

# National Highways update, A47

For A47 Alliance

January 2024

# RIS3 process and timeline

# Roads Investment Strategy period (RIS) 3 - process

- Focus expected to be maintenance and renewals

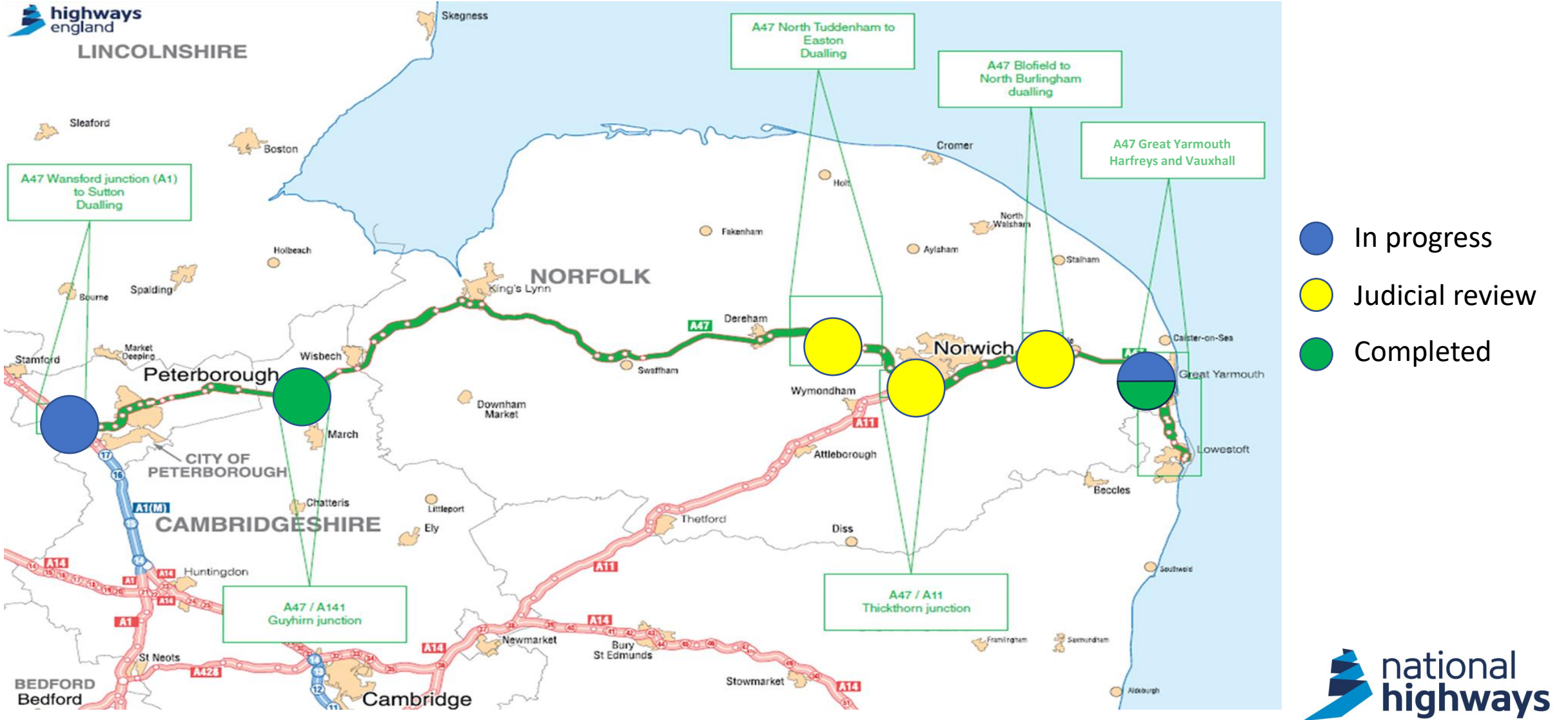
Timeline	Event	Note
Summer 2023	DfT held consultation on RIS3 priorities (SRN Initial Report)	Alliance and members responded
Early 2024	Government publishes its draft RIS including the SoFA – Statement of Funds Available	Initial proposal for RIS3 activities, content
Mid 2024	National Highways proposes its Strategic Plan for ORR to review	Finessing the proposals
Late 2024	DfT confirms RIS3 programme. National Highways proposes its Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan	Actual programme confirmed
April 2025	Roads Investment Period 3 begins	RIS3 runs for five years, to 2030

# Strategic overview - recap

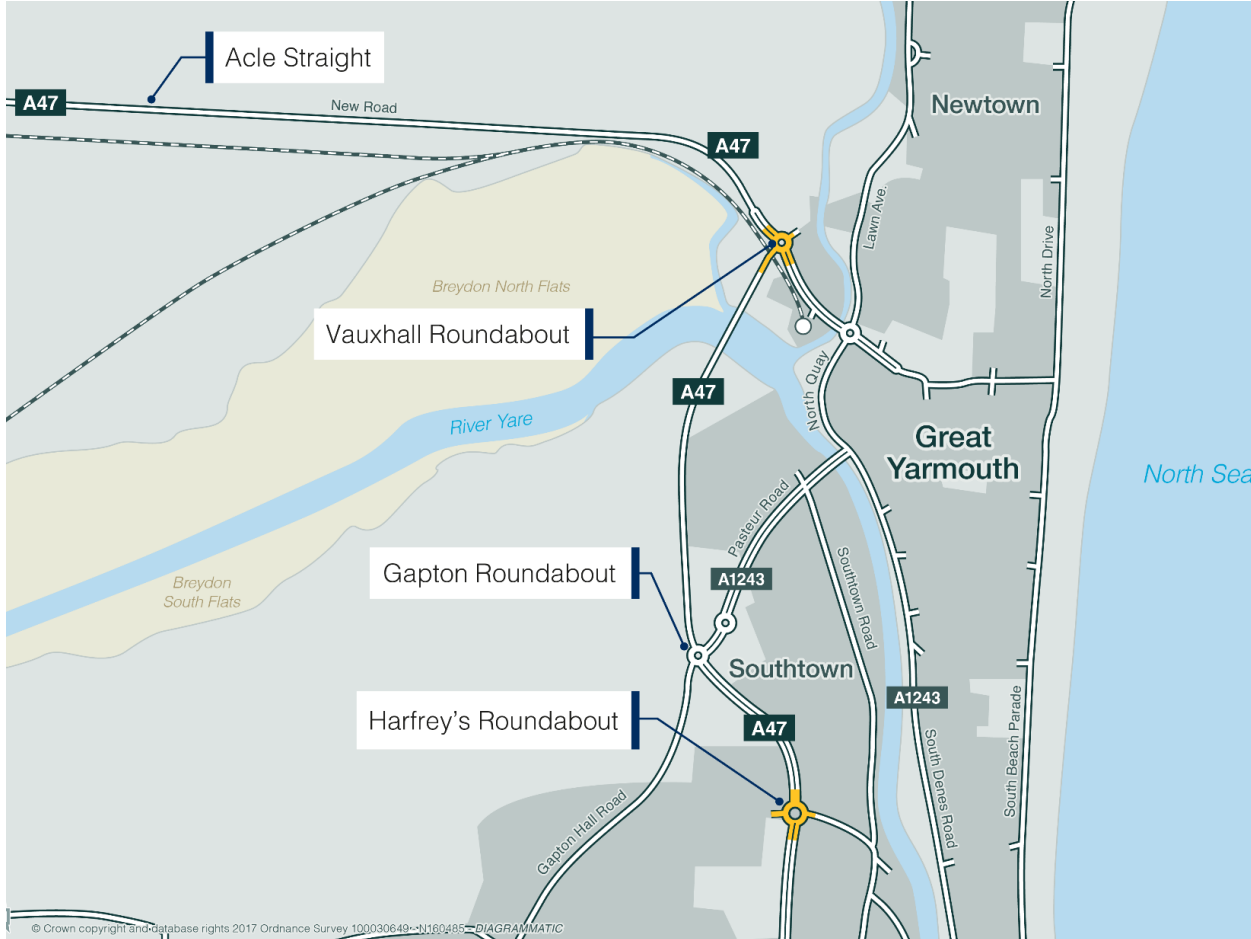
- [SRN Initial Report](#)
  - DfT is analysing the consultation results which will inform DfT's draft RIS publication and confirm the Treasury's indicative Statement of Funds Available for RIS3. Final RIS3 programme to be confirmed autumn 2024.
- [Route Strategies Initial Overview Reports](#)
  - covering the whole country, 20 were published in summer
  - Thank you for your feedback which will inform the final versions
- [Connecting the country](#): our long-term strategic plan to 2050
  - Will inform our investment planning for each Road Investment Period toward 2050
  - Thank you for your feedback which will shape the final version, to be published by 2025
- [Prime Minister's transport announcement](#) at the Conservative Party conference
  - We are working with DfT to understand the full implications
- [Ministerial statement](#) by Secretary of State for Transport, 9 March 2023
  - A reminder of the statement, for reference

# A47 RIS2 programme progress update

# The A47 programme



# Great Yarmouth Junctions



- Improve safety, congestion and delay at the Vauxhall and Harfrey's roundabouts
- Support economic growth by reducing congestion
- Improve journey time reliability
- The Third River Crossing (TRC) changes the movement of traffic across the town and provide better direct access to the port and seafront. Harfrey's Roundabout is the main junction west of TRC

## Benefits

- Reduce congestion
- Improve safety

# Great Yarmouth – Harfrey's Roundabout

- Completed December 2023
- Delivered by Norfolk County Council Third River Crossing project
  - good example of collaborative working

## Benefits

- Improve safety
- Reduce congestion
- Tie in to Third Crossing





# Great Yarmouth – Vauxhall Roundabout

- Progressing with the design and surveys
- A larger roundabout and new bridge over the railway with three lanes northbound
- Change existing bridge to two lanes southbound
- Adjusting the roundabout to meet the latest standards to improve safety and allow for future Acle Straight dualling
- New pedestrian and cycle crossing points

## Benefits

- Reduce congestion
- Improve safety



# Legal challenge – judicial review appeal

- The High Court of Appeal heard the case on 16 January
- We await its judgement (not anticipated for several weeks)
- We are committed to delivering the A47 improvements programme and plan to progress at pace
  
- A legal challenge was brought against the Secretary of State for Transport's decision to grant development consent orders (DCOs) for
  - Blofield to North Burlingham
  - North Tuddenham to Easton
  - Thickthorn junction
- The challenge's main focus is the government's cumulative carbon assessment
- Note that the challenge is not on the schemes themselves but to the Secretary of State's decision
- The challenge was rejected by the courts but that decision appealed by the claimant

# North Tuddenham to Easton

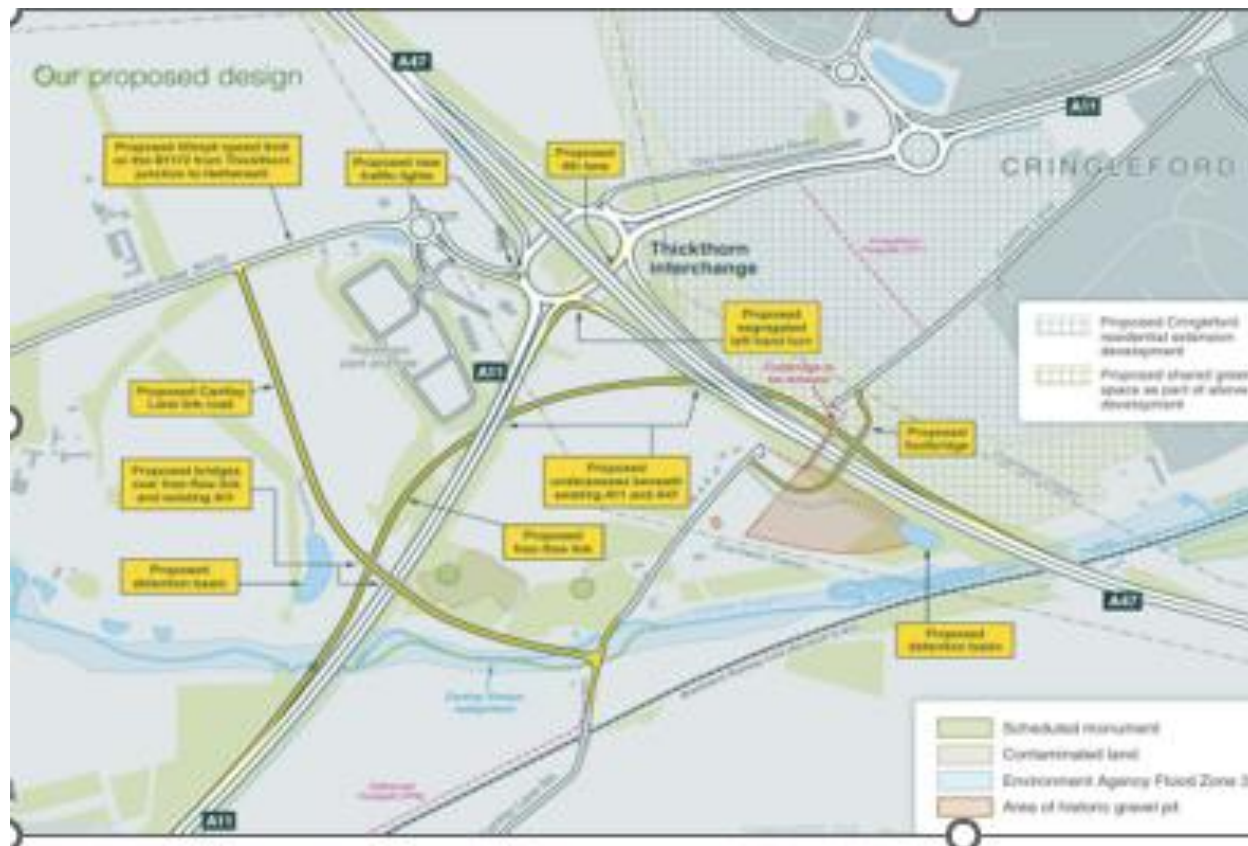
- Awaiting judicial review outcome before work can start
- Pre-construction enabling works have begun, including ground clearance, site compound set-up
- Upgrading to dual carriageway
- The old road will be handed to Norfolk County Council and will include cycle paths

## Benefits

- Reduce congestion
- Improve safety
- Increase biodiversity



# Thickthorn Junction



- Awaiting judicial review outcome before work can start
- Retendering of the construction contract continues
- 34,000 vehicles a day use the junction
- Scheme includes for a replacement pedestrian, cyclist, horse riding route across the A47 providing improved connectivity
- Includes resolution of key flooding area of Cantley Brook

## Benefits

- Reduce congestion
- Improve safety

# Blofield to North Burlingham

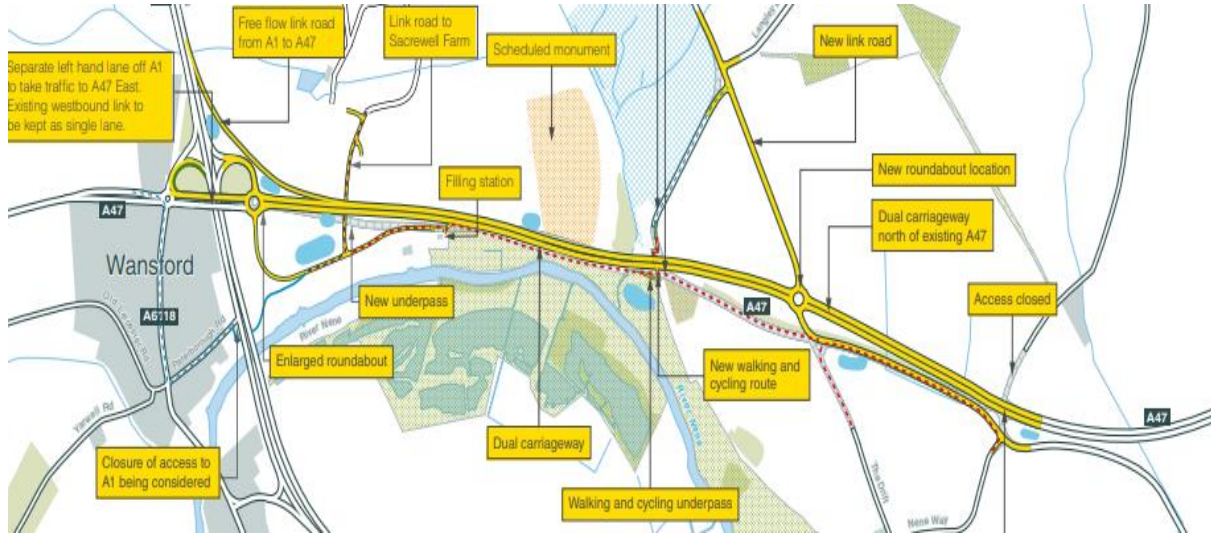
- Awaiting judicial review outcome before work can start
- Pre-construction enabling works have begun, including ground clearance, utilities diversions, archaeology
- We are replacing the existing single-lane section with a new dual carriageway
- Includes a new two-tier junction design connecting B1140 South Walsham Road with B1140 Coxhill Road
- New cycle route provision

## Benefits

- Reduce congestion
- Improve safety
- Increase biodiversity



# A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling



- Pre-construction enabling works have begun, including archaeology, site compound set-up
- Includes regionally significant utility diversions

## Benefits

- Reduce congestion
- Improve safety
- Significant increase in biodiversity



# Guyhirn Junction Improvements - Completed

- Opened to traffic 31 March 2022
- First A47 scheme to be delivered
- Complex engineering - challenging ground conditions
- Long diversion routes
- Bridge renaming (Tiddy Mun Bridge) by local schoolgirl was celebrated by transport minister Baroness Vere and MP Steve Barclay
- Significant improvements to congestion, reliability, safety already seen

## Benefits

- Reduced congestion
- Improve safety



# A47 programme benefits

- Saving lives - removing incident hotspots
- Improving reliability of the network when incidents happen
- Improving the region's connectivity
- Supporting economic growth
- 11 miles of new cycle paths, connecting communities
- New approaches to minimising carbon in construction
- Improving biodiversity leaving the area richer and more diverse in flora and fauna

Biodiversity net gain forecast	
Scheme	Percentage difference in Biodiversity
Blofield	+48%
Tuddenham	+24%
Thickthorn	-12%
Wansford	+37%
Guyhirn	+33%
<b>Average</b>	<b>+24%</b>



# A47 Designated Funds and social value projects

- A47 biodiversity schemes detailed design continues
- Wansford and Guyhirn WCHR feasibility schemes
- Sutton Church window refurbishment completed
- Relocation of Sutton Railway Station
- Guyhirn bridleway extension feasibility study is under way
- Blofield community playgrounds improvements ongoing
- Working with Norfolk County Council: walking, cycling, horse opportunities along A47
- Norfolk County Council submitted Wending Beck (Dereham) environment and wellbeing proposal for assessment
- Advanced sensing for service avoidance - improving ways of working
- Social value fund - four defibrillators to fill gaps in coverage
- Applications in process for six schemes at Sacrewell Farm
- A47 Sutton village shelter has secured funding
- Acle methodist church sensory garden application submitted

## Users & Communities

- Focuses on understanding our customer's evolving expectations and improve the service provided to all users
- Aims to improve our service and network for the people who use or live in the communities served by our roads
- **This fund supports engagement with stakeholders and gathering insight to deliver improvements on and off our network**

## Environment & Wellbeing

- Addresses environmental issues associated with historic development of the network
- **Embrace opportunities to enhance the environmental performance of the network**
- To support delivery of wider societal benefits through our new road schemes

## Fund topics

## Innovation & Modernisation

- Aims to transform the way we build, maintain and manage our network
- Helps to research, develop and deploy emerging technologies that have the potential to revolutionise what it means to travel on our roads
- **Supports development of new requirements, guidance and advice that enable widespread adoption of proven concepts to modernise the network**

## Safety & Congestion

- Aims to address safety congestion issues with small, impactful schemes working closely with partners and stakeholders
- Finalising Growth & Housing initiatives carried over from the first roads period

# RIS Pipeline scheme: A47/A1101 Elm Road Junction (Wisbech)

# A47/A1101 Elm Road junction, Wisbech

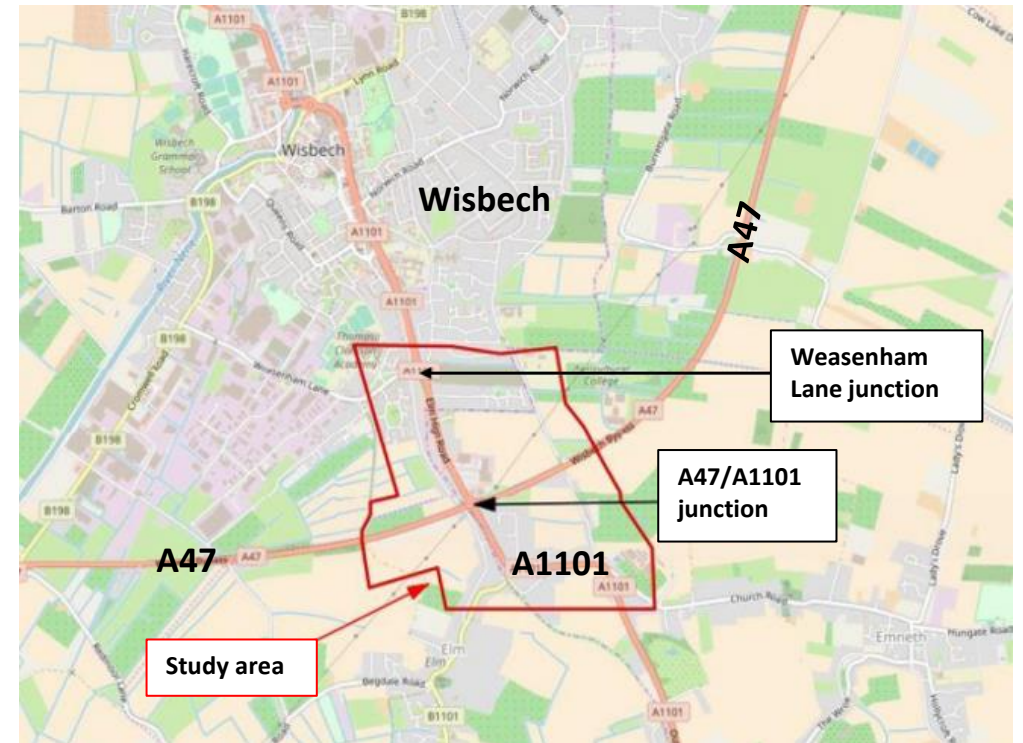
## Need

- Congestion at junction delays strategic traffic including a high proportion of HGVs
- It is a pinch point for many local journeys
- The accident rate is above the national average
- The scheme looks to **relieve congestion, improve safety and journey time reliability, support regeneration and the regional economy.**

## Progress

- Technical working groups with stakeholders informing options development
- Wisbech Access Strategy traffic modelling shows A47 junction dependency on Weasenham Lane
- Continue traffic modelling and environmental assessment
- Continue to refine option designs

**This is a future RIS pipeline scheme. There is no guarantee it will be delivered.**



# Operations and renewals

# Operations investment

- Invested more than £200m in the East in 2022/23 on Renewals and Concrete Roads Replacement
- Another £19m via Designated Funds
- On the A47 in 2023-4 we've spent £29m on 27 pieces of work
- A11 Spooner Row concrete road replacement is complete
- Almost 70 work items are to be completed on A47 by end of RIS2



