

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN HIGHWAYS  
INFRASTRUCTURE – A4130 IMPROVEMENT (MILTON GATE TO COLLETT  
ROUNDAABOUT), A4197 DIDCOT TO CULHAM LINK ROAD, AND A415 CLIFTON  
HAMPDEN BYPASS) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2022**

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DIDCOT TO CULHAM THAMES  
BRIDGE) SCHEME 2022**

**THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DIDCOT GARDEN TOWN HIGHWAYS  
INFRASTRUCTURE – A4130 IMPROVEMENT (MILTON GATE TO COLLETT  
ROUNDAABOUT), A4197 DIDCOT TO CULHAM LINK ROAD, AND A415 CLIFTON  
HAMPDEN BYPASS) (SIDE ROADS) ORDER 2022**

**THE CALLED-IN PLANNING APPLICATION BY OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY  
COUNCIL FOR THE DUALLING OF THE A4130 CARRIAGEWAY,  
CONSTRUCTION OF THE DIDCOT SCIENCE BRIDGE, ROAD BRIDGE OVER  
THE APPLEFORD RAILWAY SIDINGS AND ROAD BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER  
THAMES, AND ASSOCIATED WORKS BETWEEN THE A34 MILTON  
INTERCHANGE AND THE B4015 NORTH OF CLIFTON HAMPDEN,  
OXFORDSHIRE (APPLICATION NO: R3.0138/21)**

**PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE:**

**APP/U3100/V/23/3326625 and NATTRAN/SE/HAO/286 (DPI/U3100/23/12)**

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**Further Heritage Technical Note of**

**GILLIAN SCOTT**

**(Heritage)**

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**1      Scope of Further Heritage Technical Note**

- 1.1      This Further Heritage Note has been prepared regarding heritage matters relating to the assessment of impacts to listed buildings in Nuneham Courtenay raised by Chris Hancock of the Neighbouring Parish Council-Joint Committee (NPCJC).
- 1.2      The purpose of this Further Heritage Note is to present my opinion as to the validity of concerns raised.

## **2 Chris Hancock (NPCJC) Impact to Nuneham Courtenay Heritage Asset**

- 2.1 Chris Hancock (NPCJC), in his proof of evidence at section 4.1.3, refers to the significance of the settlement of Nuneham Courtenay and its listed buildings and states that the assessment of the effects of the Scheme on the settlement is inadequate due to the exclusion of consideration of the effect of additional traffic on the historic roadside fabric of the village. Chris Hancock argues that failure to include a proper assessment of the Scheme on the historic fabric of Nuneham Courtenay is a breach of Development Plans SODC ENV6(2), ENV(3i), ENV8(1vii), and NPPF paragraph 199.
- 2.2 The assessment of the effects of additional traffic on the historic fabric of the village was excluded from the ES because no significant changes to traffic volumes are predicted for this settlement as a result of the Scheme. Paragraph 2.27 of the Applicant's Technical Note (CD O.1) provides a rationale for the exclusion of Nuneham Courtenay from the Transport Assessment, stating that *'due to the existing highway layout in this rural area near Golden Balls, the Scheme would not change a driver's route choice to travel through the Golden Balls junction, and so it is not required to be scoped into assessments...the overall flows at Golden Balls are the same, but change which direction the junction is approached from.'*
- 2.3 The ES assesses the impact of the Scheme on Nuneham Courtenay Conservation Area (of which the settlement is a part). The impacts due to the construction and presence of the Scheme in the asset's setting and the operational lighting and noise in the asset's setting are considered. This assessment of impact to Nuneham Courtenay Conservation Area is repeated in the Heritage Technical Note annexed to the Planning Proof of Evidence. The adequacy of the heritage assessment provided in the ES in terms of identifying assets relevant to the assessment and in relation to local and national policy requirements has been confirmed through consultation responses:
- Historic England (CD E.22) state that *'with regard to above ground heritage assets, overall we are content that Chapter 7 of the ES considers the relevant historical features fairly and reaches reasonable conclusions about the impact the proposed road would have, which is generally a low level of harm'.*
  - The South Oxfordshire District Council Conservation Officer (CD E.34) states that *'Chapter 7 of the Environment Statement (ES) accurately identifies the designated and non-designated heritage assets likely to be impacted by the proposed infrastructure scheme. Appendix 7.1 to the ES provides a gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Assets and I am satisfied that this captures the assets relevant to the scheme'.*
  - The South Oxfordshire District Council Proof of Evidence in relation to Issue 14 – Overall Planning Balance (Emma Bowerman) applies NPPF (2023) Paragraphs 205 and 208 to the balancing of public benefit versus harm to heritage assets and states that, subject to conditions relating to the detail of landscaping and noise barriers, *'I am satisfied that the proposed HIF1 scheme is consistent with the relevant development plan policies that seek to conserve and enhance heritage assets, including SOLP policies ENV6 (Historic Environment), ENV7 (Listed Buildings), ENV8 (Conservation Areas), and ENV10 (Registered Parks and Gardens), and policy CUL6 (Local Heritage Assets) of the Culham Neighbourhood Plan (CD G.07).'*

**GILLIAN SCOTT**

**9 FEBRUARY 2024**