

A46 Newark Bypass

Scheme Number: TR010065

Statement of Common Ground with the Environment Agency

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Statement of Common Ground With The Environment Agency

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (this “SoCG”) has been prepared in respect of the A46 Newark Bypass (the “Scheme”) following the application made by National Highways (the “Applicant”) to the Secretary of State for Transport, via the Planning Inspectorate (the “Inspectorate”) for a development consent order (DCO) under section 37 of the Planning Act (the “2008 Act”). A detailed description of the Scheme can be found in Chapter 2 (The Scheme) of the Environmental Statement [APP-046].
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere with the application documents. All application documents will be made available on the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not yet been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared between 1) National Highways as the Applicant and 2) the Environment Agency (EA).
- 1.2.2 National Highways (previously known as Highways England) became the Government-owned Strategic Highways Company on 1 April 2015. It is the highway authority in England for the strategic road network and has the necessary powers and duties to operate, manage, maintain, and enhance the network. Regulatory powers remain with the Secretary of State. The legislation establishing National Highways made provision for all legal rights and obligations, including in respect of the application, to be conferred upon or assumed by National Highways.
- 1.2.3 The Environment Agency protects and improves the environment and promotes sustainable development. It plays a central role in implementing the government’s environment strategy in England. The Environment Agency plays a lead role in managing flood risk and works to minimise the impact of flooding.

1.3 Terminology

- 1.3.1 Within the table in [Section 3](#), Issues of this SoCG, the terminology is as follows:
 - “Agreed” indicates area(s) of agreement:
 - “Under Discussion” indicates area(s) of current disagreement where resolution remains possible, and where parties continue discussing the issue(s) to determine whether they can reach agreement by the end of the examination; and
 - “Not Agreed” indicates a final position for area(s) of disagreement where the resolution of the divergent positions will not be possible, and parties agree on this point.
- 1.3.2 It can be assumed that any matters not specifically referred to in Section 3, Issues of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevant to the Environment Agency and therefore have not been subject of any discussions between the parties. As such, those matters can be read as agreed, only to the extent that they are either not of material interest or relevance to the Environment Agency.

2 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between National Highways and Environment Agency in relation to the application is outlined in **Table 2.1.1** below.

Table 2.1.1 Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
29/04/2021	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting held to outline: an introduction of the Scheme, discussion of climate change allowances, the hydraulic model floodplain compensation methodology and flood reduction opportunities including legacy work and the Flood Risk Assessment.
09/06/2021	Meeting with Environment Agency	Discussion regarding the Water Framework Directive (WFD) receptors, potential impacts, and opportunities to start engagement and dialogue around the WFD compliance assessment that will continue during the scheme development.
30/03/2022	Meeting with Environment Agency	Introductory meeting to discuss water quality and flood management issues. Within the meeting flood compensation/mitigation was further discussed. Overall, the outcome of the meeting was an achieved consensus over future engagement to discuss necessary data requests.
05/04/2022	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, and Environment Agency	First flood and drainage steering group meeting. Discussed and collated further information including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Modelling – Floodplain compensation – Historic flood records The result of this meeting was an overall agreement regarding how group members should share information in the future.
11/05/2022	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, and Environment Agency	Second flood and drainage steering group meeting held to collate further information on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – River Trent model and others – Basis of design for floodplain compensation, land drainage, records and models, historic flood records, run-off control conditions, flood resilience – joint probability
12/05/2022	Meeting with Environment Agency	Follow up meeting from steering meeting to discuss flood risk data transfer following an action request for information submissions.
13/06/2022	Meeting with Environment Agency	A meeting held with the relevant Environment Agency water quality specialists to agree proposals for water quality monitoring for the Scheme, to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as during construction. A consensus was achieved over proposals for water quality monitoring for the Scheme.
22/07/2022	Meeting with Environment Agency	Discussions included an update on the status of the survey efforts, flood defence at the Cattle Market Roundabout, approach to the flood modelling strategy and floodplain compensation. It was agreed that details of assessments including location of proposed borrow pits would be shared and reviewed.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
14/09/2022	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Fourth steering group meeting which discussed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Future engagement – Survey updates
21/09/2022	Meeting with Historic England, Natural England, Environment Agency, Newark and Sherwood District Council (Conservation Officer, Archaeology Advisor, and Environmental Health team)	The first Environmental Technical Working Group, which provided the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A detailed overview of the Scheme – The anticipated scheme timeline – An update on the EIA progress to date – An overview of the environmental surveys undertaken to date and planned future surveys to inform the EIA – A summary of the environmental design principles, and overview of the indicative environmental masterplan
10/10/2022	Meeting with Environment Agency	Technical meeting to discuss fluvial hydraulic modelling methodology
25/10/2022	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Fifth steering group meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Health & safety – Public engagement – Groundwater – Future developments, whilst providing – Updates on surveys, hydraulic modelling, and floodplain compensation
24/11/2022	Letter from the Environment Agency responding to a preliminary report on Floodplain Compensation Areas	The shift away from a single area of floodplain compensation near Kelham was welcomed. The 0.2m slices used within the floodplain volume loss calculations is consistent with Environment Agency guidance and is acceptable.
30/11/2022	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Sixth steering group meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Health & safety – Public engagement – Schemes beyond A46 and water quality – Updates on hydraulic modelling, floodplain compensation and drainage
12/12/2022	Email from Environment Agency contact	Environment Agency's response to TR010065/S42(1)(a)/Oct/2022 (consultation including Preliminary Environmental Information Report).
13/12/2022	Meeting with Environment Agency	To discuss the Southern Link Road and updated methodology technical notes for review.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
11/01/2023	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Seventh steering group meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Health & safety – Public engagement – Flood risk including updates to the modelling, scour, water quality and an update on the drainage
31/01/2023	Environment Agency Technical Assurance meeting	To provide an overview of the Scheme and its stages, discuss the modelling approach and design of Flood Compensation Areas (FCAs).
07/02/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Technical meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Challenges – Modelling methodology and hydrology update – Hydraulic modelling progress – FCA design approach.
17/02/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Technical update meeting to discuss outputs from interim model and to see how the FCAs are working and check their impacts.
23/02/2023	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Eighth steering group meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Existing schemes – Flood compensation areas – Scour Protection – Environmental Statement and drainage
07/03/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	To update Statutory Environmental Bodies on Scheme progress and discuss environmental constraints and design development.
16/03/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Technical update meeting to discuss the proposal regarding the existing access track.
31/03/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Technical update meeting to discuss progress on methodology, temporary works, and the solar farm in Kelham area.
04/04/2023	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Ninth steering group meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Temporary works – Public engagement – Flood risk – Updates on structures
04/04/2023	Email from Environment Agency contact	Environment Agency advising 1 in 30-year fluvial event to be used for when assessing impacts for temporary works with proposed recommendations for flood risk management during the temporary works phase.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
12/04/2023	Environmental TWG	A meeting to provide a Scheme and EIA update. Additionally, an environmental design update was provided including a refresh of the environmental design parameters, a discussion of the environmental design evolution since statutory consultation and an overview of key areas within the environmental design.
18/04/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Temporary works meeting to review above ground temporary works, hydraulic modelling return periods expectations, review other temporary works and to discuss the next steps in hydraulic modelling.
18/04/2023	Email from Environment Agency contact	Environment Agency Asset Performance Team advising current loss of access to Slough Dyke causing inspection and maintenance activities to be problematic. Requesting as part of the Scheme access maintenance is included.
28/04/2023	Email from Environment Agency contact	Environment Agency advising solar farms are defined as essential infrastructure and therefore can be built in a floodplain compensation area, subject to passing the sequential and exception Tests.
05/05/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	To provide an update for the Environment Agency on the Scheme and how the Scheme work is progressing, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Habitat Regulations assessment – consultation to date, screening and appropriate assessment – Environmental Statement – Protected species survey findings and mitigation – Biodiversity Net Gain
18/05/2023	Email from Environment Agency contact	A response was provided from the Environment Agency's biodiversity and geomorphology team and the fisheries officer to an email the Applicant sent (09/05/2024) which reiterated queries raised in the presentation slides (05/05/2023). This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feasibility of floating ecosystems / islands – Request for the Environment Agency to review the Biodiversity Net Gain report and accompanying Metric to assess the baseline conditions – Fish escape passage design – Timings to avoid specific construction activity to afford and minimise impacts to fish migration. – Low noise/vibration piling set-up
25/05/2023	Meeting with Nottinghamshire County Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board, Environment Agency and the Applicant	Tenth steering group meeting which discussed the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public engagement – Flood risk, temporary works, updates on floodplain compensation, structures, and scour assessment. – Discussion around the groundwater approach and hydrogeology
16/06/2023	Email from Environment Agency contact	Environment Agency advising that the groundwater team has no comments on the hydrogeology slides from the tenth steering group meeting (25/05/2023)

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
16/06/2023	Telephone call between Environment Agency and the Applicant	To address and discuss the Environment Agency's comments on the drainage strategy in relation to Groundwater, contamination and fuel/ chemical spills. The drainage strategy was amended and updated to provide further information and clarification in relation to groundwater contamination and fuel/ chemical spills.
20/06/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency and Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board	To discuss works in close proximity to the Environment Agency's main rivers with wider Environment Agency team. Under discussion were consents and permits, temporary works, permanent works, and WFD considerations at Windmill Viaduct, Nether Lock Viaduct and Slough Dyke.
17/07/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	A meeting held to discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Volume Impact Assessment – confirmation that the Environment Agency do not have any further comments – Drainage Basis of Design – confirmation that the Environment Agency do not have any further comments – Discussion around the disapplication of permits – Statement of Common Ground update
11/10/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss Environment Agency's comments on the hydrology and hydraulic modelling.
16/11/2023	Environmental TWG	A meeting to provide a Scheme and EIA update. Stakeholders were taken through the final Environmental Masterplan and the Scheme amendments that had taken place since the last Environmental TWG meeting. An update on each of the key disciplines was also provided.
24/11/2023	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss Environment Agency's comments on the hydrology and hydraulic modelling and agree collaboratively a way forward to achieve model approval.
01/02/2024	Email from Environment Agency contact	Environment Agency confirmed approval of the hydraulic modelling, considering the model 'fit for purpose'.
22/04/2024	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss revised pluvial drainage strategy and bank lowering of the Old Trent Dyke.
12/07/2024	Relevant Representation from Environment Agency	Details the Environment Agency's position on the DCO application as submitted at pre-Examination stage.
05/09/2024	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss Environment Agency's relevant representation specifically in relation to flood risk items.
12/09/2024	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss the Environment Agency's relevant representation specifically in relation to the topics of water quality (both ground water and surface water), biodiversity, contaminated land, and the HEWRAT assessment.
24/09/2024	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss the approach to permitting and consents.
17/10/2024	Meeting with Environment Agency	Meeting to discuss Environment Agency's relevant representation and agree items specifically in relation to flood risk.
21/10/2024	Meeting with Environment Agency and Natural England	A meeting to summarise to Natural England and the Environment Agency the process and conclusions of the fish escape passage design and associated technical note.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
11/11/2024	Email received from the Environment Agency	Email received from Environment Agency providing their comments on the Fish Escape Passage Technical Note.
14/11/2024	Letter received from the Environment Agency	Letter received from Environment Agency providing their comments on the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note.
14/11/2024	Letter received from the Environment Agency	Letter received from Environment Agency providing their comments on the FCA Technical Note.
12/12/2024	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Submission of the Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment for the Contaminated Land Hotspot in advance of Deadline 4, to enable the Environment Agency to commence review.
09/01/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Receipt of comments from the Environment Agency on the Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment that was prepared by the Applicant and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4 [REP4-038].
20/01/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Submission of the revised Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment (Rev 2 draft) to the Environment Agency alongside a comments log to show how each of the comments received from the Environment Agency have been addressed.
23/01/2025	Meeting with the Environment Agency	A meeting to discuss and agree responses to the Examining Authority's questions within the Report on the Implications for European Sites.
24/01/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Issue of draft 'Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note', (document reference 7.40, Rev 2), in advance of meeting on 27/01/2025.
27/01/2025	Meeting with the Environment Agency.	A meeting to briefly summarise the flood risk topics covered from the previous meetings held in Autumn 2024; present receptor analysis and sensitivity testing for the 1% AEP event at Fosse Road; receptor analysis and sensitivity testing for the 5% AEP event at Tolney Lane; Kelham and Averham FCA culverts; flood defence tie-ins; a discussion on Questions 15.0.1, 15.0.2 and 15.1.1 of the Examining Authority's Second Round of Written Questions; and a summary of the agreed position with the Environment Agency on flood risk due to the Scheme.
27/01/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Email from the Environment Agency confirming they have reviewed the revised Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment that was issued to them for review on 20/01/25 (Rev 2 draft) and confirmed that as a result of the amendments and clarifications, they are now satisfied with the outputs of the risk assessment.
04/02/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Email confirmation from the Environment Agency that they are satisfied with proposed update wording to RDWE10, in relation to both fish and flood risk. Also acknowledged the clarification provided to the Environment Agency about IDB maintenance of the Old Trent Dyke.
12/02/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Email from the Environment Agency confirming they are now satisfied that the updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2) and associated model output data provides sufficient evidence that some of the small, localised increases in modelled water levels are due to modelling precision errors and boundary effects. This also extends to other areas within the model domain, such as the Cricket Ground and Tolney Lane. The Environment Agency confirmed they are satisfied with the evidence provided to support this case. On this basis, the Environment Agency

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
		confirmed they are satisfied that there are no outstanding concerns with the second part of the Exception Text.
14/02/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Email from the Environment Agency providing their comments on the draft Slough Dyke realignment plans, relating to geomorphology
11/03/2025	Meeting with the Environment Agency	A meeting to discuss the following: a summary of the flood risk topics covered from the previous meetings held in January 2025, the outstanding issues relating to compensatory flood storage (EAFR-004), the Scheme's interaction with EA flood defences (EAFR-008) and the update to the March 2025 update to the Flood Map for Planning / National Flood Risk Assessment date. A discussion was also had on the agreed position with the Environment Agency on flood risk due to the Scheme.
19/03/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Email from the Environment Agency following their review of the updated slide pack provided post-meeting, the model files provided in relation to the culvert modelling for the Kelham and Averham FCA access crossings from the A617, and the draft updated Statement of Common Ground (Rev 4), which was provided to them on 13/03/2025. Requested an update to the SOCG, confirmed they are now happy with the model files and are satisfied that the A617 access culverts are included within the model and reflect what was described in the meeting, requested an update to the FRA to confirm that crossing design will be finalised as part of discharging DCO requirement 14, confirmed they are satisfied with the proposed updates to the PCP, and also confirmed the further detail on the flood defence tie-ins was still in review.
24/03/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Email from the Environment Agency confirming that they are satisfied with the additional wording proposed to be added to the Flood Risk Assessment at Deadline 7 which states that the crossing design will be finalised as part of discharging DCO requirement 14, and confirmation that they now have sufficient evidence that the new tie-ins to the existing flood defence embankment will not adversely impact the stability and level of protection that the embankment provides. Request for confirmation as to where in the Examination the additional information will be contained; Applicant responded to this on 25/03/2025.
02/04/2025	Email correspondence with the Environment Agency	Confirmation from the Environment Agency that they are satisfied that the following issues are now agreed: Issue 4 (EA RR issue EAFR-004 - Compensatory flood storage), Issue 5 (EA RR issue EAFR-008 - Interaction with Environment Agency flood defences), and Issue 49 (Pre-Commencement Plan).

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of key meetings and other forms of consultation and engagement undertaken between 1) National Highways and 2) Environment Agency in relation to issues addressed in this SoCG.

3 Issues

3.1 Issues agreed, not agreed or under discussion

3.1.1 Table 3.1.1 below details the issues which have been agreed, not agreed or are under discussion between 1) National Highways and 2) Environment Agency

Table 3.1.1 - Issues

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
Flood Risk						
1.	Flood risk	Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177] Figure 2.5 (General Arrangement Plans) [AS-007] Appendix 13.4 (Drainage Strategy Report) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-179]	<p>The Environment Agency's Statutory Consultation response in relation to flood risk stated:</p> <p>The PEI emphasises the desire to ensure that floodplain compensation areas are provided close to where the respective floodplain volume is lost. This is particularly relevant on spatially large projects to ensure that floodplain compensation is hydraulically linked to the floodplain area lost.</p> <p>As more detailed hydraulic modelling is developed, a range of return periods should be simulated, including the more frequent flood events. The project should ensure that there is no increase in flood risk to third parties for all events unless this forms part of a formalised floodplain compensation area.</p> <p>In our response to the Scoping Opinion, we sought to raise awareness of a vulnerable Gypsy and Traveler site at Tolney Lane who are located adjacent to the Scheme in Flood Zone. This has not been referenced within the PEI. We are aware of work being undertaken by Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) to investigate means of reducing the risk to this community. There is potential for cross over between the NSDC works and those proposed for dualling of the A46 Newark Bypass. We would encourage the applicants to engage with NSDC at the earliest opportunity to support identification of joint working opportunities and methods of reducing the risk to this highly vulnerable community.</p>	<p>A Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken which can be found in Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177] and a mitigation scheme, including floodplain compensation, to ensure that the Scheme does not increase the susceptibility of local receptors to flooding.</p> <p>Detailed hydraulic modelling of the floodplain has been undertaken with a range of storm events simulated, in agreement with the Environment Agency's Evidence & Risk Team, results of which have informed the Flood Risk Assessment that has been completed.</p> <p>The mitigation for the Scheme also includes measures to attenuate surface water run-off from the additional hard surfacing, such as attenuation basins, the locations of which are shown on Figure 2.5 (General Arrangement Plans) [AS-007]. These have been sized to attenuate the run-off from the highway and discharge into the nearest watercourse at a restricted rate, agreed by Nottinghamshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority. The mitigation for the Scheme can be found in Appendix 13.4 (Drainage Strategy Report) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-179].</p> <p>Meetings have been held with Newark & Sherwood District Council and the Environment Agency to ensure that their works to reduce flood risk to the local community in Tolney Lane are not impacted by the Scheme.</p>	N/A – the Environment Agency comments on flood risk relating to the DCO application documents at point of submission are contained in the remaining rows of this section. This row has been maintained for completeness.	01/04/2024
2.	Flood Risk - Fluvial Hydraulic Modelling	Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177]	The Environment Agency has confirmed approval of the hydraulic modelling, considering the model 'fit for purpose' (01/02/2024).	Detailed hydraulic modelling of the floodplain has been undertaken with a range of storm events simulated, in agreement with the Environment Agency's Evidence & Risk Team, results of which have informed Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177].	Agreed	01/02/2024
2a.	Flood Risk - Fluvial Hydraulic Modelling	Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and the Water Environment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-057]	The new flood and coastal erosion risk data published by the Environment Agency in January-March 2025, has no impact on the findings of Chapter 13 Road Drainage and Water Environment. The Applicant has undertaken site specific detailed hydraulic modelling which builds on the Environment Agency's hydraulic modelling which is used to inform the flood mapping data. This hydraulic modelling has been reviewed several times by the Environment Agency and reflects the best available information with regards to baseline and "with scheme" flood risk.	The Applicant welcomes the Environment Agency's confirmation that the hydraulic modelling reflects the best available information with regards to baseline and "with Scheme" flood risk.	Agreed	11/03/2025
3.	Flood Risk - Exception Test/Fluvial Hydraulic Modelling	Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement	Updated wording at Deadline 2: We are not satisfied that the second part of the flood risk exception test (an FRA must demonstrate that the project will be safe for its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall) has been passed, until the below points about increases in flood risk off-site and information about the compensatory flood storage have been fully addressed. Additionally, the	Chapter 3 (Assessment of Alternatives) of the Environmental Statement [APP-047] describes the reasonable alternatives studied by the Applicant, the Scheme development process, the alternative corridor options considered and consulted on, and the reasons for the decisions taken. Flood risk factors informed this process throughout, as described in respect of each of the alternatives considered. As recorded in Chapter 2 (The Scheme) of the Environmental Statement [APP-046], the existing A46, currently	Agreed	12/02/2025

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
		Appendices [APP-177]	<p>Applicant should provide evidence to show what other opportunities were explored to reduce flood risk and clear justification for why these were not taken forward.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: We acknowledge the Applicant's comments and the submitted Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP3-034] goes some way to addressing our concerns regarding increases in flood risk elsewhere, however further information is required. We will engage with the Applicant on this issue prior to Deadline 5.</p> <p>Pre Deadline 6: Following our meeting on 27 January 2025, and the provision to us of the draft updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2, January 2025) together with the model results (ASCII grids showing maximum water level and depths), we have now completed our review of this information. We note that the Technical Note has been submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5 (04/02/2025) as Revision 2, dated February 2025, and published under Examination Library reference REP5-056 (7.40 Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note - Rev 2).</p> <p>We are now satisfied that the updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2) and associated model output data provides sufficient evidence that some of the small, localised increases in modelled water levels are due to modelling precision errors and boundary effects. This also extends to other areas within the model domain, such as the Cricket Ground and Tolney Lane. We are satisfied with the evidence provided to support this case. On this basis, we are satisfied that there are no outstanding concerns with the second part of the Exception Text.</p> <p>Given the above, the following issues, as originally raised in our Relevant Representations [RR-020], can now considered as resolved, and can be marked as Agreed in our work package/issues tracker and in relation to the corresponding items/issues in the Statement of Common Ground: EAFR-001 - Flood risk exception test (part 2) – fluvial flood risk EAFR-002 - Increase in fluvial flood risk elsewhere EAFR-003 - Overall reduction in fluvial flood risk</p>	<p>single carriageway, is generally elevated on embankment due to the low-lying floodplain of the River Trent. The widened embankment for the A46 dual carriageway will therefore pass through land that is within the floodplain for the River Trent. Consideration given to reducing flood risk in designing elements of the Scheme is described in Chapter 2 (The Scheme) of the Environmental Statement [APP-046]. This includes the location of certain elements, the choice of materials, minimising of cross-sections and the setting of levels. The Applicant confirms the Floodplain Compensation Areas (FCAs) have been designed to provide the compensatory floodplain volume that is lost due to the Scheme; therefore, there is no net loss of floodplain storage. The compensatory floodplain volume provided by the FCAs is sufficient for the fluvial design flood scenario (1 in 100 year plus climate change allowance), where hydraulic modelling demonstrates no overall change in flood risk compared to the baseline. Hydraulic modelling indicates off-site localised flood depth increases of greater than 10mm at two locations in two low magnitude events (1 in 20 year, 1 in 100 year), with a different location affected in each event. No impacts are observed at either location in lower or higher magnitude events. The increases are attributed to inherent uncertainties in hydraulic model inputs as discussed in the second Flood Risk Meeting with the Environment Agency on 17 October 2024.</p> <p>Further investigations into modelling uncertainties have taken place in these local areas for these specific locations and events; a revised version of the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (document reference 7.40, Rev 2) was issued to the Environment Agency for their review on 24/01/2025, and the contents discussed with the Environment Agency on 27/01/2025. The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP5-056] was submitted at Deadline 5. Following email confirmation from the Environment Agency on 12/02/2025 confirming they are satisfied with the updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP5-056] this has been appended to the Flood Risk Assessment for completeness and will be submitted into Examination at Deadline 6.</p>		
			<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-002 (Increase in fluvial flood risk elsewhere) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>The FRA indicates that fluvial flood risk will be increased elsewhere as result of the development over its lifetime.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (as submitted to us for review outside the Examination process) shows there to be no increases outside of flood model tolerances in the fluvial design flood scenario (1% annual probability / 1 in 100 year plus climate change allowance). We are satisfied that flood depth increases of 10mm are within model tolerance. However, the Applicant has provided more detail (within the Technical Note appendices) which shows there are off- site increases larger than model tolerances with in the smaller flood scenarios, i.e. 1% annual probability / 1 in 100 year (without climate change), the 3.3% annual</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that the flood model tolerance of 10mm has been agreed by the Environment Agency. As per the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP3-034] and the second Flood Risk Meeting held with the Environment Agency on 17 October 2024, there are no increases outside of this tolerance for the design fluvial flood scenario (1 in 100 year plus climate change allowance). The FCAs have been designed to provide sufficient compensatory storage for the 1 in 100 year plus climate change event. No increases in flood depth outside of the 10mm flood model tolerance are observed for the design event. Outside of the FCA locations, which are designed to fill with water, there are no modelled flood depth increases above the 10mm tolerance during the 1 in 2 year, 1 in 5 year, 1 in 30 year or 1 in 100 year plus climate change event fluvial scenarios. Flood depth increases of greater than 10mm are observed at two locations in two low magnitude events (1 in 20 year, 1 in 100 year), with a different location affected in each event. No impacts are observed at either location in lower or higher magnitude events. The increases are attributed to inherent uncertainties in hydraulic model inputs as</p>	Agreed	12/02/2025

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			<p>probability / 1 in 30 year and the 5% annual probability (1 in 20 year) flood scenarios. The Applicant needs to provide additional supporting evidence with regards to these increases, particularly where they are associated with modelling tolerances or uncertainties within the hydraulic modelling, and mitigation where there are observable increases in water level. Additionally, the Applicant needs to provide evidence that they have engaged with affected landowners and made them aware of all increases of risk and flood depths.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note as referred to in our WR has now been submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3 [document ref. REP3-034].</p> <p>We agree that there are no increases greater than 10mm during the design event (1 in 100 years plus climate change (39%)) with the proposed scheme in place. The Applicant has demonstrated that any variation between baseline and with-scheme water levels for the design event is within modelling tolerances. As such, we are satisfied that the scheme does not increase flood risk during the design flood event.</p> <p>However, for more frequent events than the design event, there are increases in water level above 10mm in areas outside of the Order Limits for the development.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On the left bank of the River Trent to the north of Farndon East Flood Compensation Area increases of 0.025m (2.5cm) and 0.029m (2.9cm) in the 3.3% (1 in 30) and 5% (1 in 20) annual exceedance probability (AEP) scenarios respectively are observed, although there are no receptors in this area.There is an area of increase around Fosse Road in the 1 in 100 year flood scenario. The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP3-034] describes how the increases in water level around Fosse Road are due to modelling uncertainties and boundary effects which are occurring within the hydraulic model. We have sought further clarity from the Applicant with regards to the increases around Fosse Road and have suggested some approaches to them.There are quite widespread increases in water level of 0.03m (3cm) around the Cricket Ground in the 5% (1 in 20) AEP scenario. No property is affected in these locations, but these do reflect increases to third party land outside of the Order Limits of the development. <p>Given the extent of water level increases, particularly for the Cricket Ground, we consider it would be difficult to attribute this entirely to modelling tolerances.</p> <p>Overall, the scheme does show a reduction in flood risk to more receptors than an increase, but there are off-site increases which, if they are being attributed to modelling tolerances, need to be clearly explained as to why this is the case. Alternatively additional mitigation or landowner engagement should be undertaken in these areas.</p> <p>We are awaiting the Applicant's response in relation to these increases and expect further engagement prior to Deadline 5.</p> <p>Pre-Deadline 6: Following our meeting on 27 January 2025, and the provision to us of the draft updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2, January 2025) together with the model results (ASCII grids showing maximum water</p>	<p>discussed in the second Flood Risk Meeting with the Environment Agency on 17 October 2024.</p> <p>Further investigations into modelling uncertainties have taken place in these local areas for these specific locations and events; a revised version of the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (document reference 7.40, Rev 2) was issued to the Environment Agency for their review on 24/01/25, and the contents discussed with the Environment Agency on 27/01/25. The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP5-056] has been submitted at Deadline 5. Following email confirmation from the Environment Agency on 12/02/2025 confirming they are satisfied with the updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP5-056], this has been appended to the Flood Risk Assessment for completeness and will be submitted into Examination at Deadline 6.</p>		

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			<p>level and depths), we have now completed our review of this information. We note that the Technical Note has been submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5 (04/02/2025) as Revision 2, dated February 2025, and published under Examination Library reference REP5-056 (7.40 Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note - Rev 2).</p> <p>We are now satisfied that the updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2) and associated model output data provides sufficient evidence that some of the small, localised increases in modelled water levels are due to modelling precision errors and boundary effects. This also extends to other areas within the model domain, such as the Cricket Ground and Tolney Lane. We are satisfied with the evidence provided to support this case. On this basis, we are satisfied that there are no outstanding concerns with the second part of the Exception Text.</p> <p>Given the above, the following issues, as originally raised in our Relevant Representations [RR-020], can now considered as resolved, and can be marked as Agreed in our work package/issues tracker and in relation to the corresponding items/issues in the Statement of Common Ground: EAFR-001 - Flood risk exception test (part 2) – fluvial flood risk EAFR-002 - Increase in fluvial flood risk elsewhere EAFR-003 - Overall reduction in fluvial flood risk</p>			
			<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-003 (Overall reduction in fluvial flood risk) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>The FRA fails to demonstrate that opportunities to reduce flood risk overall have been considered.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: In the FRA, as submitted with the DCO application ('6.3 Environmental Statement - Appendix 13.2 Flood Risk Assessment' [APP-177], the Applicant has shown the screening process for choosing the most affective and appropriate floodplain compensation areas. However, we require evidence to show what other opportunities were explored to reduce flood risk and clear justification for why these were not taken forward.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: We welcome that Applicant has reduced the detrimental impacts of the scheme where possible. Specifically, the example given of implementing steeper embankments to reduce encroachment on to the floodplain. However, we require the Applicant to show which options were taken forward through this design phase which had an overall betterment/ minimise impact.</p> <p>The issue was also discussed at ISH3 and it is noted that there is an action for the Applicant in this regard (Action item 1.).</p> <p>We will provide an update on this issue when the Applicant has submitted further information.</p> <p>Pre-Deadline 6: Following our meeting on 27 January 2025, and the provision to us of the draft updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2, January 2025) together with the model results (ASCII grids showing maximum water level and depths), we have now completed our review of this information. We note that the Technical Note has been submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5 (04/02/2025) as Revision 2, dated February 2025, and published</p>	<p>Please refer to the Applicant's response to EAFR-001. As discussed in Chapter 2 (The Scheme) of the Environmental Statement [APP-046] the design has been developed to meet the Scheme objectives whilst also minimising environmental effects wherever practicable. Consequently, the Scheme design adheres to the principles of the design and mitigation hierarchy outlined in DMRB LA 104 Environmental Assessment and Monitoring. The first principle being to avoid potential adverse effects where possible, before seeking to minimise or mitigate any unavoidable impacts. This has formed a well-developed embedded and essential mitigation strategy. Following selection of the preferred route corridor and as part of the Scheme design process, the requirement for floodplain compensation was reduced where possible, for example by implementing steeper embankment slopes that reduced the Scheme's encroachment on the floodplain. The Flood risk and coastal change Planning Practice Guidance (Paragraph 49, ID: 7-049-20220825) states "Where flood storage from any source of flooding is to be lost as a result of development, on-site level-for-level compensatory storage, accounting for the Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: TR010065 Application Document Ref: TR010065/APP/7.42 Page 9 of 75 A46 Newark Bypass Responses to Written Representations REP2-043 - Environment Agency The Applicants Response predicted impacts of climate change over the lifetime of the development, should be provided". In accordance with the PPG, Section 3.3 of Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177] sets out floodplain compensation requirements and the methodology undertaken for the FCA site screening and selection. The three proposed FCAs at Farndon West, Farndon East and Kelham & Averham, provide storage volume for flood water displaced by the Scheme in the 1 in 100 year plus climate change event, resulting in no change in flood risk for this event, when compared to the baseline.</p>	Agreed	12/02/2025

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			<p>under Examination Library reference REP5-056 (7.40 Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note - Rev 2).</p> <p>We are now satisfied that the updated Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (Rev 2) and associated model output data provides sufficient evidence that some of the small, localised increases in modelled water levels are due to modelling precision errors and boundary effects. This also extends to other areas within the model domain, such as the Cricket Ground and Tolney Lane. We are satisfied with the evidence provided to support this case. On this basis, we are satisfied that there are no outstanding concerns with the second part of the Exception Text.</p> <p>Given the above, the following issues, as originally raised in our Relevant Representations [RR-020], can now considered as resolved, and can be marked as Agreed in our work package/issues tracker and in relation to the corresponding items/issues in the Statement of Common Ground:</p> <p>EAFR-001 - Flood risk exception test (part 2) – fluvial flood risk EAFR-002 - Increase in fluvial flood risk elsewhere EAFR-003 - Overall reduction in fluvial flood risk</p>			
			<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-007 (Slough Dyke (main river) realignment) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>No detailed drawings for the Slough Dyke realignment have been provided and the realignment has also not been represented within the hydraulic modelling undertaken.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: Within the most recent Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (as submitted to us for review outside the Examination process), the Applicant has shown that the realignment of Slough Dyke has now been tested within the hydraulic model and confirms no impact on flood risk. No further action is required by the Applicant with regards to testing the Slough Dyke realignment within the hydraulic model. The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note should be included as appendix of an updated FRA to be submitted as part of the DCO application. While the Applicant has provided sufficient evidence to us to demonstrate that the realignment of Slough Dyke will not have an adverse impact of flood risk, we are still awaiting detailed plans of the proposed river channel in situ. The Environment Agency requires satisfactory cross- sectional plans of the channel and drawings of the channel connecting to the existing channel in order to full resolved this issue. Once a satisfactory revised FRA and plans as mentioned above have been submitted as part of the DCO application, we will be able to resolve this issue.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: The Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note as referred to in our WR has now been submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3 [document ref. REP3-034]. This satisfactorily demonstrates that the realignment of Slough Dyke has been tested within the hydraulic model and confirms no impact on flood risk. However, we are still awaiting further detailed plans to clarify the proposed realignment.</p> <p>We acknowledge the Applicant's comments in response to our WR on this issue. However, the issue has since been covered at ISH3 (agenda Item 4 – please see above comments) and note the Applicant intends to provide us</p>	<p>The Applicant welcomes the confirmation that the hydraulic modelling carried out confirms the realignment's hydraulic suitability. All additional flood risk related evidence submitted during the DCO Examination will be appended to the Flood Risk Assessment [APP-177] as appropriate before the closing of the Examination. The Applicant will complete the detailed design of the Scheme following the grant of a DCO for the Scheme. The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency regarding the Slough Dyke realignment at flood risk meetings on 05/09/24, 17/10/24 and 27/01/25, providing further details on the proposed plans. On 27/01/25, the draft detailed plans, including a cross-section, for the realignment were discussed with the Environment Agency. At this stage, it is suggested that securing the Environment Agency as a consultee on the design of the Slough Dyke realignment is appropriate. The Applicant welcomes the Environment Agency's further comments on this item.</p> <p>The Applicant has submitted draft detailed design drawings of the Slough Dyke realignment to the Environment Agency who have requested an amendment to the design through the removal of reno mattress and replacement with appropriately sized riprap for erosion control and embankment stability. The updated design will be provided to the Environment Agency who have agreed that this can be submitted as part of the flood risk activity permit application for the Slough Dyke realignment works.</p>	Agreed	19/02/2025

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			<p>with the details we require as part of the DCO, which differs from their proposed approach in their response to our WR. We are satisfied the resolution of this issue is moving forward and we will provide an update following further engagement with the Applicant.</p> <p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-009 (Climate change allowances sensitivity test) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>The FRA has not assessed a credible maximum peak river flow climate change scenario, in line with GOV.UK guidance on climate change allowances for flood risk assessments. This is expected given the Scheme's status as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and its proposed 120-year lifespan.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: Within the most recent Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note (as submitted to us for review outside the Examination process), the Applicant has provided evidence that the necessary sensitivity testing has been undertaken to accurately assess the impact of climate change to the scheme. In particular, the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note satisfactorily demonstrates the impacts of a credible maximum scenario on the development. No further action is required by the Applicant with regards to testing a credible maximum scenario. To fully resolve this issue the Applicant should include the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note as an appendix of an updated FRA to be submitted as part of the DCO application.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: Following the submission of the Hydraulic Modelling Technical Note [REP3-034], we are satisfied that this issue is now resolved. We acknowledge that the Applicant intends to append all additional flood risk related evidence submitted during the DCO Examination to the flood risk assessment before the close of the Examination.</p>			
4.	Flood Risk – Compensatory Flood Storage	Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177]	<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-004 (Compensatory flood storage) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>The FRA fails to provide details on the amount and location of the flood storage being displaced, compared to the amount and location of flood storage being provided, demonstrating that any flood storage provided will become effective at the same point in a flood event as the lost storage would have done.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: Within the most recent Floodplain Compensation Area Technical Note (as submitted to us for review outside the Examination process), the Applicant has provided additional detail about where water will be stored during a design flood (inclusive of climate change allowance) and a breakdown of water levels and volumes. This technical note shows the amount of storage available at 0.2 metre slices as well as the design volume and temporary works volumes of storage lost. This technical note also describes the impact of increasing overall storage volume by 20% on flood risk. The flood compensation scheme has been tested within the hydraulic model as well as the sensitivity test increasing storage by 20%. However, we still require the Applicant to provide more information about the conveyance of flood water to the storage areas. In particular, we require further information about how the Kelham and Averham Floodplain Compensation Area will interact with a separate solar farm development (planning application ref. 23/01837/FULM - Newark & Sherwood District Council). This</p>	<p>The Applicant acknowledges that there is a proposed solar farm (planning application ref. 23/01837/FULM - Newark & Sherwood District Council) overlapping the Kelham & Averham FCA footprint. This matter was discussed with the Environment Agency in April 2023 via email correspondence, in which the Environment Agency confirmed that “Solar farms are defined as essential infrastructure... solar farm developments can be built in floodplain compensation areas, subject to passing the Sequential and Exception Tests”, further specifying that “the Environment Agency would treat most purpose-built floodplain compensation as either Flood Zone 3a or 3b”. The email correspondence gave the relevant policy guidance as Paragraph 079 of the PPG on flood risk and coastal change. This states that in Flood Zone 3a, essential infrastructure should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe in times of flood. In Flood Zone 3b (function floodplain) essential infrastructure that has passed the Exception Test, and water-compatible uses, should be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, and not impede water flows or increase flood risk elsewhere. With respect to the potential for the solar farm to impede conveyance of flood water to Kelham & Averham FCA, the developer of the solar farm is aware of the FCA purpose and depth requirements. The height of the solar panels can be designed accordingly not to impede FCA storage capacity. Within the FCA the legs of each solar panel will need to suit the depth of the FCA. If the solar farm is constructed first, the panels will be stored during the construction of the Kelham & Averham FCA. The area being proposed for solar panels is the northern portion of the Kelham & Averham FCA site, to the north and west of the access track in the design. The solar farm will therefore not impede any flow pathways towards the FCA. The access</p>	Agreed	02/04/2025

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			<p>relates to ExQ1 questions Q4.0.20 and Q5.0.10 for which we have provided separate comments to the ExA (in response to ExQ1).</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: The Floodplain Compensation Areas Technical Note as referred to in our WR has now been submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3 [document ref. REP3-035].</p> <p>Our comments made in our WR on this issue remain applicable. We still require more information about the culverts connecting the FCAs to the River Trent. This will need to show their location and provide clarity of the conveyance of flood water in and out of the FCAs.</p> <p>Additionally, our previous comments about the proposed Kelham solar farm which overlaps the Kelham and Averham FCA still apply. Please refer to ISH3 agenda Item 3b comments above in regard to this issue. We acknowledge that revised layout plans have been submitted to the LPA, which remove solar panels from within the FCA, but we still have outstanding concerns which need to be addressed. We will engage with the Applicant on resolving this issue and provide an updated in due course.</p> <p>The access crossing from the A617 is a key potential barrier to flow within the compensatory storage area. Careful consideration will need to be given to the design of the access crossing from the A617 to the solar farm to ensure this does not impede flood flows within the compensatory storage area. The access crossing from the A617 should be set above the 1 in 100 year plus higher central (plus 39% for climate change) flood level with an allowance for freeboard. The flood storage area also included a bund within the hydraulic model, which is in a similar location to an access track for the proposed solar farm. Careful consideration will need to be given to the design of the flood bund and solar farm access track to ensure both can be delivered.</p>	<p>track has been discussed jointly between solar farm developer and the Applicant, so that it can serve the purposes of both schemes.</p> <p>The Applicant notes a revised site layout plan (Drawing HC1002/05/03 revision 4) for the Kelham Solar Farm was published on the 23 December 2024 on the Newark and Sherwood District Council's planning portal. The revised plan shows that solar panels have been removed from the eastern area of the Floodplain Compensation Area (FCA), Work No. 125 as shown on Sheet 7 of the Works Plans [REP3-002]. The Applicant is aware that the Environment Agency removed their holding objection to the Solar Farm Planning Application (23/01837/FULM) on the 19 December 2024. The Planning Application 23/01837/FULM was refused at the Newark and Sherwood District Council's Planning Committee held on the 16 January 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant has undertaken culvert modelling for the Kelham and Averham FCA and provided the Environment Agency with the results of this modelling on 11 March 2025. The additional culvert modelling tested a total of 2 no. access track crossings. The Applicant has submitted a summary of this in the Floodplain Compensation Area Technical Note (an appendix of the Flood Risk Assessment) at Deadline 7. Before submission at Deadline 7, the Environment Agency confirmed to the Applicant they are satisfied with the additional modelling and the proposed updates to the FRA and Appendix I FCA Technical Note, and that this item could therefore be 'Agreed' in the Statement of Common Ground once the updated Flood Risk Assessment has been re-submitted into the Examination at Deadline 7.</p> <p>The updated Flood Risk Assessment was re-submitted at Deadline 7 [REP7-064] and the Environment Agency confirmed they were satisfied this Issue was now agreed.</p>		
			<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-005 (Compensatory flood storage – phasing of works) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>No consideration is given within the FRA to the phasing of works and when certain areas of floodplain compensation will become available to ensure that there is no loss in flood storage capacity at any point during the construction of the Scheme.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: The Applicant has committed to undertaking works to building connections between the River Trent and areas which will become Floodplain Compensation Areas before any other works commence as part of the Pre- commencement Plan ('6.9 Environmental Statement – Pre-Commencement Plan' [APP-188]). However, we require the Applicant to provide clarity that at no point during construction there will be a net loss of floodplain storage and a plan of how phasing of work will be coordinated with the planned solar farm development (planning application ref. 23/01837/FULM - Newark & Sherwood District Council). It will also need to be demonstrated that both developments can be constructed without compromising each other and overall flood storage.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: We acknowledge the Applicant's comments and note that this issue was discussed at ISH3 in agenda Item 3e, where the Applicant referenced item RDWE10 in Table 3-2: Register of environmental actions and commitments (REAC) in the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (FIEMP) [REP3-022 / REP3-023].</p>	<p>Temporary works are discussed in Chapter 9 of the FRA (APP-177), which considers the conservative case where temporary works and permanent works are in place at the same time. No significant effects for temporary works plus permanent events are noted for the design event, which for temporary works is the 3.33% AEP. The Applicant's response to EAFR-004 above discussed how the solar farm scheme can be progressed regardless of the ongoing progress with the A46 Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant notes a revised site layout plan (Drawing HC1002/05/03 revision 4) for the Kelham Solar Farm was published on the 23 December 2024 on the Newark and Sherwood District Council's planning portal. The revised plan shows that solar panels have been removed from the eastern area of the Floodplain Compensation Area (FCA), Work No. 125 as shown on Sheet 7 of the Works Plans [REP3-002]. The Applicant is aware that the Environment Agency removed their holding objection to the Solar Farm Planning Application (23/01837/FULM) on the 19 December 2024. The Planning Application 23/01837/FULM was refused at the Newark and Sherwood District Council's Planning Committee held on the 16 January 2025.</p> <p>The Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010] provides further information regarding the proposed maintenance regime for the Farndon FCAs. RDWE 10 within the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [REP5-025] has been updated for Deadline 5 and provides further information regarding the proposed maintenance regime. RDWE 10 has been updated to state:</p> <p>The FCAs will require maintenance for the lifetime of the Scheme, to include clearing, inspecting and upkeep of the FCAs and associated culvert systems and fish escape passages (at the Farndon FCAs). However, at this stage, further details on the</p>	Agreed	19/02/2025

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			<p>We note that RDWE10 states that “Prior to commencing any above ground works (including above ground pre- commencement works) there must be sufficient replacement floodplain storage in place to compensate for those works”. However, we still require clarity and information on how the construction of the solar farm will be phased in with the construction of the Kelham and Averham FCA.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 5: The Applicant has presented to us (31 January 2025) further revised draft wording for item RDWE10 in the REAC table of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (FIEMP). We have indicated to the Applicant that we are satisfied with this in relation to flood risk, therefore once this is included in an update to the FIEMP and together with the commitment to providing a full maintenance plan as part of the Third Iteration EMP, we will be able to consider this issue as resolved.</p>	<p>maintenance regime are not known. These details will be defined at the next stage of design. However, the fish escape passages at the Farndon FCAs will be maintained to a minimum of 0.3m depth – 0.5m width.</p>		
			<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-006 (Compensatory flood storage – maintenance) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>The maintenance of proposed flood compensation has not been considered. Further justification and reassurance are required before we can be satisfied with the appropriateness of the proposals.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 2: We understand that maintenance is secured under Requirement 14. However, due to the maintenance of aspects of the FCAs being fundamental to their function (clearing of debris in flow conveyance structures) to ensure water can free flow to and from FCA areas, we need to confirm that sufficient maintenance will be undertaken through a maintenance plan as part of the DCO application. Our WR [REP2-043] comments on issue ref. EAFR-006, and our response to Q15.1.11 [REP2-042] provides more details on why a maintenance plan is necessary.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 3: The letter of comfort provides some reassurance that the solar farm and flood storage area designs will be compatible with each other. The key to ensuring that the flood storage area works effectively is that the access crossing to the solar farm from Main Road (A617) at grid reference 476745, 354890, does not impede flood flows, and should be designed such that the soffit is above the design flood, and that the floodplain compensation area (FCA) flood bund can be incorporated into the design with the solar farm in place. Without the flood bund around Kelham FCA some solar panel areas would flood. Although the Applicant has highlighted that there has been engagement with the solar farm applicant and the Environment Agency, we have not seen evidence of this and/or confirmation of any details which may have been discussed. If these conversations were held, we require details of the proposed schemes interactions and how these have been designed to mitigate any detrimental impacts and maximise on flood storage within the DCO submission. This would be best presented within the flood risk assessment (FRA). We note that whilst the submitted FRA mentions other development proposals in the Order Limits, this solar farm proposal is not discussed and the mentioned 'required assessments' have not been submitted as part of the DCO application or planning application.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: We acknowledge the Applicant's comments and note that this issue was discussed at ISH3 in agenda Item 3e.</p>	<p>Article 4 (Maintenance of drainage works) in the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] provides that nothing in the order affects the existing responsibility for the maintenance of any works unless otherwise agreed in writing between the Applicant and the person responsible. The Applicant will provide a blockage related maintenance plan for culverts into the Kelham & Averham Floodplain Compensation Area in the Third Iteration Environmental Management Plan, which is secured by Requirement 4 and on which the Environment Agency will be consulted. In respect of the proposed solar development (planning application ref. 23/01837/FULM - Newark & Sherwood District Council), where assets in the crossover areas require maintenance, responsibility will depend on the detailed designs for each development and which elements are provided for which proposed development. This will be agreed between the relevant parties at the relevant time.</p> <p>The Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010] provides further information regarding the proposed maintenance regime for the Farndon FCAs. RDWE 10 within the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [REP5-025] has been updated for Deadline 5 and provides further information regarding the proposed maintenance regime. RDWE 10 has been updated to state:</p> <p>The FCAs will require maintenance for the lifetime of the Scheme, to include clearing, inspecting and upkeep of the FCAs and associated culvert systems and fish escape passages (at the Farndon FCAs). However, at this stage, further details on the maintenance regime are not known. These details will be defined at the next stage of design. However, the fish escape passages at the Farndon FCAs will be maintained to a minimum of 0.3m depth – 0.5m width.</p>	Agreed	19/02/2025

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
			<p>We are pleased to see that the Applicant intends to provide a blockage maintenance plan as part of the Third Iteration Environmental Management Plan, however appropriate commitment to providing this is required.</p> <p>We also require the Applicant to add clarity to the REAC table in the FIEMP. Currently, RDWE10 states the following: "The FCAs will require maintenance for the lifetime of the Scheme however at this stage maintenance details are not known".</p> <p>We require the Applicant to clarify that this maintenance will need to include clearing, inspecting and upkeep of the FCAs and culvert systems.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 5: The Applicant has presented to us (31 January 2025) further revised draft wording for item RDWE10 in the REAC table of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (FIEMP). We have indicated to the Applicant that we are satisfied with this in relation to flood risk, therefore once this is included in an update to the FIEMP and together with the commitment to providing a full maintenance plan as part of the Third Iteration EMP, we will be able to consider this issue as resolved.</p>			
5.	Flood Risk – Interaction with Flood Defences	<p>Appendix 13.2 (Flood Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-177]</p> <p>Works Plans [REP3-002]</p>	<p>Relevant Representation Reference EAFR-008 (Interaction with Environment Agency flood defences) refer to document reference for issue details.</p> <p>There is limited information available on the Scheme's interaction with the existing Environment Agency flood defences. The FRA mentions that the Scheme will 'tie-in' with existing Environment Agency flood defences (see paragraphs 3.4.2 and 7.7.2), but there is no explanation for how this will occur, or how it will be ensured that there will be no detriment to the defences.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 3: In the document, '7.11 Applicant's Response to Environment Agency Relevant Representations' [REP1- 010], as submitted at Deadline 1, in conjunction with the '2.2 Land Plans' document [AS-004], the Applicant has provided more detail about the Environment Agency assets they will interacting with and the standard of protection these assets provided. However, the Environment Agency requires additional evidence that planned alterations will not compromise these assets and more detailed drawings, including cross-sections, of the proposed alterations to Environment Agency assets.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 4: We acknowledge the Applicant's comments in response to our WR on this issue. However, the issue has since been covered at ISH3 (agenda Item 3c – please see above comments) and note the Applicant intends to provide us with the details we require as part of the DCO, which differs from their proposed approach in their response to our WR. We are satisfied the resolution of this issue is moving forward and we will provide an update following further engagement with the Applicant.</p>	<p>Detailed design for the interface between Environment Agency assets and the Scheme, including the standard of protection, will be part of the detailed design phase which will be the subject of engagement with the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency will be consulted during the design of these features to ensure that the integrity and efficacy of their assets is not affected.</p> <p>Overview plan and photographs with an indication of proposed works between the Scheme and the Crees Lane defence embankment and the Newark roundabout embankment were presented to the Environment Agency at the meeting on the 27 January 2025 and are contained within the Applicant's submission "Cross Sections requested by the Environment Agency" submitted at Deadline 5 [REP5-063].</p> <p>Additional plans and photographs with a planned construction methodology in relation to the flood defence at the Newark roundabout embankment were presented to the Environment Agency at the meeting on the 11 March 2025 and further details were provided to the Environment Agency after this meeting, detailing the structure of the existing defence embankment ('Kelham Road Floodbank'). The Applicant is satisfied that investigations and inspections of the existing flood defence embankment structure may be requested as a part of the FRAP process. This information has been provided in the Deadline 7 update to document '7.67 Cross Sections Requested by the Environment Agency' [REP7-099]. The updated information includes details of the cross section of the existing embankment, construction methodology and sequencing and confirmation that the works would be controlled through a Flood Risk Assessment Permit. Having reviewed this updated document, the Environment Agency have confirmed they are satisfied this Issue is now agreed.</p>	Agreed	02/04/2025
Fisheries, biodiversity and geomorphology						
6.	Biodiversity (general) – statutory consultation response	Appendix 8.14 (Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Report) of the Environmental Statement	The Environment Agency are happy to see that although it's not currently a legal requirement National Highways are looking to meet the 10% target as will be required going forward. They will need to ensure that they submit a BNG calculation as per the NE metric and guidance documents to show how they are meeting the 10% target requirements for the varying habitat types: hedgerows, terrestrial and rivers and streams. We would be very keen to be	Whilst no mandatory requirement for BNG applies for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) such as this Scheme, the Applicant is committed to seeking a net gain, as opposed to the full 10% requirement which does not apply to the Scheme. The Biodiversity Metric 3.1 has been applied to the Scheme. The Scheme would achieve a predicted net gain in biodiversity for hedgerows, terrestrial habitat and rivers and streams. Further details such as methodology and the biodiversity net gain scores can	Agreed	11/11/2024

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
		<p>Appendices [APP-159]</p> <p>Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [APP-152]</p> <p>Appendix 8.10 (Otter Technical Report) [APP-155]</p> <p>Appendix 8.12 (Water Vole Technical Report) [APP-157]</p> <p>First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]</p> <p>Figure 2.3 (Environmental Masterplan) [AS-026]</p> <p>Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) [APP-176]</p>	<p>involved in the improvement and BNG requirements around watercourses to ensure that improvements are made accordingly in this area.</p> <p>We also note that water vole and otter surveys are ongoing. We know that otter use the area around Newark and there is potential for holts to be present in and around the development site therefore it is good to see that otter surveys are to be completed.</p> <p>Regarding water voles, the ditches in and around the development area are likely to be suitable for water vole especially in those more botanically rich drains and ditches which hold water all year round. We would also encourage the project team to look at improvements to the area for water vole through habitat creation for example through ditch creation and sustainable suds schemes whereby suds ponds contain water all year round and have a diverse range of aquatic, semi aquatic and terrestrial plant species within and around them. This will benefit water vole and a range of other species (amphibians, birds, invertebrates, etc.).</p> <p>The Environment Agency would also encourage the development team to ensure that any habitat creation is in keeping with the surroundings of the site, including historical habitats, environmental conditions (for example in terms of soil water and chemical make-up) to ensure any habitats that are created on site have the best chance of succeeding and require less human intervention.</p> <p>We welcome that a WFD assessment will be submitted as part of the future NSIP application, and this needs to be of relevant detail for the potential impact of the development.</p>	<p>be found within Appendix 8.14 (Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Report) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-159].</p> <p>Principles of mitigation, including design of post development habitats are set out in Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [APP-152], and opportunities to benefit species have been included where practicable. These mitigation and compensation measures have been discussed with the Environment Agency and Natural England and the Applicant can confirm that due consideration to the surrounding site has been given during the development of the habitat proposals. Surveys for otters and water voles have been completed to inform Appendix 8.10 (Otter Technical Report) [APP-155] and Appendix 8.12 (Water Vole Technical Report) [APP-157]. Mitigation requirements are set out in the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [APP-184]. Suitable planting that would be provided to benefit water vole and other wildlife is presented in Figure 2.3 (Environmental Masterplan) of the Environmental Statement Figures [AS-026].</p> <p>A Water Framework Directive Assessment has been undertaken and shared with the Environment Agency, which can be found in Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176]. Mitigation measures, as explained in greater detail in the aforementioned assessment, include construction best practices (including pollution prevention plan and emergency response procedures, and groundwater protection measures), as well as the requirement to obtain appropriate environmental permits for the works. These measures and results of the assessment have been discussed and presented to the Environment Agency and no objections were raised.</p>		
7.	Opportunities for fish habitat	<p>Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [APP-052]</p> <p>Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and the Water Environment) of the Environmental</p>	<p>The borrow pits at Farndon would provide a good opportunity to create fish habitat with a gravel pit connected to the river. This would benefit WFD (boosting fish stocks) and also wider biodiversity. If the borrow pit at Brownhills will hold water all year it could be a good site for an angling venue for the local community. The design for both sites would need careful consideration and the Environment Agency would be happy to discuss further.</p> <p>The potential flood compensation area around Kelham and Averham needs to ensure there is no detrimental impact to the river habitat as it is an incredibly important area for fish and fish spawning, including protected species such as lamprey. The Humber SAC is downstream but functionally linked as the lamprey move upriver to spawn. Any change to habitat or water quality would need an HRA. It sounds however that the compensation area</p>	<p>As a result of the Scheme design development, the Brownhills borrow pit is no longer required as a floodplain compensation area and so the intention is that this land is returned to the landowner after construction works have been completed. The Brownhills floodplain compensation area was proposed to cater for mitigating floodplain lost between 8-10m Above Ordnance Datum (baseline for ground levels in the UK) ground elevations. This mitigation would now be provided at Farndon East floodplain compensation area, which is a more suitable site due to its hydraulic connectivity to local watercourses. In addition, the specific location of the borrow pit within this area is being heavily driven by the archaeology findings (e.g. avoiding high impact areas).</p> <p>The borrow pits at Farndon would be both borrow pits and floodplain compensation areas and would also be designed to provide ecological enhancements to the area. An assessment of how fish would use these habitats and the impact of the Scheme on fish has been included in the Environmental Statement, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the Environmental Statement [APP-052] 	Agreed	26/11/2024

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
		Statement [APP-057] Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP3-024] Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176] First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010] Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP3-024] Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176]	is most likely in the floodplain rather than works to the river itself but it this is something that will need to be considered due to the importance of the area. Within table 14.5 there are various sections which have the potential for slight adverse effect on water quality. Information will need to be provided to show how this risk will be removed. The River Trent has a number of protected and sensitive species of fish and a reduction in water quality could adversely impact them. The red line boundary for the A46 proposed NSIP is situated next to the Averham Weir on the River Trent. The Averham Weir has been highlighted as a barrier to fish passage and therefore is one of the key sites highlighted by the Trent Gateway partnership to provide a new fish pass and support the opening up of the River Trent. This proposed NSIP should look at opportunities to support the provision of a fish pass at Averham weir and the Environment Agency would be happy to discuss further.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and the Water Environment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-057]Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP3-024]Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176] Although a combination of residual light spill and noise and vibration disturbance during night works at Nether Lock Viaduct and Windmill Viaduct would act as a barrier to lamprey migration, the northern branch of the River Trent would act as a bypass to the upper reaches during this construction period. Furthermore, works at Kelham and Averham floodplain compensation area would be completed prior to commencement of main alignment works. The integrity of the river and sea lamprey population and the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation is not considered to be affected during construction as there would be no habitat loss, severance of migration routes or degradation of lamprey spawning substrate. As long as silt curtains are maintained, residual sediment deposition is unlikely to smother habitats that support spawning river or sea lamprey population associated with the Special Area of Conservation, due to high dilution of low quantities of residual particles entering the River Trent and the distance from suitable spawning substrate. Further detail with regards to this mitigation is outlined within the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010]. The Environment Agency has been involved in discussions regarding the Farndon floodplain compensation area design as well as the mitigation and conclusions of both: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP3-024]Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176] As the Scheme is not impacting on Averham Weir there are no alterations to this structure or to provide fish passage at this location.		
8.	Use of borrow pits for fry refuge	Environment Agency Relevant Representation EAFBG-001	Environment Agency Relevant Representation EAFBG-001: The use of borrow pits for fisheries benefits by converting them into permanent fry refuge areas after use in construction. In particular, the Brownhills borrow pit.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/24. Existing constraints at the Brownhills borrow pit prevent the Scheme from converting this site into fry refuge areas. Brownhills borrow pit has limited hydrological connectivity to the River Trent. The Nottingham to Lincoln and East Coast Main Line (ECML) railway lines create a barrier to the west, the A46 carriageway to the south, Brownhills link and the A1 to the east (crossing the Nottingham to Lincoln railway to the north). The Brownhills borrow pit area currently drains overland as surface water, into existing highways drains which are culverted through the aforementioned barriers and discharge into the River Trent. These pathways are not viable for fish from the River Trent to navigate upstream to the Environment Agency's proposed permanent fry refuge at	Agreed	04/10/2024

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				Brownhills. Furthermore, archaeological investigations identified extensive, complex settlement of Romano British and Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains in the Brownhills area, which resulted in a reduced area that could be used as a borrow pit to ensure preservation of these archaeological remains in situ. The Brownhills borrow pit is no longer required as a floodplain compensation area and so the intention is that this land is returned to the landowner after construction works have been completed. However, throughout the evolution of the design, opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been included in the Scheme.		
9.	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity - evidence	Figure 2.3 (Environmental Masterplan) [AS-026] First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010] draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	In relation to EAFBG-001 and EAFBG-003, following the presentation in the meeting on 12/09/2024, the Environment Agency's Fisheries Officer required evidence of how the various opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been included in the Scheme.	<p>In an email sent on 02/10/2024, the Applicant provided the following details, which the Environment Agency subsequently responded to on 04/10/24 confirming their Fisheries officer was satisfied with.</p> <p>A lot of the details are shown on Figure 2.3 (Environmental Masterplan) of the Environmental Statement Figures [AS-026]. There are also a number of commitments detailed in Table 2.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) within the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010] that detail the mitigation measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Permanently wet ponds and associated reedbeds with attention areas</i> – these are visible on the Environmental Masterplan, in particular Sheets 1 and 2 which show the Farndon East and West wetland areas to the south of the Scheme which include ponds, a lake and reedbed habitats. Additionally, the Environmental Masterplan shows attenuation areas spread along the length of the scheme which include permanently wet ponds and surrounding reedbeds. Further details on mitigation measures for the protection of aquatic habitats and pond / wetland creation is detailed in REAC ID B4.• <i>The sowing of species rich grassland adjacent to ponds and the addition of log and brash piles around ponds, to act as refugia / hibernacula</i> - Species rich grassland can be seen to be proposed in areas across the scheme, as well as indicative locations of reptile hibernacula. REAC ID B14 also states "... The provision of log and brash piles from retained felled trees, in species rich grassland, around ponds with areas of scrub and creation of the Farndon West wetland area will compensate for the loss of habitat suitable for reptiles at different life stages (within the Order Limits)....".• <i>A diverse assemblage of riparian plant species that will create shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife (including fish)</i> - Indicative species mixes are shown on Sheet 1 of the Environmental Masterplan, and include indicative mixes for water bodies and associated plants, as well as reed bed indicative mixes. It is also considered that the reedbed habitat would provide refugia for fish species.• <i>The size, depth and riparian planting of the Farndon FCAs have been designed to also reduce mortality of entrapped fish species, from various predatory piscivorous birds and mammals</i> – REAC ID B9 provides the details on how the depths of the pools have been designed to reduce mortality of entrapped fish, and states "The greatest depth of pools within Farndon West FCA and Farndon East FCA would be a minimum of 2 metres to provide stable thermal properties for the survival of fish until the next flood event, should individuals not use the fish escape passage as flood water recedes" along with further information. <p>Further opportunities to enhance waterways for biodiversity, such as floating islands within the Farndon FCAs to benefit biodiversity, were explored in internal multidisciplinary meetings. This was scoped out of the design as it was considered a hotspot for build-up of flood debris and could cause localised impact of flooding, blockage or damage when the debris is naturally deposited. The Environment Agency was in agreement with this decision adding that it is likely that the River Trent main river</p>	Agreed	04/10/2024

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				<p>will be too fast flowing for these floating ecosystems, which are generally only effective along canals and slow-moving watercourses.</p> <p>In terms of how the delivery of the above mitigation measures are secured, Requirement 6 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] secures the provision of the planting proposals presented within Figure 2.3 (Environmental Masterplan) of the Environmental Statement Figures [AS-026]. Requirement 3 of the draft DCO states that the mitigation measures and commitments detailed in the First Iteration EMP are carried through into the development of the Second Iteration EMP (which covers the construction stage) and the Third Iteration EMP (which covers the operational stage of the Scheme).</p>		
10.	Access to areas of fish rescue		In relation to EAWQ-007 above, in an email to the Applicant on 04/10/2024, the Environment Agency asked whether the local Environment Agency Fisheries Team be granted access to these areas for fish rescue, if required, and for survey work? The Environment Agency noted that they can provide an Environment Agency padlock if required.	In an email sent on 17/10/2024, the Applicant provided the following details. Access to the flood compensation areas at Farndon East and West will be via the secure access from the A46 southbound carriageway. This will be accessible by National Highways (for maintenance of the attenuation ponds) and the land owner who will be accessing the residual field system to the northside of Farndon west. Access could be permitted to the Environment Agency through agreement with National Highways operational team.	Agreed	11/11/2024
11.	Fish Escape Passages in Farndon FCA	Appendix G (Fish Escape Passage Technical Note) of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Environmental Statement [REP3-024]	<p>Following the presentation in the 'Fish Escape Passage Meeting' on 21/10/2024, the Environment Agency's Fisheries Officer asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who will maintain the 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep fish escape passages of the Old Trent Dyke, and; for details on the maintenance from the drainage board as evidence to ensure the channels are maintained. <p>In relation to section 4.3.1.6 of the Fish Escape Passage Technical Note "Once works are complete, riparian vegetation would be planted or allowed to establish along these channels and therefore, there would be no adverse effect on habitats or designated sites during operation.", the Environment Agency asked "Will the increased vegetation cause the channel to block for fish passage? We have noted that no maintenance commitment has been identified."</p> <p>The Environment Agency acknowledges that albeit option 4 provides a viable option, direct connection to the river through the FCA embankment would be the most beneficial for the fish. This would give a much shorter return to the river, provide refuge from increased flow events in winter and refuge for larval stages in spring. This could greatly benefit local fish populations.</p> <p>The Environment Agency confirmed via email on 30 January 2025 that they have no further comments on the Applicant's draft response to RIES QR7 on the fish escape passage dimensions. They confirmed that whilst the original indicative design of the Farndon FCA fish escape passages which connected the FCAs to the River Trent would be the ideal situation, they understand the designs are restricted, with managing flood risk being a priority. They also agreed the escape routes are low priority in terms of stranded life stages of fish.</p> <p>Update at Deadline 5 [REP5-065]:</p> <p>We discussed this question with the Applicant and their proposed response in a virtual (MS Teams) meeting on 23/01/2025. The Applicant subsequently provided a written draft of their response and further clarification and email (24/01/2025 and 31/01/2025 respectively). Following this, we have a better understanding of the fish escape mitigation, and we are now satisfied that the proposed minimum dimensions for the fish escape passage are acceptable.</p>	<p>During the meeting on 21/10/2024 the Applicant explained the two overflows (fish escape passages in the Farndon FCAs) will be maintained by the FCA maintainer and the Old Trent Dyke will continue to be maintained by the drainage board, who confirmed their current management regime, the detail of which has been added to the Fish Escape Passage Technical Note. In summary, no additional maintenance will be required along Old Trent Dyke. The IDB will continue the existing annual maintenance along this waterway which includes grass and hedge cutting, weed/debris removal where necessary and access allows, and, less frequently, tree works when inhibiting access.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring and maintenance of fish escape passages will be part of the Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) for the Farndon Flood Compensation Areas (FCA), as detailed in Appendix G (Fish Escape Passage Technical Note) of the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Environmental Statement [REP3-024]. As set out in commitment B11 of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022], maintenance should be undertaken in accordance with the Series 3000 Landscape and Ecology specification appendices and the LEMP (to be produced as part of the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan) to ensure the successful establishment of essential mitigation and continued growth of new plant stock to ensure mitigation planting meets its objectives as presented in Figure 2.3 (Environmental Masterplan) of the Environmental Statement Figures [AS-026]. This will be secured by requirements 6 and 12 of Schedule 2 of the draft DCO [REP3-003].</p> <p>Commitment RDWE 10 of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010], states the FCAs will require maintenance for the lifetime. RDWE 10 within the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments has been updated for Deadline 5 and provides further information regarding the proposed maintenance regime. RDWE 10 has been updated to state:</p> <p>The FCAs will require maintenance for the lifetime of the Scheme, to include clearing, inspecting and upkeep of the FCAs and associated culvert systems and fish escape passages (at the Farndon FCAs). However, at this stage, further details on the maintenance regime are not known. These details will be defined at the next stage of design. However, the fish escape passages at the Farndon FCAs will be maintained to a minimum of 0.3m depth – 0.5m width..</p> <p>The function of the combined fish escape passages and overspill channels in the Farndon FCAs is imperative to the delivery of the Scheme to provide flood mitigation measures and to mitigate for the potential entrapment of fish species within the Farndon</p>	Agreed	04/02/2025

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			<p>As such, we consider that this matter is now resolved, insofar as it relates to our remit.</p> <p>As [above], having discussed this with the Applicant and having been provided with further details, we are now satisfied with the proposed maintenance measures and that it will be defined in detail at the next stage of the design. As such, we are now satisfied that this matter is resolved, insofar as it relates to our remit.</p>	<p>FCAs. Unlike Options 1 to 3, Option 4 does not have potential to adversely alter flood risk of the River Trent catchment. As reported in Appendix G (Fish Escape Passage Technical Note) of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Environmental Statement [REP3-024], the Applicant considers Option 4 proportional to the magnitude of impact, with the least adverse impacts across all disciplines assessed (following implementation of the mitigation hierarchy to first avoid and then reduce potential impacts).</p> <p>It has been agreed with the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (see TVIDB SOCG) that the design of the discharges from the fish escape passages into the Old Trent Dyke and ensuring that these will not be impeded by the IDB's maintenance activities will be addressed as part of the Land Drainage Act consenting process.</p> <p>Following further comments from Natural England [REP5-066] the Applicant confirms that reference B9 of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments contained within the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP5-025] will be updated to include the following text proposed by Natural England: "The specific number, location and design of fish escape passages will be finalised during detailed design." The updated First Iteration Environmental Management Plan will be submitted at Deadline 6. The Applicant confirms that Natural England and the Environment Agency will be consultees on the Second Iteration EMP, including provision of future iterations of the fish escape passage design.</p>		
12.	Water Framework Directive (WFD) – water body mitigation	Environment Agency Relevant Representation EAFBG-002	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAFBG-002 stated that not all works impacting water bodies will be mitigated.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/24. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
13.	Biodiversity net gain – missed opportunity for watercourse improvements	Environment Agency Relevant Representation EAFBG-003	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAFBG-003 stated that there is a lack of watercourse improvements as a part of the Scheme.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/24. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
14.	Biodiversity net gain – improvements to river units	Environment Agency Relevant Representation EAFBG-004	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAFBG-004 stated that the BNG strategy does not appear to incorporate improvements to river units. The BNG Technical Report lists river units in the pre-development baseline, but not in post- development improvements.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/24. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
15.	Invasive species – Himalayan Balsam	Environment Agency Relevant Representation EAFBG-005	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAFBG-005 stated that there is insufficient commitment to addressing spread of the non-native species, Himalayan Balsam, which is identified as impacting the development site (documented in the River Physical Habitat Technical Report).	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/24. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
16.	Invasive species – Himalayan Balsam	N/A – email correspondence on 08/10/2024	<p>In an email from the Environment Agency on 08/10/2024, the Environment Agency stated:</p> <p>We have reviewed the meeting recording and information presented in the slide pack in relation to this issue and we consider it to be resolved. We have the following comments:</p> <p>We accept that catchment-wide control of Himalayan Balsam outside of the Scheme Order Limits is not within the Scheme's scope.</p>	<p>The following response to this query was provided by email to the Environment Agency on 17/10/2024 for their consideration and agreement:</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the Environment Agency will be added as a consultee in DCO Requirement 3.</p> <p>The Applicant will only be seeking to remove Himalayan balsam from areas directly affected by the works. Any Himalayan balsam present within the draft Order Limits that is not planned to be removed will have an exclusion zone installed via appropriate</p>	Agreed	17/10/2024

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			<p>It is positive that Himalayan Balsam will be addressed in relation to avoidance measures during construction and that an INNS management will be part of the BNG Management and Monitoring Plan and Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP). We will expect to be consulted on these plans and the Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan and Bio-Security Risk Assessment as part of the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Please note that we have requested to be a named consultee in DCO Requirement 3.</p> <p>We would also stress the importance of biosecurity as part of the Invasive Non-Native Species Management Plan and Bio-Security Risk Assessment, in that attention is drawn to this.</p> <p>Clearing Himalayan Balsam prior to works in the spring/early summer, as soon as is possible in the timeline of the project, may help manage further disturbance during any works.</p> <p>Unfortunately, as Himalayan Balsam management will not be addressed upstream, it is likely to be a costly on-going management issue that will need to be addressed on an on-going basis. Liaising with the Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group to coordinate efforts in the catchment could also help with supporting Himalayan Balsam control.</p>	<p>fencing and any land between plants and the exclusion zone will be maintained to prevent any further spread. Where an exclusion zone cannot be implemented to prevent spread, such as plants bordering the draft Order Limits, the plants will be removed to ensure that the Applicant is not allowing further spread into adjacent land.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to clearance prior to works in spring/early summer where practicable.</p> <p>The Applicant is willing to liaise with Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group however is unable to commit to any additional effort to eradicate all Himalayan balsam within the Scheme as this falls outside the scope of the works.</p>		
Water quality						
17.	Water quality – surface water run-off	Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and Water Environment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-057] and Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-001 stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surface water run-off associated with diffuse highways run-off, combined with other sources. There is a need to protect and improve water quality of WFD catchments where they have 'Moderate' to 'Poor' ecological WFD status. Reasons for Not Achieving Good (RNAGS) in relation to existing highways diffuse pollution appears to not be adequately addressed. 	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
18.	Water quality – surface water sensitivity	Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and Water Environment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-057]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-002 stated that In the assessment of significance (section 13.5.8), the sensitivity of surface waters is derived from the importance of surface waters as detailed in Table 13-1. Importance has been assessed using WFD classification and the Q95 flow, with high importance equalling a higher Q95. The sensitivity of a watercourse to water quality impacts is the reverse, with less dilution meaning a watercourse is more sensitive.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
19.	Water quality – surface water sensitivity	Chapter 13 (Road Drainage and Water Environment) of	In relation to the response provided to EAWQ-002 in a meeting held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on 12/09/2024, the Environment Agency subsequently raised the following query via email on 26/09/2024: Provided the Applicant confirms that professional judgement has also been	Yes, professional judgement has been used when data was not available, to follow the DMRB LA113 guidance. This guidance assigns importance/sensitivity based on Q95 values and the nature of the watercourse (for example a WFD watercourse has a higher importance than an ordinary watercourse). Where Q95 flow data was not readily	Agreed	08/10/2024

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		the Environmental Statement [APP-057]	utilised to ensure sensitivity of any watercourses has not been underestimated then we are satisfied this issue can be closed.	available, a conservative assumption on the nature of the watercourse was made using professional judgement to ensure the sensitivity of any watercourse has not been underestimated.		
20.	Water Framework Directive (WFD) – detailed assessment	Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-003 stated that Table 5-1 states that upgrades to the existing drainage for the road would prevent contaminated runoff from entering the 'Trent from Soar to The Beck' (water body). The detailed assessment has deemed that WFD compliance is achieved in this catchment as a result.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	26/09/2024
21.	Water Framework Directive (WFD) – detailed assessment	Appendix 13.1 (Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-176]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-004 stated that the detailed assessment described in Tables 5-1 to 5-4 does not confirm whether a comparison of the proposed drainage impacts shows an improvement or deterioration from the existing baseline. The detailed assessment should reference the Highways England Water Risk Assessment Tool (HEWRAT) assessment and confirm whether the proposed drainage strategy offers an improvement on the existing baseline. This is particularly pertinent, as transport drainage has been identified as a RNAG status for almost all of the assessed waterbodies. The mitigation must ensure that the proposed development does not increase the contribution from this RNAG.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
22.	Highways England Water Risk Assessment Tool (HEWRAT) – baseline	Appendix 13.3 (HEWRAT Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-178]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-005 stated that the HEWRAT results do not offer the results from the existing baseline for comparison. Without these results for comparison, it is unclear whether the Scheme offers an improvement or deterioration from the existing baseline.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
23.	Highways England Water Risk Assessment Tool (HEWRAT) – baseline	Appendix 13.3 (HEWRAT Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-178]	In relation to the response provided to EAWQ-005 in a meeting held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on 12/09/2024, the Environment Agency subsequently raised the following query via email on 26/09/2024: Please can the Applicant direct us to the wording that confirms the findings of the baseline environment within the HEWRAT assessment.	The baseline conditions are described in Section 3.2 of Appendix 13.3 (HEWRAT Assessment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-178]. Table 3-11 on Page 29 and 30 of Appendix 13.3 (HEWRAT Assessment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-178] show the Tier 2 M-Bat 'Step 2' 'Step 3' results for the proposed outfalls in the Scheme, taken as the 'Baseline' vs 'Proposed mitigation' environments.	Agreed	08/10/2024
24.	Surface water quality monitoring – frequency	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [APP-184]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-006 stated that the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report proposes quarterly monitoring of water quality during the construction phase. The Applicant should increase the frequency of monitoring to at least monthly, or to reflect the monitoring conditions of any environmental permits that they may apply for.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	09/10/2024
25.	Surface water quality monitoring – frequency	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]	In relation to the Applicant's response to EAWQ-006 in a meeting held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on 12/09/2024, the Environment Agency requested that the Applicant confirm where monthly monitoring during construction has been secured. Once the Environment	The proposed updates to wording in the REAC ID RDWE7 were shared with the Environment Agency on 09/10/2024 for review and acceptance. It was also noted that email addresses included in the proposed additional text in REAC ID RDWE7 would be redacted prior to issue into the Examination. The updated First Iteration Environmental	Agreed	26/11/2024

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			Agency have seen this and we are satisfied it is secured appropriately this can be closed.	Management Plan [REP3-022] was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2, with minor updates also submitted at Deadline 3.		
26.	Surface water quality monitoring – ecological monitoring	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [APP-184] and Appendix 13.5 (Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-180]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-007 stated that the Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report does not propose any ecological monitoring. Ecological monitoring should be incorporated into the monitoring of the water environment to ensure that ecological impacts can be appropriately managed.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
27.	Surface water quality monitoring – ecological monitoring	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-023] and Appendix 13.5 (Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-180]	In relation to the Applicant's response to EAWQ-007 in a meeting held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on 12/09/2024, the Environment Agency subsequently raised the following query via email on 26/09/2024: We are satisfied this can be closed provided appropriate ecological monitoring is secured within the LEMP.	As outlined in the meeting on 12/09/24, a LEMP will be produced as part of the Second Iteration EMP which will outline management requirements for landscape and ecology aspects for the scheme – including monitoring requirements for aftercare, as detailed in REAC commitment B11 in the First Iteration EMP [REP3-022].	Agreed	08/10/2024
28.	Surface water quality monitoring – baseline	Appendix 13.5 (Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-180]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-008 stated that in section 4.1.1, Table 4-1 provides the results from the surface water quality monitoring to date. Sampling has only been completed on 3 occasions and has returned some extreme results (i.e. 62.1 mg/l Biochemical Oxygen Demand). Any assessment that relies on this data should be reconsidered to ensure impacts are not being underestimated. If the Applicant does not believe the results of these assessments are impacted by relying on this data, they should provide a clear explanation on why they believe this is so.	This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010].	Agreed	08/10/2024
29.	Surface water quality monitoring – baseline	Appendix 13.3 (HEWRAT Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-178] Appendix 13.5 (Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report) of the Environmental Statement	In relation to the Applicant's response to EAWQ-008 in a meeting held between the Applicant and the Environment Agency on 12/09/2024, the Environment Agency subsequently raised the following query via email on 26/09/2024: Please can the Applicant confirm whether the data provided in Section 4.1.1 (Table 4-1) of the Environmental Statement has been used in the HEWRAT assessment.	The data shown in Table 4-1 of Appendix 13.5 (Surface Water Quality Monitoring Report) of the Environmental Statement [APP-180] was not used in the HEWRAT assessment. The data was imprecise for the specific criteria needed for the HEWRAT assessment. The water quality survey results for copper were <8 µg/s for some sampling locations. These results were deemed less precise than those found on the UK-SCAPE hydrological sensor data, therefore the EQS values for this report were taken from the nearest data source to each outfall catchment; at 'MD-36732350, Non-Tidal Trent Hoval Farrar Ltd intake' (0.7 kilometers east of Cattle Market Roundabout, on the River Trent), 'MD-36731820, River Trent at Winthorpe (new)' (0.7 kilometers Northwest of Winthorpe village, on the River Trent) and 'MD-42980429, Slough Dyke at Langford' (2 kilometers north of Winthorpe village, on The Fleet). For consistency, data from the sampling stations was used for all HEWRAT assessments completed for the Scheme. This is described in Section 2.6 of Appendix 13.3 (HEWRAT Assessment) of the Environmental Statement [APP-178].	Agreed	08/10/2024

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		Appendices [APP-180]				
30.	DCO Requirement 3 – Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	Draft Development Consent Order [APP-021]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWQ-009 stated that the Environment Agency should be listed as a consultee for the Second Iteration EMP.	The Applicant confirms that the Environment Agency will be added as a consultee to the second iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP), under Requirement 3, on matters related to its functions. An updated draft DCO showing this change will be submitted at Deadline 1. This item will be agreed once the Environment Agency have had sight of the revised version of the draft Development Consent Order submitted into Examination at Deadline 1.	Agreed	11/11/2024
Groundwater and Contaminated Land						
31.	Geology and soils	<p>Chapter 9 (Geology and Soils) of the Environmental Statement [REP3-009]</p> <p>Appendix 9.2 (Contaminated Land Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-164]</p> <p>First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010]</p> <p>draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]</p>	Statutory Consultation response received from the Environment Agency: We are particularly keen to understand any potential sources of contamination associated with the elevated aromatic hydrocarbons and naphthalene encountered at WS46.	<p>These matters are considered Chapter 9 (Geology and Soils) of the Environmental Statement [REP3-009] and Appendix 9.2 (Contaminated Land Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-164]. Potential impacts to soil resources would be mitigated through the implementation of measures set out in Appendix B.3 (Outline Soil Management Plan) of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010].</p> <p>The Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments which is part of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010] includes a commitment to prepare a Materials Management Plan and a Site Waste Management Plan, which can be found in Appendix B.2 (Outline Materials Management Plan) and Appendix B.1 (Outline Site Waste Management Plan) of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-010], in accordance with the Contaminated Land: Application in the Real Environment's code of practice The Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice.</p> <p>Any soils that do not meet chemical acceptability criteria for reuse on site would be treated or disposed of to a suitable licensed facility. A Generic Quantitative Risk Assessment in respect of Controlled Waters can be found appended to the Ground Investigation Report contained in Appendix 9.2 (Contaminated Land Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-164].</p> <p>The First Iteration Environmental Management Plan will be developed into a Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan to be implemented during construction of the Scheme. Adherence with the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan is secured by Requirement 3 in Schedule 2 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003].</p> <p>The potential source of the contamination encountered at the location of WS46 is likely the adjacent historical Quibell Brothers chemical manure factory. Supplementary ground investigation work undertaken at the footprint of WS46, identified the contamination to be localised, as detailed in Appendix 9.2 (Contaminated Land Risk Assessment) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [APP-164]. During the enabling and construction earthworks of the existing A46 carriageway, it is possible that a small volume of site won material from the demolition location of the chemical manure factory was inadvertently deposited at the location of WS46. It should be noted that no earthworks are proposed in the footprint of the WS46 contamination hotspot area and the contamination would therefore remain undisturbed in-situ at this location. The Applicant has undertaken further assessment, in the form of controlled waters detailed quantitative risk assessment (DQRA), in line with the Land Contamination Risk Management guidance, in relation to the hotspot of contamination identified in the vicinity of WS46. The completed DQRA was submitted by the Applicant into the Examination at Deadline 4 [REP4-038]. The</p>	Agreed	19/02/2025

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				Environment Agency provided comments on the DQRA to the Applicant on 09/01/2025 and the Applicant addressed their comments and submitted a revised draft to the Environment Agency on 20/01/2025. On 27/01/2025 the Environment Agency confirmed they reviewed the revised DQRA and confirmed that as a result of the amendments and clarifications, they are now satisfied with the outputs of the risk assessment. The revised DQRA [REP5-057] was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.		
32.	British Sugar authorised (active) landfill site	Chapter 9 (Geology and Soils) of the Environmental Statement [REP3-009] Figure 2.2 (Environmental Constraints Plan) of the Environmental Statement Figures [REP2-009]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAGWCL-001 stated that the presence of the British Sugar authorised (active) landfill site within the Order Limits (red line boundary) and environmental and permit-related impacts associated with the development proposal have not been adequately addressed. The Environment Agency are satisfied with the updated Environmental Constraints Plan [REP2-009] submitted at Deadline 2.	Upon receipt of this Relevant Representation, the Environment Agency has confirmed to the Applicant that the existing Environment Agency mapping (Permitted Waste Sites - Authorised Landfill Site Boundaries), which is publicly available via GOV.UK website, shows the British Sugar Borrow Pits authorised landfill site intersecting the current A46 road and proposed Scheme. Figure 2.2 (Environmental Constraints Plan) (Sheet 3 of 4) [REP2-009], was produced using the mapped polygon on the available Permitted Waste Sites - Authorised Landfill Site Boundaries mapping. The Environment Agency has also confirmed to The Applicant, that the most recent permit for the British Sugar authorised Borrow Pit landfill (ref. EPR/VP3732LH), which was issued on 12/04/2007, shows that the landfill site plan does not intersect the existing A46 road or the Scheme's Order Limits. The Environment Agency has confirmed that this is the most up to date site boundary for the British Sugar authorised permitted landfill, and that the mapped polygon on the available Permitted Waste Sites - Authorised Landfill Site Boundaries mapping extends further than the actual permitted boundary of the British Sugar authorised landfill. The site plan included in the permit documents for the British Sugar authorised (active) landfill site, ref. EPR/VP3732LH does not show the location of the 4 groundwater monitoring boreholes (BP1-BP4). BP1 is located upgradient and BP2, BP3 & BP4 are downgradient. However, the Environment Agency's local Regulated Industry Team have recently inspected the site and have confirmed that the proposed changes to the A46 as a result of the Scheme would not affect the operation, nor should they interfere with any of the existing monitoring infrastructure, and that the most recent drawing of the landfill boundary, included within permit ref. EPR/VP3732LH, is considered to be correct. Figure 2.2 (Environmental Constraints Plan) of the Environmental Statement Appendices [REP2-009] was updated using the most recent boundary of the British Sugar Borrow Pit landfill, as shown on the Schedule 2 - Site plan of permit ref. EPR/VP3732LH. The updated version of Figure 2.2 (Environmental Constraints Plan) was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2.	Agreed	26/11/2024
33.	Dewatering Management Plan (DWMP)	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022] draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003].	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAGWCL-002 stated that: The Applicant should commit to preparing and putting a dewatering management plan in place. The Environment Agency are satisfied with the updated Draft DCO Requirement 3 and First Iteration EMP submitted at Deadline 2.	The Applicant has included the commitment to produce a De-watering Management Plan in the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]. The First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022] will be developed into the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan for implementation during construction and is secured by Requirement 3 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]. The Environment Agency will be consulted during its development to ensure agreement with mitigation and commitments. The updated First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-023] was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2, with further minor updates submitted at Deadline 3.	Agreed	26/11/2024
34.	Piling method statements and risk assessments	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAGWCL-003 stated that: There is a lack of clarity regarding the specificity of piling method statements and piling risk assessments. Piling method statements and piling risk assessments need to be site-specific, and the risks assessed based on the site hydrogeology and potential for contamination. The Applicant should update the First Iteration EMP to address the above issue and identify the requirement for site-specific	The Applicant has updated commitment GS4 of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments in the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan to state that a Piling Works Method Statement will be produced specific to the piling locations. This is secured by Requirement 3 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] that confirms a Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan must be produced prior to commencement of the works which will be developed from the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]. Preparation of the Second Iteration	Agreed	26/11/2024

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		draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>piling method statements and risk assessments, which are to be submitted to the LPA in consultation with the Environment Agency prior to piling activities commencing. We would also request a DCO Requirement to be included in relation to piling and will work with the developer to agree this.</p> <p>Following the update to the Draft DCO Requirement 3 and First Iteration EMP at Deadline 2 the Environment Agency are satisfied that there is no longer a need for a specific piling risk assessment DCO Requirement.</p>	<p>Environmental Management Plan must be done in consultation with the local planning authority and, as per our response above, now in consultation with the Environment Agency. Part (v) of Requirement 3 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] states that a Piling Works Method Statement will be produced for the works. This method statement will be specific to the piling locations and will include an appropriate risk assessment. It is anticipated that there will be no piled foundations in areas of known contamination.</p> <p>Given the fact that there will be a detailed Piling Works Method Statement and risk assessment prepared in consultation with the Environment Agency and local planning authority and approved by the Secretary of State, it is the Applicants view that an additional specific requirement covering the piling works is unnecessary.</p> <p>The Applicant submitted an updated First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022] and updated draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] at Deadline 2 to reflect the proposed change.</p>		
35.	Surface water and groundwater monitoring	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAGWCL-004 stated that: There is a lack of clarity in relation to surface water and groundwater monitoring commitments. The First Iteration EMP should be amended to reflect the above position and confirm that the monitoring results are to be sent to the Environment Agency on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The Environment Agency are satisfied with the updated First Iteration EMP submitted at Deadline 2.</p>	<p>The Applicant is in agreement with the Environment Agency to increase the frequency of both surface water and groundwater monitoring to monthly during the construction phase, and quarterly for one-year post-construction. The Applicant is also in agreement to send the Environment Agency the surface and groundwater monitoring results. This includes the results obtained to date, as well as the results obtained going forwards pre-construction, during construction, and post-construction. The Applicant has liaised with the Environment Agency to confirm where monitoring results are to be sent.</p> <p>Revisions to REAC Commitment RDWE7 have been agreed with the Environment Agency to cover the above. The updated First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022] was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2, with further minor updates submitted at Deadline 3.</p>	Agreed	26/11/2024
36.	Groundwater and contaminated land - Contamination hotspot at WS46. [Note this issue was submitted to the Applicant after publication of the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation however the issue has been responded to as part of the Applicant's response to the Environment Agency [REP1-010].	Contaminated Land Risk Assessment Parts 1-9 [APP-164], [APP-165], [APP-166], [APP-167], [APP-168], [APP-169]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAGWCL-005 stated that contamination hotspot at WS46 has been identified as localised contamination thought to be from site won material from the demolition of chemical manure factory. Given that this material should not have been deposited at the site, responsibility should be taken for removing it from the site. Where the contamination remains there is a risk of pollution to controlled waters when there is an opportunity to deal with it as part of the DCO. We expect the contaminated material to be removed. It should be relatively easy to either remediate it in situ or excavate and remove it from the site for appropriate waste disposal.</p> <p>The Environment Agency have reviewed the information presented in 6.1 Environmental Statement Chapter 9 Geology & Soils and ES Volume 6.3 Appendix 9.2 Contaminated Land Risk Assessment in relation to the hotspot of contamination identified in the vicinity of WS46. Based on the information presented the Environment Agency are not satisfied that risks to controlled waters from the elevated levels of hydrocarbons at this location have been adequately assessed.</p> <p>The Environment Agency expect to see a more thorough detailed quantitative risk assessment (DQRA) to be presented to justify the proposal to leave this material in situ. Some of the concentrations are extremely elevated, for instance, naphthalene at 19,000mg/kg. To date, only a qualitative risk assessment has been presented.</p>	<p>This issue was covered in a meeting held with the Environment Agency to discuss their Relevant Representation, on 12/09/2024. The Applicant's full response is provided in the 7.11 Applicant's response to Environment Agency Relevant Representation [REP1-010]. In summary, the Applicant is of the view that the contamination hotspot within the Order Limits presents a low risk to controlled waters if left in situ. Therefore, the Applicant proposes to leave the contamination in situ at the hotspot location due to the absence of planned excavation or vegetation clearance activities. The Applicant is undertaking further assessment, in the form of controlled waters detailed quantitative risk assessment (DQRA), in line with the Land Contamination Risk Management guidance, in relation to the hotspot of contamination identified in the vicinity of WS46. The completed DQRA was submitted by the Applicant into the Examination at Deadline 4 [REP4-038]. The Environment Agency provided comments on the DQRA to the Applicant on 09/01/2025 and the Applicant addressed their comments and submitted a revised draft to the Environment Agency on 20/01/2025. On 27/01/2025 the Environment Agency confirmed they reviewed the revised Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment and confirmed that as a result of the amendments and clarifications, they are now satisfied with the outputs of the risk assessment. The revised DQRA [REP5-057] was submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.</p>	Agreed	19/02/2025

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			To close off this query the Environment Agency have requested to receive a detailed quantitative risk assessment for the elevated hydrocarbon contaminants that were identified in the 'hotspot' area of WS46. The risks to the shallow groundwater in the superficial Secondary A aquifer should be assessed. If a risk is identified and remediation of the source pathway receptor linkage is not proposed, then a cost benefit analysis should be submitted, in line with the Land Contamination Risk Management guidance.			
Waste						
37.	Materials and waste	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]	<p>The developer must apply the waste hierarchy as a priority order of prevention, re-use, recycling before considering other recovery or disposal options. Adherence to the waste hierarchy and adoption of best practice in relation to site waste management planning will help you deliver against circular economy objectives. It is important to take a precautionary approach and ensure that you follow the regulatory waste legislation. Ensure that you seek advice from the Environment Agency if required.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991 for dealing with waste materials are applicable to any off-site movements of wastes. The code of practice applies if you produce, carry, keep, dispose of, treat, import, or have control of waste in England or Wales.</p> <p>In order to meet the applicant's objectives for the waste hierarchy and obligations under the duty of care, it is important that waste is properly classified. Some waste (e.g., wood and wood-based products) may be either a hazardous or non-hazardous waste dependent upon whether they have had preservative treatments. Proper classification of the waste both ensures compliance and enables the correct onward handling and treatment to be applied. In the case of treated wood, it may require high temperature incineration in a directive compliant facility.</p> <p>If materials that are potentially waste are to be used on-site, the applicant will need to ensure they can comply with the exclusion from the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (article 2(1) (c)) for the use of, 'uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities, etc.' for the material not to be considered as waste.</p> <p>A deposit of waste to land will either be a disposal or a recovery activity. The legal test for recovery is set out in Article 3(15) of WFD as: any operation the principal result of which is waste serving a useful purpose by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or waste being prepared to fulfil that function, in the plant or in the wider economy.</p> <p>Non-waste activities are not regulated by us (i.e., activities carried out under the CL: AIRE Code of Practice), however you will need to decide if materials meet End of Waste or By-products criteria (as defined by the Waste Framework Directive).</p> <p>Where waste soil is to be exported from site it must be classified as either a Hazardous waste with the waste code 17-05-03 (soil and stones containing hazardous substances) or as a Non-Hazardous waste code 17-05-04 (soil and stones other than those mentioned in 17-05-03).</p> <p>Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) are no longer a legal requirement, however, in terms of meeting the objectives of the waste hierarchy and your duty of care, they are a useful tool and considered to be best practice.</p>	<p>Comments and guidance noted by the Applicant. Waste hierarchy and circular economy principles would be implemented by the Applicant throughout the construction phase to minimise disposal and maximise reuse and recycling of waste arisings. Opportunities for reuse and recycling of waste include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reusing excavated soils that includes stored topsoil on-site in the landscaping features of the A46 or in floodplain compensation areas. Excavated materials would also be considered to create flood bund when possible. Surplus soils would be offered to projects near the Scheme for reuse on land, whenever possibleChipping green waste on-site for use in the landscaping for the SchemeComposting of green wasteRecycling inert materials by crushing, blending and subsequent reuse, as an aggregateReusing waste on other nearby SchemesReusing waste for uses with clear benefits to the environment, for example in the remodeling of agricultural land or in the restoration of nearby quarries or other excavation sitesProviding on-site facilities to separate out waste to enable the recovery of material through recycling <p>Where waste must be taken to a recycling or disposal site, the Principal Contractor would ensure that the site has the appropriate permits. In addition, the suitable facility would be located as close to the works as possible to minimise the impacts of transportation, in particular the release of carbon emissions. The Principal Contractor would identify the closest and relevant treatment and disposal sites. These measures are provided for in the Outline Site Waste Management Plan, which the Applicant has produced and which can be found in Appendix B.1 (Outline Site Waste Management Plan) of the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]. It will be developed into a full Site Waste Management Plan by the Principal Contractor for the construction period. The Site Waste Management Plan will ensure that waste is managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy and other relevant legislation and would detail information on the waste carriers and waste management facilities that would be used. In finalising the Site Waste Management Plan, the Principal Contractor will act in accordance with the legislative requirements identified by the Consultee.</p> <p>Provision of the Site Waste Management Plan is secured by Requirement 3 of the draft DCO [APP-021] as part of the mitigation measures and commitments detailed in the First Iteration EMP [REP3-022]. These will be carried through into the development of the Second Iteration EMP (which covers the construction stage) and the Third Iteration EMP (which covers the operational stage of the scheme).</p>	Agreed	11/11/2024

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
			The Environment Agency are satisfied with the updated Draft DCO submitted at Deadline 1.			
38.	Disposal of waste – British Sugar landfill	First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP3-022]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWA-001 states: It is not clear if the Applicant intends to pursue an option to deposit any waste arisings at the British Sugar authorized landfill site. The Applicant should confirm their intentions regarding waste disposal and the British Sugar authorised landfill site, and discuss any permit implications with our National Permitting Service (NPS).	The Applicant has not approached British Sugar on this matter and is not seeking to dispose of waste at the British Sugar landfill. The use of landfills is to be avoided by the scheme where possible and only used as a last resort. All waste will be dealt with by an appointed licensed waste management company. Should the Applicant's position change, the Environment Agency will be consulted to discuss the use of the landfill. The Applicant accepts the Environmental Agency's requirements should such a proposal be pursued.	Agreed	18/10/2024
Water Resources						
39.	Water usage – abstraction licencing	Consents and Agreements Position Statement [APP-023]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAWR-001 states: The documentation submitted acknowledges the requirement for abstraction licences for de-watering and anticipates short term low risk (being exempt) and longer term (requiring a licence) needs. However, there is inadequate information on other consumptive uses of water required for the construction phase of the development. We recommend considering potential consumptive demands for water in more detail and a further investigation of options for different sources of supply as this may affect the project design (e.g. if site storage is needed for times of unavailability).	<p>The Applicant anticipates the requirement for abstraction licences to enable the main construction works. Abstraction will be required where groundwater is encountered during excavation with key areas identified but not limited to Farndon Borrow Pits. Any abstracted waters would be initially discharged into the River Trent until pond creation has been completed within the borrow pits, which would then be used as storage areas for water to be used for dust suppression. Where capacity is reached within the new ponds, any further ground water encountered during excavation works would be discharged into the River Trent. Where stored waters for dust suppression are depleted, the Scheme proposes abstraction from the River Trent unless any restrictions are placed on the watercourse. In the event that restrictions are enforced, alternative sources would be sought including using water from local hydrants following approval by the local water and sewerage undertaker.</p> <p>There are no other activities associated with the Scheme that will require the consumptive use of abstracted waters as this will generally be sourced by mains abstracted water to prevent possible contamination of materials or damage to tools and machinery.</p>	Agreed	18/10/2024
General / cross cutting comments						
40.	Required Environment Agency permits and licences	Consents and Agreements Position Statement [REP2-006]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAGC-001 states: The list of consents and agreements may not be conclusive and, depending on situations encountered, others may be needed that have yet to be identified, for example, relating to water resources licencing, water discharge permits and waste management. There is a risk of delays to the delivery of the Scheme where consents and agreements are insufficiently comprehensive to allow the Environment Agency to effectively deal with permit applications, queries and fully understand what the project requires. The Applicant should review the Consents and Agreements Position Statement document and further consider what is required. To avoid any delays during the project the Applicant should ensure that the Consents and Agreements Position Statement comprehensively covers a range of scenarios that may, or may not occur, insofar as it is possible.	<p>The Applicant has considered all potential licensing requirements for the Scheme and cannot foresee any requirement for additional licences to be attained. Water resource licensing has been considered and abstraction has been identified as the only licensable activity as no impoundment of watercourses is to be undertaken.</p> <p>The Applicant has included the need for water discharge permits within Appendix A of the Consents and Agreements Position Statement [REP2-006] and these will be required for removal of surface waters from the works areas to be discharged into watercourses in close proximity to the Scheme that fall within the Order Limits, but only where ponds do not have enough capacity for storage. Any discharge will be treated before discharge and only where this has been agreed with the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The Applicant has also completed a review of licences for waste management and can confirm that no additional licences have been identified as required for delivery of the Scheme. Appendix A of the Consents and Agreements Position Statement [APP-023] will be updated and submitted to the Examining Authority at Deadline 4 of the Examination.</p>	Agreed	26/11/2024
Permits						
41.	Disapplication of other Environment Agency permits and licences	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	Disapplication of flood risk activity permits (FRAPs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We acknowledge that the Applicant is not currently seeking to disapply the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) for flood risk activities in the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) but, it is indicated in the Consents and Agreements Position Statement that 	The Applicant is not currently seeking to disapply the Environmental Permitting Regulations for flood risk activities. Therefore, there are no Protective Provisions within the draft Development Consent Order [REP2-006]. Should this position change, the Applicant will contact the Environment Agency to agree the terms of the protective provisions.	Agreed	26/11/2024

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
		And Consents and Agreements Position Statement [REP2-006]	<p>they may seek to do so. The applicant should therefore confirm if they are indeed seeking the disapplication of the EPR for flood risk activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It should be noted that the EPR for flood risk activities cannot be disappplied without our consent. Should we agree to disapplication following further discussions with the Applicant, the draft DCO will need to be updated to include our protective provisions. <p>Disapplication of other Environment Agency permits and licences</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Applicant is not seeking to disapply any other Environment Agency permits and licences, as confirmed in the Consents and Agreements Position Statement.</p>			
Draft Development Consent Order Requirements						
42.	Requirement 3 – Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-001 states: The Environment Agency is not listed as a consultee for the Second Iteration EMP. Where the Second Iteration EMP is developed without consultation with the Environment Agency, it could be less effective and the range of environmental matters (such as surface water and groundwater quality, water resources, aquatic ecology, flood risk and waste management, for example) within our remit may not be adequately addressed, which could lead to avoidable impacts if not satisfactorily managed. The Environment Agency should be listed as a consultee for the Second Iteration EMP.</p> <p>The Environment Agency are satisfied with the updated Draft DCO submitted at Deadlines 1.</p>	The Applicant can confirm that the Environment Agency will be added as a consultee to the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan, under Requirement 3 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003], on matters related to its statutory functions. An updated draft Development Consent Order has been submitted at Deadline 1 to reflect this change.	Agreed	11/11/2024
43.	Requirement 4 – Third Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-002 states: The Environment Agency is not listed as a consultee for the Third Iteration EMP. Where the Third Iteration EMP is developed without consultation with the Environment Agency, it could be less effective and environmental matters within our remit may not be adequately addressed. The Environment Agency should be listed as a consultee for the Third Iteration EMP.</p> <p>The Environment Agency are satisfied with the updated Draft DCO submitted at Deadlines 1.</p>	The Applicant can confirm that the Environment Agency will be added as a consultee to the Third Iteration Environmental Management Plan, under Requirement 4 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003], on matters related to its statutory functions. An updated draft Development Consent Order has been submitted at Deadline 1 to reflect this change.	Agreed	11/11/2024
44.	Requirement 6 – Landscaping	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-003 states: The Environment Agency is not listed as a consultee for landscaping details. Where we are not listed as a consultee, there is a risk that matters within our remit are not adequately address. Principally, our concerns in this regard relate to potential impacts on main rivers, flood defences and works in flood risk areas (Flood Zone 3). The Environment Agency should be listed as a consultee to ensure that we are consulted on matters related to our functions.</p> <p>However, the Environment Agency's comments have since stated: We requested to be a named consultee in relation to our statutory functions regarding the potential for flood risk impacts and proximity main river/defences. However, following further consideration, and in view of the Applicant's comments, we are satisfied that we do not need to be a named consultee in draft Requirement 6.</p>	<p>The Applicant has considered the Environment Agency's comment and has reviewed various other made Development Consent Orders (DCOs), including the A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening DCO 2024, the M3 Junction 9 DCO 2024 and the A47/A11 Thickethorn Junction DCO 2022. The proposal to include the Environment Agency as a consultee in relation to the landscaping scheme in Requirement 6 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] is not precedented and the Applicant does not consider it necessary or appropriate to agree to this amendment.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged with the Environment Agency throughout the development of the environmental design in the form of the quarterly Environmental Technical Working Group (TWG). This Environmental TWG was established to inform consultation bodies of the progress and timescales for the Scheme, and also to review and discuss specific Scheme issues, to consider appropriate design solutions and seek to agree statements of common ground (SoCGs) on environmental matters. The Environmental TWG also provided a format for technical review of the ES assessments such as EIA methodology and documents supporting the ES, and associated surveys, development, review and</p>	Agreed	11/11/2024

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
				agreement of environmental design, mitigation requirements, and environmental opportunities and enhancements. The Applicant is therefore satisfied that it has sufficiently consulted with the Environment Agency to address its concerns.		
45.	Requirement 8 - Contaminated land and groundwater	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-004 was that the current wording of Requirement 8 did not require construction to stop if unsuspected contamination is discovered pending investigation and remediation where required. There is a risk that contaminants are mobilised if construction continues without appropriate investigation and remediation where required, which could impact on controlled waters. To address the above, the wording of the Requirement was amended with the following suggested wording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If contamination is found, the construction activity should stop in the affected area, pending the undertaking of risk assessment, production of a remediation scheme/programme and undertaking of the remediation itself. 	<p>The Applicant is satisfied that Requirement 8 of the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] as currently drafted is sufficient to appropriately manage any risks associated with contamination. Regulations 13, 15 and Schedule 4 of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) govern the approach which must be taken if contamination is discovered. CDM 2015 ensures that, where the presence of contaminated soil is known or suspected, risks to the public and site are minimised.</p> <p>The Applicant took the Environment Agency's updated comments onboard and agreed to amend Requirement 8 in line with their suggested wording and Requirement 8 in the updated Deadline 1 dDCO has been satisfactorily updated.</p>	Agreed	11/11/2024
46.	Requirement 14 – Flood compensatory storage	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-005 is that Sub-paragraph 2 states the climate change allowance as 35%, which is not correct for this location and does not accord with the flood risk assessment.</p> <p>UPDATE: We are satisfied with the Applicant's response to this question, and we are satisfied with the proposed wording of this Requirement, as set out in the draft DCO (Rev 3) [REP2-003].</p>	<p>The Applicant has updated the wording in Requirement 14 of the draft Development Consent Order to refer to the correct climate change allowance referred to by the Environment Agency. An updated copy of the draft Development Consent Order has been submitted at Deadline 2 reflecting this change. In order to assist the Examining Authority and the Environment Agency, the Applicant has set out the proposed amendments to Requirement 14 below:</p> <p><i>Flood compensatory storage</i> 14(1)...</p> <p>(2) The schemes prepared under paragraph (1) must provide suitable flood storage for any flood waters that would be displaced by the authorised development in the 1 in 100 year plus 35-39% climate change allowance fluvial flood event.</p>	Agreed	26/11/2024
47.	Requirement 15 – Flood risk assessment	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	<p>The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-006 - currently do not agree with the wording in sub-paragraph 2, as we have unresolved issues with the flood risk assessment in relation to increases in flood risk elsewhere. We defer to agreeing the wording of the Requirement, subject to the Applicant satisfactorily addressing the issues we have identified with the flood risk assessment in relation to increases in flood risk elsewhere as a result of the development. The wording of the Requirement will need to be agreed with us pending a resolution of the flood risk issues we have identified and may need to be amended. We will continue to work with the Applicant to address this issue.</p> <p>UPDATE: We note the Applicant's response to this question and our comments provided in our response to this question in ExQ1 [REP2-042] and in our WR [REP2-043] on issue ref. EAREQ-006 remain applicable. It is for the Lead Local Flood Authority to determine whether or not they need to be a named consultee in this Requirement. Our concern is that we need clarification as to whether the 10mm is on top of what is presented in the FRA or compared to baseline levels.</p>	<p>The Applicant notes the comments from the Environment Agency and will continue to work with the Environment Agency to address this issue.</p> <p>The Applicant confirms that the agreed 10mm flood model tolerance is in relation to the difference in levels between the baseline and post-scheme hydraulic model results.</p>	Agreed	25/02/2025
48.	Additional Requirement – Piling	Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003]	The key issue raised under the Environment Agency's Relevant Representation item reference EAREQ-007 requested the inclusion of a DCO Requirement for piling risk assessments. Request for inclusion of suitably worded Requirement in the DCO.	The Applicant has considered the Environment Agency's proposed inclusion of a requirement in the draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] for piling risk assessments. The CDM 2015 require a piling risk assessment to be carried out in accordance with the specific requirements set out in Regulations 4, 8, 12 and 13. The Applicant is satisfied that these Regulations secure the necessary protections sought by the Environment Agency without the need for a specific requirement in the draft	Agreed	26/11/2024

Issue No.	Issue	Document Reference	Environment Agency Position	National Highways' Position	Status	Date status confirmed
				Development Consent Order [REP3-003]. The Environment Agency will have been consulted on the detailed Piling Works Method Statement which will form part of the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan in accordance with Requirement 3 of the draft Development Consent Order. Therefore, it is the Applicant's view that there is no need or justification for the Environment Agency's draft requirement.		
49.	Pre-commencement Plan	Pre-commencement Plan [REP5-028]	<p>Included at the request of the Examining Authority.</p> <p>January 2025: The Environment Agency queried why the list of pre-commencement activities (listed in 1.1.2) of the pre-commencement plan differs from that in the draft Development Consent Order Rev 6 (see REP4-004 PDF page 10/11). The Environment Agency highlighted that there are 3 activities missing in the Pre-commencement Plan document; of relevance to their remit, "remedial work in respect of any contamination or other adverse ground conditions" is not covered in the Pre-commencement Plan in the (list in 1.1.2).</p> <p>February 2025: The Environment Agency queried the activities associated with Kelham and Averham FCA and whether additional activities needed to be included within the Pre-Commencement Plan.</p>	<p>The Pre-Commencement Plan [REP4-013] has been updated and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4. The Applicant has since received comments from the Environment Agency on the Pre-commencement Plan [REP4-013]. The Applicant confirmed that the Pre-commencement Plan will be updated to include all those activities listed in the dDCO and an updated Pre-commencement Plan was submitted at Deadline 5 of the Examination [REP5-028].</p> <p>Further to the Environment Agency query raised in February 2025 the Applicant can confirm that the Pre-commencement Plan has been updated to include details of the works at Kelham and Averham Floodplain Compensation Area and has included a description of the culverts being installed under the haul roads to enable the flow of water between both sides of the FCA and additional mitigation. The updates have been presented to the Environment Agency during a meeting on 11 March 2025. The updated Pre-commencement Plan [REP-072] was submitted at Deadline 7 of the Examination. The Environment Agency have confirmed that this Issue has now been agreed.</p>	Agreed	02/04/2025

Appendix A – Confirmation of SOCG agreement

Subject: Re: A46 Newark Bypass - finalisation of the Environment Agency SOCG
Sent: 02/04/2025, 14:48:17
From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]

Hi [Redacted],

Thank you for sending through the updated Final SoCG (Rev 5 - April 2025 - Deadline 8).

We have reviewed the SoCG and we are satisfied that it can be signed off as the final version for submission at Deadline 8.

We are pleased to have got the all the issues agreed and wish to thank you all for working with us to get to this stage.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Planning Specialist, National Infrastructure Team
Environment Agency | Lutra House, Dodd Way Off Seedlee Road, Walton Summit Centre, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX

[Redacted]

External: [Redacted] | Mobile: [Redacted]
Team mailbox: [Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2025 12:42
To: [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: A46 Newark Bypass - finalisation of the Environment Agency SOCG

Afternoon [Redacted],

Many thanks for your email and really pleased to hear that the final three outstanding issues are now agreed – thank you for confirming this, much appreciated. I have made the necessary updates in the attached version of the SOCG (I have tracked my changes so that you can see them easily).

For completeness, please can you confirm that you are willing to sign this off as the Final SOCG?

Thanks ever so much,

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Associate Environmental and Sustainability Consultant

D [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 02 April 2025 12:04

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: A46 Newark Bypass - finalisation of the Environment Agency SOCG
Importance: High

Hi [Redacted],

Thanks very much for getting this to us on Monday. We have reviewed the relevant documents as submitted into the Examination at Deadline 7 and we are satisfied that the following issues in draft final SoCG are **now Agreed**:

- **Issue 4** (EA RR issue EAFR-004 - Compensatory flood storage)
- **Issue 5** (EA RR issue EAFR-008 - Interaction with Environment Agency flood defences)
- **Issue 49** (Pre-commencement Plan)

Given the above, there are now no outstanding issues. I expect you'll want to amend the final SoCG to confirm the documents relating to the above issues were submitted at DL7.

Regarding the PCP submitted at DL7 [REP7-072 / REP7-073] - it doesn't affect our position on the document, but we just wanted to flag a typing error in 2.4.6: there is a duplication of words ('to the existing access').

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Planning Specialist, National Infrastructure Team
Environment Agency | Lutra House, Dodd Way Off Seedlee Road, Walton Summit Centre, Bamber Bridge, Preston, PR5 8BX

[Redacted]

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From: [Redacted]

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 10:30

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: A46 Newark Bypass - finalisation of the Environment Agency SOCG

Good morning [Redacted]

Hope you are well. Following publication of the Deadline 7 deliverables, I am wondering whether you are now in a position to finalise the SOCG and confirm agreement on the outstanding 3 points please? I have attached a Word version of the SOCG that was submitted at Deadline 7 for your review – please let me know whether you have any comments/amendments to make in addition to hopefully now finalising the status of the outstanding items. Is it easier for you to make amendments directly into the attached and send back to me, or would you rather run through them together over a call? Please let me know your preference – happy to get a little call set up if easiest.

With Deadline 8 on Thursday (3rd April) it would be great to have the SOCG finalised by COP this Wednesday.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks ever so much,

Kind regards,

Associate Environmental and Sustainability Consultant

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