



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

From: Victoria Lazenby (Regional Director)
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To: Staffs Moorlands Council FAO Rosie Dinnen

Council's Reference: SMD/2024/0313

Location: Land Southeast Of A521 A50 Blythe Bridge Bye Pass

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2, 33 and 39 relating to SMD/2018/0790

National Highways Ref: NH/24/07147

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 16 July 2024 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) Offers No Objection (see reason Annexe A)
- ~~b) Recommend that Conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annexe A National Highways recommended Planning Conditions Reasons)~~
- ~~c) Recommend that planning permission Not be Granted for a specific period (see reason Annexe A)~~
- ~~d) Recommend that the application is refused (see reasons Annexe 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.

Date: 06 August 2025	
Name: David Pyner	Position: Assistant Spatial Planner
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¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

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

Reasons

National Highways have considered the documents available on the Local Planning Authority Website in respect of Variation of conditions 2, 33 and 39 relating to SMD/2018/0790 for Land Southeast Of A521 A50 Blythe Bridge Bye Pass. National Highways are content to offer No Objection to the Variations of Conditions.

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 73 and 105 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 104 and 110 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.