



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 22-12) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Andy Jinks (Regional Director)
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National Highways
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To: **Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council**

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk

Council's Reference: **23/00368/FUL**

Location: **E M E B Sports And Social Club Nutts Lane Hinckley Leicestershire, LE10 0NT**

Proposal: **Proposed ground mounted solar array**

Referring to the consultation dated **16 May 2023** referenced above, in the vicinity of the **A5** that form parts of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

- a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);
- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~
- ~~c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);~~
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is not relevant to this application.¹

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

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

Should the Local Planning Authority not propose to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Affecting Trunk Roads\) Direction 2018](#), via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

Signature:

Date: 01 June 2023

Sammantha Rose

Name: Sammantha Rose

Position: Assistant Spatial Planner

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Annex A **National Highway's assessment of the proposed development**

This response represents our formal recommendations and has been prepared by Sammantha Rose, Assistant Spatial Planner for National Highways.

National Highways (formally Highways England) has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

National Highways considers planning applications for new developments under the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and The Delivery of Sustainable Development ("the Circular"). The latter document sets out our policy on sustainable development and our approach to proposals which may have an impact on our network.

The SRN in the vicinity of the proposed development is the A5. To the north of the A5 / Hammonds Way Roundabout, this site is bound by Nutts Lane and Hammonds Way, both of which are local highways. The site does not share a common boundary with the A5.

The visibility of the site from the A5 is very low mainly because of the physical distance. The presence of residential properties, utility properties and vegetation between the site and the A5 further obstruct the visibility. As such, the visual impact from this proposal on the users of the SRN is minimal.

Considering the above, National Highways recommends no objection.

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's 2022 Report to Parliament notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 73 and 105 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 104 and 110 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the build clever and build efficiently criteria as set out in clause 6.1.4 of PAS2080 promote the use of low carbon materials and products, innovative design solutions and construction methods to minimise resource consumption.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.