

Department for
Transport

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9th August 2013

Dear Mr Jackson,

NORWICH NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State requesting him to exercise his powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that the Norwich Northern Distributor Road be treated as development for which development consent is required

I am pleased to inform you that the Secretary of State has agreed to your request. A signed direction to that effect is attached.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Fidler

DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE NORWICH NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

By letter to the Secretary of State received on 29th July 2013, Norfolk County Council formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in the Secretary of State under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") to direct that the proposed scheme set out in the Norfolk County Council's letter and known as the Norwich Northern Distributor Road as well as any associated matters, be treated as development for which development consent is required.

The Secretary of State is satisfied that:

- the development does not currently fall within the definition of a "nationally significant infrastructure project" and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35; and
- Norfolk County Council's request constitutes a "qualifying request" in accordance with section 35(10) of the Act.

The Secretary of State has made a decision within the primary deadline set out in section 35A(2) and wishes to convey that decision.

Having considered the details of the Norwich Northern Distributor Road set out in the request, the Secretary of State is of the view that this development by itself is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

Accordingly, as the Secretary of State is satisfied that the proposed Norwich Northern Distributor Road is nationally significant, THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that development, together with any matters associated with it, is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

In addition, the Secretary of State further directs that any proposed application in relation to the Norwich Northern Distributor Road is to be treated as a proposed application for which development consent is required.

This direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the Norwich Northern Distributor Road.

Signed by



Stephen Fidler
A Senior Civil Servant in the Department for Transport
For and On Behalf of the Secretary of State

9th August 2013

ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Norwich Northern Distributor Road is of national significance for the following reasons:

- it provides a direct connection to/from an international airport to the Trans European Network–Transport (TEN-T) and the Strategic Road Network. The TEN-T link is to the A47, one of only a limited number of Roads in the East of England which is recognised as such; and
- in addition the scheme:
 - supports national growth potential including by directly supporting over 135ha of proposed employment growth; and
 - improves connection to/from the Great Yarmouth Enterprise Zone which supports the offshore energy industry and supply chain.