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This is one of a series of six feasibility studies carried out across England during 2014. The government has been working with local partners to identify solutions to some of the most notorious and longstanding road hotspots in the country.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy#feasibility-studies>



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A47/A12 Study



Why we need to take action

The A47 and the A12 run for 115 miles from the A1 west of Peterborough to the east coast ports of Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. While there have been some improvements in recent years, such as the bypass at Thorney near Peterborough, over half of the road is still single carriageway.

The cities of Peterborough and Norwich attract additional traffic, particularly during the morning and evening peak periods. There has been rapid growth, over the past decade, especially in Peterborough where the population increased by 16% between 2001 and 2011. Further planned growth, including the new City Deal for Norwich, will mean that over 50,000 new jobs and 100,000 new homes are planned for the area over the next 15 years.

Already there is:

- congestion at a number of key locations
- delay for road users
- a greater risk of accidents

The route also passes through the Broads National Park, a unique landscape of shallow lakes and rivers to the east of Norwich.

What we plan to do

Our analysis shows that most people only travel relatively short distances rather than the entire length of the route; although some sections of the road carry more traffic than they were originally designed for, there is no economic case for making the entire route a dual carriageway at

this time. There is, however, a number of key challenges at specific points. So our aim is to address these to reduce congestion, delays and accidents and we will review the case for further improvements in the future. This means:

- we are committing to upgrade three sections of the A47 to dual carriageway:
 - Wansford to Sutton – 1.5 miles
 - North Tuddenham to Easton – 4.5 miles
 - Blofield to North Burlingham – 2.4 miles

- we will improve the junctions between the A47 and the A11, A12 and A141
- we will also improve junctions along the A12 in Great Yarmouth
- we will address safety issues along the Acle Straight making sure we take full account of the special nature of the landscape in this area
- we will respond to the views of local businesses and others by renumbering the A12 between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft as the A47

