



The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref: AN/2018/127067/03-L01
Your ref: TR010039
Date: 11 January 2022

Relevant Reprs submitted via PINS online system only

Dear Sir/Madam

Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed A47 Wansford to Sutton Relevant Representations Consultation

1.0 The Environment Agency's Role

1.1 The Environment Agency is an executive non departmental public body, established under the Environment Act 1995.

1.2 We were established to bring together responsibilities for protecting and improving the environment and to contribute to sustainable development. We take an integrated approach in which we consider all elements of the environment when we plan and carry out our work. This allows us to advise on the best environmental options and solutions, taking into account the different impacts on water, land, air, resources and energy.

1.3 We help prevent hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage from flooding. Our work helps to support a greener economy through protecting and improving the natural environment for beneficial uses, working with businesses to reduce waste and save money, and helping to ensure that the UK economy is ready to cope with climate change. We will facilitate, as appropriate, the development of low carbon sources of energy ensuring people and the environment are properly protected.

1.4 We have three main roles:

- We are an environmental regulator – we take a risk-based approach and target our effort to maintain and improve environmental standards and to minimise unnecessary burdens on businesses. We issue a range of permits and consents.
- We are an environmental operator – we are a national organisation that operates locally. We work with people and communities across England to protect and improve the environment in an integrated way. We provide a vital incident response capability.
- We are an environmental adviser – we compile and assess the best available

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evidence and use this to report on the state of the environment. We use our own monitoring information and that of others to inform this activity. We provide technical information and advice to national and local governments to support their roles in policy and decision-making.

1.5 The Environment Agency takes action to conserve and secure proper use of water resources, preserve and improve the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters and groundwaters through pollution control powers and regulating discharge permits.

1.6 We have regulatory powers in respect of waste management and remediation of contaminated land designated as special sites. We also encourage remediation of land contamination through the planning process.

1.7 The Environment Agency is the principal flood risk management operating authority. It has the power (but not the legal obligation) to manage flood risk from designated main rivers and the sea. The Environment Agency is also responsible for increasing public awareness of flood risk, flood forecasting and warning and has a general supervisory duty for flood risk management. We also have a strategic overview role for all flood and coastal erosion risk management.

2.0 Scope of these representations

2.1 These Relevant Representations contain an overview of the project issues, which fall within our remit. They are given without prejudice to any future detailed representations that we may make throughout the examination process. We may also have further representations to make if supplementary information becomes available in relation to the project.

2.2 We have reviewed the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting documents submitted as part of the above mentioned application, which we received on 30 November 2021. Our comments are presented using the ES Chapter headings relevant to our remit below.

3.0 Chapter 13 - Volume 6 - Road Drainage and the Water Environment

3.1 ***Flood risk to the site*** – We have been working closely with the applicant for some time regarding the issue of flood risk to the proposed development as the site lies within areas of Flood Zone 2, 3a and 3b. The site is at flood risk from the River Nene, designated as a main river, located to the south of the development, and two ordinary watercourses (Whittering Brook and the Mill Channel) that converge and flow into the River Nene at this location.

3.2 The applicant has carried out hydraulic modelling to determine the baseline conditions for the site and for the proposed scheme. This included modelling of the Mill Stream and Whittering Brook. We have undertaken a review of the hydraulic modelling and have determined that it is fit for purpose.

3.3 As the submitted flood risk assessment utilises information from the hydraulic model, we are satisfied that it is appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the development.

3.4 We therefore have no objection to proposed development consent order (DCO) being granted at this time in relation to flood risk at the site.

3.5 ***Water Framework Directive*** – We consider that the scheme adequately addresses

water framework directive impacts and mitigates appropriately. In particular, we support the proposals in the Environmental Masterplan (TR010039/APP.6.8) for the works to facilitate mammal passage through the existing A47 and A1 culverts and the provision of additional wetland areas for water quality improvement and habitat creation at Sacrewell Farm.

3.6 We therefore have no objection to proposed development consent order (DCO) being granted at this time in relation to WFD at the site.

4.0 Chapter 9 – Volume 6 – Geology and Soils

4.1 Based on the available information, we are satisfied that the risks posed to controlled waters are understood and can be appropriately managed.

4.2 We therefore have no concerns at this time with regard to the risks to groundwater from the proposed scheme and have no objection to the proposed DCO being granted at this time in relation to the protection of controlled waters from potential contamination at the site.

5.0 Development Consent Order

5.1 To ensure that the proposed scheme does not result in an increase in flood risk to areas located downstream of the site, we request the following Requirement be included on the DCO:

5.2 The development shall be carried out in accordance with the submitted flood risk assessment, reference number TR010039/APP/6.3, dated July 2021 and the following mitigation measures it details:

- Compensatory storage shall be provided as shown in cation 7.9 (Primary location for the flood compensation area for the River Nene) and will provide a minimum volume of 560m³.
- Floodplain compensation should be constructed prior to the commencement of any works which will reduce the capacity of the floodplain.

These mitigation measures shall be fully implemented prior to occupation and subsequently in accordance with the scheme's timing/phasing arrangements. The measures detailed above shall be retained and maintained thereafter throughout the lifetime of the development.

5.3 The Environment Agency would wish to be a specific named consultee in respect of the requested Requirement.

6.0 Further Representations

6.1 In summary, we can confirm that we have no objection to the proposed development, as submitted. However, we reserve the right to add or amend these representations, including requests for DCO Requirements and protective provisions should further information be forthcoming during the course of the examination on issues within our remit.

If you have any questions regarding these representations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer Moffatt
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor

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