



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 24-02) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Victoria Lazenby (Regional Director)
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Midlands Region
National Highways
PlanningM@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Herefordshire County Council

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

Council's Reference: 242595

Location: RG & RB Auctioneers Netherton Road Ross-on-Wye Herefordshire HR9 7QQ

Proposal: Proposed change of use from livestock auction centre to shop, warehousing and external storage.

National Highways Ref: NH/24/08740

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 11th November 2024 referenced above, in the vicinity of the A449 and A40 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

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

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

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.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to PlanningM@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Signature: *Ellie Smith*

Date: 28th November 2024

Name: Ellie Smith

Position: Assistant Spatial Planner

National Highways

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

Annex A **National Highways' assessment of the proposed development**

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

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

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 A449 and A40 trunk road.

Development proposal

The development is for the proposed change of use from livestock auction centre to a shop, warehouse and external storage at Ross Auction centre, Ross-on-Wye.

Trip generation

The site is located near the SRN with trips likely to come via the A40 and A449, therefore, National Highways requires information about the anticipated levels of traffic the development would generate. This should include a breakdown of trips generated for the different land uses within the development site. The data should include an hourly breakdown with a separate breakdown for the SRN peak hours. These are often 08:00-09:00 (AM peak hour) and 17:00-18:00 (PM peak hour). However, the applicant may need to demonstrate that these are the true network peaks in this location.

National Highways Recommendations

In light of the above, National Highways recommends that planning permission not be granted for a period of three months from the date of this notice, to allow the applicant time to submit additional supporting information.

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 74 and 109 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 108 and 114 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the carbon reduction hierarchy (avoid-switch-improve) as set out in clause 4.3 of PAS2080:2023 promotes approaches and measures to minimise resource consumption and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

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.