

EN020027 – Norwich to Tilbury – Examining Authority’s Written Questions 1

9th April 2026

Response submitted by Water Management Alliance on behalf of three Internal Drainage Boards (IDB):

1. Norfolk Rivers IDB
2. Waveney, Lower Yare & Lothingland IDB and
3. East Suffolk Water Management Board.

ExQ	Question to	Question	WMA response
DCO 1.A42	All local authorities, highway authorities and statutory undertakers	<p>Article 58 (Application, disapplication and modification of legislative provisions)</p> <p>The ExA would ask for comments in regard to the disapplication and modification of certain public general legislation (See provisions set out in article 58(1) and the public general legislation listed at schedule 17 of the draft DCO), especially in regard to the Highways Act 1980 and the Land Drainage Act 1991.</p>	WMA agrees with the Applicant’s proposed disapplication of certain sections of LDA 1991, so long as they are replaced within the DCO by appropriate protective provisions for drainage authorities. This is to ensure IDBs are not prevented from carrying out their duties for effective land drainage. WMA has provided feedback to the Applicant on the draft Protective Provisions for drainage authorities but final agreement on these has not yet been reached.
WE 1.9	The applicant	<p>Surface water - 4</p> <p>In its RR [RR-3792] the Water Management Alliance note that any surface water to be discharged into watercourses they are responsible for will need consent. Please confirm how this is secured in the draft DCO and if agreement has been reached on the consenting process.</p>	With disapplication of relevant sections of LDA 1991 and IDB Byelaws (referred to above in Ex.Q1 DCO 1.A42), the affected IDBs would not be able to consent surface water discharges. However, the Protective Provisions for drainage authorities, when agreed, will secure an appropriate alternative approvals process for the IDBs that will enable IDBs to continue to deliver an effective land drainage function. Agreement has not yet been reached on the Protective Provisions. WMA will continue to engage with the Applicant with a view to agree the Protective Provisions.

End