

Your ref:

Our ref:

FAO:

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Tel: [REDACTED]

12 November 2024

Via email:

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Consultation Regulation 16

National Highways welcomes the opportunity to comment on the reviewed submission draft of the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan which covers the period from 2020 to 2042. We note that the document provides a vision for the future of the area and sets out a number of key objectives and planning policies which will be used to help determine planning applications.

National Highways (formally Highways England) 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). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth.

In responding to development plan consultations, we have regard to DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development ('the Circular'). This sets out how interactions with the Strategic Road Network should be considered in the making of plans and development management considerations. In addition to the Circular, the response set out below is also in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other relevant policies.

In relation to the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan, our principal interest is in safeguarding the operation of the SRN, the nearest routes of which are the M6 and the A500 located approximately 1.5km west and 1km north of the plan area respectively. The scope and scale of proposed development identified in the current Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan (accounted for within the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan), is modest and shall not have any significant impact on the operation of the SRN.

Considering the limited level of growth proposed across the Neighbourhood Development Plan area, as well as that already delivered within the Local Plan period, we do not expect that there will be any significant impacts on the operation of the SRN.

We therefore have no further comments to provide and trust the above is useful in the progression of the Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan.

If I can be of any further assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted line]

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Email: [Redacted email address]