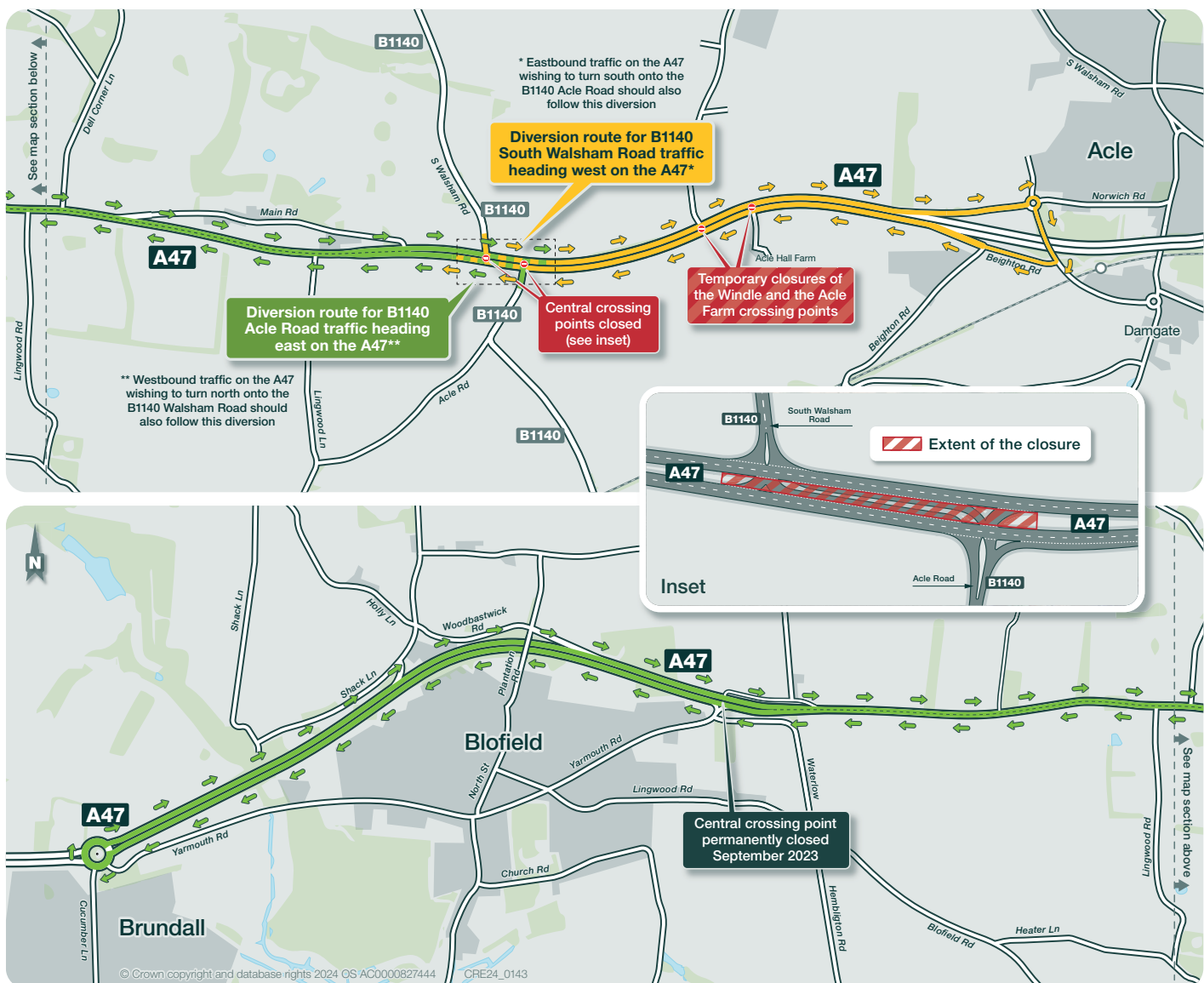


A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dual carriageway pre-construction work

April 2024

On the 16 April 2024 we closed the A47 central reservations that join the B1140 South Walsham Road and Acle Road junctions. The junctions themselves will remain open so road users can still enter or exit from the A47. This will be a permanent closure that will remain until the new bridge over the A47 is constructed.



Q1. Why are you closing the junction?

A. We must take into account all human behaviour, and we have a responsibility to ensure that both members of public and the workforce travelling through the site are safe. This includes all traffic, not just construction traffic and traffic generated by the British Sugar site.

There have been a significant number of road traffic collisions close to the central reservations over the last six years alone. These collisions have resulted in a death and six serious injuries (based on historic crash data from the Department for Transport). The construction of a new bridge over the A47 at this location will make the junction significantly safer with the new dual carriageway further improving safety by reducing dangerous overtaking.

To increase the safety of the existing A47 until the construction of the bridge and new dual carriageway is completed, we have taken the decision to close the central reservation crossing points.

Q2. Why not just ban construction traffic from using the central reservation crossing points?

A. We originally committed to using the A47 not minor local roads. Our construction traffic is already instructed not to use the central reservation crossing points. Even with construction traffic not using these central reservations, the growth in this traffic increases the risk to all road users. This is why we've taken the decision to close the central reservation crossing points to all vehicles.

Q3. Can I use other routes, or do I have to follow the diversion routes?

A. These roads are all public roads, but we would encourage all traffic, including heavy goods vehicles and public transport to follow the designated diversion routes, to minimise the impact on the surrounding communities. Other routes are available to the local population and public.

Q4. Why is the junction closed being closed permanently?

A. The new bridge over the A47 will replace this junction, however it's only the central reservations that are being closed not the junctions.

Q5. What do you mean the junction will remain open?

A. You will still be able to turn left onto or off the A47 from or to the B1140 Acle Road, or B1140 South Walsham Road.

Q6. Why are the other junctions being closed such as at The Windle?

A. These junctions are not built to current design standards, therefore to eliminate the risk of road users carrying out U-turns at these junctions, we have decided to also close them for the duration of the works. A signed diversion route will be in place that will add 4 minutes to a journey.

**Q7. Isn't the risk to people higher from the detours than from construction traffic?
The local population are used to traffic from the British Sugar site using these central reservations.**

A. The assessments are not just based on construction traffic but include all road users. We have worked closely with the local authorities and the emergency services, and they all support the closures of the central reservations on safety grounds.

Q8. There is real concern about the isolation of communities?

A. These restrictions are temporary and although in place for over two years, the new road and bridge will significantly improve the safety of road users and local communities.

Q9. Why are the central reservation crossing points being closed when we expected them to close after the new bridge had been built?

A. The new dual carriageway ties into the existing dual carriageway at the junction of the A47 & B1140. To enable construction of the new dual carriageway and new overbridge, the central reserve crossing point is required to be closed.

We'd like to apologise for any inconvenience or disturbance caused by our work, and we'll try to keep this to a minimum where possible.

You can find out more about the project at www.nationalhighways.co.uk/A47Blofield

Contact us

If you have any queries about this work, please contact the project team by emailing:

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