

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT

THE A47 TRUNK ROAD (POSTWICK INTERCHANGE SLIP ROADS)
ORDER 20__

THE A47 TRUNK ROAD (POSTWICK INTERCHANGE SIDE ROADS)
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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. This statement explains the purpose of the above-mentioned draft Orders published by the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions. The statement is being distributed to all occupiers of properties within 100 metres of the proposals. If you are receiving the statement as an occupier of a property within 100 metres of the proposals, and you are not the owner of the property, please would you bring this statement to the attention of the owner.

2. Public Notices about the proposals will be published in the Eastern Daily Press, Norwich Evening News and the London Gazette.

BACKGROUND

3. The A47 trunk road provides a strategic east - west link between Great Yarmouth on the east coast of Norfolk and the Midlands. In Norfolk its route is diverted around the southern outskirts of Norwich between the villages of Easton in the west and Postwick in the east. At Postwick there is an interchange that connects the A47 with the A1042 Yarmouth Road that in turn allows access to the eastern outskirts of Norwich where a number of business parks providing local employment are located.

4. Norwich is the premier centre for housing and employment within the north-eastern sector of the eastern region and also provides services to a wide rural area. The current East of England Plan proposes a significant expansion of the city and its wider policy area. As a result Norwich has been designated a Growth Point by central government.

5. A planning application for the modifications to the A47 Postwick junction and the development of land to the north of the junction has been submitted jointly to Broadland District Council by Ifield Estates and Norfolk County Council. This application is due to be considered by the Planning Committee of Broadland District Council on 9 December 2009. The publication of these draft Orders is not intended to pre-empt any decision by Broadland District Council and in the event of a decision being withheld or permission not being granted for the application, the Orders will be withdrawn.

6. The A47 Postwick Interchange is currently operating near to its optimum capacity at peak times and is in need of improvement before this planned growth together with some already allocated development can be realised. These statutory orders reflect proposals that are designed to not only overcome the present problems but also allow the intended growth to be delivered without detriment to the safety of road users and to the benefit of the local economy.

7. The proposals were the subject of a two-day public exhibition that was held at Postwick Village Hall on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October 2008. This exhibition set out the plans for the interchange improvements together with those for 'Broadland Gate', a mixed commercial development on land contained within the planned road layout. It provided an opportunity for local residents, businesses and other organisations to have an input into the formulation of the scheme.

THE PRESENT PROPOSALS

8. The main objectives of this improvement scheme are to reduce traffic congestion and provide for the planned growth in housing and jobs that are contained within the regional economic strategy lead by the East of England Development Agency.

9. The improvements to Postwick Interchange involve the following:

- closure of the existing eastbound diverge and merge slip roads;
- construction of new eastbound diverge and merge slip roads;
- modifications to the existing A47 overbridge to allow the new eastbound diverge slip road to be routed through its northern span;
- conversion of the existing roundabout serving the Postwick Park and Ride site to a signalised junction;
- construction of a new link road in a north easterly direction from the Park and Ride site on a new bridge over the A47;
- construction of a roundabout connecting the north end of the above link road to the new slip roads;
- construction of a new dual carriageway link from the roundabout between the two new slip roads northwards for a distance of around 0.5km;
- construction of a new roundabout at the northern end of the above dual carriageway link;
- construction of a new single carriageway link from the existing roundabout at the junction of Broadland Way and Peachman Way eastwards for a distance of 0.5km to the above roundabout;
- construction of a new roundabout on the above east-west link road to serve the proposed 'Broadland Gate' development;
- replacement of a section of the private means of access to the dwellings at Heath Farm.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. A landscaping scheme has been devised and planting will be undertaken to reduce the impact of the proposals.
11. The road would be constructed using low-noise road surfacing.

THE DRAFT ORDERS

12. The A47 slip road proposals are published in draft in an Order under sections 10 and 41 of the Highways Act 1980 under the title "The A47 Trunk Road (Postwick Interchange Slip Roads) Order 20..", which would fix the line of the new slip roads.
13. An Order under sections 12, 14 and 125 of the Highways Act 1980 under the title "The A47 Trunk Road (Postwick Interchange Side Roads) Order 20.." would provide for the stopping up of the two existing eastbound slip roads and a length of footpath, creation of new highways and a footpath, alterations to existing side roads and private means of access.
14. Improvements to the trunk road will also be carried out under the Secretary of State's general powers.

REPRESENTATIONS AND OBJECTIONS

15. Anyone wishing to make representations about or objections to any aspect of the proposals should write to the Secretary of State for Transport at the offices of the Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7LW. This should be marked for the attention of Ranjit Mistry and sent not later than 8 January 2010 or within eight weeks from the date of the first publication of this notice if that period expires later, stating the grounds on which the representation or objection is made. Anyone doing so should bear in mind that the Secretary of State may need to communicate the substance of any representation or objection to other people who may be affected by it.
16. All representations and objections received will be carefully considered before the Secretary of State for Transport decides whether to hold a Public Inquiry. If it is decided to hold an Inquiry an announcement will be made about when and where it will be held. Statutory objectors will have an opportunity to put their views to an independent Inspector. Other objectors may be heard at the Inspector's discretion. Only after full consideration of the Inspector's report and recommendations and all the representations and objections will the Secretary of State for Transport decide whether the orders should be made, with or without modifications.

FURTHER INFORMATION

17. Details of the proposals may be inspected at the following addresses:
 - Highways Agency, Woodlands, Manton Lane, Bedford, MK41 7LW
 - Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2SG
 - Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0DU

18. Further information may be obtained from the Highways Agency's Bedford office at the address above or by telephoning 01234 796268 or by email ranjit.mistry@highways.gsi.gov.uk.