



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

From: Andrew Jinks (Regional Director)  
Operations Directorate  
Midlands Region  
National Highways

To: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council FAO Ailsa Berry

CC: [t](#)

**Council's Reference:** SMD/2021/0418

**Location:** Land South East Of A521, Uttoxeter Road, Draycott In The Moors, Staffordshire.

**Proposal:** Full planning application for residential development of 200 dwellings (Use Class C3), access and internal roads for vehicles, footpaths and cycle linkages, parking, public open space and landscaping, ecological habitats, community orchard, sustainable drainage measures, and associated infrastructure and earthworks.

**National Highways Ref:** 92709

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 22 September 2021 referenced above, in the vicinity of the A50 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 not relevant to this application.<sup>1</sup>

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](mailto:transportplanning@dft.gov.uk) and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

|                                                                                                       |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Signature:</b>    | <b>Date:</b> 10 January 2022               |
| <b>Name:</b> David Pyner                                                                              | <b>Position:</b> Assistant Spatial Planner |
| <b>National Highways</b><br>National Highways   The Cube   199 Wharfside Street   Birmingham   B1 1RN |                                            |

---

<sup>1</sup> Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

## **Annex A**     **National Highways' 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 activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

### **Recommended Non-Approval**

It is recommended that the application should not be approved until the transport matters noted below have been addressed.

National Highways (formally Highways England) notes that the proposed site has been assessed for 220 dwellings on land to the south of, and accessed via, the consented Blythe Vale Phase 1 site. The development parcel is to form Phase 2 of the Blythe Vale development and is located adjacent to the A50, which forms part of the SRN.

For context, Phase 1 included 146 dwellings (SMD/2017/0512 and SMD/2018/0790) and was granted permission in May 2020. We previously provided comments in September 2021 in relation to the scoping of the Access Options technical note and associated drawings for Blythe Vale Phase 2 and reviewed the Transport Assessment dated 18 June 2021.

Most recently, we have reviewed the technical note dated 10<sup>th</sup> December and AutoCAD drawings and models, and we have the following comments.

**Geometric Elements:** Based on review of the information provided, we are content with the updated geometric elements and have no further comments to make on this.

**Model Validation:** We note that the modelled queues at A50/A521 roundabout have been validated against the queue length survey undertaken in 2017. While we note that the MCC survey data collected in May 2017 is available within Appendix I of the Transport Assessment (TA dated July 2017) produced in support of the Phase 1 Blythe Vale development, the queue data is unavailable in the document. As such, we recommend that you provide the 2017 queue survey data used for the purpose of model validation for our verification.

**Growth factors:** Further to the above, the growth factors adopted for the assessment years (2017 – 2023 and 2017 – 2033) remain as 1 in the AM peak. We require further information/clarification on your approach used to calculate the AM growth factors before agreeing on the proposed growth rates.

**In light of the above, National Highways recommends that the application not be granted for a period of three months from the date of this notice, recommending the submission of additional information mentioned above.**