

Issue Specific Hearing 1 28th February 2023

Confirmation of Issues Raised by Boreham Conservation Society

1. Junction 19

BCS referenced the queues shown, in construction year 2025 plate F1-5 of 7.2 Case for Scheme refers which predicts queues on the west bound carriageway stretching back from Junction 19 almost to the Waltham Road Bridge. BCS requested the Applicant to provide similar illustrative data for the B1137 stretching back from Junction 19 to Boreham.

BCS requested the Applicant to confirm that it was not their intention to create a dedicated access lane, avoiding the Generals Farm dumbbell, from the B1137 to the west bound A12.

2. Junction 20a

BCS confirmed their continuing objection to the closure of Junction 20a / west bound access between Hatfield Peverel and Boreham referred the Applicant to REP1-23, REP1-25 and RREP1-26. BCS confirmed that they would be happy to meet with the Applicant should the Applicant action their proposal to meet regarding REP1-012 before Deadline 3. BCS outlined their alternative plan and the Applicant confirmed that the BCS plan's dimensions could be accommodated on the B1137.

BCS also noted that Applicant's objection that the BCS alternative plan did not meet the DMRB specifications. BCS contend that as such "departure from standards" is not unusual and pointed to the Applicant's decisions recorded in 2019 Value Engineering Report that "departure from standards" were approved with regard to the River Ter Bridge and Concrete Safety Barriers.

BCS confirmed that should the Enquiry approve closure of 20a / removal of west bound access to the A12; BCS supported Essex County Council (ECC), Chelmsford City Council (CCC), Essex Police and Boreham Parish Council, that Average Speed Cameras combined with the traffic intervention measures on the B1137 within Boreham Village would be essential. BCS requested confirmation that it remained the Applicant's intention that a 40 mph speed limit be introduced between Boreham Village and Junction 19. BCS also requested confirmation that the Average Speed camera coverage would include this section of the B1137.

BCS also stated that after months of submissions/rebuttals the Applicant still had not produced a realistic detailed alternative roundabout design to satisfy BCS that this was not a viable solution. If a roundabout solution was installed at Junction 20A along with a 30mph speed limit from the Hatfield Peverel village boundary to 100 m southwest beyond the new roundabout, this would give drivers a clear indication of a change in road standards/speed. This lower speed limit would also facilitate a tighter design which will remove the swept path analysis issues raised by the Applicant.

3. Traffic Modelling

BCS share the general unease referred to by previous participants concerning the assumptions fed into the Applicant's modelling formulae. BCS referenced the assumption that commuters would voluntarily observe the proposed lower speed limits along the B1137 as simply not sustainable. Nevertheless, this assumption enabled the Applicant to:

Reduce the predicted increase in the am peak traffic on Plantation Road in Boreham from +50% to +25%, the draft DCO now quotes, without explanation, a further reduction to 17%. The +50% increase has never been publicly available and BCS offered to provide the ExA with the relevant emails from the Applicant should these be required.

Claim that 88% of commuters would turn east to use Junction 21 to then turn west and continue their commute, as this would save one minute per journey. BCS contend that this one-minute saving is illusory and, in real life, a 50/50 split of traffic at the Duke of Wellington mini roundabout is entirely possible. BCS note that the Average Speed Cameras and other measures supported by ECC, CCC, Essex Police, Boreham Parish Council and BCS are deemed essential to mitigate the adverse impact of the Applicant's predicted 12% increase in traffic towards Boreham. Clearly, if as is contended, the increase traffic exceeds 12% the adverse impacts would be correspondingly increased.

Boreham Conservation Society March 2023