



National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 25-01) Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Hermes Luli (Head of Planning & Development)
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National Highways
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To: Wokingham Borough Council , FAO: Development Management & Compliance

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

Council's Reference: 252799

Location: Green Park, Longwater Avenue, Reading, Berkshire RG2 6AB

Proposal: Full application for the proposed installation of 28 no. streetlights

National Highways Ref: NH/26/14845

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 3 February 2026, referenced above, in the vicinity of the M4 motorway that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is as follows:

- 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.

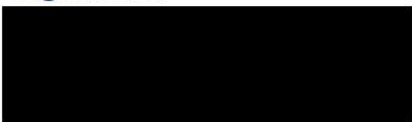
This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority propose not 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 Planningse@nationalhighways.co.uk.

This response and all comments outlined herein are made in respect of planning matters only in National Highways' position as a statutory planning consultee, and does not confer any proprietary rights nor amount to the giving or refusal of consent, assent, approval, or awareness of or by National Highways in or of any other aspects or matters (including, but not limited to, the use of property belonging to National Highways). If anyone wishes for National Highways to consider any aspects which do not relate to planning submissions, they should call our contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Signature:



Date: 11 February 2026

Name: Mrs Beata Ginn

Position: Assistant Spatial Planner,
Area 3

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

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 is concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact on the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case the M4 motorway and in particular its Eastbound carriageway near M4 junction 11.

We have reviewed information available on your planning portal and note that this a full application for the proposed installation of 28 no. streetlights along the footpath on Longwater Avenue, which is within Green Park business park. The business park is located off the A33 and adjacent to the M4, with the main access via the A33.

The applicant is seeking to install 28no. street lights along the footpath that runs along Longwater Avenue (from the roundabout with Sunapee Road to the roundabout with South Oak Way). Whilst there is an existing street lighting along the opposite side of Longwater Avenue, the footpath is set back from the highway and does not have any existing lighting provision; the installation of such will provide better access to the footpath and make it more inviting to use.

Given the small scale of this proposal, its location and distance to the SRN/M4 Eastbound carriageway boundary, we are content that proposal is unlikely to have a significant impact to the safe and efficient operation of the SRN/M4 and we recommend 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 77 and 110 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 109 and 115 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up as part of a vision-led approach.

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.