

Our ref: HA004/001/008570  
Your ref:

West Somerset Council  
West Somerset House  
Killick Way  
Williton  
Taunton  
TA4 4QA

West Somerset Council

~~REC'D~~ Ashman  
Assistant Network Manager  
2/05/2010

Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Temple Quay  
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Direct Line: 0117 372 8246  
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For the attention of Andrew Goodchild

5 May 2010

Dear Mr Goodchild

## THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS

The Highways Agency ("the Agency") is a statutory consultee on planning applications under the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended). The Agency therefore welcomes pre-application discussion, including the opportunity to provide advice on the scope of any Environmental Statement pursuant to the procedures set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, which also identify the Agency as a statutory party.

In your letter of 15 April 2010, you have invited the HA to provide comments on the scope of an Environmental Statement in respect of Site Preparation Works, Hinkley Point C.

I have set out below both the general and specific areas of concerns that the Highways Agency would wish to see considered as part of an Environmental Statement. The comments relate specifically to matters arising from the Agency's responsibilities to manage and maintain the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England.

Comments relating to the local road network should be sought from the appropriate local highway authority.

General aspects to be addressed in all cases:

- An assessment of transport related impacts of the proposal should be carried out and reported as described in the current Department for Transport 'Guidance on Transport Assessment'.
- Environmental impact arising from any disruption during construction, traffic volume, composition or routing change and transport infrastructure modification should be fully assessed and reported.

- Adverse change to noise and to air quality should be particularly considered, including in relation to compliance with the European air quality limit values and/or in local authority designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- No new connections are permitted to the Highways Agency drainage network. In the case of an existing 'permitted' connection, this can only be retained if there is no land use change.
- Development must not lead to any surface water flooding on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) carriageway.

Location specific considerations:

- The Environmental Scoping Report (April 2010) states that 'data gaps' have been identified, including the level of construction traffic for materials and personnel. The Agency requires greater detail on the likely number of trips to be generated by the works in preparing the site to evaluate the potential impact on the strategic road network (SRN). The Agency is encouraged by paragraph 2.56, which outlines the intention to store soil and rock on-site to prevent large traffic volumes on local roads.
- The Agency requires the Construction Environmental Management Plan to include details of the number and frequency of construction vehicle movements, construction operation hours, construction vehicles routes to and from the site, construction delivery hours, car parking for contractors, likely mode of travel of construction workers, specific measures to be adopted to mitigate construction impacts (including infrastructure improvements if appropriate), a construction workers travel plan, and if necessary, a detailed traffic management plan to control traffic during the construction phases.

These comments are only advisory, as the responsibility for determining the final scope of the Environmental Statement rests with the Local Planning Authority.

The Agency comments imply no pre-determined view as to the acceptability of the proposed development in traffic, environmental or highway terms. Should the applicant wish to discuss the merits of the proposal in terms of the likely impact on the SRN please contact me on 0117 372 8756.

Yours sincerely



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