

This matter is being dealt with by:

David Marsh

Reference: SC/4311

T 0115 9932574

E development.management@nottsc.gov.uk

W nottinghamshire.gov.uk



AECOM
Royal Court
Basil Close
Chesterfield
S41 7SL

By E-Mail Only

Dear Sir

13 August 2021

FOA Alex Maddox

Proposal: Request for Scoping Opinion

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion for the A614/A6097 Major Road Network Improvement Project between Ollerton and East Bridgford in accordance with Regulation 15(1) of The Town and Country Planning (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended). This project consists of six schemes (namely Ollerton roundabout; Mickledale Lane junction; White Post roundabout; Warren Hill junction; Lowdham roundabout and Kirk Hill junction)

Location: Lowdham Roundabout – the roundabout intersection of the A6097 (Epperstone Bypass) and A612 Nottingham Road

Applicant: Nottinghamshire County Council

I refer to your scoping request for the above development dated 7 June 2021 (A614/A6097 Corridor Improvements Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report – Rev 1) which relates to six highway improvement projects on the A6097/A614 corridor between Kirk Hill (East Bridgford) and Ollerton. This Scoping Opinion relates to the proposal at Lowdham roundabout and Opinions on the other junctions will follow separately. From previous discussions the schemes taken as a whole will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment. While some of the schemes will have limited environmental impacts each junction in turn will need to be considered and assessed in the context of the overall project.

The Environmental Statement must contain the information specified in Regulation 18(3) of the 2017 EIA Regulations and must meet the requirements of Regulation 18(4). It must also include any additional information specified in Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations which is relevant to the particular development proposal and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected. These statutory requirements are set out in the Regulations and it is not necessary to repeat them here.

The specific characteristics of the particular development/the development of the type concerned

A scoping opinion is being sought of the County Planning Authority (CPA) with respect to a proposed planning application and accompanying Environmental Statement, as one of six applications, seeking permission for the reconfiguration of the junction of the A6097 and A612 at Lowdham. The aim, in conjunction with the other projects along the transport corridor is to address existing congestion issues and facilitate future traffic growth. Congestion and journey time delay is identified as a key issue at the existing Lowdham roundabout junction. Planning conditions limit development at Teal Park to the west to 150 dwellings until capacity improvements to Lowdham roundabout occur. The Project would allow a further development of 680 dwellings.

The proposal is to construct an enlarged four-arm elliptical roundabout to replace the existing roundabout with a two-lane circulatory carriageway and include a third left turn filter lane on the A612 Nottingham Road (eastbound) approach to the junction. A new access road would be provided from the A612 Nottingham Road to access the four properties (15-21 Nottingham Road) on the south side of the road, closest to the roundabout.

Toucan crossing points for both pedestrians and cyclists are proposed to be provided on both carriageways of the A6097 Epperstone Bypass north-west of the roundabout.

This would require permanent land take associated with the westbound arm of the A612 and the new access road. The area of land within the scoping boundary is approximately 2.9 ha. and includes agricultural land outside the highway to the west of the roundabout and on the south side of the A612 to the west of 21 Nottingham Road.

The environmental features likely to be affected by the development

In accordance with the Planning Practice Guidance a number of organisations have been consulted for their expert advice regarding the likely environmental effects of the proposed development. Consultations have also taken place with specialists employed within the County Council and other interest groups:

- Newark & Sherwood District Council *
- Lowdham Parish Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- NCC Highways Development Control *
- Via Safer Highways *
- Via Countryside Access
- Environment Agency *
- NCC Flood Risk
- Historic England *
- NCC Archaeology
- NCC Built Heritage *
- Natural England *
- NCC Nature Conservation
- Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust *
- Via Landscape
- Via Noise

- Via Land Reclamation
- Severn Trent Water
- Cadent (Gas) *
- Western Power
- British Horse Society *

Where responses have been received they are marked *, copies of which are enclosed. Any responses subsequently received will be forwarded and could result in this scoping opinion being updated.

Comments in respect of the scoping request report

A list of potential environmental and socio-economic effects arising from the proposed development along with commentary of how effects are to be addressed should be included in the Non-Technical Summary.

The topics at 5.15 appear to cover most of the relevant subject areas applicable in this case and consideration is also to be given to alternatives and cumulative impacts (5,16) as is required under the Regulations. The CPA concur with the view reached on heat and radiation (5.1.9) and transboundary impacts (5.1.10). A specific consideration of risks and disasters will not be required (5.1.12).

The Environmental Statement should include a detailed description (2.3.21-2.3.23 and 8.3.92-8.3.123) of the site to provide context to the Lowdham roundabout project.

The planning submission should incorporate an analysis of the proposed development against relevant planning policies (referenced at 8.3.1).

In terms of presenting the proposal for Lowdham roundabout there will be elements of the overarching Environmental Statement that will be relevant and have related impacts, particularly with regard to transport, emissions and ecology (9.6.8) (unless it is proposed to provide ecological mitigation at each junction), climate and cumulative impacts. Whilst the format in the Scoping document deals with each topic with a commentary on each junction, where site specific issues at other junctions have no relevance or environmental impact on the Lowdham roundabout junction they *can* be omitted from the Lowdham submission. This will help with the focus of the Lowdham roundabout application while providing all relevant information and context.

The consultation exercise undertaken by the CPA in connection with the scoping report has raised the following matters regarding the scope of information you propose to submit:

Highways

A Transport Assessment will need to consider in particular: any adverse effects of the redistribution of vehicles, which may have otherwise avoided the junction in question, due to it being currently over capacity; the highway safety implications of the proposals, to include consideration of the roads and junctions where vehicles have redistributed; and consideration of the impact on vulnerable road users.

Assessment of the risk of an increase in collisions, including non-car road users and those crossing the junction, and the need for mitigation should be considered. The identified issue of conflict between vehicles and cyclists should be studied.

The opportunity to provide connectivity for non-motorised user routes to a multi-user crossing and provision of a suitable footpath network should be considered.

Ecology

The response received from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has highlighted the need for a methodology for how impacts of changes to noise, light and disturbance are to be assessed. The need for bat surveys is identified in order to be able to assess the predicted noise changes on bat foraging activity.

I have forwarded the response from NWT to NCC Ecology and will forward any response received. Appropriate species surveys will need to be undertaken (Table 9-10).

Attention is drawn to NWT comment on Bio-diversity Net Gain, funding and management which should be addressed in the submission.

Noise

Noise change impacts on sensitive species (roosting and foraging bats and nesting birds) will need to be assessed depending on the outcome of surveys.

Emissions

As part of the greenhouse gas impact assessment consideration should be given to the impact of emissions arising from increased traffic growth and potential to ease congestion (15.1).

The need for accurate modelling of greenhouse gas emissions identified by NWT should be noted.

Historic Environment

The setting of heritage assets, impacts and mitigation will need careful consideration. Particular regard should be given to the recommendations of Historic England.

Flood Risk

The Environment Agency draws attention to matters to be considered in the Flood Risk Assessment.

Attention is drawn to the County Council's adopted Guidance Note on the Validation Requirements for Planning Applications which sets out national and local information requirements for planning applications:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-applications/pre-application-advice/apply-for-planning-permission>

Should you wish to discuss any of the above matters further please do not hesitate to contact me as the case officer.

Subject to the matters above (and any subsequent matters that are raised through the submission of further consultation responses, the details of which shall be forwarded to you on receipt) the A614/A6097 Corridor Improvements Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report – Rev 1 proposed submissions and methodologies relevant to the overall scheme where there are synergies and proposals specific to the Lowdham roundabout scheme are appropriate for the project and represents the County Council's formal scoping opinion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Marsh', written in a cursive style.

David Marsh
Major Projects Senior Practitioner
Nottinghamshire County Council