

**Oxford To Bicester Rail Link Buckingham Road
Bicester Oxfordshire**

20/01228/DISC

Case Officer: Linda Griffiths

Recommendation: Approval

Applicant: Network Rail

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 31 (Scheme of Further Assessment of Air Quality in relation to the Oxford Meadows SAC & 32 (Scheme of Further Assessment of Air Quality in relation to the Hook Meadow and Trap Grounds SSSI) of 10/00023/TWA

Expiry Date: 24 June 2020

Extension of Time:

1. APPLICATION SITE AND DESCRIPTION OF APPROVED DEVELOPMENT

1.1. This application relates to the railway upgrade between Bicester and Oxford otherwise known as East-West Rail 1, which was granted under a Transport and Works Act Order.

2. CONDITIONS PROPOSED TO BE DISCHARGED

2.1. This application seeks the discharge of conditions 31 and 32, which required ongoing further assessment of air quality upon nearby SSSIs as a consequence of the development. The application is accompanied by an air quality monitoring report.

3. RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

3.1. The following planning history is considered relevant to the current proposal:

10/00023/TWA – upgrade and improvements to Bicester to Oxford railway line

4. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

4.1 BBOWT – no comments received.

4.2 CDC Ecology – no comments received.

4.3 OCC Ecology – no comments received.

5. APPRAISAL

5.1 The original rationale for the monitoring and imposition of conditions 31 and 32 was that the data presented at the re-opened TWA inquiry was completely based on modelling and left room for uncertainty and consequently a precautionary approach was taken in light of the significance and sensitivity of Oxford Meadows SAC and Hook Meadow and Trap Grounds SSSI.

5.2 The purpose of the monitoring is to demonstrate that the operations of EWR Phase 1, including the associated road traffic effects, has not caused harm to the qualifying interests for which the Oxford Meadows SAC and Hook Meadow and The Trap Grounds SSSI were designated.

- 5.3 The application is accompanied by an air quality monitoring report compiled following Year One surveys. The analysis within the report removes the uncertainty around the impact of East West Rail Phase 1 on the qualifying interests of the Oxford Meadows SAC and Hook Meadow and The Trap Grounds SSSI and confirms that there is no need for, or benefit from, the continuation of monitoring of air quality of these designated sites.
- 5.4 The Year One monitoring results within the submitted report are positive, showing that the operation of EWR Phase 1 has not created air quality changes that could cause harm to the qualifying interests of the designated sites.
- 5.5 Having regard to the above, it is considered that the conditions in respect of this submission and the Monitoring Report can be discharged accordingly.
- 5.6 The original application was EIA development. The conditions were imposed to specifically address the concerns within the submitted ES at the time of the inquiry. The submission demonstrates that there are no additional significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, the EIA is considered sufficient for the purpose of considering the information provided for this condition and it has been taken into account in considering this subsequent application.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That Planning Conditions 31 and 32 of 10/00023/TWA be discharged based upon the following:

Condition 31

Air Quality Monitoring Report and Appendix A dated April 2020.

Condition 32

Air Quality Monitoring Report and Appendix A dated April 2020.

Case Officer: Linda Griffiths

DATE: 29 June 2021

Checked By: Andy Bateson

DATE: 29th June 2021
