



## Developments Affecting Trunk Roads and Special Roads

### Highways England Planning Response (HEPR 16-01)

### Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Nicola Bell (Regional Director, South East)  
Operations Directorate  
South East Region  
Highways England  
[planningse@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:planningse@highwaysengland.co.uk)

To: Sevenoaks District Council –FAO Claire Shearing

CC: [growthandplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:growthandplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**Council's Reference:** SE/19/05000/HBYB

**Location:** DSTL Fort Halstead Crow Drive Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 7BU

**Proposal:** Hybrid application comprising, in outline: development of business space (use classes B1a/b/c) of up to 27,773 sqm GEA; works within the X enclave relating to energetic testing operations, including fencing, access, car parking; development of up to 635 residential dwellings; development of a mixed use village centre (use classes A1/A3/A4/A5/B1a/D1/D2); land safeguarded for a primary school; change of use of Fort Area and bunkers to Historic Interpretation Centre (use class D1) with workshop space and; associated landscaping, works and infrastructure. In detail: demolition of existing buildings; change of use and works including extension and associated alterations to buildings Q13 and Q14 including landscaping and public realm, and primary and secondary accesses to the site.

**The changes to the application include: a reduction in the number of homes proposed from 750 to 635; associated changes to density; amendments to the design of both the outline and detailed parts of the application including highway amendments; change to site boundaries to remove development on the helipad (north eastern side of the site), and; uplift in employment floorspace. For a full summary of the changes please refer to the Covering Letter by CBRE dated 9th June.**

**Highways England Ref:** # 86207

Referring to the notification of a planning application dated 6 July 2020 referenced above, in the vicinity of the M25 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that Highways England's formal recommendation is that we:

- a) offer no objection\*;



*\*This is on the basis that the proposals will generate minimal additional traffic on the SRN in Peak Hours. We therefore consider that the development will not materially affect the safety, reliability and / or operation of the SRN (the tests set out in DfT C2/13 para 10 and MHCLG NPPF para 109), in this location.*

- b) ~~recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – Highways England recommended Planning Conditions);~~
- c) ~~recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see Annex A – further assessment required);~~
- d) ~~recommend that the application be refused (see Annex A – Reasons for recommending Refusal).~~

Highways Act Section 175B is not relevant to this application.<sup>1</sup>

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (“we”) have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as 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.

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

Should the Local Planning Authority disagree with this recommendation they must consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as per the Town and Country Planning (Development Affecting Trunk Roads) Direction 2018, via [transportplanning@dft.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@dft.gov.uk)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Signature:</b>  | <b>Date:</b> 3 September 2020              |
| <b>Name:</b> Heather Archer  | <b>Position:</b> Assistant Spatial Planner |
| <b>Highways England:</b>   |  |
| Highways England, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ                                |  |
| <a href="mailto:Planningse@highwaysengland.co.uk">Planningse@highwaysengland.co.uk</a>                 |  |

<sup>1</sup> Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

