

Via National Infrastructure Planning

On-line portal

Our ref: AE/2021/126554/01-L01

20028349

Your ref: TR010038

Date: 11 November 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

APPLICATION BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A47 NORTH TUDDENHAM TO EASTON PROJECT

DEADLINE 4 SUBMISSION: COMMENTS ON DOCUMENT 9.13 OUTLINE WATER MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

We have reviewed the outline Water Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) submitted at Deadline 3 [REP3-027], an Annex to the Environmental Management Plan. We note that the WMMP is to set out the construction measures to prevent the risk of pollution and contamination to ground and surface water, and will remain a live document subject to regular review throughout the construction period.

Overall, we are generally satisfied that the outline WMMP for construction drainage is suitable. We will further review the detailed proposals, including details and locations of the final design specifics for any temporary infiltration ponds, silt traps, screens etc., under Requirement 4. We have some specific comments on this document, included below.

Section 3: Consents and Permissions

We note that Table 2 appropriately highlights the circumstances in which a Flood Risk Activity Permit may be required, although this requirement is not referenced in the preceding text.

Table 2 also outlines when an abstraction licence may be required for construction dewatering. We would re-emphasise that dewatering can only be undertaken without a licence at the rates quoted if the dewatering works for the whole scheme will last for a period of 6 consecutive months or less. If dewatering will occur over a longer time frame, the maximum rate at which dewatering can be undertaken without an abstraction licence is 20 m3/d.

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Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

We would also highlight that Table 2 incorrectly refers to the Environment Agency as the 'Environmental Agency'.

Annex 1 Water Management Proposals

Regarding Item 3 in the table, we would highlight that the requirement to not change the existing hydraulic continuity should also be a consideration when designing piling.

In respect of Items 3 & 4, the use of the term 'hardstanding' should be reconsidered or more clearly defined. It is not clear whether the term relates to inherently permeable or impermeable surfacing? Item 4 refers to "a hardstanding area" for storage of oils, fuels etc. which is to be bunded. We would expect this 'hardstanding' to be impermeable. However, the refuelling, maintenance and concrete batching sites are specifically described as being on "impermeable hardstanding with drainage treated appropriately".

Regarding Item 9, regular monitoring of groundwater quality will also be required in areas where proposed activities have the potential to adversely impact upon it.

As above, the Environment Agency is incorrectly referred to as the 'Environmental Agency' in Annex 1.

Yours faithfully

MR MARTIN BARRELL Sustainable Places - Planning Specialist

