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June 11th 2021

Dear Inspector Hutson

**Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Examination, Preliminary Meeting, June 8th 2021**

Thank you for our brief discussion on the placement of *cumulative carbon emissions* within the Principal Issues at Tuesdays Preliminary Hearing (PM). I am following up with further clarification for my request that cumulative carbon emissions are included under the “Climate Change” principal issue heading.

I refer to The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “regulations”). Section 4 (4)¹ of the regulations lists the factors for consideration as follows:

*“A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, **climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation)**, material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.”* (my emphasis)

Section 4 (5)² of the regulations lists the likely significant effects of a development which should be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment as follows:

“A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia—

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/schedule/4/paragraph/4/made>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/schedule/4/paragraph/5/made>

- (a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;
- (b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;
- (c) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;
- (d) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters);
- (e) **the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;**
- (f) **the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;**
- (g) the technologies and the substances used.

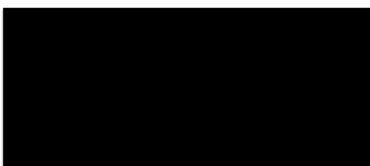
The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(2) should cover the direct effects and **any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.** This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC(2).” (my emphasis)

The regulations imply that cumulative impacts are to be considered under each of the factors at Section 4 (4) of the regulations. I noted in the PM that the inclusion of “cumulative carbon emissions” under the “Climate Change” principal issue would give parity with the inclusion of “including in-combination assessment” under “Biodiversity, Ecology and the Natural Environment” in the Principal Issues. This parity derives from the regulations as above.

I note your reference to the legal duty to consider projects alone and in combination with regard to European sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The EIA regulations impose a more general duty to consider cumulative impacts over all the environmental factors listed at Section 4 (4). For this reason, I would respectfully ask for “cumulative carbon emissions” to be added under the “Climate Change” main heading to the final draft of the Principal Issues.

I also suggested at the PM that there may be pragmatic reasons to consider the project alone and in combination with several other similar schemes close to Norwich on the near horizon, with respect to climate change and carbon emissions, under the “Climate Change” main heading. I respectfully suggest that this would make the organisation of written representations, responses and the hearings more manageable for all parties.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Boswell for Climate Emergency Planning and Policy (CEPP)

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