

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [A47 Blofield to North Burlingham](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NCC response to A47 Blofield Consultation Letter  
**Date:** 26 April 2022 16:48:12  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached Norfolk County Council's response to the below question regarding NCC's Protective Provisions:

*Please could the Applicant and NCC confirm the status of the agreement mentioned above?*

If you require anything further, please let me know.

Best wishes,  
Alice

**Alice Craske, Project Support Officer**  
Community and Environmental Services  
County Hall, Norwich, NR1 2DH

[REDACTED]

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## **NCC Protective Provisions**

Norfolk County Council and the Applicant have been in discussions regarding the handover of assets since November 2020. These talks are continuing, and we would hope to be able to iron out the details with National Highways. However, to date, we have been unable to reach agreement with the Applicant and some key outstanding issues remain. Whilst we have no objection in principle to the handover of assets, we are yet to be satisfied about certain aspects.

In the main, the county council has sought a commuted sum to cover future maintenance of the assets. This has proved a stabling block as we understand that National Highways do not have a policy on this and are seeking to develop one.

Whilst a representative of the Applicant has indicated that alternative provisions might be able to be provided, such as extended guarantee and access to future bidding opportunities, to date we have not received confirmation in writing, or substantial details about what this might constitute.

The other main issues to be concluded are:

- The lack of an adequate inventory listing the assets, including details of the exact highway boundary and extent, to be handed over.
- A detailed inventory of all assets (eg size of any culverts) that will be handed over
- Condition of assets to be handed over.

We received an export of some asset data on 7 April 2022 relating to current trunk road sections. Some of this, together with some sections of new construction to connect to the new road, will form part of the asset to be handed over. The county council needs to assess this data for suitability and completeness, but it is likely to require both tailoring and enhancement. In our discussions to date and submission of the Protective Provisions, we are seeking to protect the county council's financial position. We are currently experiencing an extraordinary level of current construction inflation which adds to funding pressures when seen alongside the recent announcement of the flat 3-year DfT settlement for local highway authorities.

Whilst discussions are ongoing, and ideally, we would want to reach agreement through this process, the county council is cognisant that discussions have been ongoing for some time and will time-out given the timetable for the DCO process. We must ensure the county council's interests as local highways authority are adequately protected. Failing reaching an agreement, we believe this is achieved through the draft Protective Provisions.

Norfolk County Council strongly supports the proposed scheme, believing it essential to support the county, and will continue to discuss its concerns with the Applicant in the hope of agreeing all issues between us.