref 2.1 Purpose of the Document

The Applicants response makes reference to the minutes of the Preferred Route Decision Meeting in Appendix O of document AS-031. It is very clear from the minutes that this meeting applied the wrong decision criteria when considering the impact of Option 3 (the northern route) on the Scheduled Monument. The entire train of errors in the selection of the route stems from this single error.

Ref 2.3 The Route

The Applicant spent a great deal of time talking to Wansford Parish Council but they did not listen to what was said. This is not consultation.

Ref 3.1 National Highways

The Applicant states that cutting through the Scheduled Monument would result in substantial harm. This statement is not based on any evidence and it is quite clear that when the route decision was made, no attempt had been made to look at the features of the Scheduled Monument. It was just referred to as a single entity. Again there is a vague mention of "negative space" but if this criteria were applied, it would be impossible to build any road scheme anywhere in the country.

On page 12 it is stated that there was extensive consultation with Wansford Parish Council but this does not explain why National Highways deliberately blocked any discussion including NH, PCC, the Parish Councils and Historic England. The Parishes tried to make such a meeting happen but NH blocked it. This point is not responded to by the Applicant.

Ref 3.2 Historic England

The Applicants responses are irrelevant to the issues raised by Wansford Parish Council.

Ref 4 Geotechnical Risk

The Applicants response outlines the standard response to geotechnical risk but, although these measures reduce the risk, they do not eliminate it. The measures they outline as possible solutions will be expensive and will increase the impact of the scheme both in terms of construction disruption and embedded carbon.

Section 4 Wansford Parish Council (REP2-072)

Ref 1.1 Purpose of the Document

The Applicant claims that the Western Roundabout is outside the scope of the Scheme. This is directly contradicted by the inclusion of modifications to the roundabout in earlier versions of the Scheme.

Ref 1.2 Why this document is needed

The applicant makes great play of the fact that a new version of the traffic modelling has been produced (REP2-026). This new document still contains the same claim that the traffic on Old North Road will almost halve between 2015 and 2019, a claim that is directly contradicted by site measurements. The reduction comes about because of the application of a very crude modelling algorithm based on just time and distance. It takes no account of driver behaviour and this is why the results are implausible.

Wansford Parish Council have suggested that a very simple sensitivity test based on the Old North Road Traffic growing in line with the other flows. The Applicant claims that this cannot be done because of the need to balance the flows in the model. Because only a single flow is being adjusted, the model can be balanced by the use of a simple spreadsheet within a few minutes.

The Applicant seems to believe that the output from a relatively crude assessment methodology is the only possible set of figures to use. In view of the Applicants record of complete failure of traffic modelling in this area (in relation to the upgrade of the eastern roundabout a few years ago), going with just a single set of figures is somewhat rash.

Ref 3.2 An alternative approach

It is clear from the Applicants response that they have misunderstood the intention of the alternative. No one has suggested two lanes in the western roundabout. The two lanes are for the traffic light option. They have also raised the issue of the bridge being a constraint. This is not true.