



Our reference: A417 Missing Link

Your reference: TR010056

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Dear Examining Authority

A417 Missing Link Development Consent Order – Joint Councils Deadline 7 Submission

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), Cotswold District Council (CDC), and Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) 'the Joint Councils' are the three host authorities for the National Highways' (NH) A417 Missing Link DCO Scheme 'the Scheme'. Atkins is supporting the Joint Councils during the Examination process and submits this letter on their behalf.
- 1.2. This document is the Joint Councils Deadline 7 submission. The Joint Councils wish to provide the Examining Authority with an update on progress made in recent discussions with NH on matters which the Joint Councils have made representations at previous deadlines.
- 1.3. This letter is structured in the following way:
 - Section 2 – Details of Design;
 - Section 3 – Lighting at Ullenwood Roundabout;
 - Section 4 – Impacts on Leckhampton Hill; and
 - Summary

2. Details of Design

- 2.1. At Deadline 6 NH submitted structural engineering drawings and sections and a revised dDCO. The structural engineering drawings and sections illustrate the preliminary design of proposed structures at a scale and to a level of detail appropriate for drawings intended to support an application for a Development Consent Order. The notes on each drawing establish that the detailed design of structures must be carried out in accordance with the design principles set out in the Design Summary Report [APP-423], and cross refer to detailed design commitments made in the Environmental Management Plan [REP6-010], including - for example:
 - GP8 - Highways England would engage with all key environmental stakeholders prior to and during the detailed design process, as well as during construction of the scheme. These are listed in section 2.2 of this EMP.
 - L5 - Where practicable, structures would be designed to be sympathetic to the character of the Cotswolds AONB, using suitable facing materials such as locally sourced materials to fit existing vernacular and exposed rock faces. Facings may

also include areas for colonisation with local species to visually break up the surfaces.

- 2.2. The Joint Councils note the revisions made to the dDCO at Deadline 6, specifically:
 - requiring the authorised development to be designed in detail and carried out so that it is compatible with the Structural engineering drawings and sections under Schedule 2 Requirement 11(1)(a);
 - requiring the authorised development to be designed in detail and carried out so that it is compatible with the design principles set out in the Design Summary Report; and
 - defining the 'Design Summary Report' and 'Structural Engineering Drawings and Sections' under Schedule 2 Article 1;
 - including the Design Summary Report and Structural engineering drawings and sections as certified documents under Schedule 9.
- 2.3. The Joint Councils consider that these steps effectively fulfil the Joint Councils' preferred option 'Option 1', as outlined at Issue Specific Hearing 2 on 27 January 2022 and as detailed in the Deadline 3 submissions [REP3-018 and REP3-019].
- 2.4. Following Deadline 3, in the absence of any remedial action by NH, the Joint Councils made further representations on this matter at Deadlines 4 and 5, including a request for a Design Code style document to be prepared and submitted as suggested by the Examining Authority. However, the Joint Councils are now satisfied that the combination of additional drawings, the strengthening of Requirement 11 and existing commitments in the EMP are an acceptable means of ensuring high quality design of structures would be secured without the need for a design code style document.
- 2.5. On this basis, the Joint Councils are satisfied that the provisions for preliminary design and controls over detailed design are now acceptable.

3. Lighting at Ullenwood Roundabout

- 3.1. At Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4), on 3 March 2022 National Highways provided confirmation that below ground infrastructure for a potential future lighting scheme at Ullenwood Roundabout would not be included in the DCO. In response GCC only (rather than the Joint Councils collectively) confirmed that it continued to have concerns about the lack of lighting proposed at the Junction.
- 3.2. Since ISH4 GCC and NH have continued to discuss GCC's concerns. We are pleased to update the Examining Authority that a satisfactory resolution to this matter has been found and can be dealt with outside of the DCO process. GCC understands that NH intend to set out to the Examining Authority the details.
- 3.3. In light of the above, the GCC is satisfied that the matter can be resolved without requiring the authorised development to include for the installation of below ground infrastructure.

4. Impacts on Leckhampton Hill

- 4.1. At ISH4, the Joint Councils set out their request for NH to commit to undertaking a feasibility study to identify and fund options which would address the forecast increase in traffic flows on Leckhampton Hill in the modelled 'with scheme' scenario.
- 4.2. At Deadline 6, in response to the Examining Authority Written Question 2.11.6, the Joint Councils advised the Examining Authority that it was in positive discussions with NH to find a resolution.
- 4.3. The Joint Councils are pleased to update the Examining Authority that agreement has been reached with NH which satisfies the Joint Councils' concerns and can be dealt with outside of the DCO process. The Joint Councils understand that the details are to be submitted into Examination by National Highways.
- 4.4. With this arrangement agreed, the Joint Councils are satisfied that there is no longer a need for a feasibility study to be secured through the DCO.

5. Summary

- 5.1. The Joint Councils welcome the positive steps taken by NH to address their remaining concerns. We continue to engage with NH to reflect recent progress in finalising the Statement of Common Ground with a view to agreeing all matters before the close of the Examination where possible.

Yours sincerely



For and on behalf of Atkins and the Joint Councils
Benjamin Nutch