

## National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 22-12) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Martin Fellows (Regional Director)  
Operations Directorate  
East Region  
National Highways  
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To: The Planning Inspectorate                      FAO, Section 62A Applications Team  
[section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:section62a@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

CC: [transportplanning@dft.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@dft.gov.uk)  
[spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk)

**Planning Inspectorate Reference:** S62A/2024/0049

**Uttlesford D. C. Reference:** UTT/24/1618/PINS

**National Highways Ref:** NH/24/07033

**Location:** Land South of Bedwell Road, Elsenham.

**Proposal:** Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 62A Applications)  
Up to 50 market and affordable dwellings, public open space and associated highways and drainage infrastructure - all matters reserved except access.

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 09 July 2024 referenced above, in the vicinity of the M11 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to [PlanningEE@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:PlanningEE@nationalhighways.co.uk)

<b>Signature:</b> S. H.	<b>Date:</b> 29 July 2024
<b>Name:</b> Dr Shamsul Hoque	<b>Position:</b> Assistant Spatial Planner
<b>National Highways</b> 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 activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

This response represents our formal recommendations with regards to the above application S62A/2024/0049 and has been prepared by Dr Shamsul Hoque.

### **Recommended No Objection**

National Highways offer no objection.

Reason:

The proposed application site will be accessed from the local road network. In the vicinity of the application site, National Highways is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the M11 (SRN).

The proposed development's site access will be from the local road network. With these current reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale), there is unlikely to have any adverse effect on the Strategic Road Network.

Therefore, we offer no objection.

## **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.