

# Norwich Northern Distributor Road: Statement of Community Consultation

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## The Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC)

This SOCC sets out how Norfolk County Council (NCC) proposes to undertake pre-application consultation with people living in the vicinity of the proposed Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR), including the A47 Postwick Hub Junction. The consultation will commence with the first exhibition on 8 July 2013 and the closing date for responses will be 20 September 2013.

## Summary of Proposals

The proposed NDR, which includes works to the Postwick Hub Junction, comprises a 20.4km primarily dual carriageway road around north Norwich linking the A1067 Fakenham Road near Attlebridge to the A47 Trunk Road at Postwick. It includes roundabout junctions with the main radial routes running into and out of Norwich on the north side of the city and grade-separated interchanges (i.e. involving a bridge over the carriageway and slip roads) with the A140 Cromer Road and the A47 at Postwick (Postwick Hub Junction). Facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders are proposed, including new bridleways adjacent to the NDR and facilities within new bridges over the NDR. The NDR will require the closure of a number of existing roads.

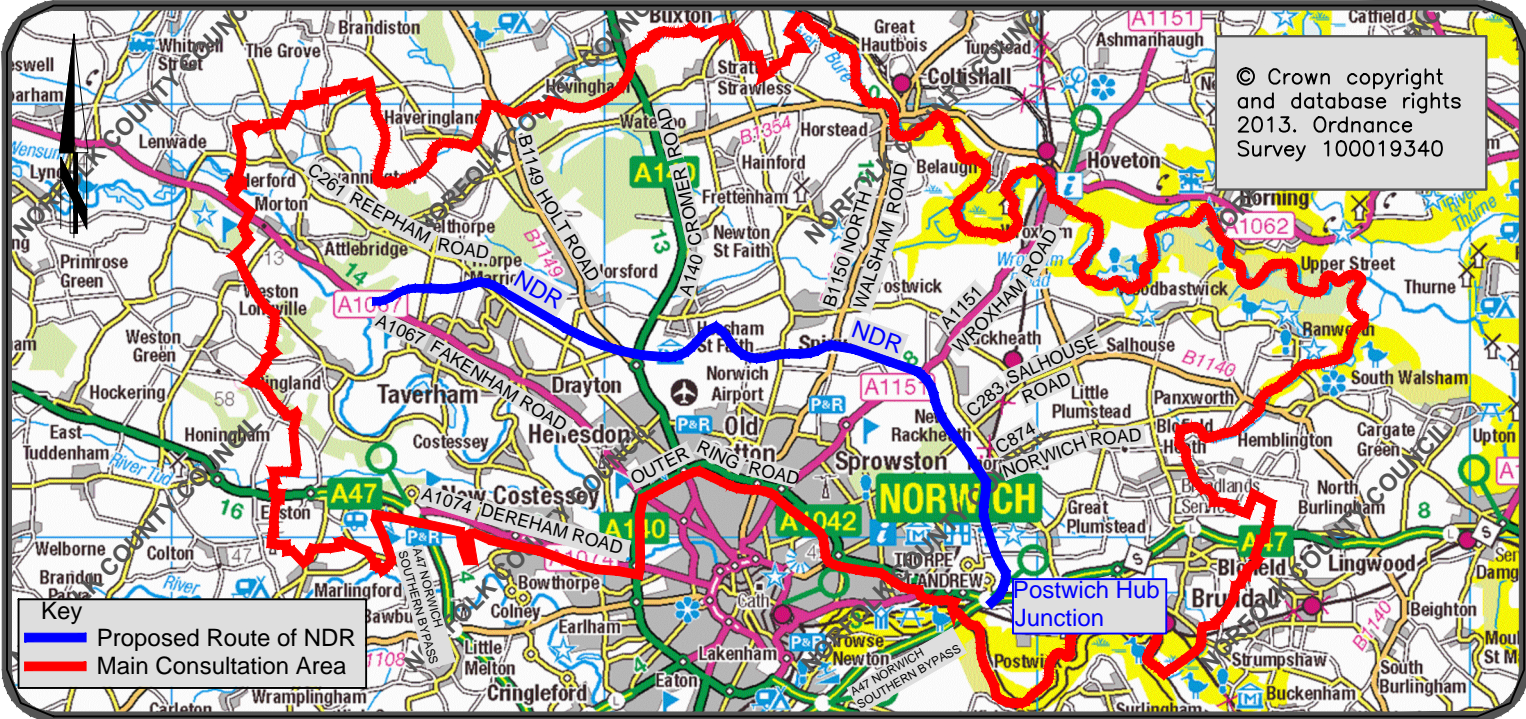
The NDR will have sections both in cutting (below the surrounding ground level) and raised on an embankment. Earthwork embankments and vegetation screening are proposed adjacent to certain sections of the road.

The NDR is key to the delivery of the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (NATS). NATS outlines proposals for the development of a modern, sustainable transport system for Norwich. The NDR will bring traffic relief for communities to the north and east of Norwich, enable traffic management in the city centre and free up road space for transport improvements such as Bus Rapid Transit (i.e. higher quality, faster, more frequent and reliable bus services on key routes) and facilities for pedestrians/cyclists outlined in NATS.

The NDR will provide improved access from north Norfolk to the national trunk road network as well as access to Norwich. It is identified in the Joint Core Strategy as a piece of transport infrastructure that is required to implement NATS, deliver growth and support the economy.

The NDR is likely to have certain landscape impacts through permanent land take, of which a significant proportion is good quality agricultural land. It will result in the loss of some 6,000 trees (which will be replaced at a minimum ratio of 2:1) and is likely to have impacts on noise and air quality.

The scheme is likely to have impacts on protected species including badgers, great crested newts and bats. A larger scale plan showing the proposed route of the NDR is contained in Appendix A of the Supporting Document accompanying this SOCC.



### The Consent Process

The NDR is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for which a Development Consent Order (DCO) is necessary under the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) - an independent government agency - is responsible for operating the planning process for NSIPs. Part of their role involves examining applications for NSIPs and providing recommendations to the relevant Secretary of State, who makes the decision on whether consent should be granted. Further information can be found on the Planning Portal website - [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk).

As the NDR is an NSIP, NCC intends to apply for development consent to construct, operate and maintain the NDR. Any Development Consent Order would include provisions relating to development consent, compulsory acquisition of land, road closures, new roads and other highway related matters.

Before an NSIP application for the NDR is accepted, the Secretary of State must be satisfied that NCC has carried out effective pre-application consultation with both certain defined consultees and the local community. The pre-application consultation is a key part of the NSIP examination process. There are currently no National Policy Statements under the Planning Act 2008 in place for highway related NSIPs.

### Previous Consultations

NCC has already undertaken consultations on the NDR over a considerable period of time (since 2003), the most recent being in April/May/June 2012 and February/March 2013. NCC has listened to what local residents and other interested parties have had to say, and changes to the NDR have already been made as a result of the responses received.

### What We Will Consult On

The consultations will seek views on:

- the principle of and need for the NDR - in summary the NDR is required to supplement the historic pattern of radial routes serving the northern part of Norwich, which is inadequate to serve the diverse pattern of movements generated by the growing modern city, limits its economic potential and gives rise to inappropriate levels of traffic in residential areas and rural roads,
- as part of consulting on the principle of the NDR, NCC will consider responses on alternative ways of meeting the need,
- the impacts of the NDR,
- the detailed proposals for the NDR including, alignment, junctions, design details, mitigation measures and an alternative option of a single carriageway section of the road at its far western end,
- the route of the NDR.

### How We Will Consult

Before submitting an NSIP application NCC wishes to make sure that local communities, businesses, stakeholders and interest groups have an opportunity to understand and comment on the proposed NDR and its likely positive and negative effects (some of which are summarised in this SOCC). The proposed pre-application consultation will use the following consultation methods.

**Public Exhibitions** - The venue and time of these are detailed in this SOCC.

**Norfolk County Council's Website** - This will provide the latest information on the scheme including that

displayed at the exhibitions. The website will also provide opportunity for comments to be submitted.

**Media** - Press releases and relevant advertising will be issued to include details of the consultation process and the public exhibitions. This SOCC will be made available for inspection, and the locations it can be viewed will be published in a local newspaper.

**Meetings** - NCC has previously held meetings with parish councils and local interest groups. It will endeavour to continue holding these meetings when requested before, during and after the consultation period.

**Political Engagement** - Briefing meetings will be provided for local politicians (district/county/city councillors and MPs) whose constituencies are detailed in Appendix C and D of the Supporting Document to this SOCC.

**Consultation Documents** - For those unable to attend an exhibition, between 8 July and 20 September 2013 a project information document containing details of the proposals will be available (during normal office hours) at:

- Norfolk County Council's main office at County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH,
- Broadland District Council's main office at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU,
- South Norfolk District Council's main office at South Norfolk House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, NR15 2XE,
- Norwich City Council's main office at City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH,
- Broads Authority main office at Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY.

They will also be available to view in the following libraries (NCC's website details their opening times):

- Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW,
- Norwich Plumstead Road Library, Plumstead Road, Norwich, NR1 4JS,
- Norwich St Williams Way Library, Williams Loke, St Williams Way, Norwich, NR7 0AJ,
- Blofield Library, The Reading Room, Blofield, NR13 4RQ,
- Brundall Library, 90 The Street, Brundall, NR13 5LH,
- Costessey Library, Breckland Road, Costessey, Norwich, NR5 0RW,
- Earlham Library, Colman Road, Norwich, NR4 7HG,
- Hellesdon Library, Woodview Road, Hellesdon, Norwich, NR6 5SR,
- Mile Cross Library, Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR3 2RJ,
- Sprowston Library, Recreation Ground Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8EW,
- Taverham Library, Sandy Lane, Taverham, Norwich, NR8 6JR,
- West Earlham Library, 17/18 Earlham West Centre, Norwich, NR5 8AD.

### **Who We Will Consult**

Based upon parish boundaries the consultation area is outlined in red on the plan in this SOCC. NCC will:

- Send details of the exhibitions and consultation document locations to residential/business addresses within the consultation area using its latest available address information,
- Send details of the exhibitions and consultation document locations to county/city/district councillors and MPs/MEPs whose constituencies are either wholly or partly within the consultation area, or within the Norwich City area - these constituencies are shown in Appendix C and D of the Supporting Document,
- Send details of the exhibitions and consultation document locations to parish councils within the consultation area - these parish councils are shown in Appendix B of the Supporting Document,
- Send details of the exhibitions and consultation document locations to stakeholder and local interest groups - these groups are shown in Appendix E of the Supporting Document and further appropriate groups will be added to this list if any are suggested prior to the start of the first exhibition,
- Erect posters and advertising banners detailing the exhibitions in public libraries and other key venues within the consultation area and within Norwich City,
- Ask parish councils within the consultation area to advertise the exhibitions in their newsletters and on their notice boards.

In addition to the community consultation which is the subject of this SOCC, separate pre-application consultation will take place with certain prescribed bodies, affected land owners and local authorities, in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. A notice will also be published (under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008) in national and local newspapers advertising the proposed NDR and asking for comments on the proposals .

### **Consultation Feedback**

Following the pre-application consultation NCC will have regard to responses to the consultation and publicity. Please note responses may be published, although personal information will be removed. As part of the NSIP application NCC will prepare a consultation report setting out the regard that has been given to relevant responses received. This report will be deposited in the above libraries and shown on NCC's website once the application for a Development Consent Order has been submitted.

## Environmental Information

The NDR is a development that requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the results of which will be reported in an Environmental Statement (ES) that will accompany the application for Development Consent.

Preliminary environmental information will be available as part of the community consultation exercise detailed in this SOCC. This information will include the scope for any associated land restoration, landscaping and other mitigation or compensatory measures for natural habitats impact.

This preliminary environmental information will be available to view on NCC's website and in hard copy at the library locations listed in this SOCC. Hard copies can also be requested (free of charge) from NCC. The release of the preliminary environmental information will coincide with the start of consultation under Section 42 and Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 as set out in this SOCC. Its release may therefore be after some of the public exhibitions referred to below. Its release will be advertised in local papers and on NCC's website so that the local community can have regard to the preliminary environmental information when submitting any feedback on the proposed NDR.

## Dates of Public Exhibitions (all 2013)

- **Mon 8 July 1pm to 8pm** - Rackheath Holy Trinity Church, Salhouse Road, Rackheath, NR13 6PD,
- **Fri 12 July 1pm to 8pm** - The Dussindale Community Centre, Pound Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0SR,
- **Sat 13 July 1pm to 8pm** - Old Catton Village Hall, Church Street, Hall Drive, Old Catton, NR6 7DW,
- **Mon 15 July 1pm to 8pm** - Postwick Village Hall, Ferry Lane, Postwick, NR13 5HL,
- **Tue 16 July 1pm to 8pm** - Spixworth Village Hall, Crostwick Lane, Spixworth, NR10 3NQ,
- **Thu 18 July 1pm to 8pm** - Easton Village Hall, Marlingford Road, Easton, NR9 5AD,
- **Sat 20 July 1pm to 8pm** - Drayton Village Hall, Pond Lane, Drayton, NR8 6PP,
- **Mon 22 July 1pm to 8pm** - Hellesdon Community Centre, Middletons Lane, Norwich NR6 5SR,
- **Wed 24 July 1pm to 8pm** - Sprowston Diamond Centre, School Lane, Sprowston, NR7 8TR,
- **Thu 25 July 1pm to 8pm** - Horsford Village Hall, Holt Road, Horsford, NR10 3DN,
- **Sat 27 July 1pm to 8pm** - Breckland Hall, Breckland Road, New Costessey NR5 0RW,
- **Tue 30 July 1pm to 8pm** - St Faiths Centre, Manor Road, Horsham, Norwich, NR10 3LF,
- **Fri 2 August 1pm to 8pm** - Taverham Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Norwich, NR8 6JR,
- **Sat 3 August 1pm to 8pm** - Gt Plumstead Village Hall, Church Road, Gt Plumstead, NR13 5AB,
- **Tue 6 August 9am to 4pm** - The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1TF,
- **Fri 9 August 1pm to 8pm** - Norman Centre, Bignold Road, Norwich, NR3 2QZ.

## How To Find Out More and Provide Comments

The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.1 provides an overview of the planning process for NSIPs and how people can get involved in this process.

To find out more about the NDR and NATS proposals please visit:

- [www.norfolk.gov.uk/tfn](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/tfn)

You can provide comments by emailing:

- [norwich.transport@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:norwich.transport@norfolk.gov.uk)

or writing to:

- Norwich Northern Distributor Road, Norfolk County Council, Department of Environment, Transport and Development, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH

or telephoning:

- 0344 800 8020

Alternatively, paper copy questionnaires will be available to complete at the exhibitions or comments can be provided electronically using the on-line survey form that will be available on the website during the consultation period.

**The deadline for comments to  
be received as part of this consultation is 20 September 2013.**