

## **A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling Update – March 2022**

The Planning Inspector conducted 8 hours of online hearings over the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 covering the areas of historical interest, environmental issues, risk during construction, traffic modelling, compulsory purchase and the working of the Development Consent Order documents. The Inspector has been brilliant at running these sessions which were attended by National Highways, Historic England, the Environment Agency, Peterborough City Council, Sutton Parish Council, Wansford Parish Council and the Peterborough Cycle Forum.

The Inspector asked very detailed questions of all concerned and has sent National Highways (NH) away with quite a number of tasks, mostly to respond to issues that the Parish Councils have raised over the last few years.

On the Wansford Western Roundabout he has asked NH to substantiate their claim that this was outside the scheme as there is no written statement to substantiate this. He has also queried their traffic modelling as NH's own figures are self-contradicting.

On the issue of the route in the area of the Scheduled Monument, the Inspector carefully reviewed the features of the monument and the downsides of the current preferred route including risk levels, reduction in non-motorised transport links, damage to the Nene Valley ecology, damage to veteran trees and flooding issues. He also questioned all parties at length about the old Wansford station which will be demolished under the scheme and what the options are for its reconstruction.

The issues about access to Upton village were discussed at length along with the future of cycle, pedestrian and horse riding that this would avoid further delays. Needless to say, the Parish Councils are opposing this.

If you wish to listen to the whole proceedings, there are complete recordings available on the Planning Inspectorate website at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-wansford-to-sutton/?ipcsection=docs> .

Now there follows a series of deadlines for submission of further evidence and then another round of online examinations in May 2022. The Inspector will finally give his views at the end of July 2022. We do not know what the outcomes will be but I am confident that the issues will have had a fair and thorough examination.

Richard Clarke  
Wansford Parish Council