

A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Project

Deadline 6 submission – Response to
ExQ3

12 June 2023

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1. Reponse to ExQ3

On 23 May 2023 the Examining Authority published the Third Written Questions (ExQ3). Essex County Council’s response to the questions for which a response is requested from the council are set out below.

ExQ	Question to	Question	ECC response
5. Compulsory Acquisition, Temporary Possession and Other Land or Rights Considerations			
Q3.5.9	The Applicant Brice Family Essex County Council	As indicated at both CAH1 and CAH2, the position over Colemans Quarry was not clear to a number of Interested Parties and also to the ExA. This has now been explained further with the Borrow Pits summary [REP5-015] and also the officer report to Essex County Council in respect of the planning application. The uncertainty has to some extent arisen over the delays in the grant of planning permission which was approved by Essex County Council in January. What are the reasons for delay in completing the section 106 agreement and is this likely to be finalised any time soon?	The legal agreement to accompany the variation to the operating procedures at Coleman’s Quarry is still out to comment between ECC and the applicant. It is not possible to give this a time to give a date by which it is expected to be completed.
8. Land Use			
Q3.8.2	The Applicant Essex County Council	Essex County Council have objected [REP5-033] to the proposed footpath alignment at Colemans Cottage Fishery on the basis that it creates a semi enclosed corridor footpath. They do not consider that this is the optimum design for a public footpath when it is created as a result of a new development. Can the Applicant give this positioning and design	Due to the limited space available, the landowner mitigation requirements and the topography of the site it remains ECC’s position that an alternative route for the footpath connection should be sought to the south, linking FP 103 to FP 101 Witham. Whilst this is a longer route for walkers, it does still address the severance of the network and further provides an alternative link

ExQ	Question to	Question	ECC response
		additional thought as this does not seem a satisfactory outcome? A further meeting was proposed for Monday 13 May and was there any progress at this?	to the Whetmeads Nature reserve, avoiding the underpass which frequently floods.
Q3.8.4	The Applicant Essex County Council	Several Interested Parties have referred to the need for access to bridges to be designed in accordance with the LTN1/20 Guidance but there has been no commitment from the Applicant so far. It is noted that a further meeting with Essex County Council was to take place on 4 May. What was the outcome of this?	Following the meeting on 4 th May, and the Council's production of a draft DCO Requirement for Walking, Cycling and Horse-riding (WCH), the Applicant has merged into Requirement 10 Detailed Design. The provisions contained in the Applicant's proposed WCH Infrastructure Specification (Appendix B of Design Principle) fall short of the Council's recommendations and will not, in the Council's view, ensure that the WCH overbridges, or the access to these bridges, are designed in accordance with LTN1/20 Guidance. The Council's version of Requirement 14, refers to ECC's WCH Infrastructure Specification Matrix. This matrix contains a detailed specification for the A12 DCO scheme's WCH infrastructure, which, if accepted by the Applicant would ensure that all key WCH infrastructure is designed in accordance with LTN1/20. At present, the Applicant has not agreed to all elements of ECC's WCH Infrastructure Specification Matrix.

This information is issued by:
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