



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 21-09) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: [REDACTED] (Regional Director)
Operations Directorate
East Region
National Highways
PlanningEE@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Norfolk County Council

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: FUL/2024/0022

Location: Land between the A1270 Broadland Northway near Ringland and the A47 near Honningham

Proposal: 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. Structures include a new viaduct carrying the Norwich Western Link over the River Wensum, a new underpass at Ringland Lane, the provision of a green bridge carrying the Broadway over the Norwich Western Link, three further green bridges, wildlife crossings, and culverting of a tributary to the River Tud. Related works include the stopping up, diversion, improvement and provision of side roads, new walking cycling and horse-riding provision, the stopping up, replacement and provision of new private means of access, and ancillary landscaping, ecological mitigation, surface water drainage system, flood compensation, bunds, other environmental mitigation, diversion and protection of apparatus and temporary works to facilitate construction, and the change of use of the premises known as Low Farm as offices (class E), and other ancillary works.

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 11th June 2024 referenced above, in the vicinity of the A47 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);
- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- ~~c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is/is not relevant to this application.¹

This represents National Highways’ formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority not propose to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to PlanningEE@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Signature: [REDACTED]	Date: 09/07/2024
Name: [REDACTED]	Position: Spatial Planner
National Highways National Highways Woodlands Manton Lane Bedford MK41 7LW	

Annex A National Highway’s assessment of the proposed development

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a 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). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current

¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

We have undertaken a review of the relevant documents supporting the planning application to ensure compliance with the current policies of the Secretary of State as set out in DfT Circular 01/2022 "The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development" and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This response represents our formal recommendations with regard to planning application FUL/2024/0022.

National Highways and Norfolk County Council have been in discussions regarding the connection to the A47 near Honningham. It is understood an agree has been reached between the two teams on how the two schemes can work closely and cooperate each other. It is encouraged that the regular coordination meetings with the A47 project team continue as identified within the Transport Assessment. Consequently, National Highways Spatial Planning team offer in principle a no objection to this application subject to Section 278 or Section 6 Agreement, if required between National Highways and the applicant.

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's [2022 Report to Parliament](#) notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 74 and 109 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 108 and 114 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the build clever and build efficiently criteria as set out in clause 6.1.4 of [PAS2080](#) promote the use of low carbon materials and products, innovative design solutions and construction methods to minimise resource consumption.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.