



Norwich Western Link

Environmental Statement

Chapter 1: Introduction

Author: WSP UK Limited

Document Reference: 3.01.00

Version Number: 00

Date: March 2024



Contents

Glossary of Abbreviations and Defined Terms	3
1 Introduction	4
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Definition of Environmental Impact Assessment	6
1.3 Legal Framework for the Environmental Statement	6
1.4 The Project Team.....	12
1.5 References	13

Tables

Table 1-1 Location of Required Information within the ES	8
--	---

Figures

Plate 1-1 Location Plan	4
-------------------------------	---

Appendices

Environmental Statement Chapter 1: Introduction	
Appendix 1.1: The Project Team (Document Reference 3.01.01)	
Environmental Statement Chapter 1: Introduction	
Appendix 1.2: Figures (Document Reference 3.01.02)	



Glossary of Abbreviations and Defined Terms

The definition of key terms used in this report are provided below.

Term	Definition
The Applicant	Norfolk County Council as the promoter of the Proposed Scheme.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The term ‘Environmental Impact Assessment’ describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of projects before they can be given ‘development consent’. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project’s likely significant environmental effects.
Norfolk County Council as the County Planning Authority	Norfolk County Council is the County Planning Authority who will consider the Planning Application and decide whether to grant planning permission.
The Proposed Scheme	The proposed Norwich Western Link scheme.
Red Line Boundary	The Red Line Boundary incorporates the Site Boundary, the Essential Environmental Mitigation, and No Work Zones not within the Site Boundary, as shown on the ‘Red Line Boundary Plan’ (Document reference: 2.02.00).
Site Boundary	The areas within which all construction and operational activities for the Proposed Scheme will take place, including areas for temporary use during construction and No Work Zones within this boundary, but not including Essential Environmental Mitigation.

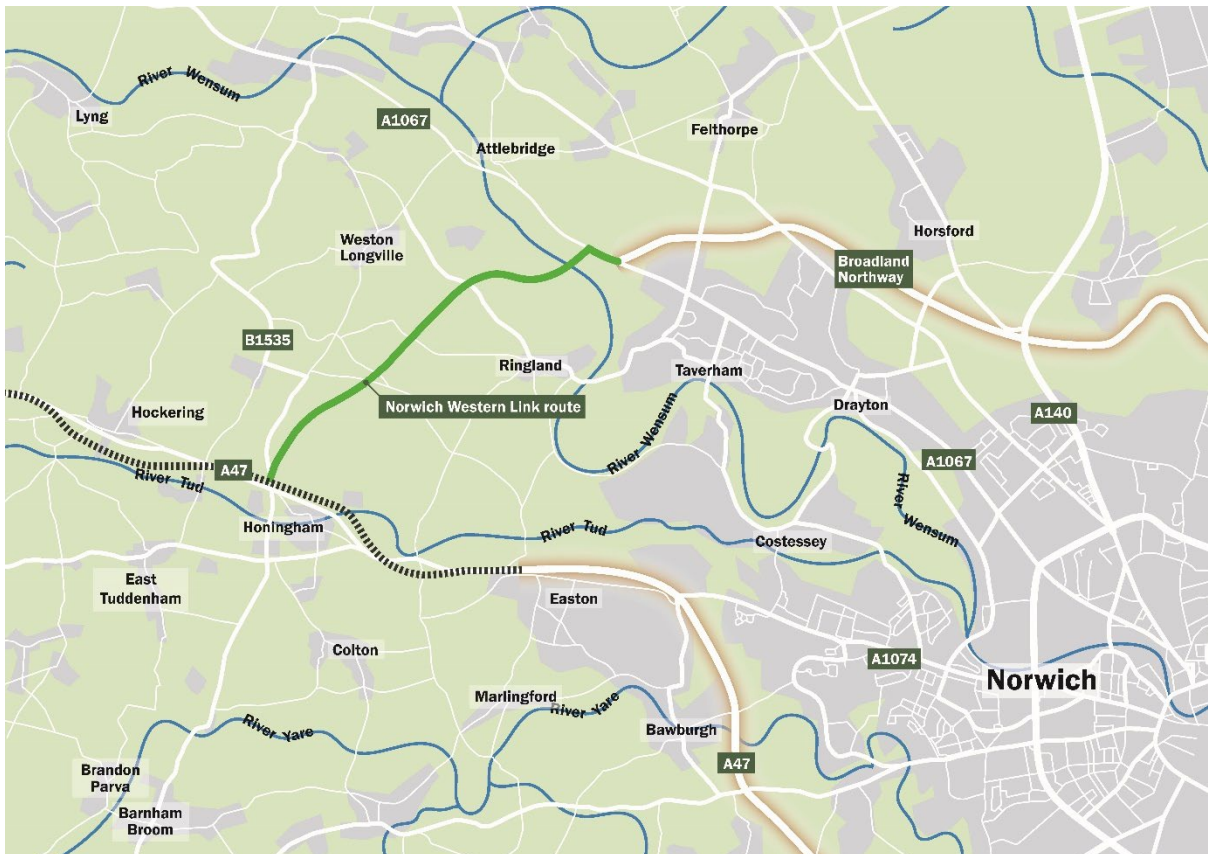


1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The Norwich Western Link (NWL) (referred to as the 'Proposed Scheme') is a proposed new highway to link the A1270 Broadland Northway, from its junction with the A1067 Fakenham Road (to the north) to the A47 trunk road near Honingham (to the south). Norfolk County Council is the Applicant for the Proposed Scheme (hereby referred to as 'the Applicant'). The location is identified in **Plate 1-1: Location Plan** below and described further in **Chapter 2: The Existing Site** (Document Reference 3.02.00).

Plate 1-1 Location Plan





- 1.1.2 The planning application seeks permission for the development of up to 6 kilometres 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 bridge of 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, diversions, 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 other ancillary works, and the change of use of Low Barn Farm as site offices (use class E3).
- 1.1.3 The planning application boundary for the Proposed Scheme is presented in **Figure 1.1: Red Line Boundary** in **Appendix 1.2 Figures** (Document Reference 3.01.02); the area which it encompasses is referred to as ‘the Red Line Boundary. Further details on the Proposed Scheme are presented in **Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Scheme** (Document Reference 3.03.00).
- 1.1.4 The Environmental Statement (ES) is the written output of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process which has been undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (**Ref 1.1**) (referred to as the ‘EIA Regulations 2017’). The ES is one of the supporting documents submitted to the determining planning authority, in this case Norfolk County Council (NCC) as the County Planning Authority (CPA), in support of the planning application.



1.1.5 This chapter outlines the legal framework, the structure of the ES and its supporting documents. A breakdown of the information required by the EIA Regulations 2017 is provided in **Table 1-1** alongside guidance on the location of this information within this ES.

1.1.1 WSP has been commissioned by the Applicant to carry out the EIA in support of the planning application. This has incorporated technical input from the project team specialist, as outlined in **Appendix 1.1** (Document Reference 3.01.01).

1.2 Definition of Environmental Impact Assessment

1.2.1 The term ‘Environmental Impact Assessment’ describes a procedure that must be followed for certain types of projects before they can be given ‘development consent’. The procedure is a means of drawing together, in a systematic way, an assessment of a project’s likely significant environmental effects. This helps to ensure that the importance of the predicted effects and the scope for reducing them are properly understood by the public and the relevant competent planning authority before it makes its decision. The aim of EIA is to:

“protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision making process” and “ensure that the public are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the decision making procedures.” (Ref. 1.2)

1.3 Legal Framework for the Environmental Statement

1.3.1 The EIA Regulations 2017 implement the requirements of EU Directive 2014/52/EU and require that prior to consent being granted, for certain types of development, an EIA must be undertaken. While the United Kingdom has left the EU, the EIA Regulations 2017 remain in force until such time as they are amended or repealed. The EIA Regulations 2017 set out the types of development which must always be subject to an EIA (‘Schedule 1’ development) and other developments which may require an assessment if they are likely to give rise to significant environmental effects by virtue of factors such as its nature, size, or location (‘Schedule 2’ development).



Screening and Scoping

- 1.3.2 As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report 2020 (the ‘Scoping Report 2020’)(SCO/2020/0001) it was identified that the Proposed Scheme does not fall under any of the types of development set out in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. The Proposed Scheme falls under Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations 10(f) ‘*Construction of roads*’. The Scoping Report reported that the Proposed Scheme exceeds the Schedule 2 threshold of being greater than 1ha in area and outlines the potential for likely significant environmental effects warranting assessment. The Applicant was therefore of the view that the Proposed Scheme qualifies as EIA development and as a result, the Applicant has produced this ES to accompany the planning application.
- 1.3.3 The Scoping Report 2020 was submitted to NCC as the CPA in June 2020 (as presented in **Appendix 5.1** (Document Reference 3.05.01)), together with a formal request for an EIA Scoping Opinion, in accordance with Regulation 15(1) of the EIA Regulations 2017. A formal Scoping Opinion was subsequently received from NCC as the CPA on 16th October 2020, as included in **Appendix 5.2** (Document Reference 3.05.02). This confirmed that a statutory EIA is required.
- 1.3.4 A Scoping Report Addendum (SCO/2022/0001) was submitted to NCC as the CPA in July 2022 (**Appendix 5.3**) (Document Reference 3.05.03) which outlined a review of the scope of the ES against a localised alignment refinement and detailed the proposed level of assessment for mitigation areas set back from the main Proposed Scheme route. A Scoping Opinion Addendum response was received 7th October 2022 (**Appendix 5.4**) (Document Reference 3.05.04).
- 1.3.5 Further details on the Scoping Opinion and how it has informed this ES are provided in **Chapter 5: Approach to EIA** (Document Reference 3.05.00) and within each technical topic chapter.



Environmental Statement

1.3.6 The findings of the EIA are presented in this ES which has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017 as well as planning practice guidance.

1.3.7 Regulations 4 and 18 of, and Schedule 4 to, the EIA Regulations 2017 provides details of the information required for inclusion in an ES. **Table 1-1** summarises the requirements and where the information is located in this ES.

Table 1-1 Location of Required Information within the ES

Required Information (EIA Regulations 2017)	Location within this ES
Description of the development, including in particular: (a) a description of the location of the development	Chapter 2: The Existing Site
(b) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases	Chapter 3: Description of the Scheme
(c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil, and biodiversity) used	Chapter 3: Description of the Scheme
(d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.	Chapter 5: Approach to EIA and technical chapters 6 to 20



Required Information (EIA Regulations 2017)	Location within this ES
<p>A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size, and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.</p>	<p>Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered</p>
<p>A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge</p>	<p>Chapter 2: The Existing Site, Chapter 5: Approach to EIA and technical chapters 6 to 20</p>
<p>A description of the factors specified in regulation 4(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.</p>	<p>Technical chapters 6 to 20</p>
<p>A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works;</p>	<p>Technical chapters 6 to 20</p>



Required Information (EIA Regulations 2017)	Location within this ES
The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;	Technical chapters 6 to 20
The emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste;	Technical chapters 6 to 20
The risks to human health, cultural heritage, or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters)	Technical chapters 6 to 20
The cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources;	Technical chapters 6 to 20 and Chapter 21: Cumulative Effects
The impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;	Chapter 3: Description of the Scheme Chapter 15: Climate Greenhouse Gases, and Chapter 16: Climate Resilience
The technologies and the substances used.	Technical chapters 6 to 20



Required Information (EIA Regulations 2017)	Location within this ES
<p>The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term, and long-term, permanent, and temporary, positive, and negative effects of the development.</p>	<p>Technical chapters 6 to 20</p>
<p>A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.</p>	<p>Technical chapters 6 to 20</p>
<p>A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced, or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.</p>	<p>Technical chapters 6 to 20</p>



Required Information (EIA Regulations 2017)	Location within this ES
<p>A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of any law that implemented this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.</p>	<p>Chapter 3: Description of the Scheme Technical chapters 6 to 20</p>
<p>A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8 of Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations 2017 which has been set out in this table above.</p>	<p>Non-Technical Summary</p>
<p>A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.</p>	<p>All ES chapters</p>

1.4 The Project Team

1.4.1 In line with Regulation 18(5)(a) and (b) of the EIA Regulations 2017, the ES and technical assessments which inform it have been undertaken by competent experts in a suitably qualified project team. **Appendix 1.1** (Document Reference 3.01.01) presents the Project Team for the ES, their associated roles and expertise. The Project Team stated within **Appendix 1.1** are responsible for the scope, content, and assessment of likely significant environmental effects of their respective technical chapters.



1.4.2 WSP is responsible for the coordination, compilation, and procedural review of the ES. WSP is registered under the EIA Quality Mark operated by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) which recognises our commitment to excellence in EIA activities. WSP has and continues to support and lead nationally recognised guidance for EIA in the UK.



1.5 References

- 1.5.1 Reference 1.1: Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 571.
- 1.5.2 Reference 1.2: Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Online Tool, Environmental Impact Assessment, Paragraph 002 Reference ID: 4-002-20140306.