



National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

19th March 2021

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

APPLICATION BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FOR AN ORDER GRANTING DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A47 BLOFIELD TO NORTH BURLINGHAM SCHEME (TR010040)

PROCEDURAL DECISION FOLLOWING ISSUE OF ACCEPTANCE DECISION

Further to our letter dated 5th February 2021 (**AS-001**) in response to your letter dated 2nd February 2021, I have set out below our responses to the remaining points you have raised.

EVIDENCE REQUESTED BEFORE THE START OF THE EXAMINATION (OR DURING THE RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (RR) PERIOD IF FEASIBLE)

The numbering reflects that set out in the letter dated 2nd February 2021:

1. Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA Report) (TR010040/APP/6.9 (APP-119))

The Applicant can confirm that the inaccuracies and inconsistencies within the HRA have been addressed. A revised document (Rev 1) has been submitted with this letter.

2. Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (TR010040/APP/7.7 (APP-124))

The Applicant can confirm that further detail on the dust management measures have been included in Annex B.5, which would form the basis of the Construction Noise and Dust Management Plan (CNDMP).

The REAC references W7 and G9 have been clarified in the EMP. The query regarding Annex A was responded to in the previous letter (**AS-001**).

A revised document (Rev 1) has been submitted with this letter.

3. ES Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual Effects (TR010040/APP/6.1 (APP-045))

Published national and local landscape character area studies are recognised as a point of reference for describing landscape character at the scale at which they're presented. The extent to which published character areas represent a particular location therefore depends on how typical a place is of the overall character of the area in which it is located. Published character studies are useful in setting a context but don't necessarily provide sufficient detail to represent the subtleties of a particular location.

Within the extents of the Proposed Scheme study area the relevant published character assessments have been acknowledged by taking reference from the main themes that perceptibly associate with the study area. These themes have been further elaborated upon by site observations gained across the study area which identify a finer grain of distinction that allows the study area to be subdivided into a series of study area specific character areas.

ES Chapter 7 (**TR010040/APP/6.1 (APP-045)**), paragraph 7.7.24 sets out that assessment landscape character areas have been identified as an outcome of review of published landscape character studies and site observation as the basis for assessment of the Proposed Scheme landscape effects. Whilst the effects of the Proposed Scheme could be extended to include an assessment of effect on published landscape character context, the relevance at the broader scale of such areas in considering change of the type proposed within an area already influenced by a highway corridor would offer limited value to understanding of the effects of the Proposed Scheme. The potential for effects on published landscape character areas is considered to be not-significant. For these reasons the assessment of effects has not been tied to published character areas in consideration that a greater understanding of the effects of the Scheme on landscape character can be gained from the study area specific character areas, as reported in ES Chapter 7.

4. Landscape and Ecological Management

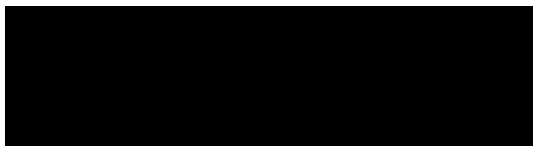
The Applicant can confirm that an outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan has been included as an Annex to the revised Environmental Management Plan (Rev 1) submitted with this letter.


6. Outline Traffic Management Plan (OTMP) (TR010040/APP/7.8 (APP-125))

The Applicant can confirm that a plan identifying the envisaged routes for construction traffic and deliveries has been included in Appendix H of the revised outline Traffic Management Plan (Rev 1) submitted with this letter.

If you have any queries on any of these matters please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,




Project Manager
Highways England

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