

SRN: A47 Thickthorn junction

"The A47 at Thickthorn is a critical link between South Norfolk, Norwich, and the rest of the county. Thickthorn also sits right on the middle of the Norwich-Cambridge Tech Corridor, an area of dynamic and ground-breaking scientific and technological research.

Ben Goldsborough MP
Member of Parliament for South Norfolk

Navigating Norfolk's overburdened roads is a daily concern for constituents of South Norfolk, while delays serve as a barrier to economic growth.

In keeping with the Government's focus on kickstarting economic growth throughout the whole country, I fully support the proposals for upgrades to the A47 at Thickthorn."

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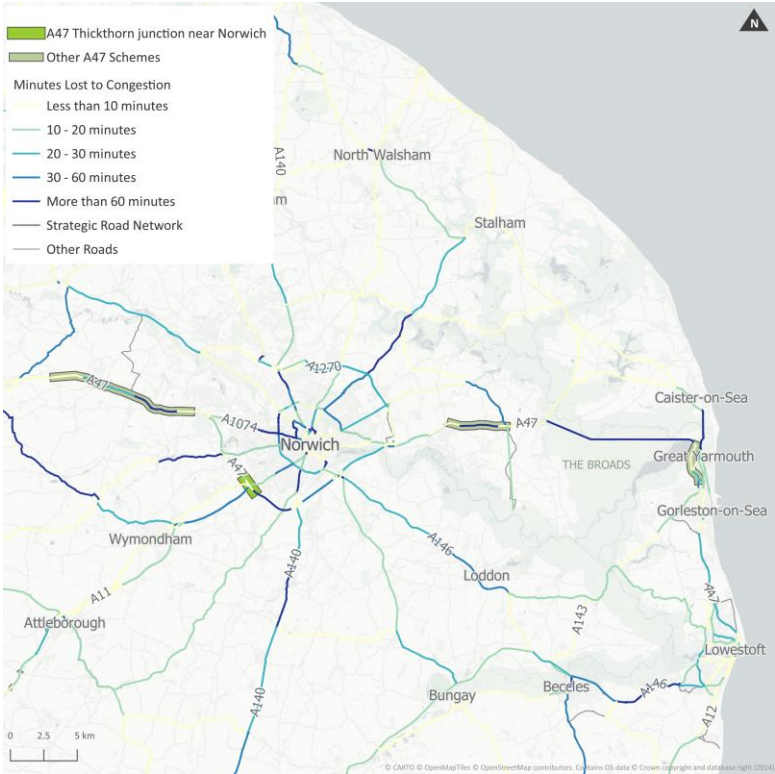
Upgrade needed to ‘Norfolk’s busiest junction’ to realise growth

Overview of scheme

- Thickthorn is the junction between the A11 and A47 trunk roads, located on the south-western edge of Norwich. It is not only the gateway into Norwich from London and Cambridge but also crucial for onward links to Great Yarmouth and the energy coast
- The current junction is unable to cope with the high traffic volume and improvements are needed to release planned housing growth

Delivering Government Missions

- The scheme is strongly aligned to the **Economic Growth** mission; It will support plans for 5,500 homes within 5km. It will provide additional capacity and improved journey times to encourage housing and economic growth in the local area as well as across the A47 and A11 corridors linking Norwich to Peterborough and Cambridge, and the Norwich to Cambridge technology corridor.



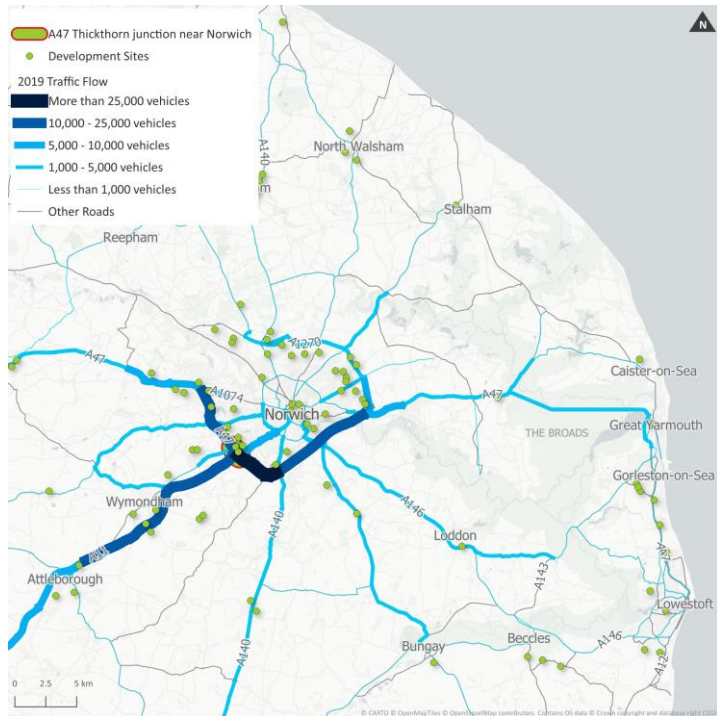
The A47 Thickthorn junction is where the A47 and A11 trunk roads meet. It is a bottleneck for both local commuter traffic into Norwich and for longer distance trips from across the country travelling into Norwich, north Norfolk and Great Yarmouth. The junction is situated on the A11 Norwich-Cambridge Tech Corridor and is also important for trips serving renewable energy and the port at Great Yarmouth.

The scheme is within 5km of plans for **5,555 new homes**, supporting housing growth to the west of Norwich.

Deliverability in this Parliament	✓	Planning decision granted
	✓	Legal challenge by environmental campaigners overcome
	✓	On-site
Estimated Cost		Between £50-100 million
Next Steps		Preparatory work started in December 2024 and full work to begin in Spring 2025.

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TRANSPORTEAST



Alignment to Transport East Aims

Scheme aligns with Transport East pathway of **Connecting growing towns and cities**. And specifically supports the goal to **Deliver faster, more reliable connections between growing places**.

The case for change

The proposed scheme aims to reduce the congestion and delays experienced at this junction between two trunk roads. The A47 provides strategic east/west connectivity across Norfolk, from Great Yarmouth to Peterborough and the East Midlands. The A11 is the major connection from Norwich and north /east Norfolk to Cambridge, London and the south-east. The improvements will future proof the junction. This stretch is highly trafficked, prone to incidents and a bottleneck to traffic flow, impacting businesses and the wider economy. With traffic forecasts predicting increased volumes and more congestion, the scheme is needed to improve road safety, reduce incidents, and ensure the junction can handle future demand. The scheme will also help sustainable economic growth by supporting employment and residential development opportunities. Due to the lack of nearby alternative routes, route resilience on this link is also an issue.

Why now and what happens if we don't deliver?

The Scheme will reduce congestion-related delay, improve journey time reliability and increase the overall capacity of the junction improving road safety and traffic flow. There will be improved connections for local people and improved amenities for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. It is essential to the region's drive for economic success and to achieve the ambitious housing growth targets in Greater Norwich. The scheme has an approved Development Consent Order and preparatory work is ongoing. If the scheme is not committed for delivery, economic and housing growth is put at jeopardy, transport benefits will be unrealised, and the funding expended on its development to date will be lost.

Importance to the Transport East region

Transport East's Connectivity Study has carried out a comprehensive assessment of the importance of schemes in the Strategic Investment Plan to the goals of the Transport East Strategy. This study quantified the importance of different corridors against a range of strategic metrics linked to the Strategy. Schemes were assessed against their likely ability to support the Strategy Goals and how important the corridor they sat within was to regional connectivity.

This junction sits on a corridor which has very high levels of freight traffic compared to the rest of the region's strategic road network, and which carries many long-distance journeys. Improvements to reliability and congestion will therefore deliver benefits for freight and business users as well as trips by local households.