



Active
Travel
England

Our Ref: ATE/23/00039/FULL
Date: 08 December 2023

Active Travel England Planning Response Detailed Response to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Planning & Development Division, Active Travel England

To: Tabitha Lythe, Shropshire Council

Application Ref: 23/02170/FUL

Site Address: Land between A495 Business Park Roundabout and Canal Way, Ellesmere, Shropshire

Description of development: Formation of Link Road with Footway and Cycleway Provision between the Ellesmere Business Park Roundabout on the A495 and Canal Way, including Associated Modification to the Ellesmere Business Park Roundabout, Recontouring and Earthworks Throughout the Site and Formation of Flood Compensation Areas

Notice is hereby given that Active Travel England's formal recommendation is as follows:

- a. ~~**No Objection:** ATE has undertaken a detailed assessment of this application and is content with the submission.~~
- b. **Conditional approval:** ATE recommends approval of the application, subject to the agreement and implementation of planning conditions and/or obligations as set out in this response.
- c. ~~**Deferral:** ATE is not currently in a position to support this application and requests further assessment, evidence, revisions and/or dialogue as set out in this response.~~
- d. ~~**Refusal:** ATE recommends that the application be refused for the reasons set out in this response.~~

1.0 Background

Active Travel England (ATE) welcomes the opportunity to provide a third response regarding revisions to the full application for the Formation of Link Road with Footway and Cycleway Provision (2m footway and 3m shared footway/cycle path) between the Ellesmere Business Park Roundabout on the A495 and Canal Way. These revisions have been considered alongside ATE's initial response to the proposed development on the 26th of June 2023 and a 2nd response on the 18th of October 2023.

2.0 Summary

It is noted that the applicant has expressed the following response to mitigate the 'Matters Outstanding' as detailed by ATE in the 2nd response, as set in a Technical note dated November 2023, a 'Strategic Linkages Plan' dated 06/11/23 and an updated Framework Travel Plan (FTP). These are summarised as follows:

The justification of a shared use foot/cycleway along the proposed link road: The applicant has expressed that the level of traffic predicted for the link road will not exceed 300 cycle trips/hour, so a 3-metre-wide provision is deemed suitable and in conformity with LTN 1/20, Table 6.3. This is also in consideration with the fact that most vehicle trips will be located at the western end of the link road and how the link road is intended to achieve a significant 'place function' with 20mph speed limits, crossing points etc (as expressed in para. 12 of the Technical Note, p. 2).

Explanation (para 21, p.3) that the number of cyclists is forecast to be up to 119 cycle trips/hour in consideration that the entire proposed development could lead to more trips made by cycle (e.g., if 60% of vehicular trips were made by cycle).

The applicant has expressed through the revised FTP how the development will aim to achieve fewer than 20% fewer vehicle trips during peak hours by Year 5 and that this will be revised on an ongoing basis, with appropriate monitoring (p. 10, FTP). Supporting amenities for active travel (e.g., cycle parking) are also outlined in the submitted 'Action Plan' (Table 5.2, p. 9).

The submitted Strategic Linkages document (drawing: HTp/2314/06) provides an indication of how the site can provide multiple active travel linkages from various phases of the development to external locations, such as the Public Right of Way (PRoW).

In review of the above submitted information, ATE is satisfied that the applicant has considered the aspects of the application as raised on the 18th of October. While further details are required for subsequent phases of the proposed development, ATE advises that these are to be secured through the setting of an appropriate planning condition as outlined below.

3.0 Recommended Planning Conditions

Condition:

No development shall commence until drawings are submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority regarding the details of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure including but not limited to widths, surfacing and lighting. These drawings are with regards to the specific Strategic Linkages as indicated on:

Drawing: Htp/2314/06

The recommended active travel provision the applicant has outlined on page 4 of the submitted Technical Note dated November 2023.

Table 5.2 ('Signage and Wayfinding' and 'Cycle Parking' measures) of the Framework Travel Plan submitted November 2023.

The details of these drawings should be in accordance with the standards in LTN 1/20 and Inclusive Mobility. The approved infrastructure shall be fully constructed and available for use by pedestrians and cyclists no later than the first use of the link road by motor vehicles.

4.0 Next Steps

ATE recommends approval of the application subject to conditions set out in this response. This response should be provided to the LPA case officer and forwarded to the agent and applicant.