
The Norfolk County Council (Norwich Northern Distributor Road (A1067 to A47(T))) Order

Statement of Common Ground between Norfolk County Council and Broads Authority.

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

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1.1 Broads Authority

The following document is a Statement of Common Ground prepared by Norfolk County Council and Broads Authority.

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NORWICH NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

The Norfolk County Council (Norwich Northern
Distributor Road (A1067 to A47(T))) Order

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Reference TR010015

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Between

Norfolk County Council

and

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Rev 3	1/09/14	Final

Norwich Northern Distributor Road (PINS Scheme Ref No: TR010015)
Statement of Common Ground between
Norfolk County Council and the Broads Authority


1.0	Introduction
1.1	Norfolk County Council is applying to the Secretary of State for an Order to construct the Norwich Northern Distributor Road ("NDR") pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act").
1.2	<p>The main aspects of the NDR project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction of a 20.4km primarily dual carriageway road from the A1067 Fakenham Road near Attlebridge to the A47 Trunk Road at Postwick. • Construction of new roundabout junctions with the A1067 Fakenham Road, C262 Fir Covert Road, C261 Reepham Road, C282 Drayton Lane, B1149 Holt Road, B1150 North Walsham Road, A1151 Wroxham Road, C283 Salhouse Road, C874 Plumstead Road and the Broadland Gate Development Link Road together with a new roundabout junction on the NDR north of Norwich Airport. • Construction of a grade separated junction with the A140 Cromer Road – i.e. involving a new bridge on the A140 Cromer Road linking roundabouts either side of the NDR and slip roads onto/off the NDR. • Construction of the NDR junction with the A47 at Postwick, including new slip roads and grade separated crossing over the A47. • Construction of new bridges over the NDR at the Marriotts Way Permissive Path, Bell Farm Track (Horsford Restricted Byway No 5), C246 Buxton Road, Newman Road (private means of access) and C442 Middle Road. • Construction of bridges carrying the NDR over the Norwich to Sheringham railway line and C874 Plumstead Road. • Construction of new culverts across the NDR including a combined culvert/bat tunnel beneath the NDR near Rackheath. • Construction of new highways linking the NDR with the existing highway network. • Provision of new drainage works in connection with the above highway works. • Stopping up of private means of access and the creation of new private means of access to premises and farm land in the vicinity of the route. • Stopping up/diversion of existing footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways and the provision of new bridleways, cycleways and cycle tracks. • The compulsory acquisition of land and rights. • Improvements to the existing highway at the B1150 North Walsham Road/C249 Crostwick Lane/C249 Rackheath Lane junction, the A1151 Wroxham Road/C258 Green Lane West junction and the C874 Plumstead Road through Thorpe End. • The alteration, diversion and stopping up of lengths of existing highway and the making or amendment of Traffic Regulation Orders. • Such ancillary, incidental, and consequential provisions permits or consents as are necessary or convenient.
1.3	This statement of common ground ("SOCG") has been prepared in connection with the NDR project between Norfolk County Council and Broads Authority .
1.4	Guidance about the purpose and content of SOCG's is given in paragraphs 57-62 of the "Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development"

	<p>consent" document published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 26 April 2013. Paragraph 57 provides:</p> <p><i>A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it may also be useful for a statement to identify areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence.</i></p>
1.5	<p>SOCG's are therefore a useful means of ensuring that the evidence at the post application examination focuses on the material differences between the parties, thus leading to a more efficient examination process.</p>
2.0	The Role of the Broads Authority
2.1	<p>The statutory purpose of the Broads Authority is to protect the interests of the Broads. Section 17A of The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 imposes a statutory duty on authorities to have regard to the relevant statutory purposes when exercising their functions that can affect land in the Broads. In the context of the project the Broads Authority is as a consultee who Norfolk County Council has consulted in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008. This document is a SOCG between Norfolk County Council and the Broads Authority.</p>
2.2	<p>Section 3 below summarises the issues raised by Broads Authority, sets out Norfolk County Council's response and notes where agreement has been reached between the parties or where the matter remains outstanding.</p>
3.0	Issues Raised, Response and Agreement/Disagreement
3.1	<p>Topic: Application for NDR The Broads Authority does not object to the proposed NDR application, but wishes to make the following comments, as outlined in Sections 3.2 to 3.4 below.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council's Response Norfolk County Council acknowledges this comment.</p> <p>Agreement/Disagreement The parties agree that the Broads Authority does not object to the application.</p>
3.2	<p>Topic: Habitat Mitigation The Broads Authority welcomes the provision of 216.7ha of proposed habitat mitigation. However, it considers that the application documents do not detail how this mitigation has been derived or contain any assessment of whether the mitigation proposed is adequate.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council's Response The assessment process, including the mechanisms for quantifying the conservation values (i.e. the sensitivity) of protected species and habitats, the magnitude of predicted impacts, and hence the overall effects, was detailed in</p>

	<p>the Scoping Report (February 2013). This methodology was accepted by Natural England, the statutory body for Nature Conservation in England. The assessment process aligns with that in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11 Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Agreement/Disagreement The parties agree that the methodological assessment for the mitigation is appropriate to cover the protected species and the habitat loss within the boundary of the DCO.</p> <p>The parties disagree over whether the methodological assessment for the mitigation is appropriate to cover the impact on species (including protected species) outside the boundary of the DCO, but which are nonetheless affected by the scheme as a consequence of, for example, habitat fragmentation and severance.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Topic: Effects on residual or adjacent habitats The Broads Authority considers that the application only details the habitat that is directly lost as a result of the scheme and does not take account of residual habitat loss, species impact and the diminution of adjacent habitat quality.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council's Response Norfolk County Council considers that the Environmental Statement (Document Ref 6.1) provides adequate assessment of the indirect effects of the NDR. These have been considered when assessing both construction and operation phase impacts on designated areas, habitats and species.</p> <p>The Development Consent Order is required to include essential mitigation, and this is included within the footprint of the scheme, and the mitigation functions included in the assessments within the Environmental Statement (Document Ref 6.1). Mitigation beyond the Development Consent Order boundary is defined as non-essential mitigation, and therefore not applicable for consideration in the assessments in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The Environmental Statement does include assessment of potential indirect impacts of the proposed Scheme on adjacent designated sites, habitats and species, both during construction and operation. The assessment of the impacts of fragmentation, severance, disturbance etc. have been included in the Nature Conservation chapter, in accordance with the assessment methodology taken from DMRB, as detailed in the Environmental Statement and the preceding Scoping Report.</p> <p>In terms of non essential mitigation bats are one of the main ecological assets affected by the scheme and the applicant has pledged £30k for three years for the improvement and enhancement of hedgerows. This is being done in conjunction with Farm Conservation Limited's Connecting Nature Fund, a collaborative entity with involvement from Norfolk County Council's Biodiversity and Countryside Team, Natural England and Wild Anglia. As linear features that already exist, this should be an effective means of mitigating in the wider</p>

	<p>landscape.</p> <p>Agreement/Disagreement The parties disagree over whether the Environmental Statement (Document Ref 6.1) adequately takes account of residual habitat loss and species impact.</p>
3.4	<p>Topic: Severance of green infrastructure corridors The Broads Authority is concerned about the impact of the NDR on severance of green corridors and in particular the impact of those species that move between the Broads and the wider hinterlands.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council's Response The landscaping/habitat creation has been formulated with direct reference to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership's Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan, as well as the specific requirements of the suites of ecological surveys.</p> <p>The severance of Green Infrastructure corridors has been an inherent part of the assessment process, and as such mitigation measures have been developed to address this. The impact assessment process in the Environmental Statement (Document Ref 6.1) has included the direct and indirect impacts of severance and fragmentation by default; these basic ecological functions are inherently included in the process of identifying and quantifying impacts, and as such have been accounted for in the assessment of overall effects.</p> <p>Agreement/Disagreement The parties disagree over whether the effect of severance has been adequately assessed in the Environmental Statement (Document Ref 6.1).</p>

This statement of common ground has been prepared jointly and agreed by:

Signed: 

Date: 04/09/14

On behalf of Norfolk County Council

Signed: 

Date: 3 September 2014

On behalf of the Broads Authority

