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

From: [redacted] (Regional Director)
Operations Directorate
East Region
National Highways
PlanningEE@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Huntingdonshire District Council (FAO Robyn Kerrigan)
Developmentcontrol@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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

Council's Reference: 24/02250/ADV

Location: Sawtry Services Great North Road Sawtry

Proposal: Advertisement to display 5 x fascial logo signs, 3 x totem/monolith signs, 3 x digital poster signs, BP petrol garage signs and various road/wayfinding signage.

National Highways Ref: NH/24/09078

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 4 December 2024 referenced above, in the vicinity of the A1 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~~/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 PlanningEE@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Signature: [redacted]	**Date:**
Name: [redacted]	**Position:** Assistant Spatial Planner

National Highways
National Highways | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

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

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.

Having reviewed the size and scale of the proposed advertisement and signage we note that one totem sign is in close proximity to the A1 off slip. Please note that this should be located beyond falling distance from the highway. However it is believed that it is unlikely that this development will create a severe impact on the SRN. As such National Highways offer No Objection to this application.

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 Switch and Improve criteria as set out in clause 4.3 of PAS2080:2023 promote the use of low carbon materials and products, innovative design solutions and construction methods to minimise resource consumption.

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.