

From: [Ben Simm](#)
To: [Hinckley SRFI](#)
Cc: [Sima Odedra](#); [Alice Langford](#); [Victoria Lazenby](#); [Eri Wong](#); [Russell Gray](#); [Martin Seldon](#); [Babatunde Adekoya-Serrano](#)
Subject: TR050007: Hinckley SRFI – National Highways (20040073) – Transport Assessments
Date: 31 August 2023 14:18:23
Attachments: [TR050007 - HNRFI - NH TA Letter - FINAL 31.08.2023.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Sir / Madam

Please find attached a letter from National Highways in regards to the incomplete Transport Assessments and our concerns about our ability to provide informative responses to the Examining Authority based on the proposed timescales to be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting on the 12th September 2023, and also the project definitions during the Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1) on the 13th September 2023.

If you have any questions or comments then please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Sima Odedra [\[REDACTED\]@nationalhighways.co.uk](#)

Many thanks

Ben

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Please be advised that I will be unavailable on the following dates:

Annual Leave: Friday 1st September – Monday 11th September 2023

Planning Examination: 12th September / 13th September 2023

For information about our engagement with the planning system please visit <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/planning-and-the-strategic-road-network-in-england/>

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Our ref: M69/DCO/TR050007-HinckleySRFI
Your ref: TR050007

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31 August 2023

Via email –

HinckleySRFI@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

TR050007: Hinckley SRFI – National Highways (20040073) – Transport Assessments.

National Highways has been considering the information which has been submitted formally to support the application of the Development Consent Order (DCO) for consideration by the Examining Authority and determination by the Secretary of State for Transport.

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth.

National Highways proactively engaged with pre-application discussions with the applicant and its transport consultants, with the aspiration to agree the methodology and key assumptions for the strategic modelling and to understand the development related impacts across the SRN. However, these meetings ceased in the Summer of 2022, with a number of areas still to be agreed with ourselves and the local highway authorities.

Subsequently the applicant has submitted the DCO with a supporting environmental statement in which traffic and transport are considered at Chapter 8 and supporting appendices. However, it is acknowledged by the applicant and its consultants that the submission is not complete as stated at paragraph 2.26 of the supporting transport assessment (Appendix 8.1) as follows:

'The following documents are not complete at this stage and an addendum to the TA will be prepared in due course to cover the resultant modelling and mitigation package agreement in them.

- *Final Transport Assessment*
- *Traffic Modelling – WCC Rural Rugby Area Model Reports*
- *Stage 1 Road Safety Audits and Audit Response.*

National Highways has subsequently been in receipt of further information, including the WCC Rural Rugby Area Model Reports, separately outside of the DCO process by the applicant's consultant BWB. These were provided alongside additional information on Friday 11 August 2023, which included.

- WCC Rural Rugby Area Model Reports
- Traffic Surveys
- Junction Impact Capacity Models

On Thursday 17 August 2023, National Highways attended a meeting with the applicants' transport consultant, BWB and other key stakeholders including Leicestershire County Council and Warwickshire County Council in their capacity as the local highway authorities. During the meeting BWB sought to address comments made by each of the parties and explained the provision of the additional information. BWB stated that a Final Transport Assessment would no longer be submitted, and instead the submission would be updated by a technical note instead, but no timescales on when this would be prepared or submitted were provided.

At present National Highways cannot provide comments on the design drawings nor accept the Stage 1 Road Safety Audits briefs, as understanding and agreement of the strategic modelling outputs is outstanding and core elements of the modelling methodology are having to be revisited at present.

Furthermore, the Stage 1 Road Safety Audits must be undertaken in accordance with the process and requirement set out within GG119: Road Safety Audits of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). This process requires National Highways to agree the Road Safety Audit brief and when the design is accepted appoint the identified auditors to undertake this review. At present, we are unable to agree the briefs as the design parameters have not been agreed whilst we await to confirm the strategic modelling.

National Highways also remains concerned with the limited sustainable transport strategy for the development site, and that it does not accord with the requirements of National Policy Statement – National Networks, Department for Transport Circular 01/2022 – Strategic Road Network and the delivery of sustainable transport and the National Planning Policy Framework.

National Highways has significant reservations on its ability to fully consider the development proposals whilst substantial amounts of transport information are yet to be submitted or agreed. Such information is critical to National Highways' appraisal process and development of informative written representations and Local Impact Reports (LIRs) which seek to clearly set out our position in order to aid the Examining Authority (ExA) within the current proposed deadline of Tuesday 10 October 2023.

National Highways therefore requests a delay to deadline 1 to enable the applicant the opportunity to agree and provide all outstanding information required by National Highways and submitted to the ExA.

National Highways looks forward to attending the hearings to support the examination for the development proposals, where we will raise these concerns at the Preliminary Meeting and Issue Specific Hearing (ISH1). In the meantime, if you have any questions or matters of clarification then please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided.

Yours Sincerely



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