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21 January 2009

Dear Andy,

A5 HYDES LANE, HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE : PROPOSED TRANSIT CAMP

Thank you for your e-mail communication dated 15 December 2008 regarding a proposal for a transit camp at the above location. Any intensification of traffic movements at this junction needs to be considered against the substandard forward visibility on the approach from the south east and the dimensions of the junction itself.

The Hydes Lane junction meets the majority of the visibility requirements set out in HA Standards. The exception to this is the forward visibility on approaching the junction from the south east, due to the crest created by the adjoining canal bridge. Drivers approaching the junction from the south east therefore have a very short time to see the junction and respond accordingly.

Hydes Lane has a restricted road width at its tangent point, of only 5m wide. The HA's Design Standards (TD 41/95 paragraph 2.8) state that "*The geometric layout of new and altered direct vehicular accesses on to existing all purpose trunk roads shall be determined by the largest vehicle expected to use it*". As a transit site is likely to be used by vehicles with trailers, it is apparent that the existing geometry is not suitable to accommodate such vehicles. Therefore, they would have difficulty in manoeuvring without causing delay on the main A5 carriageway; in addition the narrow exit may force vehicles to manoeuvre into the opposing carriageway.

As it stands, this proposal would require significant changes to the existing access to enable two vehicles of this type and size to pass each other safely. A swept path analysis of the junction would be required before further consideration. Since visibility approaching Hydes Lane from the south east is not achievable according to the standards set out in TD 41/95, a departure from standard may be required.

A formal application for this proposal as it stands would not be likely to be looked upon favourably by the Highways Agency, due to the safety issues set out above.

The above comments are of course given without prejudice to the comments of the Highways Agency upon any formal planning application submitted.

Yours sincerely

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