

## Project update

### winter 2020

## A47/A141 Guyhirn junction

### Investing in the A47

The A47 is an important connection, linking the cities of Norwich and Peterborough, the towns of Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Dereham, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and a succession of villages in what is largely a rural area. As part of a multi-billion investment to improve journeys on England's major A-roads and motorways, the Government is funding a package of six projects on the 115-mile stretch of the A47 between Peterborough and Great Yarmouth. Together the projects will convert almost eight miles of single carriageway into dual carriageway and improve key junctions along the A47 road. The A47 road improvement projects are:

- A47/A141 Guyhirn junction
- A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling
- A47 North Tuddenham to Easton dualling
- A47/A11 Thickthorn junction
- A47 Blofield to North Burlingham dualling
- A47 Great Yarmouth junction



# About the A47/A141 Guyhirn junction project

We'll be making changes to the Guyhirn junction between the A47 (Fen Road to South Brink) and the A141 (March Road) which is used by over 20,000 vehicles a day and experiences high levels of congestion. The changes to the junction aim to reduce congestion, improve journey times and increase safety.

Following our Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) in 2017, we undertook a variety of technical and traffic surveys to help us finalise our design for the project. As part of this we made some changes to our design which means it now falls within the existing highway boundary. This means that we do not need to obtain planning permission as we originally thought, saving time and enabling us to start work earlier than planned.



## Project benefits

Our improvements to the junction will:

- reduce delays and queuing traffic by increasing the size of the Guyhirn roundabout
- improve safety by increasing visibility for drivers when they enter the roundabout
- improve pedestrian crossings and footpaths, particularly between March Road, Guyhirn village and local amenities
- support future employment and housing developments by making journey times more reliable

## The design in detail

Our project on the Guyhirn junction aims to increase the size of the roundabout by creating two lanes on all approaches to the roundabout. This will include an additional lane over the existing carriageway on the River Nene Bridge. Towards the end of the project there may be an opportunity for us to carry out additional bridge maintenance on the River Nene bridge.



# Our construction work

We'll be starting work during February 2021, with the aim of completing in April 2022. During construction, our aim is to provide a safe environment for all those working on or travelling through our roadworks, while keeping delays to a minimum and motorists informed about our work. Details of our roadworks and diversions are provided in this brochure.

## Narrow lanes

To keep traffic moving, we'll keep all the traffic lanes on the road open but reduce the width of the lanes so that we can minimise disruption to motorists.

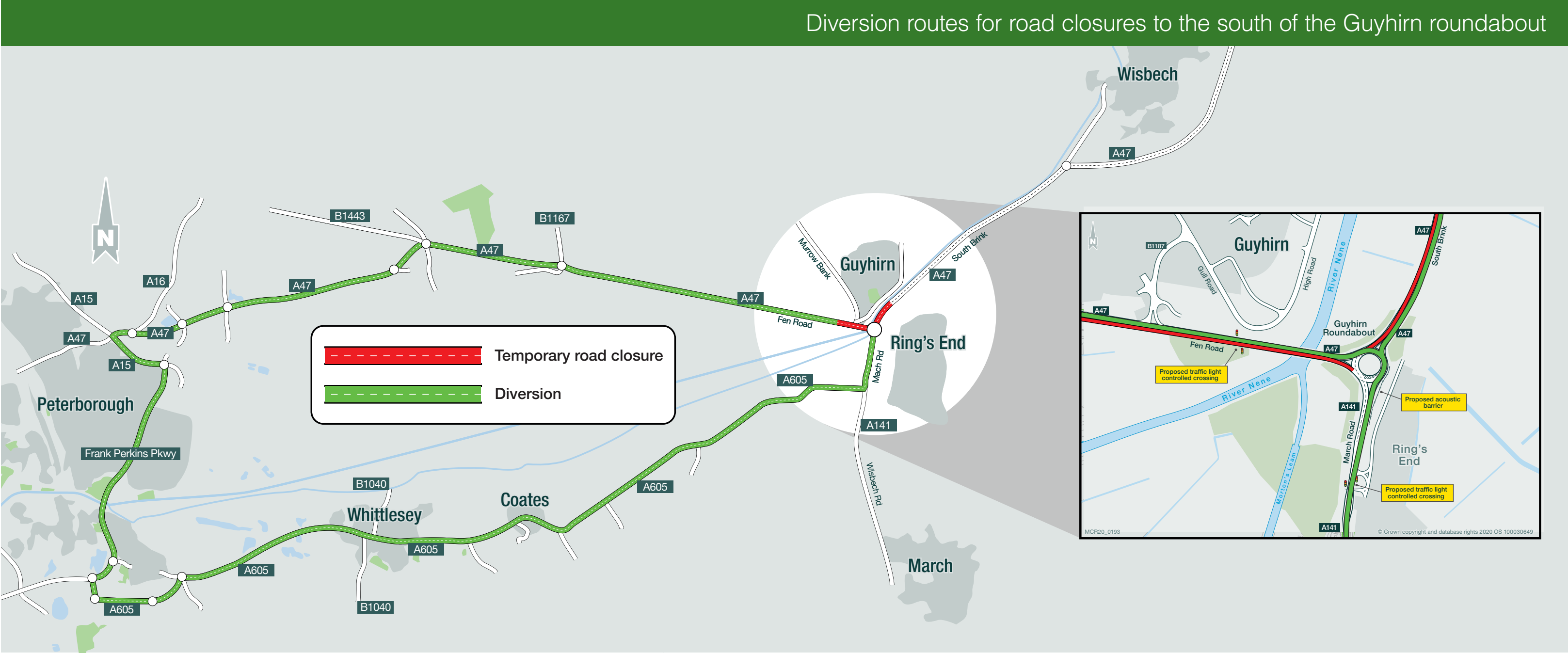
## Temporary roundabouts

We will install two temporary roundabouts and remove the existing roundabout whilst we build the new wider one. One of the temporary roundabouts will be at Gull Road so that motorists won't have to go through our roadworks when exiting this junction. The other roundabout will be a temporary smaller roundabout at Guyhirn junction which will help keep traffic moving whilst we construct the larger improved roundabout.

## Road closures

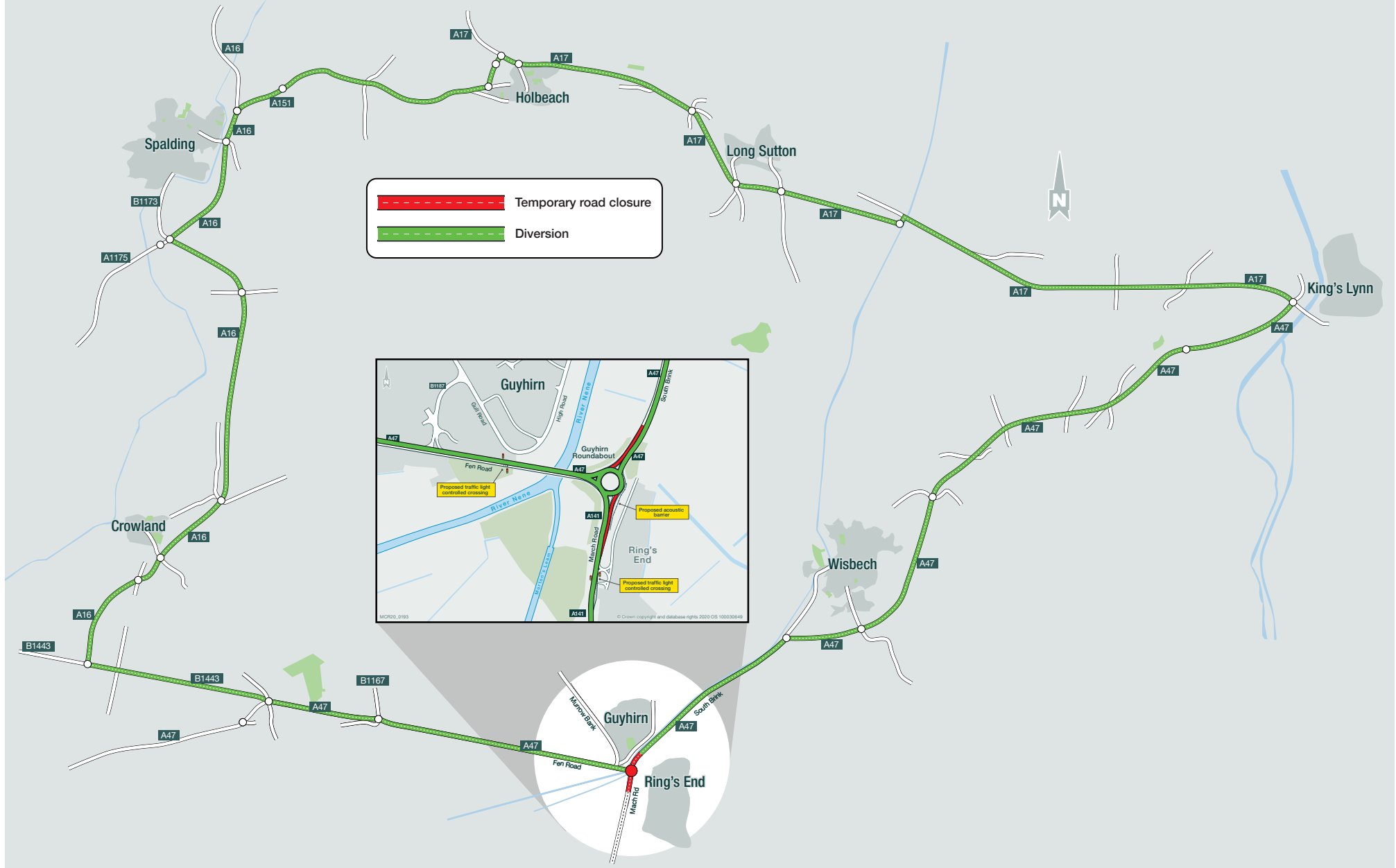
For the safety of the public and our workers, we will need some road closures when we start our work and then in autumn 2021 for resurfacing. Traffic will need to use the diversion routes shown on the following pages. Some of the diversions may be long, but we will aim to only close one arm of the roundabout at a time and limit road closures to night times between 8:00pm to 6.00am. We will provide more details closer to the time.

We will give advanced notice of these road closures on the project website, via social media and early warning road signage. We will share regular progress updates with stakeholders, local councils and residents. Please check for possible road closures and plan your route ahead of your journey.





## Diversion routes for road closures to the north and west of the Guyhirn roundabout



### Working hours

To allow us to complete our work efficiently and limit disruption to traffic, we'll be working during both daytime and night time from Mondays to Saturdays and occasionally on some Sundays. Our daytime work hours will be between 7.00am and 7.00pm. Our night time hours will be between 8.00pm and 6.00am when there is less traffic.

### Speed limit

A temporary 30mph speed limit will be put in place through the roadworks for safety reasons.

### Public footpaths

We will keep public footpaths open for walkers and cyclists, although some slight changes to the existing routes will be necessary. We will communicate this information on signs by the roadside before we make any changes.

### Lighting and noise

We will remove the existing streetlights and replace them with temporary lights throughout the construction period, to help maintain safety for all road users. At times, some of our work will be noisy. We will work closely with local communities who may be affected to manage this wherever possible, particularly around Old March Road. Towards the end of the project, a permanent acoustic and light barrier will be constructed at the south side of the roundabout adjacent to Old March Road.

### Environment

We have planned our construction times to ensure there will be no significant effects on the adjacent Nene Washes nature reserve and reed beds.

### Other works in the area

We will be working closely with parish councils and Cambridgeshire County Council to co-ordinate our construction work with their projects at Broadland Road and Elm High Street/A47 Wisbech to reduce any impact on journey times. Where possible, we intend to use shared signage with Cambridgeshire County Council to help people on their journey.

We will also share information with our stakeholders, bus companies and hauliers as the project develops.

### Stay informed

We will use early warning road signs and billboards to give customers notice of construction work, timings and also road closures. In addition, you can stay informed by following us on social media or visiting our project website, where you can also sign up for regular updates.

Website: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/guyhirn](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/guyhirn)

Twitter: @HighwaysEAST

Facebook: @HighwaysEAST

Email: [A47guyhirnjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A47guyhirnjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk)

Phone: 0300 123 5000

#### Text message service

You can also subscribe to a text messaging service by texting 'A47Guyhirn' to '88802'. This text service can be configured to your requirements and will be used to share key information about upcoming road closures or key construction work. Your information will not be used for any other purpose.

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** or email: **A47guyhirnjunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk** and we will help you.

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## COVID-19

We hope that you and your families are remaining well. During these unprecedented times, Highways England's priority is to play our part in keeping the country safe and supporting travel by the emergency services and key workers, as well as the movement of essential supplies, services and people who cannot work from home.

We are keeping all aspects of our work under constant review during this period to ensure the safety of the public, our staff and colleagues in the construction supply chain, whilst following government guidance at all times. Many of our project staff are working from home so that we can continue our important planning and project work.