

Peter Moor
Northamptonshire County Council
Planning Services
One Angel Square
Northampton
NN1 1ED

14/00086/CCDFUL

21 September 2018

Dear Mr Moor,

Daventry Development Link – Non-Material Amendment for Alignment Level Changes

Changes have been made to the alignment of the Daventry Development link as shown on the Base Plan and Long Section Drawing R1999-04 and the Cross Sections Drawings R1999-332 to 347.

This change was made to remove the need for the diversion of utilities plant and to improve the overall earthworks cut/fill balance to ensure that the project remains affordable.

The changes affect Landscape and Noise impact of the scheme so these have been re-assessed to demonstrate that no material negative impacts result. The Landscape effect is assessed within this letter and the noise effect is detailed within the separate letter which also covers the previously submitted change to the sensitive receptor in the vicinity of the Grand Union Canal.

Landscape Assessment

The WSP Landscape Team were asked to reassess the impact of previously identified landscape and visual receptors reported in Chapter 10 Environmental Statement of the A45 Daventry Development Link Road. On reviewing the proposed design changes, the following new elements of the scheme are considered likely to alter the previous assessment:

- The creation of a new 4.5m high bund with 1:1.2 gradients located to the south of the carriageway between ch. 1900 and 2400m. Previously there was no bund in this location, there was a planted cutting;
- Increased vertical alignment of the road in the vicinity of the bund. Now at grade or 1-2m cut whereas previously the cut was up to 4m; and
- Increased vertical alignment of the road around ch. 4480m. Now at grade whereas previously the cut was 2m.

In both cases the reassessment which follows also considers the associated effects of the earthworks on mitigation planting. The proposed changes relate solely to the operational phase of the Proposed Development and will not result in any changes to the previously identified construction methods, timescales and processes. As such the construction phase assessments are considered to remain valid and are not considered further.

Landscape Effects

Landscape receptors in the vicinity of the proposed changes (notably Character Area 13c: Long Buckby which contains the bund) are reassessed in Table 1 below. Shaded cells are the results of the reassessment.

In summary, provided that tree planting is carried out in accordance with the revised landscape plans, there would be no change to the level of landscape effect on the Long Buckby and Nene - Weedon Bec to Duston Mill character areas. These would therefore remain not significant at year 15.

Visual Effects

The visual receptors most likely to experience significant visual effects are high sensitivity residential properties to the south of the scheme between ch. 1900 and 4500m. In the previous ES these receptors were represented by viewpoints 9 and 11 which are reassessed in Table 2 below.

The bund is of such height and engineered appearance that it would be an uncharacteristic element in views from the south, potentially breaking the skyline. Furthermore the increased elevation of the road may result in the upper parts of lighting columns appearing in northerly views. The bund cannot be planted due to construction and maintenance issues (typically slopes less than 1:2 are required to carry out these operations safely and the proposed bunds will be 1:1 slopes). It is predicted that significant visual effects will arise unless substantial mitigation planting is provided in the 5m wide strip of land to the south of the bund. High density planting is required in order to provide a suitable visual buffer by year 15 and mature specimen trees are also required to provide mitigation from year 1. The landscape plans show the planting mitigation strategy which consists of native woodland transplants at 1.5m centres and a row of heavy standard native climax species including evergreens at approximately 10m centres.

At ch. 4280 and 4480 the long sections indicate that proposed changes to earthworks would not give rise to significant visual effects from residential properties on Main Road due to the screening effects of existing intervening vegetation and proposed planting within the highways estate.

In summary there will be no significant visual effects at viewpoints 9 and 11 provided that the mitigation measures in Table 2 are implemented.

Table 1. Summary of Operational Effects on Landscape Receptors

Landscape character area	Sensitivity	Assessment Date	Magnitude prior to mitigation	Mitigation	Magnitude post mitigation	Level of effect / significance (year 15)
13c: Long Buckby	Moderate to high	ES 2015	Moderate	Tree planting in accordance with Landscape plans; Ensure continued growth and health of existing and newly planted trees and hedgerows through appropriate monitoring and management; All trees, hedgerows and vegetation to be suitably managed to ensure optimum establishment and managed for wildlife benefits, including the management of hedgerows to encourage the formation of hedgerow trees; Replacement of any trees that die for a minimum of five years with trees of suitable species and size; Replacement of any grassland that dies for a minimum of two years; Implementation of an agreed long-term maintenance and management strategy; and Monitor the suitability of installed lighting.	Minor to moderate	Slight to moderate and not significant
		Current	Moderate	As above and tree planting in accordance with revised Landscape plans	Minor to moderate	Slight to moderate and not significant
18b: Nene - Weedon Bec to Duston Mill	Moderate	ES 2015	Minor	None required	Minor	Slight and not significant
		Current	Minor	None required	Minor	Slight and not significant

Table 2. Summary of Operational Effects on Visual Receptors

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Assessment Date	Magnitude prior to mitigation	Mitigation	Magnitude post mitigation	Level of effect / significance (year 15)
Viewpoint 9 Public Footpath, Upper Heyford	Moderate	ES 2015	Minor-Moderate	Monitor the suitability of installed lighting; Appropriate monitoring of vegetation; Replacement of trees and shrubs (including Green bridge hedgerow) for a minimum of five years; Replacement of seeding for a minimum of two years; Vegetation managed for wildlife benefits; and Implementation of an agreed long-term maintenance and management strategy	Minor	Slight and not significant
		Current	Minor-Moderate	As above and tree planting in accordance with revised Landscape plans	Minor	Slight and not significant
Viewpoint 11 Macmillan Way Public footpath off A45 in Flore	Moderate-high	ES 2015	Minor to moderate	Appropriate monitoring of vegetation; Replacement of trees and shrubs (including Green bridge hedgerow) for a minimum of five years; Replacement of seeding for a minimum of two years; Vegetation managed for wildlife benefits; and Implementation of an agreed long-term maintenance and management strategy	Minor	Slight and not significant
		Current	Minor	As above and tree planting in accordance with revised Landscape plans	Minor	Slight and not significant



Documents submitted with this Non-Material Amendment application:

- R1999-04M Base Plan and Long Sections
- R1999-332A Cross Sections 1 of 12
- R1999-333A Cross Sections 2 of 12
- R1999-334A Cross Sections 3 of 12
- R1999-335A Cross Sections 4 of 12
- R1999-336A Cross Sections 5 of 12
- R1999-337A Cross Sections 6 of 12
- R1999-338A Cross Sections 7 of 12
- R1999-339A Cross Sections 8 of 12
- R1999-340A Cross Sections 9 of 12
- R1999-341A Cross Sections 10 of 12
- R1999-342A Cross Sections 11 of 12
- R1999-343A Cross Sections 12 of 12
- R1999-347A Wide Cross Sections
- 70032083-3000-008 P5 Landscaping Design 8 of 15
- 70032083-3000-009 P5 Landscaping Design 9 of 15
- NMA Application Form
- 70032083 A45 Acoustics Letter L01 RB

Yours sincerely

Andrew Palmer
Associate