

Communities and Environment
Planning Services
Norfolk County Council
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2SG

By email only

Your ref: FUL/20204/0022
Our ref: L2288

Chemical Explosives and Microbiological
Hazards Division 5
1.2 Redgrave Court
Bootle L20 7HS

Email: lupenquiries@hse.gov.uk
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>
[REDACTED] Team Leader

Date: 18 June 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2015**

**PLANNING APPLICATION FUL/2024/0022– LAND BETWEEN THE A1270 BROADLAND
NORTHWAY NEAR RINGLAND AND THE A47 NEAR HONNINGHAM: DEVELOPMENT OF
APPROXIMATELY 6KM OF THE NORWICH WESTERN LINK ROAD CONNECTING THE A1067
(FAKENHAM ROAD) WITH THE NEW A47 NORTH TUDDENHAM TO EASTON SCHEME
(BEING DEVELOPED BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS), INCLUDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
NEW ROUNDABOUT JUNCTION WITH THE A1067 FAKENHAM ROAD, IMPROVEMENTS TO
THE A1067 FAKENHAM ROAD AND THE ROUNDABOUT JUNCTION WITH THE A1270
BROADLAND NORTHWAY**

1. Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2024 to the Land Use Planning (LUP) advice team of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) requesting our comments on the application for the construction of the Norwich Western Link Road (Ref FUL/2024/0022). HSE is a statutory consultee for certain developments within the Consultation Distance of major hazard sites and pipelines. Relevant types of development include transport links and developments which are otherwise likely to result in a material increase in the number of persons working within or visiting the notified area. HSE's role as a statutory consultee in the planning process is to provide local planning authorities with advice on the risks to people at a proposed development from a major accident at a facility in the vicinity storing, transporting or using hazardous chemicals.

2. HSE has identified that the route of the proposed Link Road (Appendix 1) lies close to a major accident hazard pipeline, the 3 Feeder Bacton to Roundham Heath natural gas pipeline (ref 7450_1709) operated by National Grid Gas PLC. As shown in HSE's composite map of the proposed route of the link road overlaid with HSE's LUP consultation zones (Appendix 2), part of the area assigned to the Link Road lies in the outer (blue) consultation zone of the gas pipeline.

3. HSE's LUP methodology uses a decision matrix with a combination of the consultation zone of the existing major hazard site or pipeline and the sensitivity level of the development (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/landuseplanning/methodology.htm#matrix>) to determine its advice to the planning authority, which will be that HSE either "Advises Against" (AA) or "Doesn't Advise Against" (DAA) the granting of planning permission for the proposed development. HSE's LUP methodology classes Transport Links under Development Type 2.3, with a dual carriageway road or motorway being classed as Sensitivity Level 2 development.

4. HSE does not advise sensitivity level 2 developments in the outer consultation zone of a major accident hazard pipeline. Therefore HSE **does not advise against** planning application FUL/2024/0022 on safety grounds.

5. In the case of planning applications where the proposed layout and the scale of the development may only be indicative and where relevant types of development (for example rest areas, petrol filling stations, restaurants or shops) were to be placed inside the consultation zones of the major accident hazard pipeline or major hazard site then HSE's LUP team would expect to be reconsulted.

6. As the proposed development is within the consultation distance of a major accident hazard pipeline, the County Council should also consider contacting the pipeline operator before deciding the case. There are two particular reasons for this:

- The operator may have a legal interest (easement, wayleave, etc.) in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict certain developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline.
- The standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict occupied buildings or major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline, or its operation, if the development proceeds.

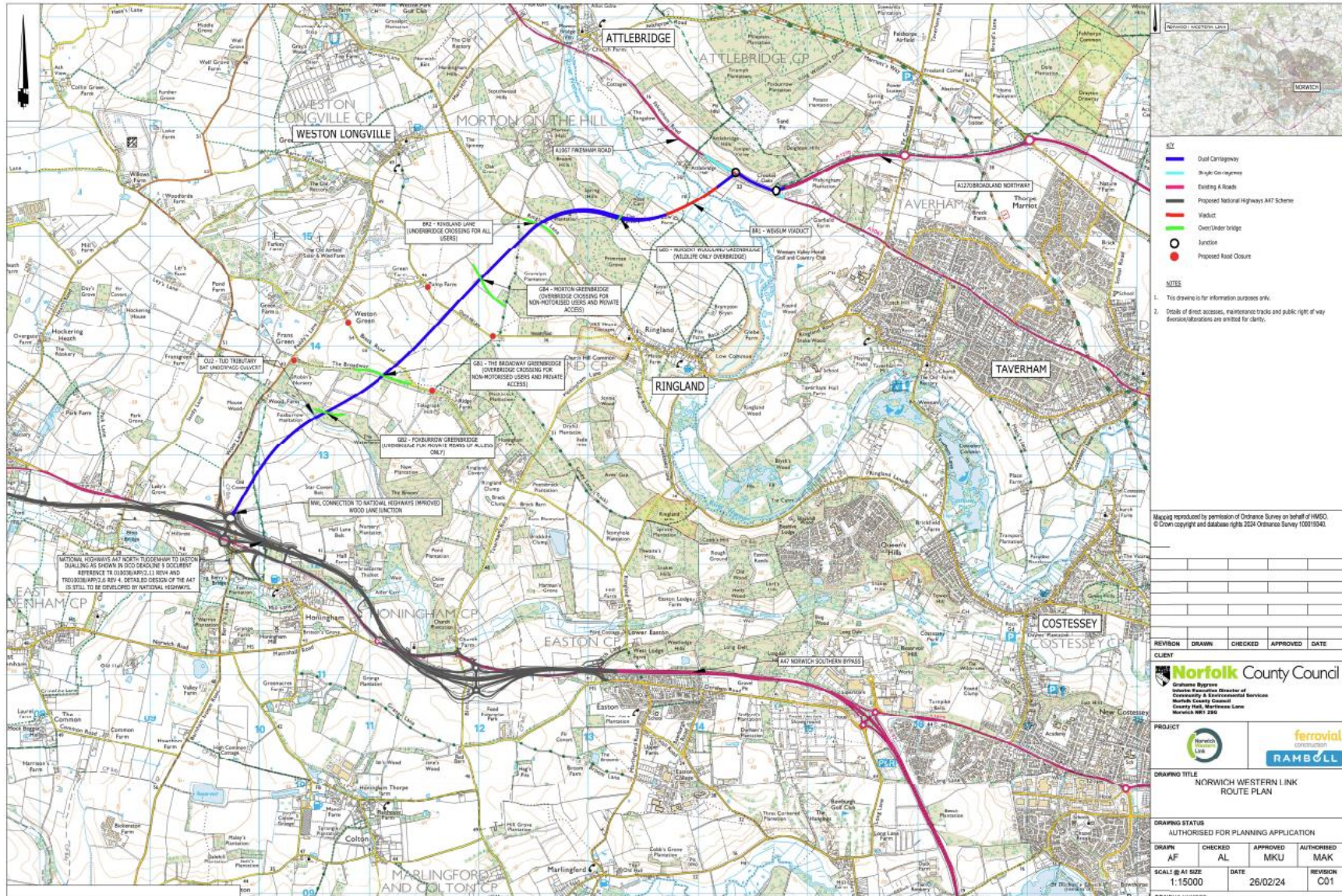
Yours sincerely

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[Redacted name]

Statutory and Commercial Land Use Planning Advice

Appendix 1. Route plan of proposed Norwich Western Link Road



Appendix 2. Map showing route of proposed Norwich Western Link Road and the inner (red) and outer (blue) HSE consultation zones for the 3 Feeder Bacton to Roundham Heath gas pipeline.

