

# A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling

**Scheme Number: TR010040**

## **Volume 5**

### **5.1 Consultation Report**

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed  
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

December 2020

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning  
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and  
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

A47 Blofield to North Burlingham  
Development Consent Order 202[x]

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**CONSULTATION REPORT**

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Consultation Report relates to the proposed A47 Blofield and North Burlingham scheme (the Scheme). In seeking the legal powers to construct and operate the Scheme, Highways England is making an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Secretary of State. Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) requires Highways England to submit this Consultation Report as part of its application for development consent under the PA 2008.
- 1.1.2 The Scheme meets the criteria to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under the PA 2008 and the Highway and Railway (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) Order 2013. The Scheme is a 'Highways' Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Section 22 of the PA 2008 (as amended) as it is for the alteration of a highway that is wholly within England, where Highways England is the highway authority, and the area of development will be greater than 12.5 hectares.
- 1.1.3 This Consultation Report explains how Highways England has complied with the consultation requirements set out in the PA 2008 and associated Regulations and guidance. Guidance about the report and the pre-application process, including statutory consultation, is found in the Department for Communities and Local Government's (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) document *Planning Act 2008: guidance on the pre-application process* (March 2015).
- 1.1.4 This Consultation Report's primary function is to provide evidence to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) about Highways England's compliance with the requirements of the pre-application procedure.
- 1.1.5 As stated in the DCLG pre-application guidance, the Consultation Report should:
- provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline
  - set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the PA 2008, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate
  - set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's Statement of Community Consultation
  - set out a summary of relevant responses advising to consultation (but not a complete list of responses)
  - provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed

- provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts
- where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with the guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken
- be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.

## 1.2 Consultation context

- 1.2.1 Highways England's network is vital to the UK economy, and is essential to keeping the country moving. That importance is reflected in government funding, which has been stepped up from £15.2 billion to £27.4 billion of investment on the strategic road network over the next five-year period: the largest investments in a generation. The Scheme is a critical part of this investment and will improve journeys between Norwich and Great Yarmouth.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme is part of a package of six projects to improve journeys on the 115-mile section of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together, the proposals will relieve congestion and improve the reliability of journey times for drivers.
- 1.2.3 The Blofield to North Burlingham section of the A47 is located approximately 9 kilometres to the east of Norwich. This 2.6 kilometres of single carriageway forms a part of the main arterial highway route connecting Norwich with Great Yarmouth to the east.
- 1.2.4 The section of A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham acts as a bottleneck, resulting in congestion and leading to longer and unreliable journey times. This section of the A47 also has a poor safety record. Highways England's studies have identified that the single carriageway section of the road no longer meets the needs of its users.
- 1.2.5 In developing the Scheme, Highways England aims to address these issues by upgrading the existing section of single carriageway to a high-quality dual carriageway.
- 1.2.6 The objectives of the Scheme are:

**Supporting economic growth** - The Scheme aims to reduce congestion related delay, improve journey time reliability and increase the overall capacity of the A47. This will help contribute to sustainable economic growth by supporting employment and residential development opportunities.

**Making a safer network** - Improving road safety for all road users by designing to modern highway standards appropriate for a major A road.

**A more free-flowing network** - Increasing the resilience of the junction in coping with incidents such as collisions, breakdowns, maintenance and extreme weather. The improved A47 Blofield to North Burlingham will be more reliable, reducing

*journey times and providing capacity for future traffic growth.*

**Protected environment** - *We will protect the environment by minimising adverse impacts and where possible, improving the environmental effects of transport on those living along the route of the new and existing road. We will do this by reducing the impact on the natural and built environment by the new road and any associated works.*

**An accessible and integrated network** - *To ensure the proposals consider local communities and access to the road network, providing a safer route between communities for cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians and vulnerable users where a need is identified.*

**Value for money** - *To ensure that the Scheme is affordable and delivers good value for money.*

- 1.2.7 The entirety of the Scheme is located within the administrative areas of Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council.
- 1.2.8 The Scheme passes through the parishes of Blofield, Lingwood and Burlingham, Beighton and Acle. Each of these is represented by a parish council.
- 1.2.9 Parts of the Scheme are in areas that were highlighted as being at a higher risk of having no or limited access to the internet. This reinforces the importance of using a variety of techniques to publicise consultation activities and to allow people to take part in consultations. Highways England considered this as it developed plans to consult people in the vicinity of the Scheme.

### 1.3 Summary of consultation activities

- 1.3.1 Highways England held a non-statutory options consultation (from Monday 13 March 2017 to Friday 21 April 2017) for the Scheme option selection. A statutory pre-application stage of consultation (from Monday 10 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018) was held for the preliminary design.
- 1.3.2 Figure 1.1 provides an overview of consultation activities for the Scheme.



Figure 1.1 Consultation timeline

- 1.3.3 Table 1.1 sets out more detail of the consultation activities included in Figure 1.1.

Table 1.1 Summary of consultation activities	
Consultation activity undertaken	Date and supporting details
<b>Non-statutory consultation on route options – Monday 13 March 2017 to Friday 21 April 2017 (see Chapter 2 of this report for more information)</b>	
Consultation leaflet advertising the consultation sent to be delivered to homes and businesses in the consultation zone.	Thursday 2 March 2017
Invitation sent to local MPs, local councillors and other key stakeholders to attend previews of the consultation exhibition in Norwich and Peterborough.	Thursday 2 March 2017
Dedicated Scheme web page ( <a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a> ) updated with consultation information and documents.	Monday 13 March 2017
Notices advertising the consultation posted at strategic locations around the Blofield, North Burlingham and Lingwood area.	Monday 13 March 2017
Notices posted at the exhibition venues advertising the consultation.	Monday 13 March 2017
Local newspaper advertising.	Published week commencing Monday 13 March 2017 in the following publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Norwich Evening News</i></li> <li>• <i>Eastern Daily Press</i></li> <li>• <i>Great Yarmouth Mercury</i></li> </ul>
Press release issued to local media.	Wednesday 15 March 2017



Table 1.1 Summary of consultation activities	
Consultation activity undertaken	Date and supporting details
Interviews on local television news and radio.	Monday 13 March 2017, The Forum, Norwich  Tuesday 14 March 2017, Peterborough Town Hall
Hard copies of the consultation documents made available to view free of charge at The Forum in the centre of Norwich.	From Monday 13 March 2017 to Friday 21 April 2017
<b>Consultation events</b>	
<b>The Forum</b> Millennium Plain Norwich NR2 1TF	Preview for MPs, councillors and other stakeholders  Tuesday 14 March 2017 1pm – 3pm
<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road Lingwood Norwich NR13 4AZ	Public event  Wednesday 29 March 2017 3pm – 8pm
<b>Blofield Courthouse</b> Yarmouth Road Blofield Norwich NR13 4JU	Public event  Friday 31 March 2017 10am – 5pm
<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road Lingwood Norwich NR13 4AZ	Public event  Saturday 1 April 2017 10am – 2pm
<b>Preferred route announcement – August 2017 (see Chapter 2 of this report for more information)</b>	



Table 1.1 Summary of consultation activities	
Consultation activity undertaken	Date and supporting details
Preferred route announcement update information sheet published on the Scheme's dedicated website ( <a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a> ).	Published on Monday 14 August 2017
Hard copies of the non-statutory consultation report, summarising the feedback received at the consultation from March 2017 to April 2017, made available to view free of charge. The report was made available for six weeks at Norwich Library.	Norwich Library The Forum Millennium Plain Norwich, NR2 1TF  From Monday 14 August 2017 to Sunday 24 September 2017
<b>Consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation – August 2018 (see Chapter 3 of this report for more information)</b>	
Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) issued to host local authorities Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council for consultation, as prescribed by Section 47(3) of the PA 2008.	Wednesday 1 August 2018 to Wednesday 29 August 2018
<b>Statutory consultation – Monday 10 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018 (see Chapter 3 of this report for more information)</b>	
Letter issued to identified local stakeholders and media contacts, inviting them to attend a consultation launch event on Monday 10 September 2018 at the Forum in Norwich.	Friday 24 August 2018
Notification sent to PINS (on behalf of the Secretary of State) of the proposed application as prescribed by Section 46 of the PA 2008.	Thursday 6 September 2018
Letter issued to residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Scheme, notifying them about the consultation in accordance with the SoCC as prescribed under Section 47(7) of the PA 2008. The letter stated the consultation period of Monday 10 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018.	Thursday 6 September 2018

Table 1.1 Summary of consultation activities	
Consultation activity undertaken	Date and supporting details
Letters issued to notify consultees under Section 42 of the PA 2008 about Highways England's statutory consultation. The letters stated the consultation period of Monday 10 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018.	Friday 7 September 2018
Letter issued to additional local stakeholders identified in the published SoCC, updating them about the consultation. This included groups and organisations representing hard to reach groups.	Friday 7 September 2018
SoCC made available in the vicinity of the proposal as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the PA 2008.	Monday 10 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018
Notice of availability of the SoCC in the vicinity of the proposal published as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the PA 2008.	Published in the <i>Eastern Daily Press</i> on Monday 10 September 2018
Proposed application publicised as prescribed by Section 48 of the PA 2008 and the regulation 4 in the APFP Regulation 2009.	Published in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Eastern Daily Press</i> on Monday 10 September 2018 and Monday 17 September 2018</li> <li>• <i>The Guardian</i> on Monday 10 September 2018</li> <li>• <i>The London Gazette</i> on Monday 10 September 2018</li> </ul>
Scheme web page updated with consultation information, documents and online feedback form.	Monday 10 September 2018
Press release about the Scheme and statutory consultation issued to local media to publish.	Friday 7 September 2018
<b>Consultation events</b>	

Table 1.1 Summary of consultation activities	
Consultation activity undertaken	Date and supporting details
<b>The Auditorium</b> The Forum Millennium Plain Norwich NR2 1TF	Launch briefing event Monday 10 September 2018 1pm – 3pm
<b>Castle Mall</b> 100 Castle Meadow Norwich NR1 3DD	Public event Saturday 15 September 2018 11am – 5pm
<b>Acle Recreation Centre</b> Acle Norwich Norfolk NR13 3RA	Public event Saturday 22 September 2018 11am – 5pm
<b>Blofield Courthouse</b> Yarmouth Road Blofield Norwich NR13 4JU	Public event Tuesday 24 September 2018 1pm to 8pm
<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road Lingwood Norwich NR13 4AZ	Public event Tuesday 25 September 2018 1pm to 8pm
<b>Locations consultation documents were made available to view – 10 September 2018 to 19 October 2018</b>	
Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ	
Blofield Library, North Street, Blofield, NR14 4RQ	
Blofield Post Office, 10 Church Alley, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JJ	
Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW	
Norwich City Council, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH	
Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH	
Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU	

## 2 NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON ROUTE OPTIONS

### 2.1 Overview of the non-statutory consultation

- 2.1.1 Highways England conducted a period of non-statutory consultation on route options for upgrading the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham (the Scheme). It took place from Monday 13 March 2017 to Friday 21 April 2017.
- 2.1.2 The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to seek views on the outline proposals and route options for the Scheme from the general public and stakeholders. It was stated by Highways England that comments received as a result of the consultation process would be considered.
- 2.1.3 As part of the consultation process, Highways England actively sought to discuss the proposals with parties directly affected by the proposals, such as landowners and those with business interests in the vicinity of the Scheme.
- 2.1.4 Highways England prepared a Consultation Report following this consultation, detailing how people, stakeholders and interested bodies were consulted and the feedback received. This is provided in Annex A (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

### 2.2 Scope of the non-statutory consultation

- 2.2.1 Highways England developed four route options for the Scheme and presented them at the non-statutory consultation. All four options resolved the transport problem; in that they would allow for a safer, swifter movement of traffic along the route corridor. Figures 2.1 to 2.4 are shown together overleaf to facilitate the reader comparing the options.
- 2.2.2 All options had two main junctions situated on the A47 and a new local access link road would be created to the north of the newly dualled A47.
- 2.2.3 For options 2 to 4, the existing A47 would become part of the local road network where it is not directly impacted by the new dual carriageway.  
*Route option one*
- 2.2.4 Option one proposed to improve the single carriageway section of the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham to dual carriageway standard by constructing a new section of online dual carriageway.
- 2.2.5 This new carriageway option included junction improvements and attempted to use as much of the existing carriageway as possible. A plan of option one is shown in Figure 2.1.  
*Route option two*
- 2.2.6 Option two proposed to build a new offline dual carriageway to the north and to the south of the existing road. The proposed new dual carriageway would run to the north of the A47 as the route heads east away from the village of Blofield, and to the south of the existing A47, as the route passes the village of North Burlingham, crossing the existing A47 between the villages.

- 2.2.7 The route passed predominantly through open farmland. The remaining existing A47 would, where unaffected by the new dual carriageway, become part of the local road network. Junction improvements were proposed. A plan of option two is shown in Figure 2.2.

*Route option three*

- 2.2.8 Option three proposed to build a new offline dual carriageway to the south of the existing road. The route passed predominantly through open farmland.
- 2.2.9 The proposed route to the south of the existing carriageway would effectively be a new highway corridor, so there would be a need to acquire land along the route to accommodate the improvements.
- 2.2.10 The remaining existing A47 would, where unaffected by the new dual carriageway, become part of the local road network. A plan of option three is shown in Figure 2.3.

*Route option four*

- 2.2.11 Option four proposed building a new offline dual carriageway to the south of the existing road. The route would pass predominantly through open farmland.
- 2.2.12 The proposed route of the A47 to the south of the existing would effectively be a new highway corridor.
- 2.2.13 The remaining existing A47 would, where unaffected by the new dual carriageway, become part of the local road network. The existing carriageway could be retained for access to fields, farms, properties and for non-motorised groups such as pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders where possible. A plan of option four is shown in Figure 2.4.

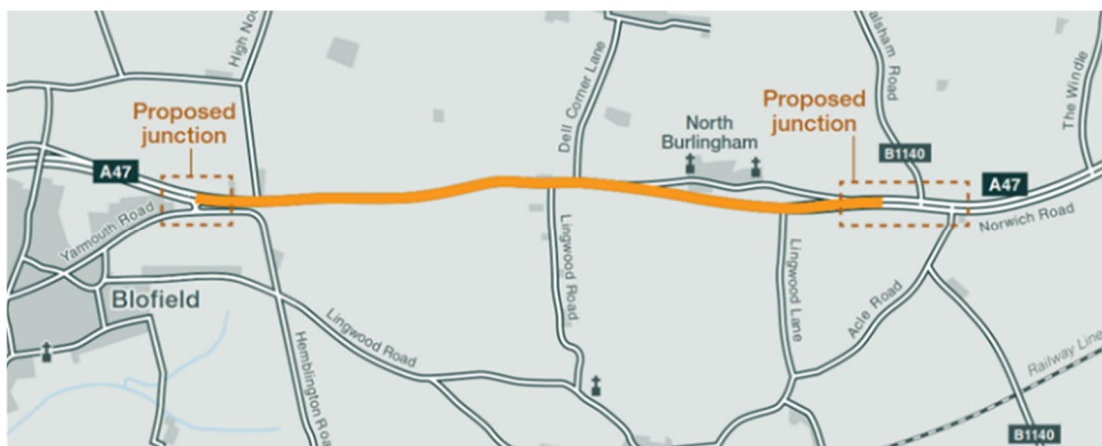


Figure 2.1 Option one



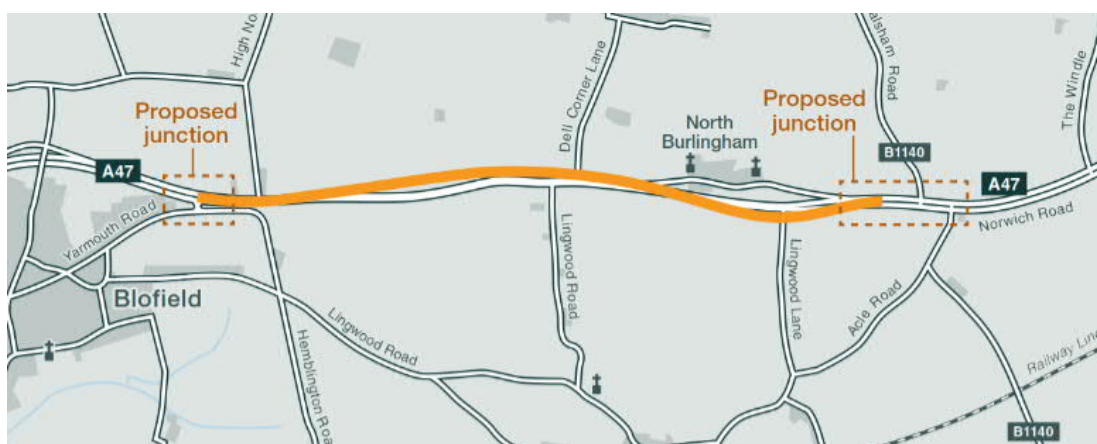


Figure 2.2 Option two

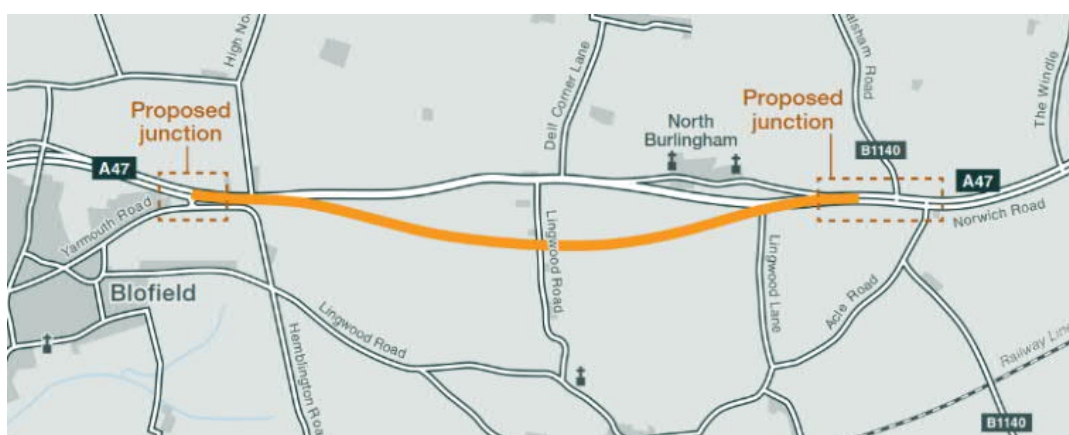


Figure 2.1 Option three

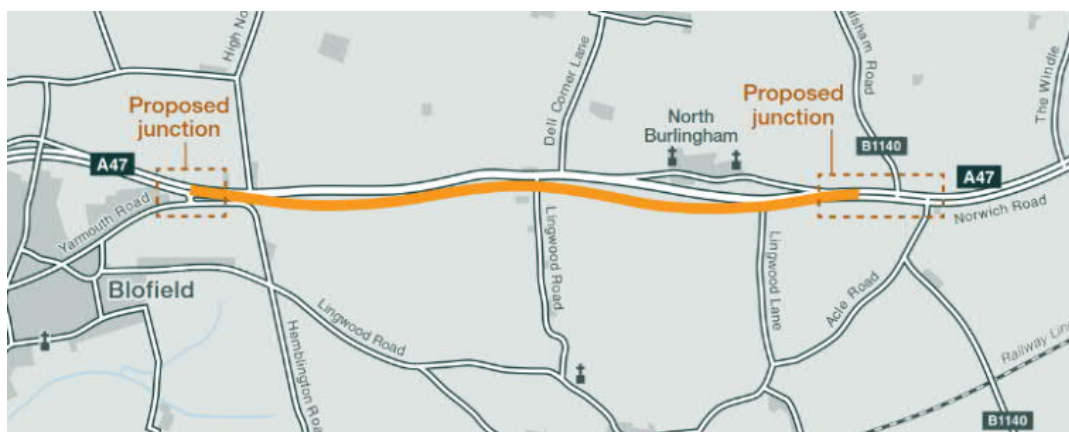


Figure 2.1 Option four

## 2.3 Alternative options considered at earlier stage of the Scheme

- 2.3.1 As part of the supporting information for the consultation, a Scheme Assessment Report (SAR) and an accompanying Non-Technical Summary report about alternative options considered was prepared and made available to the public via the Scheme's website.
- 2.3.2 This document provides background information on the Scheme's development prior to the non-statutory consultation and includes details of the alternative options considered along with the reasoning for these not being taken forward.

2.3.3 These alternative options did not perform well against the objectives and were not progressed any further.

2.3.4 The SAR and Non-Technical Summary are available to view online:  
<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham-dualling/results/a47blofieldtonorthburlingham/a47sarimps2-ame-bb-zz-do-i00061.pdf>

## **2.4 Consultation methods**

2.4.1 Highways England used a range of consultation methods to publicise the consultation on route options and make sure stakeholders, local people and businesses had an opportunity to learn more about the Scheme and give Highways England their feedback.

2.4.2 The consultation was advertised as follows:

- Highways England press release issued on Wednesday 15 March 2017:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/have-your-say-on-plans-to-dual-and-improve-junctions-on-the-a47>
- invitation letter sent to stakeholders on Thursday 2 March 2017 to attend consultation launch events on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 March 2017 in Norwich and Peterborough respectively
- advertisements in local newspapers including Norwich Evening News, Eastern Daily Press and Great Yarmouth Mercury
- interviews on local television news and radio
- notices posted at strategic locations around the Blofield, North Burlingham and Lingwood area before the public events
- leaflet drops were undertaken around Blofield and North Burlingham, issued on Thursday 2 March 2017 to homes and businesses in the consultation zone shown in Figure 2.5. This comprised 6,436 residential and 205 business addresses
- notices posted at the exhibition venue on the days of the exhibition
- a 'static' advertisement was set up at the Forum in central Norwich.





Figure 2.5: Non-statutory consultation zone

- 2.4.3 A consultation brochure was created for the non-statutory consultation stage to provide more information in an accessible format about the proposed route options. This is provided in Annex B (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- 2.4.4 The brochure includes
- information on the Scheme proposals
  - details of Highways England's work to assess the effects of the Scheme
  - details of the consultation event dates, times and venues
  - contact details to enable comments to be made to Highways England. These consisted of postal, email and website addresses
  - information about what would happen after the non-statutory consultation
- 2.4.5 A feedback questionnaire was prepared and made available to help people submit their comments to Highways England. A copy of this is provided in Annex B (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- 2.4.6 The consultation brochure and questionnaire were distributed at public information events which were held between Wednesday 29 March 2017 and Saturday 1 April 2017.
- 2.4.7 Brochures and questionnaires were also deposited at The Forum in the centre of Norwich for people to view free of charge. These were available from Monday 13 March 2017 to Friday 21 April 2017.

- 2.4.8 On Monday 13 March 2017, Highways England updated the Scheme's website (<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>) with details about the consultation and the brochure and questionnaire documents. The website was updated after the consultation to reflect that it had closed.
- 2.4.9 Details of the consultation events held as part of the non-statutory consultation are set out in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Options consultation events		
Venue	Date	Number of visitors
<b>The Forum</b> Millennium Plain Norwich NR2 1TF	Preview for MPs, councillors and other stakeholders 14 March 2017, 1pm – 3pm	Not recorded
<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road Lingwood Norwich NR13 4AZ	Public event Wednesday 29 March 2017, 3pm – 8pm	154
<b>Blofield Courthouse</b> Yarmouth Road Blofield Norwich NR13 4JU	Public event Friday 31 March 2017, 10am – 5pm	94
<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road Lingwood Norwich NR13 4AZ	Public event Saturday 1 April 2017, 10am – 2pm	75

- 2.4.10 The events were attended by staff from Highways England and its consulting engineers Amey, who were available to answer questions on the proposals from members of the public.
- 2.4.11 The venues were selected with the aim of providing the optimum opportunity for members of the public across the area to attend, as well as offering the most suitable facilities locally to hold such an event.
- 2.4.12 Display material at the information exhibitions contained details about the proposed Scheme and the issues surrounding it. The display material included the following:
- Welcome board (including an introduction to the Scheme)
  - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham (including details of why the Scheme is needed)
  - Objectives of the Scheme

- Environmental constraints plan
- Proposed Option 1 (with a diagrammatic layout drawing of the proposed option)
- Proposed Option 2 (with a diagrammatic layout drawing of the proposed option)
- Proposed Option 3 (with a diagrammatic layout drawing of the proposed option)
- Proposed Option 4 (with a diagrammatic layout drawing of the proposed option)
- What happens next? (with broad details of the overall scheme programme)
- How to respond? (with details of the various methods for completing the questionnaire)

2.4.13 During the consultation, a number of channels to submit feedback to Highways England were made available. The details for these were clearly included in the information sent to publicise the consultation, in the consultation brochure and questionnaire, on the Scheme's website and on the information displayed at the consultation events.

2.4.14 People were invited to submitted feedback to Highways England by:

- completing the online questionnaire on the Scheme's website (<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>)
- emailing A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
- writing to Freepost A47 BLOFIELD TO NORTH BURLINGHAM

2.4.15 The non-statutory consultation closed on Friday 21 April 2017. Following this, Highways England collated and logged all the feedback received and, considering this feedback, continued its work to develop the Scheme and make a recommendation for a preferred route.

## **2.5 Summary of responses received during the non-statutory consultation**

2.5.1 A full summary of responses, including the methodology for recording the feedback, received during the non-statutory consultation can be found in the Consultation Report provided in Annex A (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

2.5.2 Highways England received a total of 441 responses to the consultation, which includes responses from stakeholders, members of the public and interested bodies.

2.5.3 When being asked about the need for improvement to the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham, 11 respondents disagreed that improvements are needed while 279 were in agreement. Safety of this stretch of the A47 was the most common reason given for the need for improvements with many commenting on the current high accident rate.

2.5.4 Respondents also considered congestion and the increasing volume of traffic as the main reason for their agreement with the need for improvements. They felt that the

junctions and slip roads along this route require improvement to address these issues.

2.5.5 Figure 2.6 provides a comparison of support for and opposition to each of the four proposed route options presented at the non-statutory consultation.

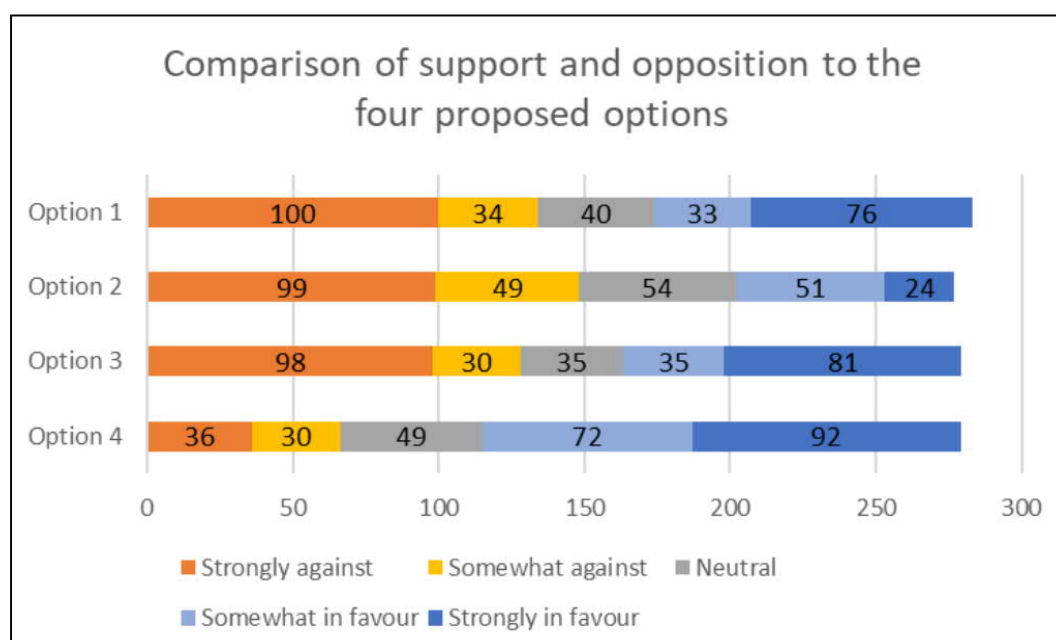


Figure 2.6 Comparison of support for and opposition to the proposed options

- 2.5.6 Option four received the highest amount of support with 92 respondents strongly in favour and 72 somewhat in favour. The number of respondents that said they were strongly against or somewhat against option four was 66, compared to 134 respondents against option one, 148 against option two and 128 against option three. Options one and three had very similar levels of support and opposition amongst respondents compared to option two which had the lowest amount of support (only 24 strongly in favour).
- 2.5.7 The main reason respondents gave for selecting option one is that it mostly follows the existing road and reduces the need for land take, which would save time and money and reduce the environmental impact compared to other options.
- 2.5.8 Respondents who opposed option one said that it would lengthen local journeys, forcing long detours and would encourage an increase in traffic. They also commented that disruption to journeys during construction would be more significant than for other options.
- 2.5.9 Support for options two, three and four comes from those who believed that it will be beneficial to local residents and businesses of Lingwood and Burlingham for the existing A47 to remain in situ as a local access road.
- 2.5.10 Respondents specifically supported the route for option two, as it follows closely to the existing route and therefore would have minimal impacts on the communities in Lingwood and Blofield. Those opposing option two were concerned that the route would cut Burlingham Green from Lingwood and North Burlingham, and that it would

not address issues posed by the current route. They also commented on the potential level of disruption to the existing A47 during the construction period.

- 2.5.11 Support specifically for option three came from those who believed that it would provide local access along the old A47 for residents in North Burlingham and that disruption during construction would be minimal. Those who opposed this option commented that this southern route would impact negatively on properties and farmland by running too close to Lingwood and requiring some demolition.
- 2.5.12 Those who specifically supported option four commented that it was the most straightforward option as it would run the closest to the existing route while causing the least disruption to the existing A47. Respondents commented that they felt it would be the least environmentally damaging. Those opposing this route raised concerns that it may affect local access points and may experience complications during construction.
- 2.5.13 A total of 237 respondents expressed support for improving provision for pedestrians, cyclists and other users, whilst 43 said improvements are not needed. Those who supported provisions for cyclists, walkers and horse riders commented that it is currently unsafe for them to cross or access the A47 and that this needs to be improved. Respondents mentioned the need for safe access to Burlingham Woodland for pedestrians and cyclists. Comments on which option would provide the best provisions for cyclists, walkers and horse riders were mixed, with some saying option three would be best and others preferring option four. Respondents expressed concern about the impacts of options one and two on equestrians.
- 2.5.14 The responses to Highways England's questionnaire and consultation information were used to assist the identification of potential constraints which may influence the route of the Scheme and, in turn, which route would be taken forward as the preferred route option.
- 2.5.15 The overall result from the consultation feedback regarding route preference was that the options ranked four-three-one-two in order of preference, with option four being favoured by the most respondents and having the fewest respondents against it.
- 2.5.16 It was confirmed that options three and four were generally the most preferred by local authority consultees, with option three slightly more favoured.

## **2.6 Preferred route announcement**

- 2.6.1 On 14 August 2017, Highways England announced the preferred route option for the Scheme that would be taken forward for further development.
- 2.6.2 Having reviewed the feedback following the consultation, and having completed a number of other assessments, Highways England proceeded with option four presented at the non-statutory consultation as the preferred route option.
- 2.6.3 Option four was the favoured option by the public by a significant margin as it was considered to resolve concerns regarding current traffic and safety issues. Option four could be built with the least disruption to drivers during construction, has the least impact on the environment and the existing road can remain for local traffic, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.
- 2.6.4 Highways England published an update information sheet on the Scheme's website



with the announcement on 14 August 2017. This is available to view in Annex B (TR010040/APP/5.2).

- 2.6.5 In the update Highways England explained why option four was preferred. It also said that prior to submitting an application for a DCO to PINS, people would have another opportunity to have their say on the proposed Scheme in a second consultation.
- 2.6.6 A Consultation Report summarising the feedback received in March 2017 and April 2017 was published with this announcement. A copy of this is provided in Annex A (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- 2.6.7 The Consultation Report was made available on the Scheme website and made available in hard copy for six weeks in Norwich Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF (a location in the vicinity of the Scheme) from 14 August 2017 to 24 September 2017.

## **2.7 Ongoing engagement between options and statutory consultation**

- 2.7.1 Following the non-statutory consultation, Highways England continued to engage with stakeholders and community representatives to keep them updated about the Scheme. A number of meetings were held to discuss all of the A47 schemes.
- 2.7.2 This engagement also included technical working group meetings, comprising representatives from Highways England, host local authorities and statutory environmental bodies. The purpose of these groups was to offer a means for Highways England to seek the technical and local expertise of stakeholders on relevant issues, and to support the development of Statements of Common Ground.
- 2.7.3 Organisations met with to discuss the Scheme included:
- Norfolk County Council
  - Suffolk County Council
  - South Norfolk District Council
  - Broadland District Council
  - Norwich City Council
  - Blofield Parish Council
  - Environment Agency
  - Historic England
  - Natural England
  - Norfolk Coast AONB
  - Norfolk Wildlife Trust

## **2.8 EIA screening and scoping**

- 2.8.1 An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 for a scheme of this scale and nature.
- 2.8.2 Highways England conducted an EIA screening exercise, before moving to the scoping phase. As such, Highways England prepared a Scoping Report seeking a view from PINS on its approach to the environmental surveys and assessments proposed as part of the EIA.
- 2.8.3 Highways England wrote to PINS under Regulations 8(1)(b) and 10(1) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 on Tuesday 6 February 2018, to notify the Secretary of State that an Environmental Statement would be submitted with the application, and to submit its Scoping Report for the Scheme.
- 2.8.4 A copy of Highways England's letter requesting a Scoping Opinion is provided in Annex C (**TR010040/APP/5.2**). The EIA Scoping Report submitted by Highways England to PINS is available online:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010040/TR010040-000009-BLOF%20Scoping%20Report.pdf>
- 2.8.5 Highways England received a Scoping Opinion from PINS on Monday 19 March 2018 (**TR010040/APP/6.6**).
- 2.8.6 The Scoping Opinion has informed the scope and contents of the Environmental Statement presented as part of the application, and it was considered in the production of the preliminary environmental information published for the statutory consultation.
- 2.8.7 In addition, following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, Highways England reviewed the list of consultees contacted by PINS as part of its consultation on the Scoping Report. This was to ensure that all organisations contacted by PINS were included in subsequent consultation activity.



## **3 STATUTORY CONSULTATION**

### **3.1 Overview of the statutory consultation**

- 3.1.1 Highways England held a statutory consultation on its proposal to upgrade the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham (the Scheme) from Monday 10 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018. This provided a 40-calendar day consultation period, which is more than the 28 days prescribed by Section 45(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 3.1.2 The purpose of the consultation was to provide an opportunity to comment on the updated plans for the Scheme, ahead of Highways England applying to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 3.1.3 The Scheme proposal presented comprised:
- a new dual carriageway running to the south of the existing A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham, within 70 metres of the existing carriageway
  - the construction of two new junctions
- 3.1.4 Figures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 show the proposed design for the new dual carriageway and two new junctions presented at the statutory consultation.

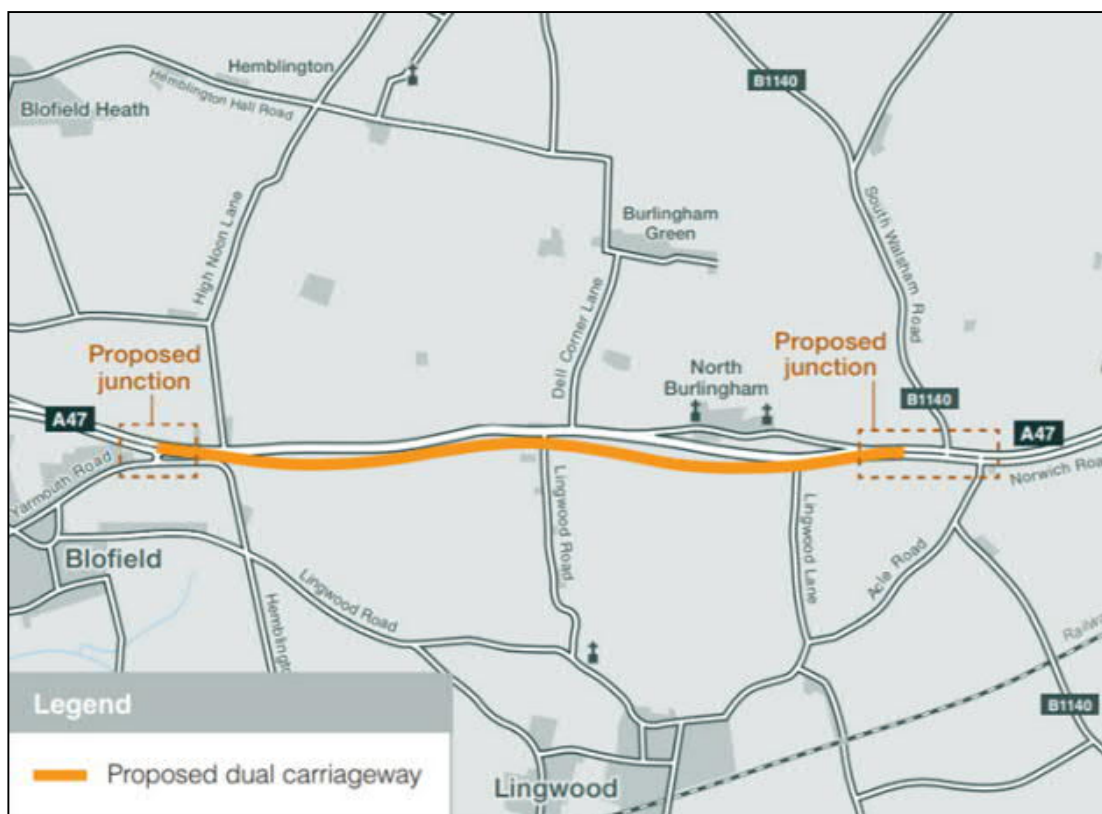


Figure 3.1 The proposed new dual carriageway design presented at the statutory consultation



Figure 3.2 The proposed new junction design at Blofield presented at the statutory consultation



Figure 3.3 The proposed new junction design at North Burlingham presented at the statutory consultation

- 3.1.5 Highways England delivered the consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 in parallel with consultation under Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008. All consultation materials made available under Section 47 of the PA 2008 were also available to Section 42 consultees.
- 3.1.6 As the Scheme is an EIA development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017, Highways England will submit an Environmental Statement as part of its application. A Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was presented (with accompanying non-technical summary) at this consultation. While the EIA was ongoing, this PEIR described the environmental setting and anticipated impacts of the Scheme on the environment.
- 3.1.7 The PEIR is available to view on the Scheme website:  
[https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham-dualling-statutor/supporting\\_documents/A47%20Blofield%20to%20North%20Burlingham%20Dualling%20%20Preliminary%20Environmental%20Information%20Report%20PEIR.pdf](https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham-dualling-statutor/supporting_documents/A47%20Blofield%20to%20North%20Burlingham%20Dualling%20%20Preliminary%20Environmental%20Information%20Report%20PEIR.pdf)
- 3.1.8 The non-technical summary of the PEIR is also available to view on the Scheme website:  
[https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham-dualling-statutor/supporting\\_documents/A47%20Blofield%20to%20North%20Burlingham%20Dualling%20%20Preliminary%20Environmental%20Information%20Report%20PEIR%20Non%20Technical%20Summary.pdf](https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham-dualling-statutor/supporting_documents/A47%20Blofield%20to%20North%20Burlingham%20Dualling%20%20Preliminary%20Environmental%20Information%20Report%20PEIR%20Non%20Technical%20Summary.pdf)

## 3.2 Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation

- 3.2.1 As prescribed by Section 47 of the PA 2008, a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) was prepared by Highways England setting out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the land that would be affected by

the Scheme.

3.2.2 Highways England's preparation of a draft SoCC took into account the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) guidance on pre-application process best practice, advice and guidance from PINS and desktop research.

3.2.3 The draft SoCC included the following information and proposals for engaging with the local community:

- An overview of the document.
- A statement of Highways England's intention to submit a DCO application, with guidance on where to find more information on the planning process.
- A summary of the Scheme.
- Details of the methods Highways England proposed to use to engage with the local community and provide them with information, including:
  - At the launch of the consultation and at the point at which Highways England submits the DCO application, project updates will be produced, providing details on the proposals and reporting on the outcome of the consultation process respectively. These will be distributed to residents and community groups via the postal service and at public information points, to road users registering for further communications on our website, and to parish and town councils and communities that wish to receive them. Copies will be made available on the Highways England website and provided on request by the project team.
  - Production of a consultation brochure, to be made available on the consultation website, at public information events and at public information points.
  - Notices to be publicised in key business locations within Norwich and the surrounding area.
  - Organisation of public information events in the vicinity of the Scheme. These would be centralised to allow easy access and convenience.
  - Provision of consultation information on the Scheme's website (<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>).
  - Provision of consultation documents at public information points in the vicinity of the Scheme for people to view.
  - Delivery of a consultation brochure and covering letter to homes and businesses in the consultation zone.
  - The publication of a PEIR as part of the consultation materials. This will provide information about the potential environmental effects of the Scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects, such as access for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, and landscaping, in order to assist submission of well-informed responses to the consultation.



- The offer of briefings to local councils and community and area forums within the vicinity of the Scheme.
  - Attending local meetings and forums organised by stakeholders affected by the Scheme, if invited to do so.
  - Encouraging seldom heard individuals and groups to get involved in the consultation. Methods include provision of the consultation brochure and feedback form in alternative forms upon request, clearly displayed contact details in consultation materials, direct contact with key organisations, issue of consultation information directly to addresses in the consultation zone, and the use of easily accessible venues for consultation events.
  - Production of a feedback form for people to use to submit their feedback.
  - Provision of a number of ways to submit feedback to Highways England, including freepost and email address.
  - The publication of notices setting out details about the consultation in the Eastern Daily Press, as well as national titles including The Guardian and The London Gazette.
  - Issue of a press release about the consultation to local media.
  - Organisation of a media briefing event at the beginning of the consultation.
  - Issue of consultation adverts to local parish councils to enable publication in local magazines, newsletters, e-shots and websites.
  - Publication of consultation details on Highways England's east Twitter account: @HighwaysEAST.
  - Details of proposed times, dates and locations for public information events and public information points.
  - How Highways England will have regard to comments received and how it will move forward with a DCO application following the statutory consultation.
  - Contact details for the Scheme.
- 3.2.4 A copy of the draft SoCC prepared is provided in Annex D (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.5 Each local authority within Section 43(1) of the PA 2008 was consulted on the detail of the draft SoCC. Highways England consulted Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council as host local authorities responsible for the areas where the proposed Scheme would be built.
- 3.2.6 Highways England delivered the draft SoCC to Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council in person on Tuesday 31 July 2018 and requested comments on the draft SoCC within a formal consultation, beginning on Wednesday 1 August 2018 and ending on Wednesday 29 August 2018. Therefore, the authorities were provided with at least 28 calendar days to provide their comments in accordance with Section 47(3) of the PA 2008.
- 3.2.7 A copy of the letter requesting comment delivered to Norfolk County Council and Broadland District Council on Tuesday 31 July 2018, with proof of delivery, is provided in Annex E (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

- 3.2.8 In addition, Highways England went beyond the requirements of Section 47 and sought the views of local authorities identified as A and D authorities, whose communities may have an interest in what happens on the strategic road network in the area. These authorities included Breckland District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Lincolnshire County Council, North Norfolk District Council, Norwich City Council, South Norfolk District Council, Suffolk County Council and The Broads Authority.
- 3.2.9 Highways England wrote to the local authorities listed in paragraph 3.2.8 on Tuesday 31 July 2018, requesting comments on the draft SoCC. The letter and draft SoCC were sent via next day delivery, therefore the authorities were provided with 28 days (beginning 2 August, the day after the day the local authorities received the documents) to provide feedback ahead of the Wednesday 29 August 2018 deadline provided in the letter.
- 3.2.10 A copy of the letter requesting comment on the draft SoCC sent to the authorities listed in paragraph 3.2.8, is provided in Annex E (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.11 Responses from Lincolnshire County Council were received on Monday 6 August 2018, Friday 17 August 2018 and Tuesday 21 August 2018. Copies of these are provided within Annex F (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.12 A response from Norfolk County Council was received on Tuesday 28 August 2018. A copy of this is provided within Annex F (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.13 A response from Great Yarmouth Borough Council was received on Tuesday 28 August 2018. A copy of this is provided within Annex F (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.14 A response from the Broads Authority was received on Wednesday 29 August 2018. A copy is provided within Annex F (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.15 No other council or MP listed in paragraphs 3.2.6, 3.2.8 and 3.2.11 provided a response to the consultation on the draft SoCC.
- 3.2.16 Table 3.1 details all of the comments received to the consultation on the draft SoCC and explains how Highways England took them into account.

Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities			
Section of draft SoCC:	Suggestion / comment made by local authority:	Regard had to the suggestion:	Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):
<b>Broads Authority</b>			
Appendix 2	We recommend that the following organisations and / or groups are also consulted: Sustrans, CPRE Norfolk, NAU Archaeology, Brundall Local History Group, Norfolk and Norwich	Highways England added Visit Norfolk to the additional stakeholder list in the draft SoCC, so the organisation was therefore notified about the statutory consultation when it	The draft SoCC was amended to include Visit Norfolk on the additional stakeholder list.

Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities			
Section of draft SoCC:	Suggestion / comment made by local authority:	Regard had to the suggestion:	Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):
	Transport Action Group, Visit Norfolk, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Norfolk Geodiversity Project, Historic England, Natural England and Wild Anglia.	<p>launched.</p> <p>Historic England and Natural England were not included, as they would be contacted as prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008.</p> <p>Highways England, by mistake, did not include the other organisations listed by the Broads Authority on the additional stakeholder list in the draft SoCC. To ensure these organisations were given an opportunity to provide feedback on the Scheme, Highways England contacted them at its project update in September 2020. They were provided with the latest update about the Scheme and given a consultation period within which they could give feedback to Highways England. More information about this engagement is provided in section 3.10 of this Consultation Report.</p>	



Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities			
Section of draft SoCC:	Suggestion / comment made by local authority:	Regard had to the suggestion:	Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):
4.8	Request in future the application details are emailed, or the information is provided on memory stick.	Highways England added that the consultation documents (listed in Appendix 3) could be provided on a memory stick on request.	The SoCC was amended to include this.
3.1	I would like to note further to the sentence at 3.1 that the A47 goes to Lowestoft.	Highways England noted this but did not consider it relevant for the SoCC.	The SoCC was not amended to include this detail.
<b>Great Yarmouth Borough Council</b>			
3.7	In Paragraph 3.7 it is mentioned that “The need for improvements in this location is echoed by the Norfolk Local Transport Plan, Greater Norwich Joint Core Strategy and Highways England’s East of Route Strategy, and is also supported by Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council and the A47 Alliance Group”. Great Yarmouth Borough Council also remains fully supportive of future proposals to dual the A47, this being clearly stated within Policy CS16 of our adopted Local Plan Core Strategy.	Highways England noted the comments and that no update to the SoCC’s text was required.	No amendments required.

**Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities**

<b>Section of draft SoCC:</b>	<b>Suggestion / comment made by local authority:</b>	<b>Regard had to the suggestion:</b>	<b>Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):</b>
4.6	In Paragraph 4.6 it mentions that “Notices to be publicised in key business locations within Norwich and the surrounding area”. For the avoidance of doubt, may we reiterate that the ‘surrounding area’ should include Great Yarmouth, particularly as dualling would bring great benefit to the businesses operating within Great Yarmouth.	Highways England committed to publicise the consultation and distribute consultation brochures and feedback forms at key business locations within Great Yarmouth.	The SoCC was amended to address this matter.
Appendix 3	We ask that the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP and Natural England are consulted.	Highways England added the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis as a stakeholder. Natural England wasn’t included as it would already be consulted as a prescribed consultee under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008.	The SoCC was amended to reflect these details.

Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities			
Section of draft SoCC:	Suggestion / comment made by local authority:	Regard had to the suggestion:	Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):
N/A	Great Yarmouth Borough Council would also welcome the opportunity to receive a briefing session on the proposed scheme for both Council members and officers.	At the launch of the statutory consultation for the Scheme, Highways England sent a letter to Great Yarmouth Borough Council inviting it to attend events organised as part of the consultation. The consultation events have attendees the opportunity to speak with Highways England's team about the Scheme and its plans. Materials containing details about these events were enclosed with Highways England letter to Great Yarmouth Borough Council.	No amendments required.
<b>Lincolnshire County Council, Monday 6 August 2018 (comments from Planning Manager)</b>			
N/A	I can confirm that Lincolnshire County Council has no objections or comments to make on the proposal.  Please continue to keep us up to date on this proposal.	Highways England noted the comments. As a neighboring local authority stakeholder, Lincolnshire County Council remained on Highways England's contact lists for the Scheme.	No amendments required.
<b>Lincolnshire County Council, Friday 17 August 2018 (comments from Chief Executive)</b>			

Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities			
Section of draft SoCC:	Suggestion / comment made by local authority:	Regard had to the suggestion:	Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):
N/A	As the scheme has no direct impact on the highway network in Lincolnshire I have no detailed observations to make at this stage.  I do welcome the opportunity to comment and would wish to retain that opportunity as the scheme develops.	Highways England noted the comments. As a neighboring local authority stakeholder, Lincolnshire County Council remained on Highways England's contact lists for the Scheme.	No amendments required.
<b>Lincolnshire County Council, Tuesday 21 August 2018 (comments from Highways Network Manager)</b>			
N/A	As the proposals are outside the boundary of the Lincolnshire County Council, I can confirm that we have no comments.	Highways England noted the comment.	No amendments required.
<b>Norfolk County Council</b>			
General	The County Council supports the consultation arrangement set out in the draft SoCC, particularly since it seeks to ensure that the local community, residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors, and road users will have an opportunity to fully understand the scheme and comment on the proposal.  The SoCC has a range of consultation methods including	Highways England noted the comments.	No amendments required.

**Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities**

<b>Section of draft SoCC:</b>	<b>Suggestion / comment made by local authority:</b>	<b>Regard had to the suggestion:</b>	<b>Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):</b>
	exhibitions, use of social media and drop-in information points, which are considered appropriate and are therefore welcomed.		
Appendix 2	The following should be included: King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, Waveney District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council.	Highways England added these councils to the appendix.	The SoCC was amended to include these details.
Appendix 3	The following parish councils should be included: Surlingham, Cantley, Freethorpe, Halvergate and South Walsham.	Highways England added these councils to the appendix.	The SoCC was amended to include these details.
Appendix 3	The following members should be included: Vic James Thomson (Henstead) and Ian James Mackie (Thorpe St Andrew).	Highways England added these contacts to the appendix.	The SoCC was amended to include these details.
Appendix 3	The A47 Alliance should be added	Highways England added this group to the appendix.	The SoCC was amended to reflect these details.
Appendix 3	The following should be included: Norwich Evening, News, East Anglia Times, BBC Norfolk and ITV News Anglia.	Highways England added these media outlets to the appendix.	The SoCC was amended to reflect these details.

Table 3.1 Draft SoCC consultation with local authorities			
Section of draft SoCC:	Suggestion / comment made by local authority:	Regard had to the suggestion:	Amendment to draft SoCC (if applicable):
Appendix 3	An additional heading should be added to Appendix 3 under the heading Transport and Road Associations to include: the Freight and Transport Association and the Road Haulage Association.	Highways England added these organisations to the appendix and included the additional header.	The SoCC was amended to reflect these details.

- 3.2.17 A copy of the published SoCC taking account of the comments in Table 3.1 is provided in Annex G (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.2.18 As prescribed by Section 47(6) of the PA 2008, Highways England made the SoCC available at locations in the vicinity of the Scheme during the statutory consultation period. Details of the availability of the SoCC in the vicinity of the Scheme are provided in Table 3.2. Figure 3.4 shows these locations on a map.

Table 3.2 Availability of the SoCC in the vicinity of the proposal		
Dates available	Venue	Opening Hours (at time of consultation)
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(1) Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ	Monday - Thursday: 8.45am to 3pm
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(2) Blofield Library</b> North Street, Blofield, NR14 4RQ	Monday: 1pm to 7pm Wednesday: 10.30am to 7pm Friday: 4pm to 7pm Saturday: 12pm to 4pm
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(3) Blofield Post Office</b> 10 Church Alley, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JJ	Monday to Saturday: 7.30am - 8pm Sunday: 9am to 5pm
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(4) Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library</b> The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW	Monday to Friday: 10am to 7pm Saturday: 9am to 5pm
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(5) Norwich City Council</b> City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:45am – 5pm Saturday 1pm – 5pm

Table 3.2 Availability of the SoCC in the vicinity of the proposal

Dates available	Venue	Opening Hours (at time of consultation)
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(6) Norfolk County Council</b> County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH	Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm
Thursday 10 September to Friday 19 October 2018	<b>(7) Broadland District Council</b> Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU	Monday to Friday: 9am – 5pm

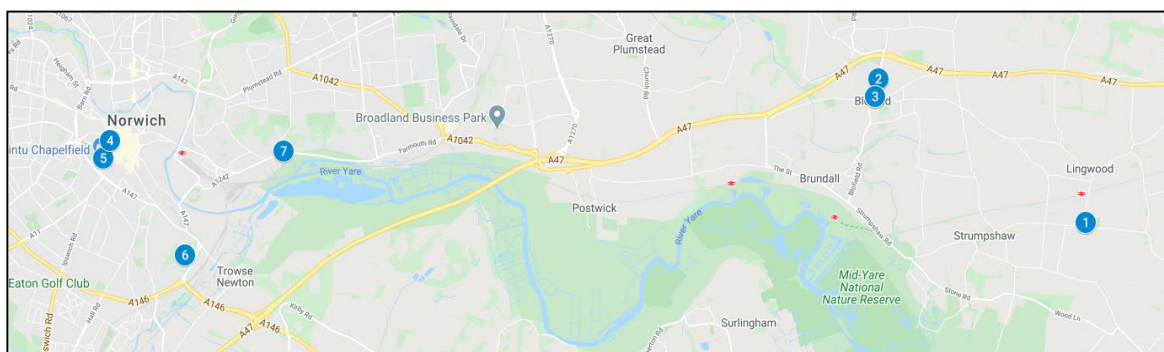


Figure 3.4 Locations the SoCC was made available in the vicinity of the Scheme

- 3.2.19 Highways England publicised the SoCC's availability in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the Scheme, as prescribed by Section 47(6) of the PA 2008. Details of the publication of this notice are included in Table 3.3.
- 3.2.20 A copy of the final SoCC notice as published is provided within Annex H (TR010040/APP/5.2).

Table 3.3 SoCC Notice publication date

Date Published	Newspaper
Monday 10 September 2018	<i>Eastern Daily Press</i>



### 3.3 Section 42 (letters and consultation documents)

- 3.3.1 Section 42 of the PA 2008 requires the applicant to consult with the prescribed consultees (Section 42(1)(a)), landowners, those with an interest in the land and those who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim under Section 42(1)(d) and relevant local authorities (Section 42(1)(b)).
- 3.3.2 Prescribed consultees are defined in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (APFP 2009). This also makes provision through a 'circumstances' test for whether there is a requirement to consult a specific party.
- 3.3.3 Statutory pre-application consultation took place with prescribed consultees, people with land interests, local authorities, members of the public and other consultees under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008. These stakeholders are listed and discussed separately in this Consultation Report.
- 3.3.4 Annex L (**TR010040/APP/5.2**) sets out each consultee prescribed in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended), whether they were included in the consultation, and justification for that inclusion against the circumstances test in the APFP 2009.

#### Prescribed consultees

- 3.3.5 Highways England wrote formally to all consultees identified under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008, to notify them of the statutory pre-application consultation about the proposed Scheme. The letters were sent on Friday 7 September 2018.
- 3.3.6 The letters provided an overview of the proposed Scheme, summarised the consultation, explained how to provide feedback to Highways England and stated a deadline for feedback to the consultation of 11:59pm on Friday 19 October 2018. Prescribed consultees were therefore given more than the minimum of 28 days required by Section 45(2) of the PA 2008.
- 3.3.7 The following materials were included with each letter to prescribed consultees:
- a hard copy of the consultation brochure
  - a USB containing all the consultation documents:
    - A47 Blofield Feedback Form
    - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Preliminary Environmental Report Non-Technical Summary
    - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Preliminary Environmental Report
    - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Red Line Boundary
    - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Section 47 Notice
    - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Section 48 Notice
    - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Statutory Consultation Brochure
- 3.3.8 The letter included a link to the Scheme's website which also hosted all of the consultation documents.  
<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham>

- 3.3.9 As the Scheme is EIA development, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, each prescribed consultee received a copy of the Section 48 notice with their letter to formally notify them of Highways England's intent to apply for a DCO.
- 3.3.10 Copies of the letters and enclosures sent to prescribed consultees are provided in Annex J (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

### Local authorities consulted

- 3.3.11 Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 requires the applicant to consult with the local authorities identified in Section 43 of the PA 2008. There are four categories of authority:
- **A** is a neighbouring local authority that shares a boundary with a unitary council or lower-tier district B council within whose area development is situated.
  - **B** is either a unitary council or a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated – a host local authority.
  - **C** is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated – a host local authority.
  - **D** is either a unitary council or an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority.
- 3.3.12 Details of the identification of relevant local authorities, including whether they are an A, B, C or D authority, and the criteria for their identification, are included in Table 3.4. Figures 3.5 and 3.6 display the relationship between the authorities.

Table 3.4 Identification of relevant local authorities		
Name	A, B, C or D authority	Criteria for identification
North Norfolk District Council	A	North Norfolk District Council is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(3)) that shares a boundary with a lower-tier district council (Broadland District Council) within whose area development is situated
Breckland District Council	A	Breckland District Council is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(3)) that shares a boundary with a lower-tier district council (Broadland District Council) within whose area development is situated

**Table 3.4 Identification of relevant local authorities**

<b>Name</b>	<b>A, B, C or D authority</b>	<b>Criteria for identification</b>
South Norfolk District Council	A	South Norfolk District Council is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(3)) that shares a boundary with a lower-tier district council (Broadland District Council) within whose area development is situated
Norwich City Council	A	Norwich City Council is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(3)) that shares a boundary with a lower-tier district council (Broadland District Council) within whose area development is situated
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	A	Great Yarmouth Borough Council is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(3)) that shares a boundary with a lower-tier district council (Broadland District Council) within whose area development is situated
The Broads Authority	A	The Broads Authority is a neighbouring local authority (Section 43(3)) that shares a boundary with a lower-tier district council (Broadland District Council) within whose area development is situated
Broadland District Council	B	Broadland District Council is a lower-tier district council in which the development is situated
Norfolk County Council	C	Norfolk County Council is an upper-tier county council in which the development is situated
Cambridgeshire County Council	D	Cambridgeshire County Council is an upper-tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority (Norfolk County Council)
Lincolnshire County Council	D	Lincolnshire County Council is an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority (Norfolk County Council)
Suffolk County Council	D	Suffolk County Council an upper tier county council which shares a boundary with a host 'C' authority – a neighbouring local authority

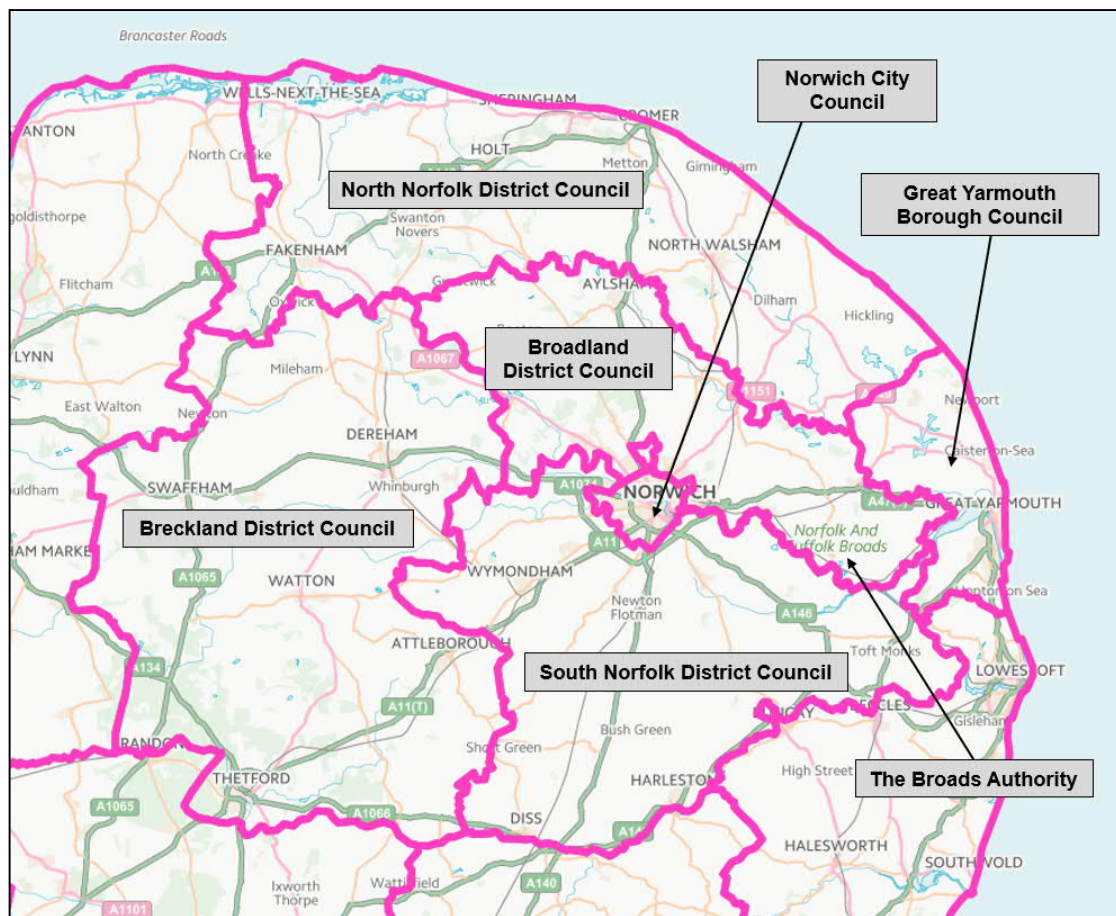


Figure 3.5 Identification of relevant lower tier authorities (source: OS Election Maps)





Figure 3.6 Identification of relevant upper tier authorities (source: OS Election Maps)

- 3.3.13 Highways England wrote formally to all consultees identified under Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008, to notify them of the statutory pre-application consultation for the proposed Scheme. The letters were sent on Friday 7 September 2018.
- 3.3.14 The letters provided an overview of the proposed Scheme, summarised the consultation, explained how to provide feedback to Highways England and stated a deadline for feedback to the consultation of 11:59pm on Friday 19 October 2018. Local authorities were therefore given more than the minimum of 28 days required by Section 45(2) of the PA 2008.
- 3.3.15 Host councils received a letter explaining they had been identified as a host authority within which the Scheme is situated, for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008.
- 3.3.16 Neighbouring local authorities received a letter explaining they had been identified as an authority which shares a boundary with a host authority, for the purposes of Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008.



- 3.3.17 The following materials were included with each letter to local authorities:
- a hard copy of the consultation booklet
  - a USB containing all the consultation documents
- 3.3.18 The letters included a link to the Scheme's website which also hosted all of the consultation documents.  
<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham>
- 3.3.19 As the Scheme is EIA development, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, each local authority received a copy of the Section 48 notice with their letter to formally notify them of Highways England's intent to apply for a DCO.
- 3.3.20 Copies of the letters and enclosures sent to local authorities are provided in Annex J (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

### Persons with Interests in Land

- 3.3.21 Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 states that Highways England must consult each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in Section 44. This includes any owner, lessee, tenant or occupier, any person interested in the land or has power to sell, convey or release the land and any person entitled to make a relevant claim (as defined by S44(6) of the PA 2008).
- 3.3.22 Land interests were identified via a diligent inquiry process covering six research methods: title information, land interest questionnaire, environmental impact assessment information, host and companies house searches, site investigations and web-based research. This process provided a land interests Book of Reference which is included with this application (**TR010040/APP/4.3**).
- 3.3.23 The methodology for identifying land interests as defined in Section 42(1)(d) and Section 44 of the PA 2008 is described further in the Statement of Reasons (**TR010040/APP/4.1**).
- 3.3.24 Highways England wrote formally to landowners, those with an interest in land and those who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim under Section 42(1)(d) on Friday 7 September 2018.
- 3.3.25 The letters provided an overview of the proposed Scheme, summarised the consultation, explained how to provide feedback to Highways England and stated a deadline for feedback to the consultation of 11:59pm on Friday 19 October 2018. Recipients were therefore given more than the minimum of 28 days required by Section 45(2) of the PA 2008.
- 3.3.26 Identified contacts with a Category 1 or Category 2 interest in land were notified in the letter that they had been identified as having a legal interest in or rights over land which may be directly affected by the Scheme.
- 3.3.27 The following materials were included with each Category 1 and 2 letter:
- a plan showing Highways England's understanding of the consultee's interest in land
  - a red-line plan showing the whole scheme
  - the consultation booklet

- the consultation questionnaire
  - a USB with a file containing all the documents above
- 3.3.28 Identified contacts with a Category 3 interest in land were notified that they may be indirectly affected by the Scheme.
- 3.3.29 A USB holding digital copies of the consultation documents was enclosed with each Category 3 letter.
- 3.3.30 As the Scheme is EIA development, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, each contact received a copy of the Section 48 notice with their letter to formally notify them of Highways England's intent to apply for a DCO.
- 3.3.31 The letters included a link to the Scheme's website which also hosted all of the consultation documents.  
<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham>
- 3.3.32 Copies of the Category 1 and 2 and Category 3 letters with enclosures are provided in Annex J (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.3.33 In the letter to Category 1 and 2 consultees, Highways England invited contacts to an appointment-only consultation event to discuss their interest in land located in the vicinity of the Scheme. Details of the sessions are set out in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Land interest consultation event		
Event	Date and time	Location
Land interest consultation event	Wednesday 26 September 2018, at various appointment times	Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ

### 3.4 Section 46 (notifying the Secretary of State)

- 3.4.1 Under Section 46 of the PA 2008, the applicant must notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application and send PINS (on behalf of the Secretary of State) the Section 42 consultation documents before commencing the Section 42 consultation.
- 3.4.2 Highways England wrote to PINS on Thursday 6 September 2018 to provide the following materials:
- Covering letters to
    - S42 prescribed consultee
    - S42 neighbouring local authority
    - S42 host local authority
    - S42 Category 1 and 2 land interests
    - S42 Category 3 land interests
  - Section 48 notice
  - Consultation brochure

- Response form
- Associated plans/drawings
- PEIR and PEIR non-technical summary

3.4.3 Highways England sent a covering letter with these documents, setting out the background to the Scheme, Highways England's intention to submit an application for a DCO and details about the statutory consultation.

3.4.4 A copy of the letter and enclosed consultation material is provided in Annex I (TR010040/APP/5.2).

3.4.5 Highways England received an acknowledgement of the receipt of its notification under Section 46 of PA 2008 from PINS on Monday 10 September 2018. A copy of this acknowledgement is provided in Annex I (TR010040/APP/5.2).

### 3.5 Section 47 (local community consultation)

3.5.1 Highways England consulted with the local community in accordance with the SoCC provided in Annex G (TR010040/APP/5.2), as prescribed by Section 47(7) of the PA 2008.

3.5.2 Highways England notified the local community about the consultation and provided information by:

- Writing directly to people living in the vicinity of the Scheme on Thursday 6 September 2018, notifying them of the consultation. A consultation brochure and cover letter were sent to residents and businesses in the consultation zone set out in Figure 3.7. The area included 6,436 residential and 205 businesses addresses. A copy of the letter issued with the consultation brochure is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- Organising public consultation events for people to attend, meet Highways England's team, view the Scheme proposals and submit their feedback in person. Details of these events are provided in Table 3.7. The public events row under paragraph 4.8 in the SoCC states that Highways England would send a leaflet to properties in the consultation zone informing them about the consultation events. That commitment was upgraded with a commitment to send everyone in the consultation zone a consultation brochure detailing the consultation events and cover letter.
- Updating the Scheme webpage to host details about the consultation, an online questionnaire for people to complete and a library of the consultation material that could be downloaded. Images of the website are provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2)

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham>

- Providing a poster to display at the public information points set out in Table 3.2. The poster included details of the Scheme, exhibitions and how to contact Highways England. A copy of the poster is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- The publication of the Section 47 and Section 48 notices in the Eastern Daily Press explaining the consultation and how the community could get involved

and provide feedback. The Section 47 notice also explained the publication of the SoCC and where it could be viewed. A copy of notices as published are provided in Annex H (TR010040/APP/5.2).

- Issuing a press release to local and regional media on Friday 7 September 2018. This included details about the Scheme proposals and Highways England's consultation, including information about public events and how people could have their say. A copy of this is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- Making copies of the consultation materials available to view at local places from Monday 10 September 2018. These venues are listed in Table 3.6. The materials were:
  - a map of the route
  - plans of the scheme
  - Statement of Community Consultation
  - notice of application
  - previous consultation feedback reports
  - Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
  - Technical Appraisal Report
  - Scheme Assessment Report

Table 3.6 Document inspection locations
<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> – Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ
<b>Blofield Library</b> – North Street, Blofield, NR14 4RQ
<b>Blofield Post Office</b> – 10 Church Alley, Blofield, Norwich NR13 4JJ
<b>Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library</b> – The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW
<b>Broadland District Council</b> – Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU
<b>Norwich City Council</b> – City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH
<b>Norfolk County Council</b> – County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH

- Engaging with parish councils and local authorities to disseminate consultation information through their own existing communications channels.

- Writing directly to identified organisations representing hard to reach groups on Friday 7 September 2018. The letter sent is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2). The list of organisations contacted is provided in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC, which is provided in Annex G (TR010040/APP/5.2).

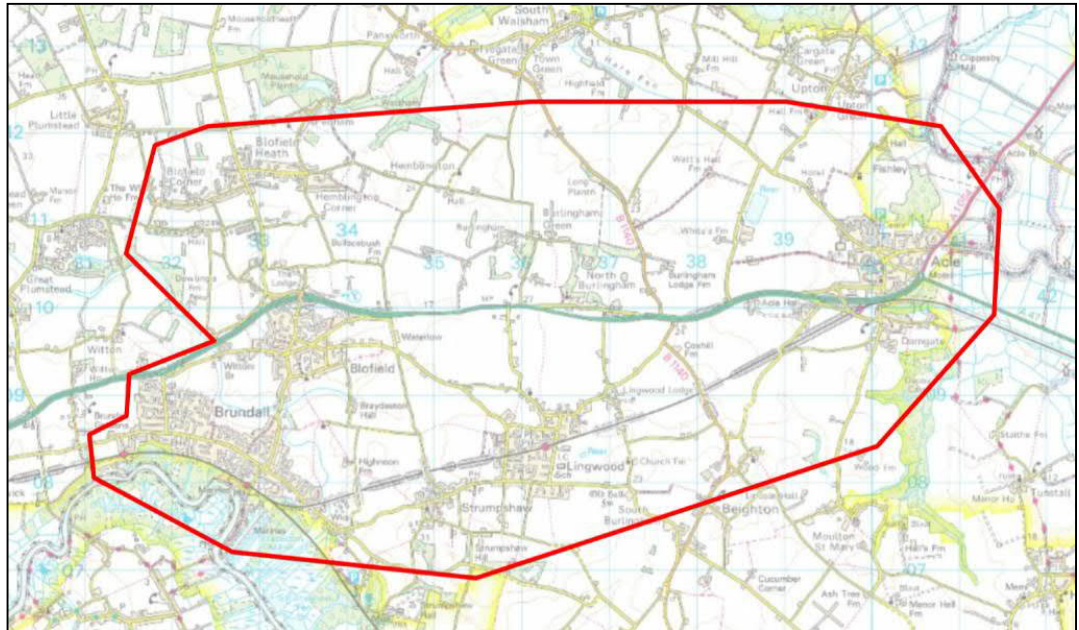


Figure 3.7 Extent of the statutory consultation zone

3.5.3 In support of consultation with the local community, Highways England prepared the following materials:

- a consultation brochure providing an overview of the proposal and consultation process
- a consultation feedback form for the public to use to give their feedback to Highways England
- PEIR
- a non-technical summary of the PEIR
- information boards to display at the public consultation events
- a 3D digital visualisation of the Scheme proposal to display at the public consultation events
- the SoCC
- a map showing an overview of the scheme
- a detailed scheme plan
- aerial image of the route
- a plan showing the proposed red line boundary



- copies of the notices prepared in compliance with Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008
- consultation poster

- 3.5.4 Copies of materials made available as part of the consultation with the local community are provided in Annex K (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 3.5.5 Copies of all materials set out as part of paragraph 3.5.3 were made available at all consultation events and on the Scheme's website (<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham>).
- 3.5.6 On the consultation brochure and response form, Highways England noted that those needing help to access the consultation materials could call it for help and for alternative format documents.
- 3.5.7 Table 3.7 provides details of consultation events undertaken within the local community during the consultation period. All venues used for consultation events were chosen to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
- 3.5.8 The events were attended by staff from Highways England and its consulting team from Mott MacDonald. Made up of a number of discipline specialists, the team was available to answer questions from the public and explain how they could take part in the consultation.
- 3.5.9 Images taken at the consultation events that illustrate how they were set up are provided in Annex K (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

Table 3.7 Events undertaken within the local community		
Event	Date and time	Location
Public consultation event one	Saturday 15 September 2018 11am to 5pm	<b>Castle Mall</b> 100 Castle Meadow, Norwich, NR1 3DD
Public consultation event two	Saturday 22 September 2018 11am to 5pm	<b>Acle Recreation Centre</b> Acle, Norwich, Norfolk, NR13 3RA
Public consultation event three	Monday 24 September 2018 1pm to 8pm	<b>Blofield Courthouse</b> Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JU
Public consultation event four	Tuesday 25 September 2018 1pm to 8pm	<b>Lingwood Village Hall</b> Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ

- 3.5.10 Consultees were invited to provide feedback by:



- completing an online copy of the consultation questionnaire at the consultation website
- completing a hard copy of the consultation questionnaire or submitting comments in the form of a letter and returning it to the following address

3.5.11 Freepost A47 BLOFIELD TO NORTH BURLINGHAM

- submitting comments in the form of an e-mail to the following address:  
[A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

3.5.12 Consultees were invited to contact the project by:

- emailing Highways England at:  
[A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- calling Highways England on 0300 123 5000

3.5.13 Evidence that the consultation with the local community adheres with the commitments made in the SoCC is provided in Table 3.8.

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance	
Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p><b>Paragraph 4.6 (distribution of consultation brochure and feedback form)</b></p> <p>Distribute consultation brochures and feedback forms with details of public events at key business locations within Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, Norwich and Great Yarmouth.</p>	<p>On Thursday 7 September 2018, a letter enclosing the consultation brochure (which in turn included an enclosed feedback form) was sent to businesses covering the Norwich and Great Yarmouth areas. These are identified in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC provided in Annex G (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>The letter set out details about the Scheme, the consultation and how to take part. A copy of this letter is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>On Friday 14 September 2018, Highways England sent information to business locations in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire as part of its statutory consultation for the A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme. This statutory consultation was held at approximately the same time, from Tuesday 18 September 2018 to Monday 12 November 2018. The list of businesses contacted is available in the published SoCC for this scheme, available online:</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
	<p><a href="https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-wansford-to-sutton-statutory-consultation/">https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-wansford-to-sutton-statutory-consultation/</a></p> <p>The letter issued by the A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme to contacts identified in its published SoCC is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.6 (distribution of notice)</b></p> <p>Notices to be publicised at a number of key business locations within Norwich, Peterborough, northern Cambridgeshire and Great Yarmouth.</p>	<p>Posters and notices were displayed at the following business locations for the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castle Mall Norwich, 100 Castle Meadow, Norwich, NR1 3DD</li> <li>• Acle Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane, Acle, Norwich, NR13 3RA</li> <li>• Blofield Courthouse, Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JU</li> <li>• Lingwood Village Hall, Station Road, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4AZ</li> <li>• Blofield Nurseries Garden Centre (Yarmouth Junction - Section 48 notice)</li> <li>• Atlantic Truck and Van Centre (Eastbound layby Section 48 notice)</li> </ul> <p>In addition, on Thursday 7 September 2018 Highways England sent a letter enclosing the consultation brochure (which in turn included an enclosed feedback form) to businesses covering the Norwich and Great Yarmouth areas. These are identified in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC provided in Annex G (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>The letter set out details about the Scheme, the consultation and how to take part so businesses would share information and keep their employees</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
	<p>updated about the Scheme. A copy of this letter is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>On Friday 14 September 2018, Highways England sent information to business locations in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire as part of its statutory consultation for the A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme. This statutory consultation was held at approximately the same time, from Tuesday 18 September 2018 to Monday 12 November 2018. The list of businesses contacted is available in the published SoCC for this scheme, available online: <a href="https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-wansford-to-sutton-statutory-consultation/">https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a47-wansford-to-sutton-statutory-consultation/</a></p> <p>The letter issued by the A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme to contacts identified in its published SoCC is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
<p><b>Paragraphs 4.6 and 4.8 (public events)</b></p> <p>Hold centralised public consultation events to allow easy access and convenience. The public events will be held at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castle Mall Norwich on Saturday 15 September 2018, from 11am to 5pm</li> <li>• Acle Recreation Centre, Saturday 22 September 2018, from 11am to 5pm</li> <li>• Blofield Courthouse, Monday 24 September from 1pm to 8pm</li> <li>• Lingwood Village Hall, Tuesday 25 September from 1pm to 8pm</li> </ul> <p>The events will give visitors an opportunity to view scheme</p>	<p>In the statutory consultation, Highways England held public events as set out in Table 3.5 at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castle Mall Norwich on Saturday 15 September 2018, from 11am to 5pm</li> <li>• Acle Recreation Centre, Saturday 22 September 2018, from 11am to 5pm</li> <li>• Blofield Courthouse, Monday 24 September from 1pm to 8pm</li> <li>• Lingwood Village Hall, Tuesday 25 September from 1pm to 8pm</li> </ul> <p>Images of these events are provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>The consultation materials listed in paragraph 3.5.3 were made available at all of these events, so people could view the Scheme proposals and learn more about Highways England's plans. The</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p>proposals, talk to the project team and provide feedback.</p> <p>The public will be informed of the events through channels including this SoCC, publicity notices in the national and local press, news coverage (press release), the scheme website (<a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a>) and direct communications in the form of leaflets to be delivered to those living in the consultation zone.</p>	<p>events were staffed by the project team, who were available to answer questions and offer guidance on submitting feedback to the consultation.</p> <p>Visitors could submit their feedback at the event by completing a feedback form in person and handing it to the project team, or by handing the project team feedback in other forms for consideration, such as a letter.</p> <p>All venues used for consultation events were chosen to be compliant with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>To inform the public of the events, Highways England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published Section 48 notices in national and local publications, containing details of the consultation (see Section 3.6)</li> <li>• Issued a press release to local media, containing details of the consultation for outlets to publish (see Section 3.7)</li> <li>• Updated the Scheme website at the launch on consultation on Monday 10 September 2018 with details about the consultation, the consultation documents to view and download, and an online feedback form for people to complete (see paragraph 3.5.2)</li> <li>• A letter enclosing a consultation brochure was delivered to every residential and commercial address in the consultation zone set out in Figure 3.7 (see paragraph 3.5.2). Here, the SoCC states that Highways England would send a leaflet to properties in the consultation zone informing them about the consultation events. That commitment was upgraded to sending everyone in the consultation zone a</li> </ul>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
	<p>consultation brochure detailing the consultation events and cover letter.</p> <p>Copies of these materials and screenshots of the Scheme website are provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Project website)</b></p> <p>To provide a full summary of the project, copies of the supporting project documents and a questionnaire on a dedicated project website:  <a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a>.</p>	<p>Highways England updated its Scheme website (<a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a>) at the launch of consultation on Monday 10 September 2018.</p> <p>The website was updated with details about the consultation, a library of all the consultation documents that could be viewed and downloaded, and an online version of the feedback form that could be completed and submitted online.</p> <p>Screenshots of the consultation website are provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>After the consultation, the Scheme website was updated to reflect that the consultation had closed and to remove the online response form. The consultation materials remained online and accessible to view and download.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Documents to be made available for inspection)</b></p> <p>The supporting documents will be made available for inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• map of route</li> <li>• plans of the scheme</li> <li>• Statement of Community Consultation</li> <li>• notice of application (S48)</li> <li>• previous consultation feedback reports</li> </ul>	<p>The following documents were made available for inspection from 10 September 2018 for the duration of the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• map of route</li> <li>• plans of the scheme</li> <li>• Statement of Community Consultation notice (s47(6)(a))</li> <li>• notice of application (S48)</li> <li>• previous consultation feedback reports</li> </ul>

**Table 3.8 SoCC compliance**

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report</li> <li>• Technical Appraisal Report</li> <li>• Scheme Assessment Report</li> </ul> <p>In addition to being uploaded to the dedicated Highways England project website mentioned above, these will also be made available for inspection at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lingwood Village Hall</li> <li>• Blofield Library</li> <li>• Blofield Post Office</li> <li>• Norwich Millennium Library</li> <li>• Norwich City Council</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Broadland District Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)</li> <li>• Non-technical summary of the PEIR</li> <li>• Feedback form</li> <li>• Consultation poster</li> <li>• Technical Appraisal Report</li> <li>• Scheme Assessment Report</li> </ul> <p>The documents were made available at the following locations as set out in Table 3.5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lingwood Village Hall</li> <li>• Blofield Library</li> <li>• Blofield Post Office</li> <li>• Norwich Millennium Library</li> <li>• Norwich City Council</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Broadland District Council</li> </ul> <p>These locations were publicised in consultation materials and on the Scheme's website.</p> <p>Location opening times were also provided in documents and on the Scheme's website to let people know when they could visit to view information.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Project summary leaflet)</b></p> <p>A consultation brochure and covering letter will be delivered to homes and businesses in the consultation zone.</p>	<p>A letter enclosing the consultation brochure and consultation response form was sent to all residential and business addresses in the consultation zone set out in Figure 3.7. This totalled 6,436 residential and 205 businesses addresses.</p> <p>The letter explained the Scheme, the consultation process, how to take part and where more information could be found online.</p> <p>A copy of the letter is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>



Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Environmental Impact Assessment)</b></p> <p>The scheme is Environmental Impact Assessment development. Therefore, we are publishing a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the</p> <p>consultation material and we will submit an Environmental Statement (ES) with the application. Both the PEIR and the ES will provide information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects, such as access for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, and landscaping, in order to assist submission of well-informed responses to the consultation.</p>	<p>A PEIR and accompanying non-technical summary were published as part of the suite of consultation materials and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• included on the Scheme website for people to view and download</li> <li>• displayed at document inspection locations</li> <li>• displayed to view at the public events</li> <li>• included on a USB sent with the Section 46 letter to PINS</li> <li>• included on the USB sent to Section 42(1)(a), (b) and (d) consultees</li> </ul> <p>The PEIR and its accompanying non-technical summary are available to view on the Scheme's website: <a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a></p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Council and community/area forum briefings)</b></p> <p>Where possible, we will offer briefings to local councils and community / area forums within whose area the proposed scheme will be carried out to discuss the proposal.</p> <p>We will contact the councils and community/area forums that we are aware of about these briefings.</p>	<p>On Friday 24 August 2018, Highways England sent a letter to local councils and forums, inviting them to a take part in a consultation launch event at the beginning of the statutory consultation. This was held on Monday 10 September 2018 from 1pm at the Auditorium, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF. The invite letter sent is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>Local councils invited included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Norwich City Council</li> <li>• Broadland District Council</li> <li>• Suffolk County Council</li> <li>• Breckland District Council</li> <li>• North Norfolk District Council</li> </ul>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great Yarmouth Borough Council</li> <li>• South Norfolk District Council</li> <li>• The Broads Authority</li> </ul> <p>Relevant local forums invited included the A47 Alliance, New Anglia LEP and Norfolk Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Attendees received an update from Highways England on the Scheme's progress, and were given an opportunity to meet and talk to its team.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Stakeholder forum briefings)</b></p> <p>When invited, and where it is possible to do so, the project team will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal.</p>	<p>Highways England did not receive any requests to attend meetings.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Hard to reach groups)</b></p> <p>We have identified a range of community organisations with a potential interest in the scheme, including representatives of local 'hard to reach' groups. To ensure these 'hard to reach' groups are encouraged to get involved in the consultation, the materials will be prepared to be accessible and clear.</p> <p>We will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the contact telephone number and email address for the scheme are prominent on all published material, enabling individuals to contact the team with questions and requests</li> <li>• the consultation brochure and feedback form can be made available in alternative forms</li> </ul>	<p>Highways England identified hard to reach groups in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC, provided in Annex G (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>). Highways England contacted these groups and organisations, to notify them of the consultation for the Scheme and explaining how they could take part and have their say. This letter is provided in Annex K (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p> <p>A contact telephone number and email address were clearly provided on all consultation materials, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• letters sent to residents, businesses and identified stakeholders</li> <li>• the consultation brochure</li> <li>• the consultation feedback form</li> <li>• SoCC</li> <li>• consultation poster</li> </ul>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p>on request large print, Braille, languages other than English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>information about the consultation is sent directly to addresses within the consultation zone</li> <li>representatives of 'hard to reach groups' will be contacted directly with details about the consultation</li> </ul> <p>We have sought to ensure that venues are accessible and can be reached by public as well as private transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 47 notice</li> <li>Section 48 notice</li> <li>the Scheme website</li> <li>the PEIR</li> <li>the PEIR non-technical summary document</li> <li>an information board displayed at the consultation events</li> </ul> <p>The consultation materials are provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2). The published SoCC is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2). The Section 47 and Section 48 notices are provided in Annex H (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>In the consultation brochure and consultation response form, Highways England stated people could get in contact by phone if they needed help accessing information.</p> <p>A letter enclosing the consultation brochure and consultation response form was sent to all residential and business addresses in the consultation zone set out in Figure 3.7. This totalled 6,436 residential and 205 businesses addresses.</p> <p>The letter explained the Scheme, the consultation process, how to take part and where more information could be found online.</p> <p>A copy of the letter sent to the local community in the vicinity of the Scheme is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Project updates)</b></p> <p>At the launch of the consultation and at the point at which Highways England submits the DCO application, project updates will be</p>	<p>At the launch of the statutory consultation Highways England issued a letter to people in the vicinity of the Scheme, updating them about the consultation and</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p>produced, providing details on the proposals and reporting on the outcome of the consultation process respectively.</p> <p>These will be distributed to residents and community groups via the postal service and at public information points, to road users registering for further communications on our website, and to parish and town councils and communities that wish to receive them.</p> <p>Copies will be made available on our website and provided on request by the project team.</p>	<p>about how they could get involved and have their say.</p> <p>At the same time, Highways England issued a letter to a number of local community groups and parish councils. Those contacted are listed in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC, found in Annex G (TR010040/APP/5.2) of this Consultation Report. The letter issued to these contacts is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>Parish councils whose areas would be directly affected by the Scheme were contacted separately, as prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a). The letter they received is provided in Annex J (TR010040/APP/5.2). The list of prescribed consultees identified is provided in Annex L (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>Consultation information and documents were made available at public information points in the vicinity of the Scheme. This is set out in paragraph 3.5.2.</p> <p>The Scheme's website (<a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a>) was updated at the beginning of the statutory consultation with details about the latest Scheme proposals, consultation documents and an online response form. When the Scheme website was updated, an automated notification was issued to website subscribers informing them that new information and documents were available to view online.</p> <p>September 2020, Highways England updated local people and stakeholders about its progress with the Scheme and its plan to submit an application for a Development Consent Order. This update included the publication of a project update brochure, setting out details about</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
	<p>what has happened with the Scheme since the statutory consultation, as well as the latest refined Scheme proposal.</p> <p>The project update brochure is provided in Annex N (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p> <p>This project update brochure was delivered by door drop to residents (Section 47 consultees), and via post to parish councils and other stakeholders (Section 42 consultees). More detail about the project update engagement activity is set out in Section 3.10.</p> <p>Due to the effects of Covid-19 and to put people's safety first, Highways England did not make information available in hard copy format at information point locations. The update document remained available on Highways England's Scheme website, and copies could be sent to people upon request.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Consultation feedback)</b></p> <p>Written comments can be made either online at <a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a></p> <p>or in writing to FREEPOST A47 Blofield to North Burlingham or by email to <a href="mailto:A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk">A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk</a>.</p> <p>Feedback must be received by 11:59pm on Friday 19 October 2018.</p>	<p>These contact details and feedback deadline time and date were included in the consultation materials, so it was clear for people to know how to submit feedback and when they needed to do this by.</p> <p>The consultation materials including these details are provided in Annex K (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p> <p>In addition to this, Highways England also included a digital version of the feedback form on the Scheme website (<a href="https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a>), so people could submit their comments online too.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Media)</b></p> <p>The consultation will be advertised locally in the <i>Eastern Daily Press</i></p>	<p>The Section 48 notice was published in the <i>Eastern Daily Press</i> for two consecutive weeks, and in <i>The Guardian</i> and the <i>London Gazette</i> ahead of the</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p>newspaper and nationally in <i>The Guardian</i> newspaper.</p> <p>Other press adverts will appear at the launch of the consultation in the London Gazette, and further press publicity will appear ahead of the exhibition events. The advert will be in the form of a publicity notice, highlighting the consultation events and other arrangements.</p> <p>Press releases will also be issued to local media detailing the consultation and how the community and road users can participate, and we will hold a media briefing event at the start of the consultation period.</p> <p>Information will also be sent to local parish councils to enable publication in local magazines and/or newsletters/e-shots if they so wish. By working with parish council clerks and members, information can also be made available on parish council websites.</p>	<p>statutory consultation opening. Further details about this are provided in Section 3.6.</p> <p>The Section 47 notice was also published in the <i>Eastern Daily Press</i> ahead of the consultation opening. More details about this are provided in Section 3.2.</p> <p>The notices provided details about the Scheme, the consultation, events, how to submit feedback and where consultation information could be viewed.</p> <p>Copies of the published notices are provided in Annex H (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>Highways England issued a press release to local media about the consultation and the proposals for the Scheme on Friday 7 September 2018.</p> <p>A copy of the press release is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>As a result of issuing this press release, further information about the Scheme appeared on the <i>Eastern Daily Press</i> website on Monday 10 September 2018. This press coverage is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>Highways England arranged a consultation launch briefing event at the beginning of the consultation, held on Monday 10 September 2018 at the Forum in Norwich. The purpose of inviting media contacts was to let them know about the statutory consultation and encourage them to publish information about it. The letter sent to media inviting them to the consultation launch event is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>At the launch of the statutory consultation, information about the consultation was sent to parish councils in the vicinity of the Scheme. They were</p>



Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
	<p>given details about where information about the Scheme could be accessed.</p> <p>Councils whose areas are directly affected by the Scheme were contacted as prescribed consultees under Section 42(1)(a). Other local parish councils contacted are listed in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC, provided in Annex G (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>The letter issued to parish councils contacted under Section 42(1)(a) is provided in Annex J (TR010040/APP/5.2). The letter issued to parish councils listed in the published SoCC is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p> <p>The list of prescribed consultees consulted with is provided in Annex L (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Social media)</b></p> <p>Details of the consultation and events will be shared on: Twitter: @HighwaysEAST</p>	<p>Details of the consultation were shared on this Twitter account before, during and after the consultation.</p> <p>Example screenshots of the content posted are available in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 4.8 (Requesting documents)</b></p> <p>Free copies of the consultation brochure will also be available to take away at the document inspection locations and free copies of the other consultation documents can be provided on a memory stick on request.</p> <p>Hard copies of the consultation documents can also be provided on request. Please contact the project team about hard copy costs.</p>	<p>Free copies of the consultation brochure were available to take away at the document inspection locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lingwood Village Hall</li> <li>• Blofield Library</li> <li>• Blofield Post Office</li> <li>• Norwich Millennium Library</li> <li>• Norwich City Council</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Broadland District Council</li> </ul> <p>Highways England created a branded USB containing the consultation document and made this available. An image of this and its content is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>

Table 3.8 SoCC compliance

Commitment within the SoCC	Accordance with commitments
<p><b>Paragraph 5.1 (Next steps)</b></p> <p>All comments made during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account when developing the scheme proposal further.</p> <p>If we consider that further information is required after this consultation, we may undertake further engagement with stakeholders to address specific issues. An explanation of how comments have shaped and influenced our proposals will be reported in a Consultation Report prepared by Highways England which will accompany the DCO application as required by Section 37(3) (c) of the Planning Act 2008.</p>	<p>All comments submitted to the statutory consultation for the Scheme were recorded by Highways England.</p> <p>Chapter 4, supported by Annex O (TR010040/APP/5.2), of this Consultation Report outlines the feedback received and how Highways England has had regard to it.</p> <p>In September 2020, Highways England updated local people and stakeholders about its progress with the Scheme and its latest plans. This engagement activity is set out in Section 3.10.</p> <p>In September, October and November 2020, Highways England also undertook additional, targeted consultation with land interest contacts. This was to share information about changes to the Scheme's development area and provide an opportunity for them to give their feedback to Highways England.</p> <p>The feedback received in response to the project update and additional consultation is also summarised in Chapter 4.</p>
<p><b>Appendix 2 (Stakeholders)</b></p> <p>Highways England has a duty to consult bodies specified under Section 42 in the Planning Act 2008, and the local communities living in the vicinity of the proposed project under section 47.</p> <p>In terms of this project, it is also considered that an additional set of stakeholders who may also be impacted by the project or who tend to have a wider reach within the local community and should also be informed about this</p>	<p>Highways England identified a number of additional stakeholders who may also be impacted by the project, or who tend to have a wider reach within the local community and should also be informed about the consultation and given an opportunity to participate.</p> <p>This list was included in the draft SoCC that was provided to local authorities and other stakeholders to provide feedback on. A number of comments on the additional stakeholder list were received and Highways England took these into account when finalising the SoCC.</p> <p>The draft SoCC is provided in Annex D (TR010040/APP/5.2). Table 3.1 of this</p>

**Table 3.8 SoCC compliance**

<b>Commitment within the SoCC</b>	<b>Accordance with commitments</b>
consultation and given an opportunity to participate.	<p>report lists the comments received on the draft SoCC.</p> <p>Annex G (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>) provides the published SoCC, noting the final list of stakeholders Highways England contacted ahead of the consultation launching.</p> <p>The additional stakeholders noted in the final SoCC in Annex G (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>) were sent a letter on Friday 7 September 2018 notifying them about the consultation and how they could get involved. A copy of this is provided in Annex K (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p>

### **3.6 Section 48 (publicity)**

- 3.6.1 Section 48 of the PA 2008 imposes a duty on the applicant to publish a notice of the proposed application in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).
- 3.6.2 Table 3.8 includes details of the newspapers used to publicise the proposed application, including national, local and the London Gazette.
- 3.6.3 Copies of the newspaper notices as noted in Table 3.8 are provided in Annex H (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

**Table 3.8 Section 48 newspaper notice publication details**

<b>National newspaper</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Week 2 (local only)</b>
<i>London Gazette</i>	Monday 10 September 2018	N/A
<i>The Guardian</i>	Monday 10 September 2018	N/A
<b>Local newspaper(s)</b>		
<i>Eastern Daily Press</i>	Monday 10 September 2018	Monday 17 September 2018

- 3.6.4 Figure 3.8 shows the area where the *Eastern Daily Press* is circulated, confirming it covers the vicinity of the proposed Scheme as required.

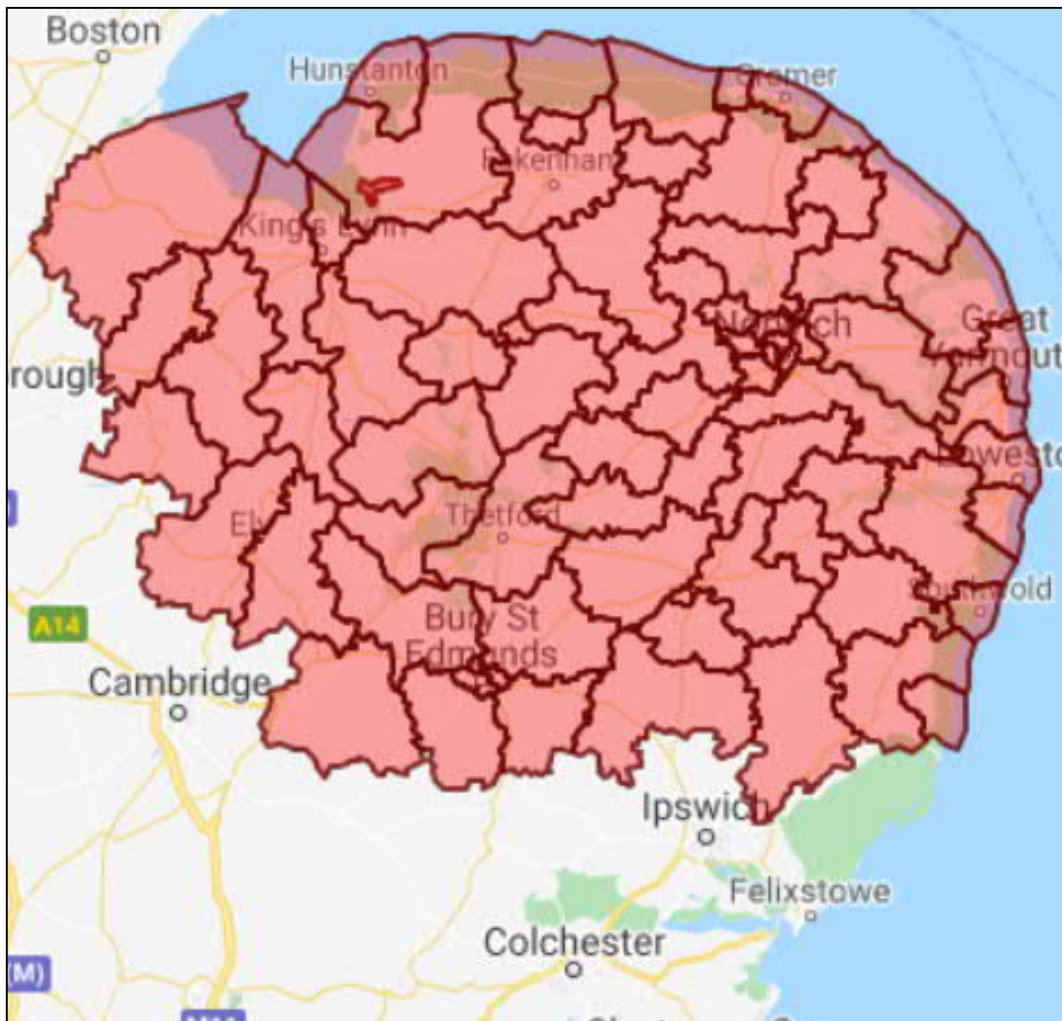


Figure 3.8: Eastern Daily Press paper circulation area (source: Gorkana)

### 3.7 Additional engagement at the statutory consultation

- 3.7.1 Ahead of the statutory consultation beginning, on Friday 24 August 2018 Highways England wrote to local stakeholders and media to invite them to a consultation launch event on Monday 10 September 2018, from 1pm to 3pm at the Auditorium in Norwich. The event was organised to brief attendees about Highways England's plans at the very beginning of the consultation, to answer their initial queries and respond to any questions they have. The letter sent to these contacts is provided in Annex K (TR010040/APP/5.2).
- 3.7.2 Highways England also identified a number of additional stakeholders who may also be impacted by the project, or who have a wider reach within the local community and should also be informed about the consultation and given an opportunity to participate in the statutory consultation. This included local community representatives and relevant organisations and businesses.
- 3.7.3 This list of identified contacts was included in the draft SoCC that was provided to



local authorities and other stakeholders to feedback on.

- 3.7.4 The draft SoCC is provided in Annex D (**TR010040/APP/5.2**). Table 3.1 lists the comments received on the draft SoCC. Annex G (**TR010040/APP/5.2**) provides the published SoCC, noting the final list of stakeholders Highways England contacted.
- 3.7.5 Highways England wrote to the additional stakeholders identified on Friday 7 September 2018 to notify them about the consultation. The letter provided details about the consultation, the events organised and how they could provide feedback to Highways England. A copy of the letter sent to the additional stakeholders is provided in Annex K (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

### **3.8 Engagement undertaken with Statutory Undertakers**

- 3.8.1 Discussions are ongoing and it is anticipated that an agreement will be reached with each of the relevant Statutory Undertakers where required prior to the close of examination. Annex M (**TR010040/APP/5.2**) detail this engagement to date.

### **3.9 Ongoing engagement following the statutory consultation**

- 3.9.1 Following the statutory consultation, Highways England continued engagement with stakeholders to keep them updated about the Scheme and to discuss technical elements of plans. This took the form of regular scheduled meetings and conference calls. This activity also helped support the development of Statements of Common Ground.
- 3.9.2 Highways England continued to consult with the Parish Council and also consulted the Community Orchard Committee who had no objections to the scheme.
- 3.9.3 Highways England continued to respond to questions sent to the Scheme's email address (A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk and info@highwaysengland.co.uk) and to enquiries to its phonenumber (0300 123 5000).

### **3.10 Project update**

- 3.10.1 In September 2020, Highways England published an update about its work on the Scheme since the statutory consultation in 2018, including details about its plans to submit an application for a DCO. The update also included a plan of Highways England's refined proposal for the Scheme.
- 3.10.2 To publicise this, keep stakeholders and members of the public up to date and provide further opportunity to provide feedback on the Scheme plan, Highways England:
- sent the project update brochure via door drop on Tuesday 8 September 2020 to homes and businesses in the consultation zone outlined in Figure 3.7
  - sent a letter via post on Tuesday 8 September 2020 to Section 42(1)(d) land interests whose land would be affected differently as a result of amendments to the Scheme's development boundary
  - sent an email on Tuesday 8 September 2020 to identified parish council clerks and local authority councillors, attaching the project update brochure
  - sent a letter via post on Wednesday 9 September 2020 to Section 42(1)(a) and Section 42(1)(b) contacts, and the additional stakeholders identified in



Appendix 2 of the published SoCC. Highways England also send this letter to Jerome Mayhew, Member of Parliament for the constituency of Broadland. This letter notified recipients of the update and enclosed the project update brochure. The organisations the Broads Authority had advised Highways England consult, provided in its feedback on the draft SoCC (see Table 3.1 in this Consultation Report), were included on this mailing list and were therefore consulted and given an opportunity to provide feedback on the Scheme.

- published a project update brochure on the Scheme website on Monday 14 September 2020 (<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>) and updated the text on the site to reflect the latest status of its work
- sent an email on Wednesday 30 September 2020 to hard to reach groups identified in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC, attaching the project update brochure
- sent a press release on Monday 7 September 2020 including details about the Scheme's progress to local media

3.10.3 All the letters and emails sent invited recipients to provide comments they may have about the refined Scheme plans to Highways England, by the deadline of Friday 9 October 2020.

3.10.4 The project update brochure, letters and emails sent, as well as the press release issued, are provided in Annex N (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

### **3.11 Additional consultation**

3.11.1 Following the statutory consultation and due to changes in the Scheme's design and its development area, Highways England identified a number of new contacts with an interest in land (all Category 1 and 2 interests under Section 42(1)(d)) that it deemed should be consulted further in Autumn 2020.

3.11.2 Highways England consulted land interests whose land would be affected differently as a result of changes to the development area. These contacts had previously been consulted at the statutory stage.

3.11.3 Highways England also consulted members of Blofield allotments as a result of plans to re-route a gas main through the allotment site. Blofield Parish Council (responsible for the allotment) was previously consulted at the statutory stage.

3.11.4 Consultation with parties whose land would be affected differently as a result of changes to the Scheme's development area was undertaken from Friday 11 September 2020 to Friday 9 October 2020.

3.11.5 Consultation with Blofield allotment members was undertaken from Monday 19 October 2020 to Monday 16 November 2020.

3.11.6 Highways England consulted these parties by sending them a letter under Section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008. Highways England sent a letter to land interests affected by the development area changes on Tuesday 8 September 2020. It sent a letter to Blofield allotment members on Wednesday 14 October 2020. The letters sent are provided in Annex J (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

3.11.7 The letters provided an overview of the Scheme, why recipients were being

contacted and explained how feedback could be given to Highways England. The respective deadlines for feedback were stated in the letters issued. The letter set out where consultees could find the statutory consultation documents online, giving details about the Scheme. To provide an overview of Highways England's latest plan for the Scheme, the project update brochure (see section 3.10 for more information) was enclosed with the issued letters.

3.11.8 Consultees were invited to provide feedback by:

- post to Freepost A47 BLOFIELD TO NORTH BURLINGHAM
- email to [A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

3.11.9 The following documents were enclosed with the letters:

- a copy of the Section 48 Notice
- the 2018 statutory consultation brochure
- project update brochure, September 2020
- land plans (updated in August 2020) / Blofield allotment land plan (updated in October 2020)

3.11.10 Copies of the updated land plans enclosed with the letters are also provided in Annex J (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).

3.11.11 The list of additional contacts with an interest in land consulted is provided in the BoR submitted with this application (**TR010040/APP/4.3**).

## 4 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### 4.1 Analysis of responses to the statutory consultation

- 4.1.1 This section provides an overview of responses received to Highways England's statutory pre-application consultation for the A47 Blofield to Burlingham scheme (the Scheme). The consultation was held between Monday 10 September 2018 and Friday 19 October 2018.
- 4.1.2 Highways England invited all consultees, including those identified under Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008, to submit feedback within the consultation period noted above. Chapter 3 of this report explains how Highways England delivered the statutory consultation for the Scheme.
- 4.1.3 All feedback Highways England received was saved and logged by Highways England, so it could be analysed and reported on.
- 4.1.4 Highways England provided a number of ways to submit feedback to the statutory consultation:
- a feedback form in printed format and digital format (made available online: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/>)
  - by post to FREEPOST A47 Blofield to North Burlingham
  - by email to  
A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
  - in person by completing a feedback form at the public consultation events detailed in Table 3.7
- 4.1.5 A copy of the feedback form is provided in Annex K (**TR010040/APP/5.2**).
- 4.1.6 Feedback forms submitted by post, email and the online form responses were received, processed and imported into a single database for analysis.
- 4.1.7 Some emails, letters, and other responses did not follow the question structure of the feedback form. These responses were integrated with open text responses to question six of the hardcopy feedback form ('Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design').
- 4.1.8 This section provides a breakdown by question of the feedback Highways England received. Where a question included a free text response section, a summary of responses is presented.
- 4.1.9 Key themes raised in the responses from consultees include:
- concerns around the potential increased traffic through villages
  - concerns that the scheme may shift congestion to areas outside of the scheme such as the Acle Straight, Cucumber Lane, Vauxhall roundabout and North Street
  - concerns that the proposed plans do not include The Windle junction. If The Windle is closed, some respondents felt the traffic (including agricultural vehicles) would be moved elsewhere and would impact the surrounding local villages or would increase journey times for drivers

- concerns that traffic may re-route through Acle village, Upton, South Walsham Road, Lipton, Blofield Heath, Hemblington, Lingwood, and Beighton
- concerns about an increase in congestion at and speed of traffic approaching the Cucumber Lane roundabout at the western end of Blofield
- a desire for the creation of a roundabout instead of a link bridge at the western end of the scheme
- suggestion to build the western end junction in the same grade-separated design as the eastern end junction in order to give access in all directions
- equal priority for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists as well as those of motorists
- concern about the lack of direct pedestrian and cyclists' facilities across the A47 between North Burlingham and Lingwood.

- 4.1.10 The published feedback form included a mistake with the numbering of the questions, jumping from seven to nine and missing out eight. This was a mistake with numbering only, and a question was not excluded from the form. To ensure this Consultation Report aligns with the feedback form and references the correct questions, the numbering in this chapter follows the numbering in the published document.
- 4.1.11 A total of 767 responses were received during the consultation period. The format in which the responses were received is shown in Table 4.1. The number of responses for each respondent type according to the PA 2008 is provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.1: Consultation responses received	
Response Type	Count
Online questionnaire	241
Paper questionnaire	479
Email or letter	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>767</b>

Table 4.2: Respondent type	
Type	Count
Prescribed consultees (Section 42 and Section 43)	6
Persons with an interest in land (Section 44)	37
Public (Section 47 and Section 48)	724
<b>Total</b>	<b>767</b>

- 4.1.12 Question 1: Do you support or oppose our proposals to construct a new stretch of dual carriageway between Blofield and North Burlingham?
- 4.1.13 Question 1 asked respondents if they supported or opposed the proposals to construct a new stretch of dual carriageway between Blofield and North Burlingham. This question provided a series of tick box options (1a) and an area to write any free text comments (1b).
- 4.1.14 Figure 4.1 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options and Table 4.3 summarises the free text box responses.

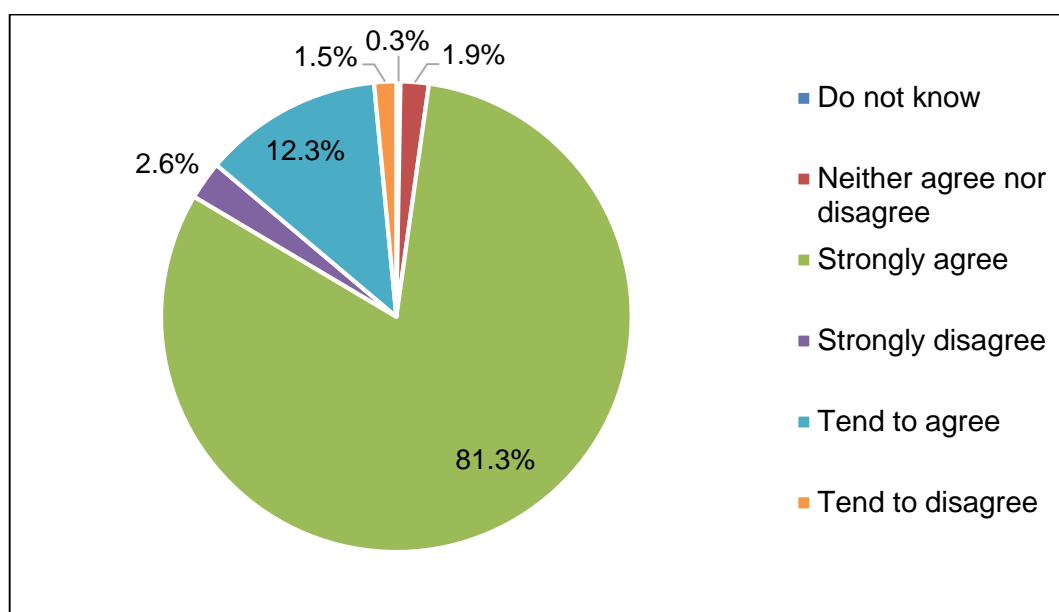


Figure 4.1 – Response to Question 1a. ‘Do you support or oppose our proposals to construct a new stretch of dual carriageway between Blofield and North Burlingham?’

- 4.1.15 Overall, most respondents to this question strongly agreed (587) or tended to agree (89) with the dualling proposals. In addition, 19 strongly disagreed with the proposals and 11 tended to disagree. A total of 14 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals and two did not know.

Table 4.3 – Summary of free text responses to Question 1b. ‘Please give any further details about your response:’

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>7</b>
3D flythrough - positive	1
Events - negative	1
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	2
Info / materials – misleading / vague	1
Info / materials - questions (criticism)	2
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>31</b>
Benefit - design	1



**Table 4.3 – Summary of free text responses to Question 1b. ‘Please give any further details about your response:’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - local economy	1
Concern - safety	1
Concern - The Windle	4
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	13
Suggestion - dual entire A47	2
Suggestion - prioritise other infrastructure	4
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	1
Suggestion - The Windle	3
Timescale - other A47 projects	1
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>16</b>
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - congestion	3
Concern - difficulty entering/exiting Blofield	2
Concern - unnecessary	1
Query - existing bridge/slip road	2
Suggestion - local community access	1
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	3
Suggestion - slip road, eastbound	1
Suggestion - slip road, general	1
Suggestion - slip road, westbound	1
<b>Maintain and integrate existing carriageway</b>	<b>2</b>
Concern - cost	1
Suggestion - dual existing road	1
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>7</b>
Benefit - reduce congestion	1
Concern - safety	1
General support	2
Suggestion - combine with other road improvements	1
Suggestion - roundabout instead	1
Suggestion - speed cameras	1
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>580</b>
Benefit - agricultural access	3
Benefit - air pollution	2
Benefit - environment	1
Benefit - local community access	10
Benefit - local economy	13
Benefit - reduce congestion	127
Benefit - safety	136
Challenge - safety	1
Concern - agricultural access	1
Concern - air quality	1
Concern - congestion	27

**Table 4.3 – Summary of free text responses to Question 1b. ‘Please give any further details about your response:’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - construction disruption	6
Concern - cost	11
Concern - design	4
Concern - existing road sufficient	3
Concern - housing developments	2
Concern - land take	6
Concern - landscape	2
Concern - light pollution	2
Concern - local community access	12
Concern - noise	7
Concern - poor quality of improvements	1
Concern - property	3
Concern - safety	10
Concern - speed of traffic	1
Concern - wildlife and biodiversity	2
General opposition	7
General support	54
General support with caveat(s)	34
Query - more information needed	5
Suggestion - additional junction(s)	3
Suggestion - alignment/layout	6
Suggestion - dual existing road	3
Suggestion - flood mitigation	2
Suggestion - noise mitigation	2
Suggestion - roundabout	1
Suggestion - speed limit	3
Suggestion - western end access	1
Suggestion - wildlife mitigation	1
Timescale - long overdue/construct as soon as a possible	64
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>13</b>
Benefit - local community access	1
Benefit - safety	1
Lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	2
General support	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	4
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more / general	3
Equal priority to PPCs and motorists	1

**Question 2: Do you support or oppose our proposals to maintain and integrate the existing carriageway?**

- 4.1.16 Question 2 asked respondents if they supported or opposed the proposals to maintain and integrate the existing carriageway. The question also provided this explanatory text:

*“To maintain local access, where possible, the pre-existing single carriageway from the ‘old’ A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham will be maintained and integrated into the local road network. Two new grade separated junctions running over each end of the carriageway will provide a connection between South Walsham road and Acle Road in the east, and Yarmouth Road in the west.”*

- 4.1.17 This question provided a series of tick boxes options (2a) and an area to write any free text comments (2b).
- 4.1.18 Figure 4.2 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options and Table 4.4 summarises the free text box responses.

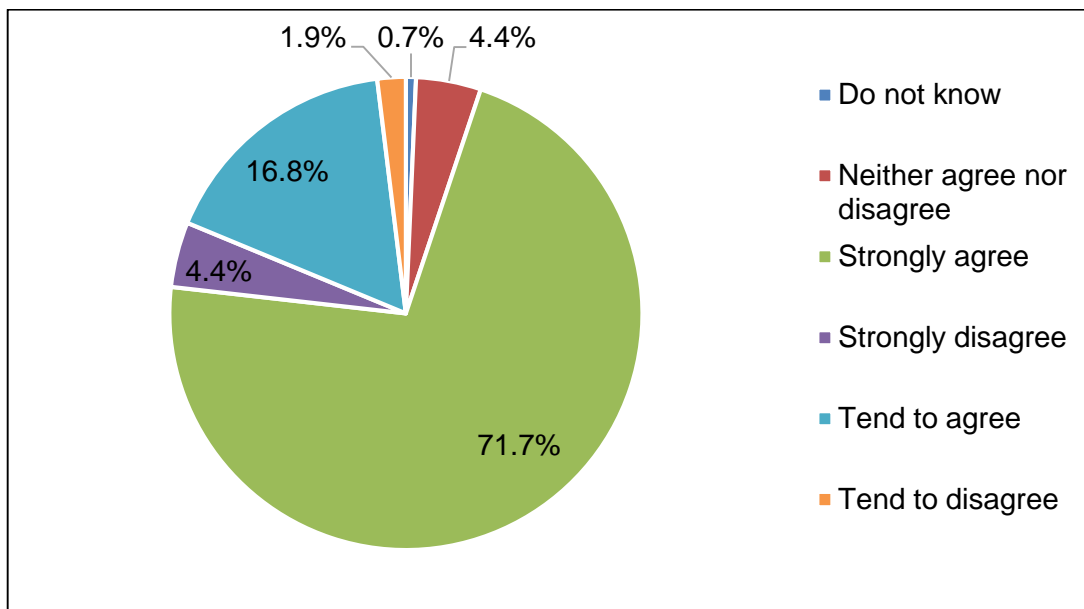


Figure 4.2 – Response to Question 2a. ‘Do you support or oppose our proposals to maintain and integrate the existing carriageway?’

- 4.1.19 Overall, most respondents to Question 2a strongly agreed (516) or tended to agree (121) with the proposals to maintain and integrate the existing carriageway. In addition, 35 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposals and 14 tended to disagree. A total of 32 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals and five stated that they do not know.

**Table 4.4 – Summary of free text responses to Question 2b. ‘Please give further details about your response:’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>14</b>
3D flythrough - positive	1
Info / materials – misleading / vague	7
Info / materials - positive	1
Info / materials - questions (criticism)	2
Process - criticism	2
Process - request further engagement	1
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>27</b>
Concern - agricultural access	3
Concern - complexity of design	2
Concern - construction	2
Concern - cost	1
Concern - environment	1
Concern - speed limit	1
Concern - The Windle	4
Suggestion - Blofield traffic mitigation	1
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	3
Suggestion - dual entire A47	1
Suggestion - slip road(s)	1
Suggestion - speed limits	2
Suggestion - surrounding road improvements	2
Suggestion - The Windle	3
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>22</b>
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - congestion	2
Concern - difficulty entering / exiting Blofield	2
Concern - local community access	3
Concern - poor design	2
Concern - unnecessary	1
General support	1
Suggestion - grade-separated / like eastern end	1
Suggestion - motorway access from new junction	1
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	2
Suggestion - signage	1
Suggestion - slip road, eastbound	3
Suggestion - slip road, general	1
Suggestion - slip road, westbound	1
<b>Maintain and integrate existing carriageway</b>	<b>213</b>
Benefit - agricultural access, HGVs / sugar beet	2
Alternative route(s) to new motorway	2
Benefit - local community access	38
Benefit - local economy	2
Benefit - not wasteful	6
Benefit - reduce congestion	15

**Table 4.4 – Summary of free text responses to Question 2b. 'Please give further details about your response:'**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Benefit - safety	32
Benefit - simplicity	2
Concern - agricultural access	2
Concern - congestion	4
Concern - construction disruption	3
Concern - cost	12
Concern - land take	6
Concern - local community access	7
Concern - property	4
Concern - too complex	2
Concern - unnecessary	2
General opposition	3
General support	23
General support with caveat(s)	8
Query - local community access	1
Suggestion - construction planning	1
Suggestion - don't maintain existing A47	7
Suggestion - dual existing A47	18
Suggestion - noise buffer	1
Suggestion - slip road(s)	3
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	7
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>4</b>
Benefit - prefer to roundabout	1
Benefit - safety	1
Concern – design / complexity	1
General support	1
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>19</b>
Benefit - design	1
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - agricultural access	1
Concern - complicated	2
Concern - congestion	1
Concern - cost	1
Concern - design	1
Concern - landscape	2
Concern - local community access	1
Concern - unnecessary	1
General support with caveat(s)	3
Suggestion - local community access	1
Suggestion - road markings	1
Suggestion - roundabout	2
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>32</b>
Benefit - existing carriageway useful	5

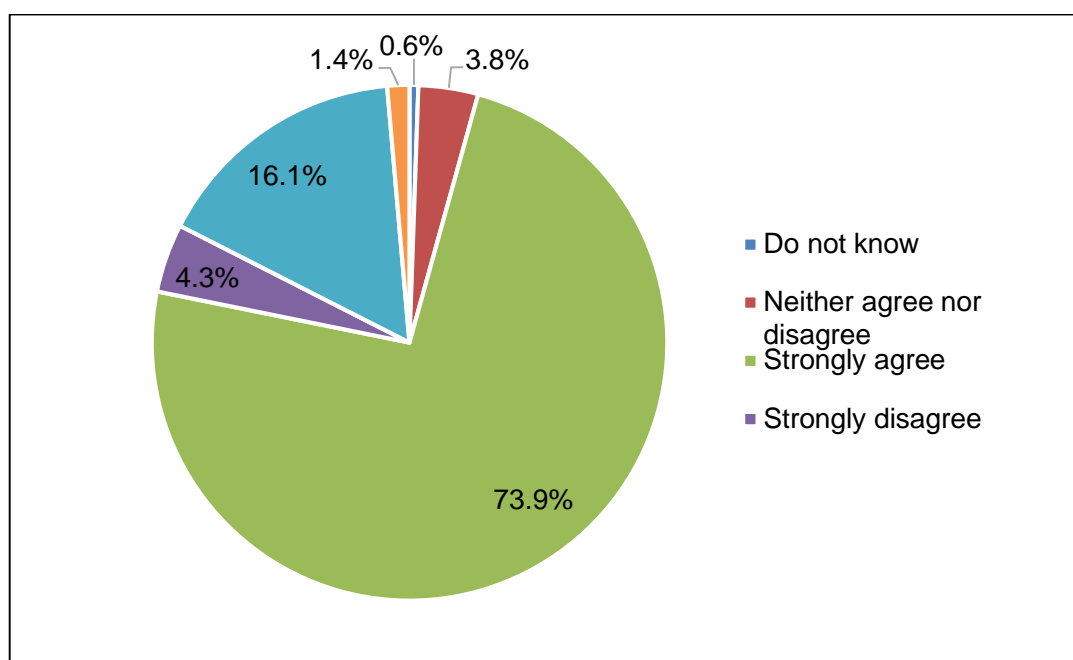


**Table 4.4 – Summary of free text responses to Question 2b. ‘Please give further details about your response:’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Benefit - safety	2
Concern - lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	5
Concern - lack of facilities, general	2
Concern - usage survey methodology	1
Query - cycle paths	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, Burlingham, / Lingwood	6
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more/general	8
Suggestion - underpass, not bridge	2

**Question 3: Do you support or oppose our proposals to create a new grade-separated junction in the form of a bridge at the eastern end of the proposed scheme?**

- 4.1.20 Question 3 asked respondents if they supported or opposed the proposals to create a new grade-separated junction in the form of a bridge at the eastern end of the proposed scheme.
- 4.1.21 This question provided a series of tick boxes options (3a) and an area to write any free text comments (3b).
- 4.1.22 Figure 4.3 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options and Table 4.5 summarises the free text box responses.



**Figure 4.3 – Response to Question 3a. ‘Do you support or oppose our proposals to create a new grade-separated junction in the form of a bridge at the eastern end of the proposed scheme?’**

- 4.1.23 Overall, most respondents to this question strongly agreed (532) or tended to agree (116) with the proposals to create a new grade-separated junction at the eastern end of the scheme. In addition, 31 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposals and 10 tended to disagree. A total of 27 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals and four do not know.

**Table 4.5 – Summary of free text responses to Question 3b. ‘Please give any further details about your response.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>13</b>
3D flythrough - criticism	1
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	4
Info / materials - misleading/vague	4
Info / materials - positive	1
Info / materials - questions (criticism)	1
Process - criticism	2
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>8</b>
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	2
Suggestion - The Windle	6
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>376</b>
Benefit - agricultural access	10
Benefit - landscape	1
Benefit - local community access	12
Benefit - local economy	1
Benefit - prefer to roundabout	11
Benefit - reduce congestion	21
Benefit - safety	75
Concern - agricultural access	18
Concern - air quality	1
Concern - congestion	27
Concern - cost	10
Concern – design / complexity	7
Concern - land take	8
Concern - light pollution	4
Concern - local community access	7
Concern - local economy	2
Concern - noise	8
Concern - radius	4
Concern - safety	22
Concern - slip road(s)	5
Concern - visual amenity	8
General opposition	8
General support	34
General support with caveat(s)	8
Query - more information needed	7
Suggestion - congestion	3
Suggestion - extend old road	1

**Table 4.5 – Summary of free text responses to Question 3b. ‘Please give any further details about your response.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Suggestion - lighting	1
Suggestion - link road	3
Suggestion - other	3
Suggestion - roundabout instead	19
Suggestion - safety	3
Suggestion - slip road length	1
Suggestion - slip road(s)	16
Suggestion - speed limit	3
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	8
<b>Preliminary Environmental Information</b>	<b>2</b>
Concern - biodiversity	1
Concern - landscape	1
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>32</b>
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - cost	1
Concern - lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	1
Concern - lack of facilities, eastern end	5
Concern - lack of facilities, general	1
Concern - safety	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	2
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more / general	17
Suggestion - segregation from road	2
Suggestion - width	1

**Question 4: Do you support or oppose our proposals to create a link bridge over the existing A47 to connect it to Yarmouth Road at the western end of the scheme?**

- 4.1.24 Question 4 asked respondents if they supported or opposed the proposals to create a link bridge over the existing A47 to connect it to Yarmouth Road at the western end of the scheme. This question provided a series of tick boxes options (4a) and an area to write any free text comments (4b). Figure 4.4 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options and Table 4.6 summarises the free text box responses.

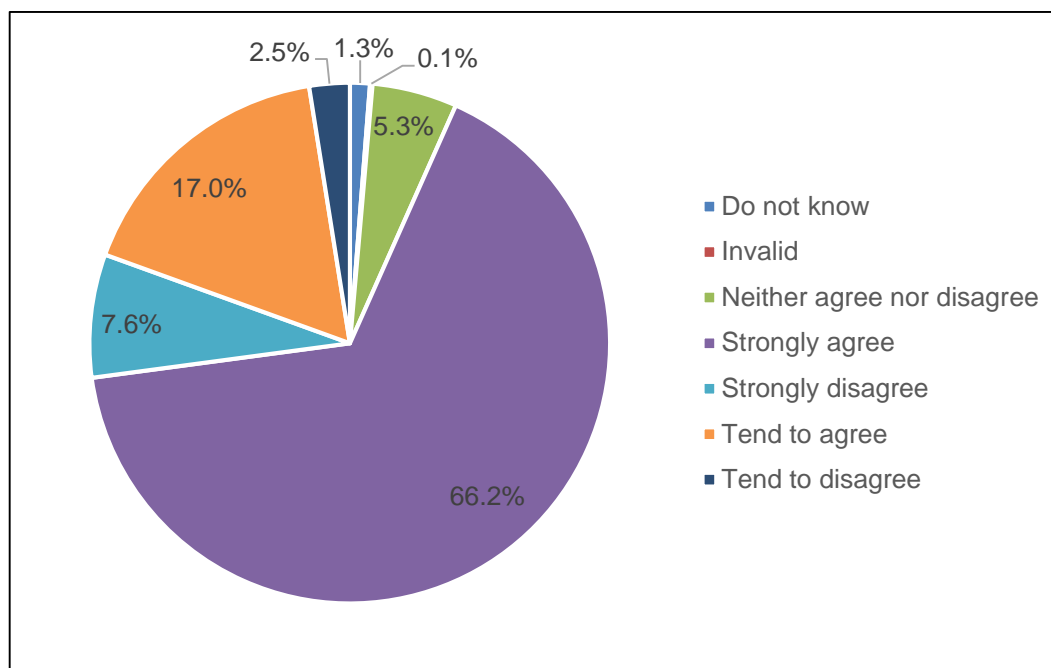


Figure 4.4 – Response to Question 4a. 'Do you support or oppose our proposals to create a link bridge over the existing A47 to connect it to Yarmouth Road at the western end of the scheme?'

- 4.1.25 Overall, most respondents strongly agreed (476) or tended to agree (122) with the proposals to create a link bridge at the western end of the scheme. In addition, 55 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposals and 18 tended to disagree. A total of 38 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed, nine did not know and one response was marked invalid.

Table 4.6 – Summary of free text responses to Question 4b: 'Please give any further details about your response.'

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>29</b>
3D flythrough - criticism	1
Events - criticism	1
Events - positive	1
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	8
Info / materials - misleading / vague	11
Info / materials - questions (criticism)	2
Process - criticism	3
Process - request for engagement	1
Website - survey platform (criticism)	1
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>2</b>
Suggestion - improve surrounding roads	2
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>374</b>
Benefit - landscape	2
Benefit - local community access	16
Benefit - motorway access from junction	2
Benefit - prefer to roundabout	7

Table 4.6 – Summary of free text responses to Question 4b: 'Please give any further details about your response.'

Theme	Frequency of comment
Benefit - reduce congestion	16
Benefit - reduce noise	1
Benefit - safety	27
Concern - agricultural access	1
Concern - congestion	67
Concern - cost	11
Concern - difficulty entering / exiting Blofield	31
Concern - land take	4
Concern - landscape	3
Concern - local community access	14
Concern - narrow surrounding roads	1
Concern - noise / vibration	3
Concern - poor design	13
Concern - poor design, slip road(s)	2
Concern - residential area	7
Concern - safety	16
Concern - unnecessary	15
General support	13
General support with caveat(s)	17
Query - eastbound / westbound access	8
Query - walker, cyclists and horse riders	1
Query - property	1
Query - T-junction, Hemblington Road	1
Suggestion - agricultural access	1
Suggestion - bridge	2
Suggestion - grade-separated / like eastern end	10
Suggestion - local community access	2
Suggestion - motorway access	10
Suggestion - move junction / bridge	2
Suggestion - Parish Council proposal	5
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	14
Suggestion - safety	2
Suggestion - signage	1
Suggestion - slip road, eastbound	11
Suggestion - slip road, general	4
Suggestion - slip road, westbound	5
Suggestion - traffic slowing measures	3
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	2
<b>Maintain and integrate existing carriageway</b>	<b>6</b>
Benefit - alternative route(s) to new motorway	2
Benefit - reduce congestion	1
Concern - unnecessary	2



**Table 4.6 – Summary of free text responses to Question 4b: ‘Please give any further details about your response.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Query - PPC provision	1
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>5</b>
Benefit - agricultural access	2
Concern - safety	1
Suggestion - combine with other road improvements	1
Suggestion - other	1
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>18</b>
Benefit - local community access	1
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - bridges	1
Concern - congestion	1
Concern - cost	1
Concern - design	3
Concern - local community access	5
General opposition	1
General support with caveat(s)	2
Suggestion - combine with other road improvements	1
Suggestion - slip road(s)	1
<b>Preliminary Environmental Information</b>	<b>2</b>
Concern - construction planning	1
Suggestion - noise mitigation	1
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>17</b>
Benefit - equal priority to PPCs and motorists	2
Benefit - local community access	1
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - unnecessary	1
General support	1
General support with caveat(s)	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more / general	4
Suggestion - segregation from road	1
Suggestion - width	5

**Question 5: Do you support the provisions made, which include a mixed-use bridge with footpath for pedestrians and cyclists in the scheme design?**

- 4.1.26 Question 5 asked respondents if they support the provisions made, which includes a mixed-use bridge with footpaths for pedestrians and cyclists in the scheme design.
- 4.1.27 This question provided a series of tick boxes options (5a) and an area to write any free text comments (5b).
- 4.1.28 Figure 4.5 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options and Table 4.7 summarises the free text box responses.

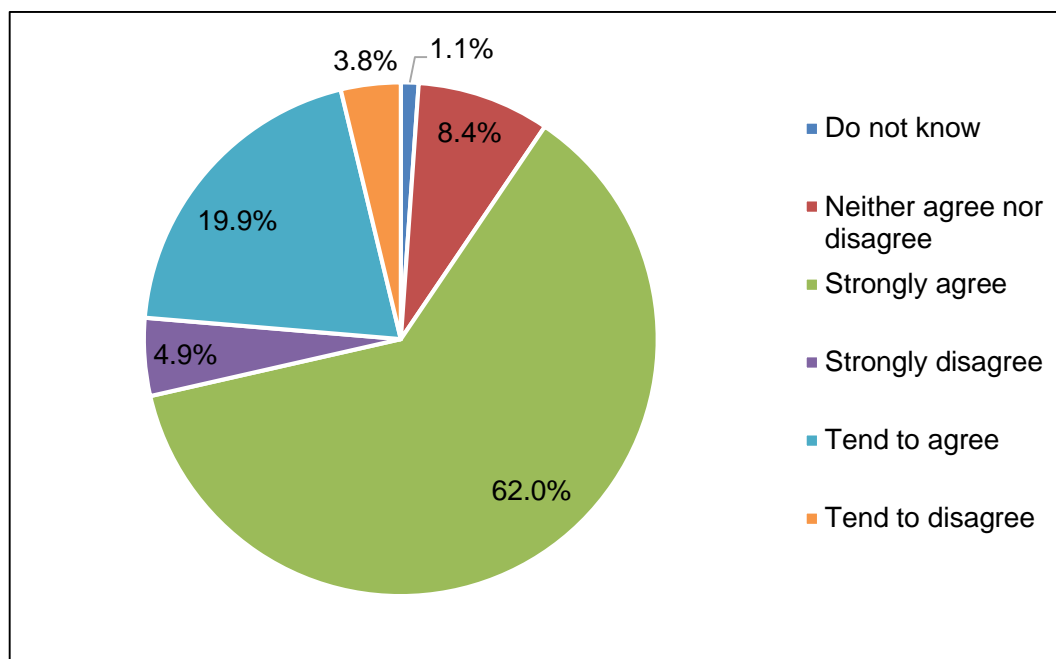


Figure 4.5 – Response to Question 5a. Do you support the provisions made, which include a mixed-use bridge with footpaths for pedestrians and cyclists in the scheme design?

- 4.1.29 Overall, most respondents to this question strongly agreed (445) or tended to agree (143) with the proposals for pedestrians and cyclists in the scheme design. In addition, 35 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposals and 27 tended to disagree. A total of 60 respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals and eight do not know.

Table 4.7 – Summary of free text responses to Question 5b: 'Please give any further details about your response.'	
Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>23</b>
3D flythrough - criticism	2
Events - criticism	2
Info / materials - criticism	1
Info / materials - hard copy documents	1
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	4
Info / materials - maps (suggestion)	1
Info / materials - misleading / vague	5
Info / materials - questions (criticism)	3
Process - criticism	3
Process - request further engagement	1
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>6</b>
Benefit - safety	2
General support	1
General support with caveat(s)	1
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	1
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	1

**Table 4.7 – Summary of free text responses to Question 5b: ‘Please give any further details about your response.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>1</b>
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	1
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>1</b>
General opposition	1
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>5</b>
NDC - Concern - noise	1
NDC - Concern - safety	1
NDC - Concern - western end access	1
Suggestion - noise mitigation	2
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists (PPCs)</b>	<b>325</b>
Benefit - Blofield / Burlingham footpath	3
Benefit - cost	1
Benefit - encourages cycling / walking	10
Benefit - environment	2
Benefit - equal priority to PPCs and motorists	9
Benefit - high usage	1
Benefit - local community access	10
Benefit - mixed use, cycling and pedestrians	9
Benefit - safety	22
Concern - bridge solution	7
Concern - cost	10
Concern - lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	25
Concern - lack of facilities, eastern end	10
Concern - lack of facilities, other	9
Concern - low usage	14
Concern - mixed use, cyclists / pedestrians	4
Concern - motorists given priority	1
Concern - poor quality	2
Concern - safety	20
Concern - unnecessary	5
Concern - usage survey methodology	14
Concern - width	1
General support	11
General support with caveat(s)	18
Query - agricultural track	1
Query - bridge	2
Query - cycle paths	3
Query - equestrians	2
Query - usage	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	38
Suggestion - add / diff facilities, eastern end	4
Suggestion - add / diff facilities, other	17
Suggestion - equal priority to PPCs and motorists	2

**Table 4.7 – Summary of free text responses to Question 5b: ‘Please give any further details about your response.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Suggestion - good quality	1
Suggestion - lighting	1
Suggestion - pedestrians, not cyclists	3
Suggestion - safety	5
Suggestion - screening	1
Suggestion - segregation cyclists / pedestrians	4
Suggestion - segregation from road	6
Suggestion - signage	1
Suggestion - underpass, not bridge	6
Suggestion - width	7

**Question 6: Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.**

- 4.1.30 Question 6 asked respondents to provide any other comments they may have regarding the proposed scheme design. This question provided an area to write any free text comments. Table 4.8 summarises the free text box responses.

**Table 4.8 – Summary of free text responses to Question 6: ‘Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>55</b>
3D flythrough - criticism	3
3D flythrough – other	1
3D flythrough - positive	1
Communication - criticism	3
Events - suggestion	1
Info / materials - criticism	10
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	5
Info / materials - misleading / vague	6
Info / materials - suggestion	4
Process – materials – maps (suggestion)	1
Process - criticism	11
Process - request further engagement	4
Process - suggestion	2
Promotion - criticism	2
Query	1
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>242</b>
Benefit - no roundabout(s)	1
Benefit - reduce congestion	1
Benefit - safety	4

**Table 4.8 – Summary of free text responses to Question 6: ‘Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - agricultural access	16
Concern - bridge(s)	1
Concern - complexity of design	3
Concern - congestion	20
Concern - construction	1
Concern - cost	3
Concern - flooding	1
Concern - housing development(s)	1
Concern - layby(s)	2
Concern - local community access	11
Concern - noise	2
Concern - property	3
Concern - safety	21
Concern - slip road(s)	2
Concern - speed limit	9
Concern - The Windle	5
Concern - traffic survey methodology	1
General opposition	2
General suggestion	2
General support	14
General support with caveat(s)	3
Query - more information needed	8
Suggestion - access	2
Suggestion - air quality	1
Suggestion - bridges	1
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	9
Suggestion - congestion	3
Suggestion - construction planning	3
Suggestion - dual entire A47	4
Suggestion - flyover	1
Suggestion - light pollution	1
Suggestion - mitigation measures	1
Suggestion - noise	3
Suggestion - prioritise other infrastructure	2
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	1
Suggestion - signage	2
Suggestion - slip road(s)	9
Suggestion - speed limits	1
Suggestion - The Windle	43
Suggestion - traffic surveys	2
Suggestion - training during project	1
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a	14



**Table 4.8 – Summary of free text responses to Question 6: ‘Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
possible	
Timescale - query	1
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>88</b>
Concern - congestion	5
Concern - cost	1
Concern - local community access	14
Concern - narrow surrounding roads	1
Concern – noise / vibration	2
Concern - property	3
Concern - safety	12
Concern - slip road	1
Concern - speed	3
General support with caveat(s)	2
Query - more information needed	5
Query - survey methodology	1
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	2
Suggestion - combine with other road improvements	1
Suggestion - congestion	1
Suggestion - different route/access	9
Suggestion - environment	3
Suggestion - flooding	1
Suggestion - grade-separated junction	2
Suggestion – walking, cycling and horse riding provision	1
Suggestion - remove bridge	1
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	6
Suggestion - slip road(s)	6
Suggestion - sound mitigation	1
Suggestion - traffic slowing measures	2
Suggestion - traffic surveys	2
Suggestion - use existing roads	1
<b>Maintain and integrate existing carriageway</b>	<b>2</b>
Suggestion - dual existing road	2
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>129</b>
Benefit - agricultural access	3
Benefit - cost	1
Benefit - local community access	1
Benefit - noise	1
Benefit - reduce congestion	4
Benefit - safety	3
Concern - agricultural access	10
Concern - air quality	1

**Table 4.8 – Summary of free text responses to Question 6: ‘Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - complexity of design	1
Concern - congestion	8
Concern - congestion will be caused elsewhere	1
Concern - flooding	1
Concern - land take	3
Concern - local community access	12
Concern - local economy	1
Concern - walkers, cyclists and horse riders	3
Concern - property	3
Concern - safety	23
Concern - slip road(s)	1
Concern - speed limit	3
General support	1
General support with caveat(s)	2
Query - more information needed	5
Suggestion - additional route(s)	4
Suggestion - combine with other road improvements	4
Suggestion - extend old road	1
Suggestion - lay-by	1
Suggestion - link road to The Windle	5
Suggestion - walking, cycling and horse riding provision	5
Suggestion - noise mitigation	1
Suggestion - right-turning	1
Suggestion - roundabout instead	3
Suggestion - slip road(s)	6
Suggestion - speed limit	3
Suggestion - The Windle	1
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	2
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>185</b>
Benefit - design	1
Benefit - local community access	5
Benefit - local economy	2
Benefit - reduce congestion	10
Benefit - safety	10
Challenge - bridge(s)	1
Concern - agricultural access	4
Concern - air quality	8
Concern - congestion	4
Concern - congestion will be caused elsewhere	2
Concern - cost	10
Concern - design	5

**Table 4.8 – Summary of free text responses to Question 6: ‘Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - health	1
Concern - land take	3
Concern - landscape	3
Concern - light pollution	5
Concern - local community access	6
Concern - local economy	1
Concern - noise	17
Concern - property	18
Concern - safety	6
Concern - slip road(s)	1
General opposition	1
General support	3
General support with caveat(s)	10
Query - more information needed	9
Suggestion - access	1
Suggestion – alignment / layout	1
Suggestion - compensation	5
Suggestion - construction planning	4
Suggestion - dual existing road	1
Suggestion - layby(s)	2
Suggestion - lighting	1
Suggestion - local community access	2
Suggestion - maintenance	1
Suggestion - walking, cycling and horse riding provision	1
Suggestion - noise mitigation	3
Suggestion - roundabout	3
Suggestion - signage	4
Suggestion - speed limit	1
Support - design	1
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	7
Timescale - query	1
<b>Preliminary Environmental Information</b>	<b>27</b>
Concern - biodiversity	3
Concern - construction planning	1
Concern - flooding / drainage	10
Concern - landscape	2
Concern - PEIR - criticism	1
Query – flooding / drainage	3
Suggestion - biodiversity mitigation	2
Suggestion - landscape mitigation	2
Suggestion - noise mitigation	3

**Table 4.8 – Summary of free text responses to Question 6: ‘Please provide us with any other comments you may have regarding the proposed scheme design.’**

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>83</b>
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - cost	1
Concern - lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	18
Concern - lack of facilities, eastern end	6
Concern - lack of facilities, general	11
Concern - lack of facilities, other	2
Concern - low usage	3
Concern - motorists given priority	2
Concern - privacy	2
Concern - safety	1
Concern - usage survey methodology	4
Query - bridge	1
Query - cycle paths	1
Query - more information needed	3
Query - usage	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	13
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more / general	7
Suggestion add/diff facilities, other	2
Suggestion - safety	2
Suggestion - signage	1
Suggestion - underpass, not bridge	1

**Question 7: Do you support the findings or scope of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report as outlined in the report, the non-technical summary and/or summarised information within our consultation materials?**

- 4.1.31 In the feedback form, Question 7 was accompanied with the following explanatory text:

*“Before we make our application, we would like to understand how you heard about this consultation and the range of people who are taking part, to enable us to gather data that can be useful in informing planning arrangements for future consultations.*

*“While the EIA is ongoing, we have prepared a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) to describe the environmental setting and currently anticipated effects of the proposed scheme. A Non-Technical Summary of the PEIR has also been prepared to summarise the environmental effects. The findings of the PEIR and the NTS are also summarised within our consultation materials including the consultation brochure and exhibition boards.”*

- 4.1.32 This question provided a series of tick boxes options (7a) and an area to write any free text comments (7b). Figure 4.6 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options and Table 4.9 summarises the free text box responses.

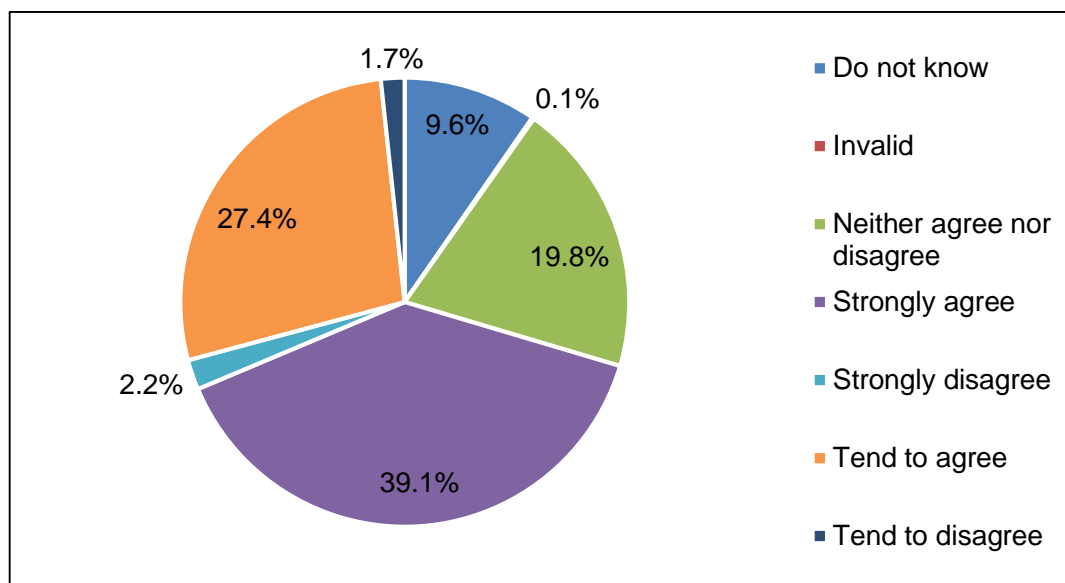


Figure 4.6 – Response to Question 7a. ‘Do you support the findings or scope of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report as outlined in the report, the non-technical summary and/or summarised information within our consultation materials?’

- 4.1.33 Overall, most respondents to this question strongly agreed (274) or tended to agree (190) with the findings or scope of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). A significant number (138) neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals and 66 did not know. A total of 15 respondents strongly disagreed with the proposals and 12 tended to disagree. One response was marked as invalid.

Table 4.9 – Summary of free text responses to Question 7b: ‘Please give any further details about your response, any other comments you might have about the PEIR to any environmental concerns you may wish to raise.’

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>13</b>
Info / materials - criticism	1
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	1
Info / materials - maps (suggestion)	2
Info / materials – misleading / vague	1
Info / materials - PEIR availability	1
Info / materials - positive	1
Info / materials - website - criticism	1
Process - criticism	3
Process - request for more info	1
Process - timescales	1
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>28</b>
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - complexity of design	1
Concern - congestion	4
Concern - local community access	6
Concern - safety	1
Concern - speed limit	1



Table 4.9 – Summary of free text responses to Question 7b: 'Please give any further details about your response, any other comments you might have about the PEIR to any environmental concerns you may wish to raise:'

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - The Windle	2
General support	1
General support with caveat(s)	1
Query - more information needed	1
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	1
Suggestion - improve surrounding roads	1
Suggestion - layby	1
Suggestion - prioritise other infrastructure	2
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	1
Suggestion - The Windle	1
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	1
Timescale - query	1
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>9</b>
Concern - congestion	1
Concern - congestion will be caused elsewhere	3
Concern – noise / vibration	1
Concern - speed limit	2
Suggestion - different route / access	1
Suggestion - roundabout(s)	1
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>4</b>
Concern - local community access	1
Concern - slip road(s)	1
Suggestion - roundabout instead	1
Suggestion - westbound link road	1
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>23</b>
Benefit - reduce congestion	1
Benefit - safety	3
Concern - congestion	2
Concern - construction disruption	1
Concern - cost	3
Concern - design	1
Concern - existing road sufficient	1
Concern - housing developments	1
Concern - local community access	1
Concern - safety	1
General support with caveat(s)	3
Query - traffic volume increase	2
Suggestion - junction improvements	1
Suggestion - speed limit	2
<b>Preliminary Environmental Information</b>	<b>131</b>
Benefit - biodiversity	1

Table 4.9 – Summary of free text responses to Question 7b: 'Please give any further details about your response, any other comments you might have about the PEIR to any environmental concerns you may wish to raise:'

Theme	Frequency of comment
Benefit - environment a priority	2
Benefit - flood/drainage mitigation	3
Benefit - health	1
Benefit - landscape assessment	2
Benefit - landscape mitigation	1
Benefit - limited impact on statutory designated sites	1
Benefit - minerals and waste mitigation	1
Benefit - PEIR - no concern	1
Benefit - PEIR - support	3
Concern - biodiversity	10
Concern - biodiversity assessment	2
Concern - environment not prioritised	1
Concern - fibre optic cable	1
Concern - flooding/drainage	5
Concern - land take/allotments	5
Concern - landscape	4
Concern - noise	7
Concern - PEIR - criticism	11
Concern - planting (will impact light/visibility)	2
Concern - visual amenity	2
Concern - visual mitigation	2
General support	2
General support with caveat(s)	1
Query - biodiversity	4
Query - flooding/drainage	5
Query - noise pollution	1
Suggestion - air quality mitigation	3
Suggestion - biodiversity mitigation	8
Suggestion - construction planning	3
Suggestion - cultural heritage mitigation	1
Suggestion - flood/drainage mitigation	4
Suggestion - health	1
Suggestion - landscape mitigation	7
Suggestion - noise mitigation	9
Suggestion - reassessment, biodiversity	1
Suggestion - reassessment, flooding	3
Suggestion - reassessment, general	2
Suggestion - reassessment, landscape	2
Suggestion - reassessment, minerals and waste	1
Suggestion - reduce carbon footprint	2
Suggestion - speed limit	2
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as	1

Table 4.9 – Summary of free text responses to Question 7b: ‘Please give any further details about your response, any other comments you might have about the PEIR to any environmental concerns you may wish to raise:’

Theme	Frequency of comment
possible	
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>42</b>
Benefit - local community access	1
Concern - lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	10
Concern - lack of facilities, eastern end	3
Concern - lack of facilities, general	3
Concern - motorists given priority	1
Concern - usage survey methodology	3
Suggestion - add/diff facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	8
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more / general	7
Suggestion - underpass	6

### Question 9: How did you hear about the consultation?

- 4.1.34 Question 9 asked respondents how they heard about the consultation. This question provided a series of tick boxes options.
- 4.1.35 Question 9 was accompanied with the following explanatory text:  
*“We would like to understand how you heard about this consultation and the range of people who are taking part, to enable us to gather data that can be useful in informing planning arrangements for future consultations.”*
- 4.1.36 Figure 4.7 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.

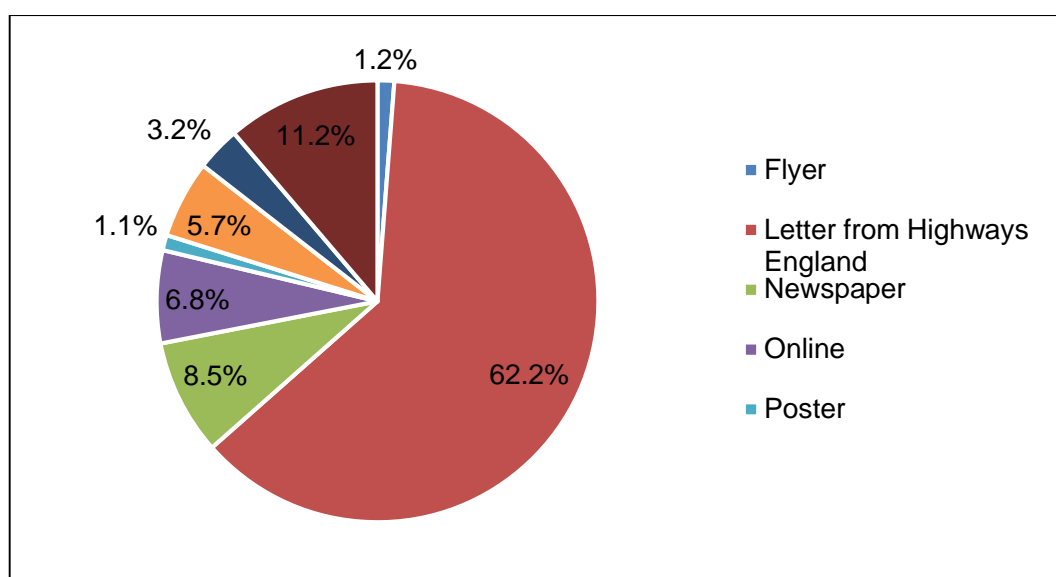


Figure 4.7 – Response to Question 9. ‘How did you hear about the consultation?’

4.1.37 Overall, most respondents had heard about the consultation via a letter from Highways England (559). In addition, respondents heard about the consultation via word of mouth (101), in the newspaper (76), online (61), and on social media (51). The least options chosen were the TV or radio (29), flyer (11), or poster (10).

**Question 10: Please rate the following areas of consultation.**

4.1.38 Question 10a asked respondents if the materials were clear and easy to understand. This question provided a series of tick boxes options.

4.1.39 Figure 4.8 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.

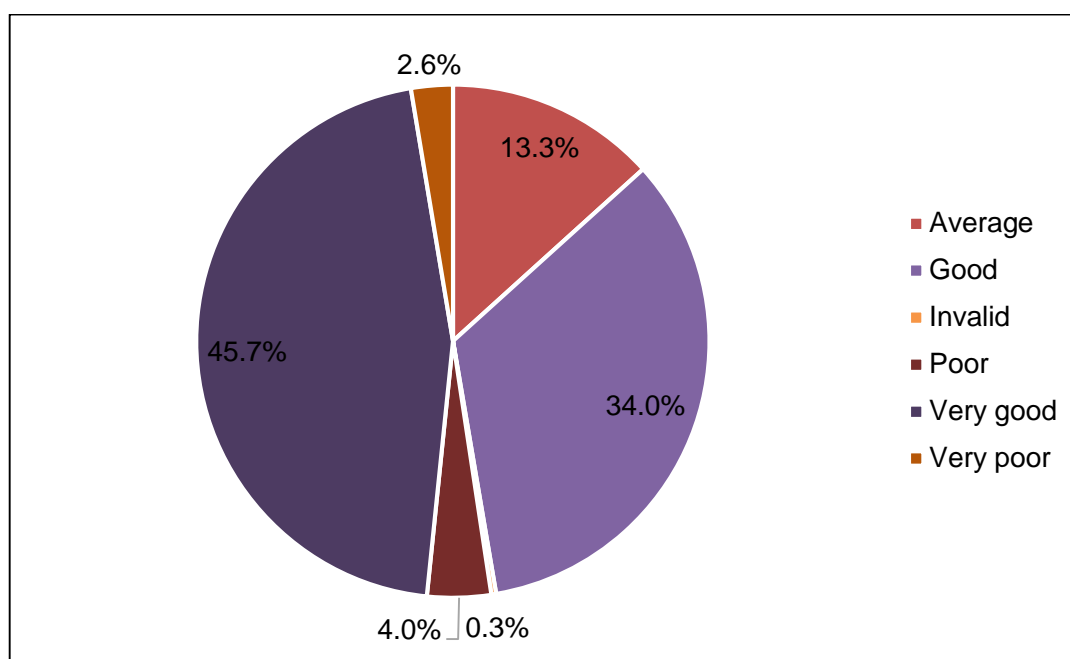


Figure 4.8 – Response to Question 10a. 'Were the materials clear and easy to understand?'

4.1.40 Overall, most respondents to question 10a found the materials clear and easy to understand (516), and some thought they were average (86). In addition, a small proportion of respondents did not find the materials clear or easy to understand (43). This question received two invalid answers.

4.1.41 Question 10b asked respondents if the 3D fly-throughs were clear and easy to understand. This question provided a series of tick boxes options.

4.1.42 Figure 4.9 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.

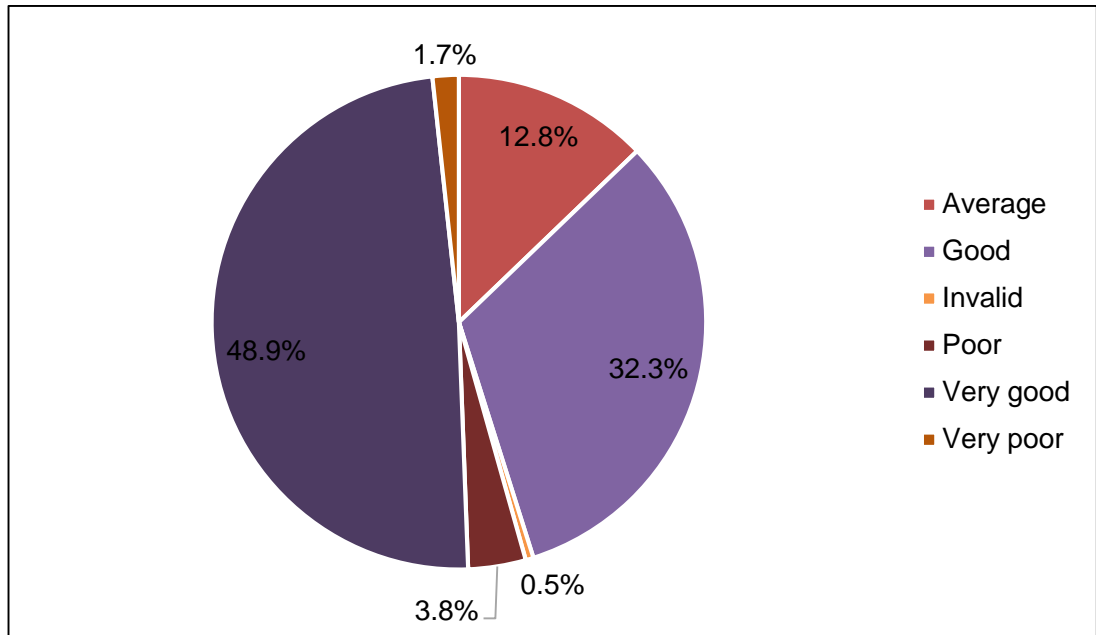


Figure 4.9 – Response to Question 10b. 'Were the 3D fly-throughs clear and easy to understand?'

- 4.1.43 Overall, most respondents found the 3D fly-throughs clear and easy to understand (465), and several thought they were average (75). By comparison, some respondents did not find the 3D fly-throughs clear and easy to understand (33). This question had three invalid answers.
- 4.1.44 Question 10c asked respondents if the exhibitions were of good quality. This question provided a series of tick boxes options.
- 4.1.45 Figure 4.10 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.

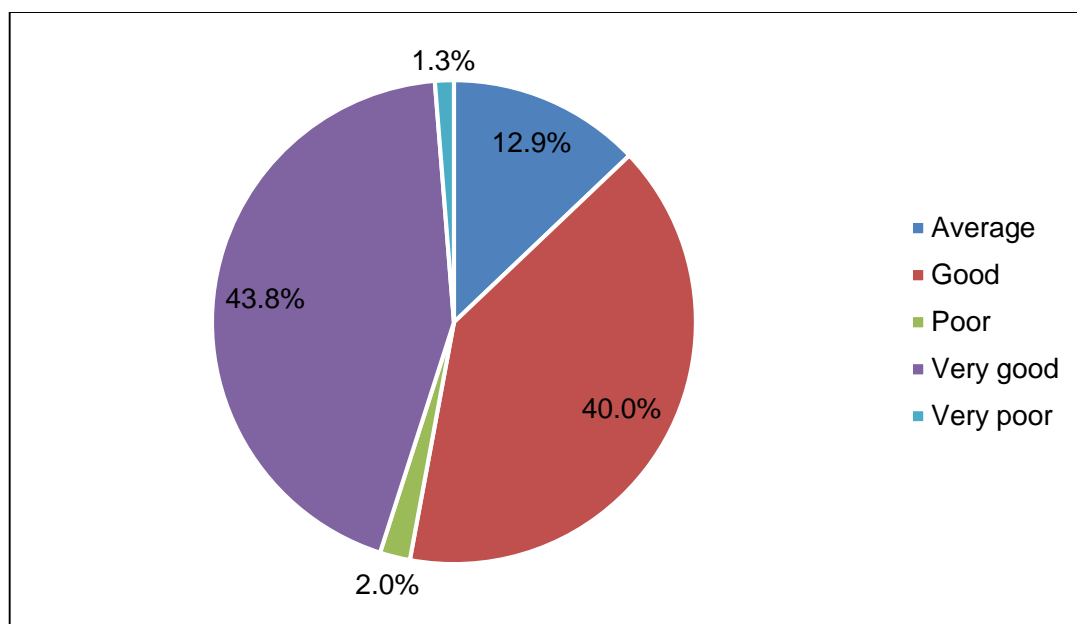


Figure 4.10 – Response to Question 10c. 'Were the exhibitions of good quality?'

- 4.1.46 Overall, most respondents found the exhibitions at events of very good or good quality (331), and some thought they were average (52). A handful of respondents did not find the exhibitions good quality (13).
- 4.1.47 Question 10d asked respondents if the exhibitions were suitably located. This question provided a series of tick boxes options. Figure 4.11 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.

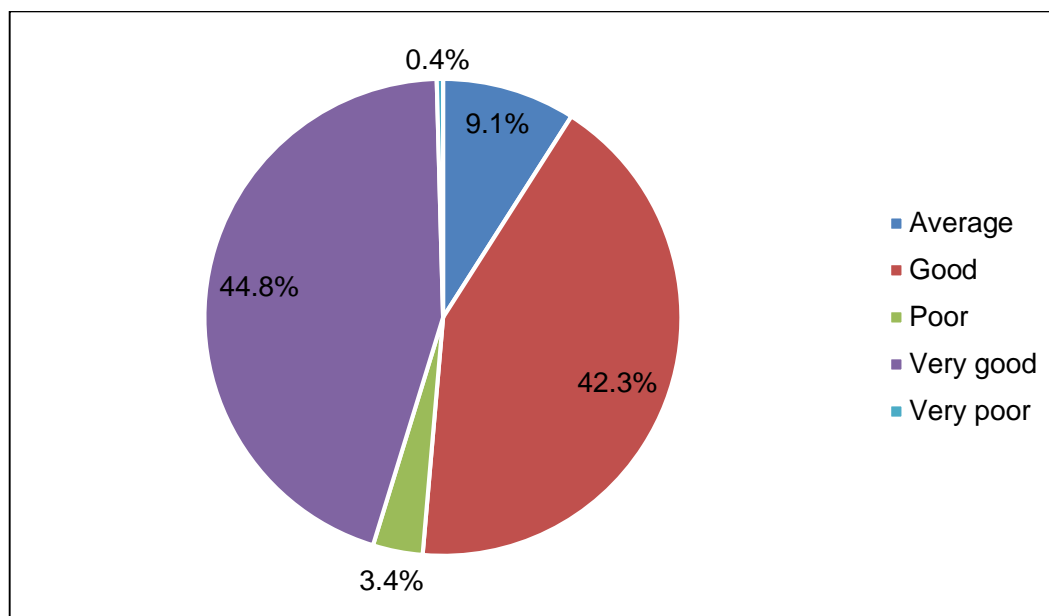


Figure 4.11 – Response to Question 10d. 'Were the exhibitions suitably located?'

- 4.1.48 Overall, most respondents found the exhibitions suitably located (414), and some thought the locations were average (43). By comparison, a few respondents did not find the exhibitions suitably located (18).
- 4.1.49 Question 10e asked respondents if the consultation was promoted well. This question provided a series of tick boxes options. Figure 4.12 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.



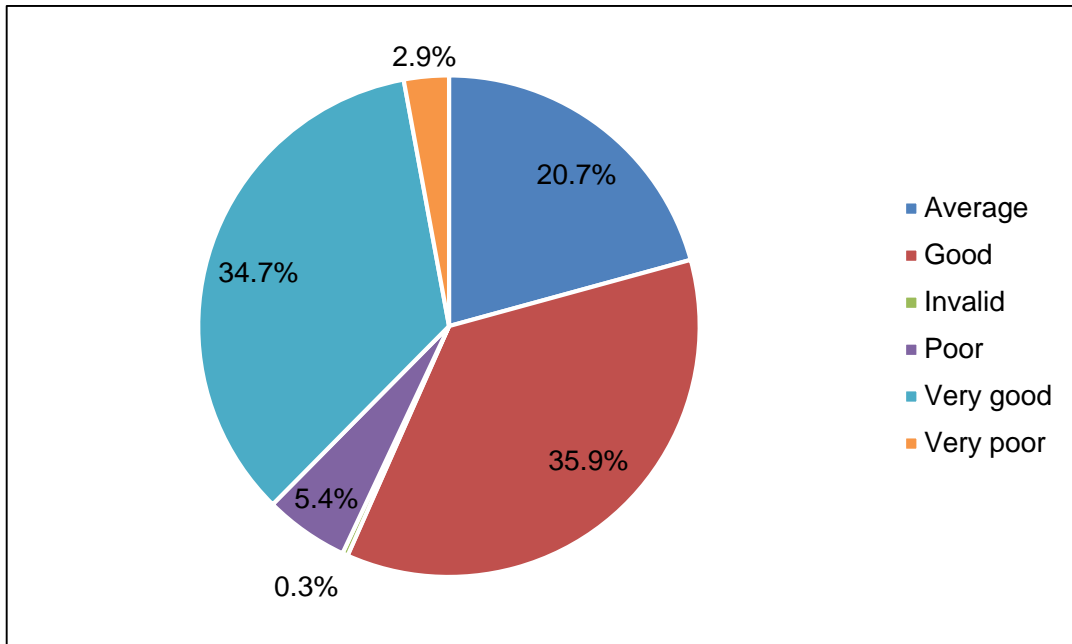


Figure 4.12 – Response to Question 10e. 'Was the consultation promoted well?'

- 4.1.50 Overall, the majority of respondents thought the consultation was promoted very well or well (415), and 122 thought the promotion was average. In addition, a minority of respondents did not think the consultation was well promoted (49). This question had two invalid answers.
- 4.1.51 Question 10f asked respondents if the consultation was promoted to the right people. This question provided a series of tick boxes options. Figure 4.13 presents a summary of responses to the tick box options.

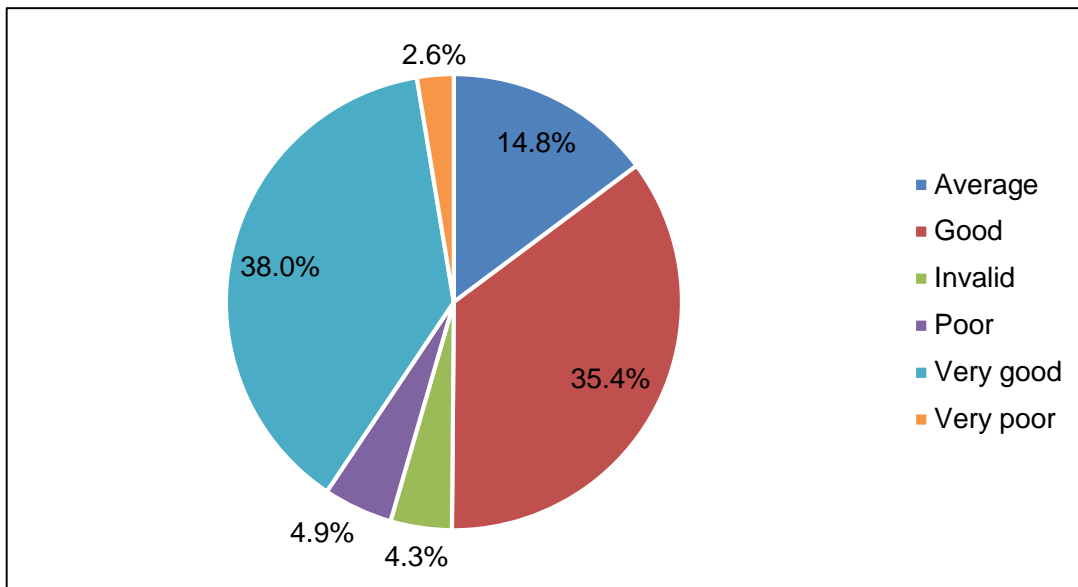


Figure 4.13 – Response to Question 10f. 'Was the consultation promoted to the right people?'

- 4.1.52 Overall, the majority of respondents thought the consultation was promoted to the right people (253), while some thought the promotion to the right people was average (51). By comparison, a small minority of respondents did not think the consultation was promoted to the right people (26). This question had 15 invalid answers.
- 4.1.53 Question 10g asked respondents to provide any other comments they had on the consultation process. This question provided an area to write any free text comments. Table 4.10 summarises the free text box responses.

Table 4.10 – Summary of free text responses to Question 10g. 'Please provide us with any comments you may have on the consultation process.'

Theme	Frequency of comment
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>263</b>
3D flythrough - criticism	15
3D flythrough - other	2
3D flythrough - positive	8
3D flythrough - positive with caveat(s)	4
3D flythrough - suggestion	6
Events - criticism	24
Events - did not attend	10
Events - positive	14
Events - positive with caveat(s)	1
Info / materials - cost (criticism)	6
Info / materials - hard copy documents	2
Info / materials - maps (criticism)	30
Info / materials - maps (positive)	3
Info / materials - maps (suggestion)	7
Info / materials - misleading/vague	17
Info / materials - PEIR availability	2
Info / materials - positive	3
Info / materials - positive with caveat(s)	2
Info / materials - questions (criticism)	4
Info / materials - suggestion	3
Info / materials - website - criticism	2
Previous consultation - criticism	2
Process - criticism	31
Process - positive	18
Process - request further engagement	5
Process - suggestion	5
Promotion - criticism	28
Promotion - positive	2
Promotion - query	2
Promotion - suggestion	5
<b>General comments on proposed scheme</b>	<b>40</b>
Benefit - safety	2

Table 4.10 – Summary of free text responses to Question 10g. 'Please provide us with any comments you may have on the consultation process.'

Theme	Frequency of comment
Concern - congestion	1
Concern - cost	2
Concern - landscape	1
Concern - local community access	2
Concern - noise	1
Concern - signage	1
Concern - speed limit	1
Concern - The Windle	2
General support	6
Suggestion - combine with other A47 improvements	2
Suggestion - slip road(s)	1
Suggestion - The Windle	3
Timescale - long overdue / construct as soon as a possible	15
<b>Link bridge over the existing A47</b>	<b>3</b>
Concern - congestion	1
Concern - signage	1
Suggestion - different route/access	1
<b>New grade-separated junction</b>	<b>3</b>
Benefit - safety	1
Concern - local community access	1
General opposition	1
<b>New stretch of dual carriageway</b>	<b>11</b>
Concern - cost	2
Concern - unnecessary	1
General support	1
Suggestion - additional junction(s)	1
Suggestion - construction planning	1
Suggestion - slip road(s)	1
Timescale - long overdue/construct as soon as a possible	4
<b>Preliminary Environmental Information</b>	<b>2</b>
Concern - land take / allotments	2
<b>Provision for pedestrians and cyclists</b>	<b>7</b>
Concern - lack of facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	2
Concern - lack of facilities, general	1
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, Burlingham / Lingwood	3
Suggestion – add / diff facilities, more / general	1

## **4.2 Responses to the additional consultation and project update**

- 4.2.1 This section provides an overview of the feedback received to the additional consultation and project update undertaken in 2020. Information about this activity and those contacted by Highways England, including the deadlines given for submitted feedback, is provided in sections 3.10 and 3.11 of this Consultation Report.
- 4.2.2 A feedback form was not provided at this stage. Members of the public and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback to Highways England in writing by:
- post to Freepost A47 BLOFIELD TO NORTH BURLINGHAM
  - email to A47BlofieldtoNorthBurlinghamRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk
- 4.2.3 Highways England received eight responses to the project update and additional consultation. Organisations and parties that responded include:
- Norfolk County Council
  - Lead Local Flood Authority Norfolk County Council
  - Broadland District Council
  - Atkins Telecoms on behalf of Vodafone
  - Network Rail
  - Interested landowners or their agents
- 4.2.4 Highways England has set out the comments made at this stage that require a response in a separate table in Annex O (**TR010040/APP/5.2**), demonstrating how it has had regard to them.

## **4.3 Regard to responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008)**

- 4.3.1 Section 49 of the PA 2008 imposes a duty on the applicant 'to have regard to any relevant response' received under Section 42, Section 47 or Section 48 of the PA 2008 within the specified deadline.
- 4.3.2 Highways England considers that the responses at the statutory consultation to the closed questions included in the questionnaire provided as part of the consultation under Section 47 of the PA 2008 support the submitted application.
- 4.3.3 Highways England has shown regard to all other issues raised during the statutory consultation and the project update and additional consultation undertaken in 2020, in accordance with Section 49 of the PA 2008. This is reported in detail in Annex O (**TR010040/APP/5.2**), which summarises (in a series of tables) relevant written consultation responses and explains what regard has been had to them.
- 4.3.4 In Annex O (**TR010040/APP/5.2**), tables are included for each individual strand of statutory consultation (Section 42(1)(a), Section 42(1)(b), Section 42(1)(d), Section 47 and Section 48).

## 4.4 Ongoing stakeholder engagement

- 4.4.1 Throughout the Scheme development process, there has been ongoing engagement outside of the statutory and non-statutory engagement periods with several key stakeholders including Norfolk County Council and Broadlands District Council. This engagement is summarised in Annex P (TR010040/APP/5.2).

## 4.5 Summary of scheme changes as a result of statutory consultation

- 4.5.1 Table 4.11 sets out key design changes made as a result of responses received during the statutory consultation.

Table 4.11 Changes to the Scheme as a result of consultation		
No. and respondents	Element of the Scheme and issue raised in consultation	Design change as a result of consultation response
1 Norfolk County Council, Lingwood & Burlingham Parish Council, Acle Parish Council and numerous respondents / land interests	Respondents expressed concerns that the Scheme reduced opportunities to cross the A47 for non-motorised users, or they requested a crossing point or footbridge between Lingwood and North Burlingham or elsewhere across the A47 as well easier and safer access across for pedestrian, cycling and horse riders.	Where the existing A47 is unaffected by the dualling, it is proposed to be de-trunked and serve as a local access road for residents. This will include a new combined footway/cycle. A new section of footway is also proposed on Yarmouth Road to connect to the existing footway and allow pedestrians to walk along Yarmouth Road to the allotment gardens. These new sections of infrastructure will provide improved connectivity between Blofield and North Burlingham for walking, cycling and horse riding.  The Scheme also provides a new Public Right of Way (PRoW) footpath, to the south of the new A47 mainline, connecting from the Blofield Overbridge to the B1140 junction. This route connects with multiple existing north / south permissive routes and footpath Burlingham FP3. Further details are

**Table 4.11 Changes to the Scheme as a result of consultation**

No. and respondents	Element of the Scheme and issue raised in consultation	Design change as a result of consultation response
		provided in the Chapter 12 Population and Human Health of the Environmental Statement (ES) <b>(TR010040/APP/6.1)</b> .
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Beighton Parish Council, Lingwood &amp; Burlingham Parish Council, Acle Parish Council and numerous respondents / land interests</p>	<p>There were concerns that the radius of turns is too tight and will result in queues of traffic back on to the A47 when heavily laden sugar beet lorries slow down to take the turns off the A47. There were also concerns that the slip roads needed to be lengthened to accommodate these lorries.</p> <p>Beighton Parish Council stated that local farmers had expressed their opinion that the radius will require drivers to slow down to just 10mph to take the turns and at peak sugar beet season there will be hundreds of HGVs using this junction.</p>	<p>The slip roads at the B1140 have been designed to Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). Section 5.3 of the Transport Assessment <b>(TR010040/APP/7.3)</b> states that further traffic surveys were undertaken in October 2019 at the South Walsham junction which took the traffic from British Sugar Plc into account. See also Section 4.6 of the Scheme Design Report <b>(TR010040/APP/7.6)</b>. The design has accordingly considered the sugar beet traffic and the slip roads have been extended in length to provide adequate length for the traffic to safely leave and merge with the A47. The design of the B1140 Junction made use of detailed localised traffic modelling to inform the use of non-standard geometry features to ensure that the proposed design operates efficiently after construction.</p>



**Table 4.11 Changes to the Scheme as a result of consultation**

No. and respondents	Element of the Scheme and issue raised in consultation	Design change as a result of consultation response
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Norfolk County Council</p>	<p>It was stated that flooding on the existing A47 at the location of where the Environment Agency Risk of Surface Water Flood Map crosses the road should be reviewed and improvements made where possible.</p>	<p>This Environment Agency's Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map (Environment Agency, 2020e) as well as information from previous flooding events has been reviewed, and surface water flooding pathways have been accommodated in the design of the Scheme, further details can be found in the Drainage Strategy Report, Volume 3, Appendix 14.2. of Chapter 13 Road Drainage and Water Environment of the Environmental Statement <b>(TR010040/APP/6.1)</b>. Chapter 13 states that the existing surface water pathways for overland flows have been maintained or facilitated through interception using appropriately designed collection drains and cross-drains, also known as 'dry culverts'. Where it was not possible to connect directly with existing surface water pathways, infiltration via clean water soakaways have been proposed, which have been designed to accommodate 1 in 100 year event with an allowance for climate change where there is a risk of flooding to nearby properties.</p>

**Table 4.11 Changes to the Scheme as a result of consultation**

No. and respondents	Element of the Scheme and issue raised in consultation	Design change as a result of consultation response
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Norfolk County Council</p>	<p>It was suggested that screening could also be used to further enhance the route, this would be more attractive for families with pushchairs, cyclists and dog walkers who are all looking to access the woods to the north</p>	<p>Tree planting has been included within the Scheme and has taken into account the visual amenity of users of the network of Public Rights of Way and Burlingham Woodland Walks to the north of the Scheme. Proposed planting treatments and their environmental mitigation functions are set out in the Masterplan <b>(TR010040/APP/6.8)</b> and includes a combination of hedgerows, trees and woodland groups as appropriate to the location to contribute to screening and integration of the Scheme. Further detail is also included in ES Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual <b>(TR010040/APP/6.1)</b>.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>User ID: 200006</p>	<p>There is currently a proposal to create a new car park for the allotments on the eastern edge of Blofield on our client's land (1/12 on plan). This is to replace part of the car park that is being taken by the road development. This is not an appropriate location for the new car park however as the allotments are not owned by our client. Our client is being penalised simply for having land near the present allotment site.</p> <p>Further adding to the unsuitability of this site for a car park are the future plans for the strip of land (1/11 and 1/11a on plan) adjacent to the</p>	<p>Following feedback the proposed allotment car park has been relocated.</p> <p>Highways England have met with the landowner and a summary is provided in the Statement of Reasons (Annex B <b>(TR010040/APP/4.1))</b>.</p>

**Table 4.11 Changes to the Scheme as a result of consultation**

No. and respondents	Element of the Scheme and issue raised in consultation	Design change as a result of consultation response
	<p>proposed car park site. It is the intention of the owner, who has already achieved development on neighbouring land, to use this as the access route to his next development site. If this is the case then there will come a time when the allotment car park is split from the allotments by a road serving 40-50 houses. This will not be safe. It would make more sense to locate the new car park on land owned by the same person who owns the allotments (1/9 or 1/10 on plan). We are aware on the new plans this will move, but we have not seen these yet.</p>	

## 5 CONCLUSION

### 5.1 Compliance with advice and guidance

- 5.1.1 Highways England has undertaken a consultation process which complies with the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) – now the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015), as well as relevant advice from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- 5.1.2 Tables 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of this Consultation Report summarise Highways England's consultation and engagement activity for the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham scheme (the Scheme).
- 5.1.3 Between Monday 13 March 2017 and Friday 21 April 2017, Highways England held a non-statutory stage of consultation. The purpose of the non-statutory consultation was to seek views on the outline proposals and route options for the Scheme from the general public, stakeholders, including local authorities, and other interested bodies. Chapter 2 of this report details how Highways England delivered this consultation and the feedback it received.
- 5.1.4 Between Monday 10 September 2018 and Friday 19 October 2018, Highways England held a statutory pre-application stage of consultation (under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008)) for the Scheme. Chapter 3 of this report provides information about how Highways England complied with Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008, and details the additional consultation activities undertaken.
- 5.1.5 Chapter 4 of this report summarises the feedback received by Highways England to the statutory pre-application consultation, and the changes Highways England has made to the Scheme as a result of the comments received. Annex O (**TR010040/APP/5.2**) explains how Highways England has had regard to the feedback received during the consultation.
- 5.1.6 Table 5.1 evidences how Highways England has complied with the DCLG guidance on the pre-application process.

Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process		
Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
17	When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.	Documents produced as part of the consultation were clear about their status. Letters issued to consultees as part of the Section 42 and Section 47 consultations set out that they contained details of the statutory consultation. The status of the consultation booklet is set out on its fifth page, and the status of the consultation questionnaire on the second page.  Copies of these documents can be found in Annex K ( <b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b> ).

**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

<b>Para:</b>	<b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Evidence of compliance:</b>
18	Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.	<p>Highways England held a stage of non-statutory consultation between Monday 13 March 2017 and Friday 21 April 2017. This consultation gave the local community, businesses and stakeholders the opportunity to have their say on the early proposal for the Scheme, before they reached an advanced stage. The feedback given to Highways England was considered as the Scheme developed. Chapter 2 of this report provides more detail about this consultation and the feedback Highways England received.</p> <p>Highways England continued valuable engagement with stakeholders following the non-statutory consultation and prior to the statutory consultation, to keep them up to date. Table 2.2 sets out the meetings Highways England attended at this stage, their purpose and what was discussed at each.</p>
19	The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the major infrastructure consenting regime. A thorough process can give the Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the six months examination period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues.	<p>Highways England has conducted a thorough consultation process which has allowed it to identify, consider and, as far as possible, seek to reach agreement on issues likely to arise during the six-month examination. The early engagement and non-statutory consultation set out in Chapter 2 of this report provided Highways England with the opportunity to identify and consider issues early in the development of the Scheme.</p> <p>The statutory consultation set out in Chapter 3 of this document built on this understanding and further identified and considered issues likely to arise. Annex O (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>) includes evidence of how Highways England has considered issues raised through the statutory consultation. Where appropriate, Highways England has prepared Statements of Common Ground with relevant statutory consultees to demonstrate areas of agreement.</p>

**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
20	<p>Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options</li> <li>• shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed</li> <li>• engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views</li> </ul>	<p>For both the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, Highways England shared information at an early enough stage to allow the proposal to be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed.</p> <p>In each consultation, Highways England developed a clear scope for what could be influenced by consultees. For the non-statutory consultation, this was to feedback on the four route options. For the statutory consultation, this was to provide feedback on the design of the Scheme, including the location, purpose and layout of junctions, provision for non-motorised users, and environmental impact and mitigation.</p> <p>For each consultation, Highways England published a booklet written in an engaging and accessible style, setting out what it was possible to influence at that stage, providing accurate information that gave consultees a clear view of what was proposed, and encouraging them to react and offer their views.</p> <p>A copy of the booklet produced for the non-statutory consultation is included with Annex B <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p> <p>A copy of the booklet produced for the statutory consultation is included in Annex K <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p>
25	<p>Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to need to go beyond</p>	<p>Highways England considers that it has conducted a thorough, effective and proportionate consultation. The timescale provided to comment for consultation under Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008 was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by Section 45(2) of the PA 2008. Based on Highways England's experience developing highways schemes, it considered this period of comment proportionate to the scale and complexity of this scheme.</p>



**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
	<p>the statutory minimum timescales laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand project proposals and formulate a response. Many proposals will require detailed technical input, especially regarding impacts, so sufficient time will need to be allowed for this. Consultation should also be sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and requirements of consultees, for example where a consultee has indicated that they would prefer to be consulted via email only, this should be accommodated as far as possible.</p>	<p>Highways England has also been conscious of the need to be sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and requirements of consultees. As set out in paragraph 3.5.9, Highways England provided a variety of means to respond to the statutory consultation, including completing a questionnaire online, completing and returning a hard copy of the questionnaire, submitting comments by letter, or submitting comments by email. Highways England also provided a variety of means of finding out about the proposal, including attending a consultation event, looking on the consultation website, going to a public information point, or contacting Highways England directly. Details of this are set out in paragraph 3.5.2.</p>
26	<p>The Planning Act requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself. Sections 42 – 44 of the Planning Act and Regulations set out details of who should be consulted, including local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation (where appropriate), other statutory bodies, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 in the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants may also wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of</p>	<p>Highways England has identified and consulted with parties prescribed by Section 42, Section 43 and Section 44 of the PA 2008, as well as the local community as prescribed in Section 47 of the PA 2008 and defined in the SoCC.</p> <p>Details of how Highways England consulted in accordance with each of these sections of the PA 2008 are set out in Chapter 3 of this report.</p>

**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
	other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.	
27	<p>The Planning Act and Regulations set out the statutory consultees and prescribed people who must be consulted during the pre-application process. Many statutory consultees are responsible for consent regimes where, under Section 120 of the Planning Act, decisions on those consents can be included within the decision on a Development Consent Order. Where an applicant proposes to include non-planning consents within their Development Consent Order, the bodies that would normally be responsible for granting these consents should make every effort to facilitate this. They should only object to the inclusion of such non-planning consents with good reason, and after careful consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore important that such bodies are consulted at an early stage. In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could be make an important contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on project proposals.</p>	<p>Highways England produced a list of prescribed statutory bodies under Section 42(1)(a) of the PA 2008 and associated legislation, as amended. These are listed in Annex L <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p> <p>This was produced using Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (“the APFP Regulations”). Prescribed consultees are identified by name or identified by a category such as statutory undertakers.</p> <p>Copies of letters sent to statutory and prescribed consultees at the statutory consultation are provided in Annex J <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p> <p>Recognising that other local organisations, councils and businesses can make an important contribution to consultation, Highways England identified these and notified them about the statutory consultation for the Scheme so they could take part and give their feedback.</p> <p>A letter was issued to these contacts on Friday 7 September 2018, and this is provided in Annex K <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p> <p>The organisations and councils contacted are listed in Appendix 2 of the published SoCC, provided in Annex G <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b> of this Consultation Report.</p>

**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

<b>Para:</b>	<b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Evidence of compliance:</b>
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>Highways England sought technical input from relevant expert bodies at every stage of the Scheme's development, both during and outside of consultations.</p> <p>This included through the early engagement set out in Table 2.2, during the non-statutory consultation set out in Chapter 2, and during the Statutory Consultation set out in Chapter 3.</p>
38	<p>The role of the local authority in such discussions should be to provide expertise about the make-up of its area, including whether people in the area might have particular needs or requirements, whether the authority has identified any groups as difficult to reach and what techniques might be appropriate to overcome barriers to communication. The local authority should also provide advice on the appropriateness of the applicant's suggested consultation techniques and methods. The local authority's aim in such discussions should be to</p>	<p>Highways England engaged with host local authorities to seek expertise on these issues.</p> <p>As prescribed by Section 47 of the PA 2008, Highways England prepared a draft SoCC setting out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity the Scheme. This also included a list of additional organisations, including hard to reach groups, community representatives and businesses Highways England identified could contribute to the consultation. These were notified about the statutory consultation so they could take part.</p> <p>In accordance with Section 47 of the PA 2008, Highways England consulted the required bodies on this to seek their views on the content of the statement.</p>

**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

<b>Para:</b>	<b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Evidence of compliance:</b>
	ensure that the people affected by the development can take part in a thorough, accessible and effective consultation exercise about the proposed project.	<p>In addition, Highways England also sought the views of other councils in the region on its proposals to consult people and organisations.</p> <p>Chapter 3 of this report details how Highways England consulted on the draft SoCC, the feedback it received and how it had regard to the comments received.</p>
41	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.	The regard that Highways England had to responses received as part of the consultation on the draft SoCC is set out in Table 3.1.
50	It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categories those land interests) is up-to-date at the time of submission.	<p>Highways England has diligently sought to identify all land interests and ensure that the Book of Reference <b>(TR010040/APP/4.3)</b> remains up to date.</p> <p>Section 3.2 in this report summarises how people with an interest in land were identified.</p>
54	In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local authorities will be able	Highways England has adopted an inclusive approach to consultation to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. The SoCC included proposals to support the participation of hard to reach groups in the consultation. Details of the approach set out in the SoCC are included in Table 3.8.

Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process

Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
	to provide advice on what works best in terms of consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultation in their area.	
55	<p>Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents may need to be bilingual (for example, Welsh and English in some areas), but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.</p>	<p>For each consultation, Highways England published a booklet written in an engaging and accessible style, setting out what it was possible to influence at that stage, providing accurate information that gave consultees a clear view of what was proposed, and encouraging them to react and offer their views.</p> <p>A copy of the booklet produced for the non-statutory consultation is included with <b>Annex B (TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p> <p>A copy of the booklet produced for the statutory consultation is included in Annex K (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p> <p>Copies of consultation materials were available in alternative formats on request.</p> <p>Highways England received no requests to supply documents in alternative formats.</p>
57	The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a	As set out in paragraph 3.2.3, Highways England included a framework for



**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
	framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local deposit points (for example libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.	community consultation in the SoCC, including where details and dates of events would be published. The SoCC was made available on the consultation website, at all exhibitions, and placed at local document inspection locations as set out in Table 3.2.
58	Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under Section 48 of the Planning Act and the Regulations and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. This publicity is an integral part of the public consultation process. Where possible, the first of the 2 required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.	<p>Highways England publicised the proposed application under Section 48 of the PA 2008 by publishing notices in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 10 September 2018 in <i>The London Gazette</i></li> <li>Monday 10 September 2018 in <i>The Guardian</i></li> <li>Monday 10 September 2018 and Monday 17 September 2018 in the <i>Eastern Daily Press</i></li> </ul> <p>This was the period immediately preceding the beginning of statutory consultation. These notices are included in Annex H (TR010040/APP/5.2).</p>
68	To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time	For both the non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation, Highways England shared information at an early enough stage to allow the proposal to be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide sufficient information on what is being proposed to enable



**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
	consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.	<p>consultees to recognise and understand its impacts.</p> <p>In each consultation, Highways England developed a clear scope for what could be influenced by consultees. For the non-statutory consultation, this was to feedback on the four route options. For the statutory consultation, this was to provide feedback on the design of the upgrade, including the location, purpose and layout of junctions, environmental impact and mitigation and the provision for walking, cycling and horse riding.</p> <p>For each consultation, Highways England published a booklet written in an engaging and accessible style, setting out what it was possible to influence at that stage, providing accurate information that gave consultees a clear view of what was proposed, and encouraging them to react and offer their views. A copy of the booklet produced for the non-statutory consultation is included with Annex B <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>. A copy of the booklet produced for the statutory consultation is included in Annex K <b>(TR010040/APP/5.2)</b>.</p>
72	The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from project to project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the impacts. The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer	he 40 days provided to comment for consultation under Section 42, Section 47 and Section 48 of the PA 2008 was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by Section 45(2) of the PA 2008. Based on Highways England's experience of developing highways schemes, it considered this period of comment proportionate to the scale and complexity of the Scheme.

Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process		
Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
	consultation periods than this. Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.	
73	Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the project proposals have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.	Highways England has deemed that further consultation on its proposals for the Scheme is not necessary.

**Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process**

<b>Para:</b>	<b>Requirement:</b>	<b>Evidence of compliance:</b>
77	Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultations is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.	<p>Highways England has sought to ensure that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of the project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.</p> <p>Details of the regard Highways England had to formal comments from local authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation, prior to the statutory consultation, are provided in Table 3.1.</p>
84	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant impacts, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate. Applicants are also likely to have identified a number of key additional bodies for consultation and may need to continue engagement with these bodies on an individual basis.	<p>Highways England is satisfied that this Consultation Report and supporting annexes provide sufficient detail in response to the relevant impacts identified in response to consultation.</p> <p>Details of the regard that Highways England has had to consultation responses is set out in Annex O (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p> <p>In September 2020, Highways England updated local people and stakeholders (including Section 42(1)(a) and (b) organisations) about its progress with the Scheme and its latest plans. As part of this, Highways England invited recipients to provide any feedback they may have.</p> <p>This update engagement activity is set out in section 3.10.</p> <p>In September, October and November 2020, Highways England also undertook additional, targeted consultation with land interest contacts. This was to share information about changes to the Scheme's development area and provide an opportunity for them to give their feedback to Highways England.</p> <p>This additional consultation activity is set out in section 3.11.</p>

Table 5.1 Compliance with DCLG guidance on the pre-application process		
Para:	Requirement:	Evidence of compliance:
		The feedback received in response to the project update and additional consultation is also summarised in Chapter 4.

- 5.1.7 Highways England has also considered the advice given in PINS' *Advice note fourteen: Compiling the Consultation Report*. Details of compliance with this text is included in the Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Compliance with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 14 Compiling the Consultation Report	
Advice:	Evidence of compliance:
Explanatory text should set the scene and provide an overview and narrative of the whole pre-application stage as it relates to a particular project. It would assist if a quick reference guide in bullet point form, summarising all the consultation activity in chronological order, is included near the start of the report.	This is provided in Chapter 1.
The applicant should include a full list of the prescribed consultees as part of the consultation report.	This is provided in Annex L (TR010040/APP/5.2).
A short description of how Section 43 of the Act has been applied in order to identify the relevant local authorities should be included, this could be supported by a map showing the site and identifying the boundaries of the relevant local authorities.	This is set out in section 3.3.
Where compulsory acquisition forms part of the draft DCO the consultees who are also included in the book of reference for compulsory acquisition purposes should be highlighted in the consolidated list of prescribed consultees.	This is set out in the Book of Reference (TR010040/APP/4.3).
It would be helpful to provide a summary of the rationale behind the SoCC methodology to assist the Secretary of State's understanding of the community consultation and provide a context for considering how consultation was undertaken.	This is set out in section 3.2.

**Table 5.2 Compliance with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 14  
Compiling the Consultation Report**

Advice:	Evidence of compliance:
<p>Any consultation not carried out under the provisions of the Act should be clearly indicated and identified separately in the report from the Statutory Consultation. This does not necessarily mean that non-statutory consultation has less weight than consultation carried out under the Act but identifying statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation separately will assist when it comes to determining compliance with statutory requirements.</p>	<p>Non-statutory consultation is set out separately to statutory consultation, in Chapter 2 of this document.</p>
<p>The summary of responses, if done well, can save a significant amount of explanatory text. We advise that applicants group responses under the 3 strands of consultation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 42 prescribed consultees (including Section 43 and Section 44);</li> <li>• Section 47 community consultees; and</li> <li>• Section 48 responses to statutory publicity.</li> </ul> <p>This list should also make a further distinction within those categories by sorting responses according to whether they contain comments which have led to changes to matters such as siting, route, design, form or scale of the scheme itself, or to mitigation or compensatory measures proposed, or have led to no change.</p>	<p>Chapter 4 of this report summarises all the feedback received to the consultation. It also documents where changes have been made to the design of the Scheme, as a result of feedback given.</p> <p>Annex O (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>) details the specific points made in feedback given and Highways England's regard to them. In the annex, comments are grouped under the following two strands, and subdivided into feedback theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 42 prescribed consultees (including Section 43 and Section 44)</li> <li>• Section 47 community consultees and Section 48 responses to statutory publicity</li> </ul>
<p>A summary of responses by appropriate category together with a clear explanation of the reason why responses have led to no change should also be included, including where responses have been received after deadlines set by the applicant.</p>	<p>This is set out in detail in Annex O (<b>TR010040/APP/5.2</b>).</p>

- 5.1.8 Highways England considers that it has met the statutory requirements of the pre-application process. As set out in section 1.3, it has undertaken a programme of non-statutory and statutory consultation.

- 5.1.9 At each stage of consultation, Highways England has considered and complied with relevant advice and guidance. The information included in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 supports this through direct reference to MHCLG's and PINS' guidance on the pre-application process.
- 5.1.10 In addition to this Consultation Report, Highways England has completed the Section 55 checklist to demonstrate how it has complied with the guidance. This is part of the DCO application: (**TR010040/APP/1.2**).



## **LIST OF ANNEXES:**

- Annex A:** Non-statutory options consultation report
- Annex B:** Non-statutory options consultation materials
- Annex C:** The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017: Regulation 8(1) and 10(1) letter to PINS
- Annex D:** Copy of draft SoCC provided to local authorities
- Annex E:** Correspondence to local authorities for SoCC consultation
- Annex F:** Response from local authorities on the draft SoCC
- Annex G:** Published SoCC
- Annex H:** Section 47 and 48 newspaper notices
- Annex I:** Section 46 notification letter sent to PINS
- Annex J:** Section 42 letters
- Annex K:** Section 47 consultation materials
- Annex L:** List of prescribed consultees identified and consulted
- Annex M:** Engagement undertaken with Statutory Undertakers
- Annex N:** Project update, September 2020
- Annex O:** Table evidencing regard had to consultation responses (in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008)
- Annex P:** Ongoing stakeholder engagement