



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 21-09) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Nicola Bell (Regional Director)
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National Highways
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To: Gravesham Borough Council (FAO Case Officer Mrs Amanda Grout)
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CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: 20220523

Location: Little Westwood, Thong Lane, Shorne, Gravesend Kent

Proposal: Demolition of existing rear single storey extension, and erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension

National Highways Ref: 95056 #16918

Referring to the consultation on a planning application referenced above dated 24 May 2022, in the vicinity of the A2 and the M2 that form 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 not relevant to this application.¹

¹ Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

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

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 and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

Signature: 	Date: 13/6/2022
Name: Kevin Bown	Position: Area 4 Spatial Planning Manager
National Highways Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ	

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.

Recommendation:
offer no objection:
Reasons:

We will be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact on the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case, particularly the proposed route of the Lower Thames Crossing in the vicinity of Gravesend.

We have assessed the application from two perspectives:

a) Impact of traffic attracted to or generated by the proposed development. Given the location and small-scale nature of the potential development we have no objection from this perspective

b) Impact on the construction and/or operation and maintenance of Lower Thames Crossing. The site is located close to the current red-line boundary for the Lower Thames Crossing. However, if the site is developed it should not affect the Crossing's construction and/or operation and maintenance. Therefore, we have no objection from this perspective

It should be noted that it is assumed that the applicant is fully aware of the proximity of the Lower Thames Crossing route to the site as will be any future investor, developer, purchaser, or occupant and that any party will make any decision in full knowledge of the potential consequences of that proximity.

On this basis, we are content that the above proposed development will not unacceptably impact on the safety, reliability and/or operational efficiency of the current and proposed SRN (the tests set out in DfT Circular 02/2013 and MHCLG NPPF2021).

Consequently, we have No Objection to application 20220523.