

Weston Package Phase 1
Major Scheme Business Case

Appendix 3.9

Statutory Consultees



West of England Partnership

Bath & North East
Somerset Council



North
Somerset
Council

South Gloucestershire
Council



South West RDA

Mr Marc Thomas
Halcrow Group Ltd
1 Kingsway
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South Glamorgan
CF10 3AN

Our ref: WX/2009/110672/01-L01
Your ref: CTRADN/24/001
Date: 30 March 2009

Dear Mr Thomas,

**WESTON MAJOR SCHEME BID - SERIES OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AT WESTON SUPRE MARE.**

Thank you for your letter dated 04th of March 2009.

Flood Risk Management

The flood risk of the area has been assessed within North Somerset Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) this document should be extensively drawn upon in order to carry out the sequential test processes a requirement under Planning Policy 25 Development and Flood Risk (PPS 25). Please note this process would be required (and past) before this proposal advances further.

1) Junction 21 Improvement

- The works are taking place in Flood Zone 1; therefore an Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will not be required for this section of works if the site is less than 1ha.
- The Environment Agency have no objections to the improvement works at Junction 21 on flood risk grounds provided that an appropriate drainage strategy is implemented at the site. The Highways Authority should satisfy themselves with the drainage arrangements proposed, they will also be able to provide further advice if required.
- It is recommended that the developer investigates and specifies appropriate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) for surface water disposal from this site.

2) Worle Station Improvements

- The emerging SFRA for North Somerset classes this site as a Tidal 3a Flood Zone. A FRA should be submitted which considers all sources of flooding; however, the FRA should concentrate on devising an appropriate drainage strategy for the site, which adequately deals with surface water runoff.
- The rhyne which runs through the site falls under the Internal Drainage Board's (IDB) jurisdiction. As there may be easement requirements along the rhyne the West Mendip IDB should be consulted. The site may also be prone to problems of high

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water table and possible flooding, or exacerbate the Board's flooding problems elsewhere due to additional runoff.

- The IDB should also be consulted if there are any plans to widen or modify the rhyme as part of the surface water drainage scheme for the site
- The FRA should also give consideration to any emergency planning procedures on site.
- The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SuDS) should also be incorporated on site where possible

3) Elmham Way Bus Priority, 4) Queens' Way Bus Priority & 7) Drove Roundabout

- These sites are in Flood Zone 3. A FRA should be submitted which considers all sources of flooding; however, the FRA should concentrate on devising an appropriate drainage strategy for the site, which adequately deals with surface water runoff.
- The drainage scheme for the works should also be designed and implemented to the Highway Authority's satisfaction
- The use of SuDS should be incorporated on site where possible

5) Cross Railway (Airfield Bridge Link) & 8) Crosss Airfield Link

- The emerging SFRA for North Somerset classes these sites as a Tidal 3a Flood Zone. A FRA should be submitted which considers all sources of flooding; however, the FRA should concentrate on devising an appropriate drainage strategy for the site, which adequately deals with surface water runoff.
- The Highways Authority should satisfy themselves with the drainage arrangements proposed, they will also be able to provide further advice if required.

6) Town Gateway

- The emerging SFRA for North Somerset classes this site as a Tidal 3a Flood Zone. A FRA should be submitted which considers all sources of flooding, however, the FRA should concentrate on devising an appropriate drainage strategy for the site, which adequately deals with surface water runoff.
- The drainage scheme for the works should also be designed and implemented to the Highway Authority's satisfaction
- The use of SuDS should also be incorporated on site where possible
- The improvement works will involve the crossing of the culverted Uphill Great Rhyme (designated as Main River). Therefore under the Water Resources Act 1991, the works taking place over and within 8m of the culvert will require Flood Defence Consent from the Environment Agency, in addition to obtaining planning permission.
- The access points and chambers to the culvert should be retained as part of the improvement works. The structural integrity of the culvert should also not be compromised. Details of this will need to be provided as part of your planning application and Flood Defence Consent submission.

All of the works outlined above fall within an Internal Drainage Board's area. The West Mendip IDB should also be consulted on the proposals as the area may be prone to problems of a high water table and possible flooding, or exacerbate the Board's flooding problems elsewhere due to additional runoff.

Water Quality

If any waste is to be used on site appropriate exemption or authorisation will be required from the Environment Agency. We are unable to specify what exactly would be required if anything, due to the limited amount of information provided. Please look at our website for more information. www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Only clean water should be allowed to enter a surface water drainage system. Any contaminated or polluting surface water should be prevented from entering any watercourse.

The Duty of Care regulations for dealing with waste materials are applicable for any off-site movements of wastes. The developer as waste producer therefore has a duty of care to ensure all materials removed go to an appropriate licensed disposal site and all relevant documentation is completed and kept in line with regulations.

If any controlled waste is to be removed off site, then site operator must ensure a registered waste carrier is used to convey the waste material off site to a suitably authorised facility.

Groundwater

There is the potential that, some of the schemes may impact upon surface water features e.g. the Worle Station improvements. Measures would need to be put in place to ensure that the ditches/rhynes located in these areas are not affected by the scheme i.e. pollution control measures.

The Cross Airfield Bridge Link passes across the southern end of the disused Winterstoke Road landfill. Consideration of this should be given when excavating to ensure no potentially contaminating material is released.

In order to facilitate an early response, please quote the Environment Agency's reference on any future correspondence regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

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Planning Liaison Officer

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Date: 10th March 2009
Our ref:
Your ref: CTRADN/24/002



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Dear Mr Thomas

Reference: Weston Major Scheme Bid

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the above proposal. Your letter was received by this office on 10th March 2009. Please note that all consultation with Natural England on development in North Somerset must be conducted with the West of England team here in Bristol.

The Weston Major Scheme needs to consider several environmental issues which would affect the viability of the proposals. The implications are for several sites so I am listing the issues for you to then investigate for each proposal:

- i. Protected species - Our concerns relate specifically to the likely impact upon **European Protected Species** that receive protection under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and as amended in 2007. The protection afforded these species is explained in Part IV and Annex A of *Circular 06/2005 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System.'* Surveys, assessments and recommendations for mitigation measures should be undertaken by suitably experienced persons holding any relevant licences.
- ii. BAP priority habitats - These proposals could destroy and fragment an area of **coastal and floodplain grazing marsh**, a valued habitat containing ditches, grassland, scrub and hedges which support a range of flora and fauna. We would recommend avoiding any damage to the functionality of this habitat unless it is fully mitigated to a high standard. Again, surveys, assessments and recommendations for mitigation measures should be undertaken by suitably experienced persons.
- iii. **Local Sites** - Natural England considers that the proposal may affect some types of designated sites e.g. RIGS, SINC, CWS, etc. We recommend that you consult the County Ecologist and the Bristol Region Environmental Records Centre and take into account any comments on the nature conservation implications of the proposals.
- iv. We would expect any proposal to incorporate **habitat enhancements**. In order to contribute to the sustainable development of the UK there should be a demonstrable commitment to improving biodiversity. This policy was set out in the DfT's White Paper: The Future of Transport (2004). This approach was encouraged within the DCLG consultation document EIA: A guide to Good Practice and

Procedures (2006). And it is also a feature of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom (2006).

In addition to the above environmental issues we have views on the Weston Major Scheme Bid with regards:

- v. Landscape – the impact of the new link roads on the local character of the area mean it is appropriate for them to be the subject of a **landscape and visual impact assessment**.
- vi. Flooding - we recommend that you consult the **Environment Agency** and take into account any comments on the implications of the proposals.
- vii. Sustainable transport – have all steps been taken to ensure the travel needs of **pedestrians and cyclists** have been incorporated into the design?
- viii. Access and recreation – impacts on nearby **Public Rights of Way** should be assessed and mitigated. The North Somerset Local Access Forum could be consulted and their plans for improving the rights of way network taken into account.

If you have any questions about the content of this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Turner
Government & Communities Team
West of England

English Heritage have been contacted but were unable to respond within the normal timescale.