

Didcot Town Council Comments Note

This Note sets out the Applicant's response to Didcot Town Council's (DTC) comments received 10th December 2021.

Didcot Town Council Comments

The dualling of the A4130 carriageway (A4130 Widening) from the Milton Gate Junction eastwards, including the construction of three roundabouts, but hope consideration is taken to improve connectivity for cyclists, with existing cycle routes.

The Town Council ask that OCC acknowledge the existing problems with the cycle ways in Didcot, and work to address these in future with any other new projects, alongside this one.

The Planning and Development Committee believe that a public exhibition should have taken place regarding this application, due to the amount of material associated with it.

Applicant's Response

The Design and Access Statement sets out the proposed non-motorised user (NMU) provision (i.e. pedestrian and cycling provision) proposed as part of the Proposed Development.

Paragraphs 6.3.2-6.3.7 set out the NMU provision for the A4130 widening, the Didcot Science Bridge and up to immediately north of the Collett Roundabout. The text is repeated below.

6.3.2 Along the length of this section of the Proposed Development, segregated two-way, off-road, cycling and walking facilities will be provided. East of the Milton Gate junction, the Proposed Development will include a shared use cycle and footway adjacent to the eastbound and westbound carriageways. This will link to the existing NMU only Backhill Lane Tunnel, and extend around the northern side of Backhill roundabout, where a two stage Toucan crossing (east of the roundabout) will be provided allowing users to cross both carriageways. Segregated cycling and walking facilities and raised Parallel crossings will also be included around the southern side of Backhill roundabout. The existing toucan crossing by Backhill Lane Tunnel will be replaced by a two stage Toucan crossing over the new dual carriageway. To the east of Backhill roundabout, a segregated two-way cycleway and new footway will be provided to the south of the widened and new sections of the road, up to and including the Didcot Science Bridge roundabout, and will continue over the Didcot Science Bridge and links to the Public Rights of Way and future developments located to the south of the A4130 will be provided.

6.3.3 A parallel crossing will be included at the western access to the Valley Park development. Additionally, an uncontrolled crossing will be provided east of the old A4130 roundabout, which will provide access to the eastbound bus stop (with bus shelter). A Toucan crossing will be included across the new A4130 immediately south of the old A4130 roundabout. This will provide access to the existing shared path for cyclists and pedestrians along the current alignment of the A4130 linking to Didcot.

6.3.4 A segregated two-way cycleway and footway will be provided over the Didcot Science Bridge on the eastern side of the bridge.

6.3.5 East of the northern approach embankment to the Didcot Science Bridge segregated bi-directional cycleways and adjacent footways are to be provided on both sides of the road. Three parallel crossings will allow users to cross the Science Bridge Link Road, additionally one parallel crossing will allow users to cross the old A4130 leading to Purchas Road/Hawksworth Roundabout. Where the Proposed Development ties-in with the existing A4130 Northern Perimeter Road, a Toucan crossing will be provided to allow those using the north-south PRow (and National Cycle Network route 5) to safely cross the new road on a new alignment. In this locality, a segregated two-way cycleway and adjacent footway will be located away from the carriageway to provide a continuous NMU link to the Didcot to Culham River Crossing. The existing footway on the southern side of the A4130 will be realigned to the new carriageway.

6.3.6 Shared-use footway/cycleways are proposed at the Collett roundabout with an inline Toucan crossing on the eastern arm, a raised parallel crossing on the southern arm plus uncontrolled crossing points on the western and

northern arms. An off-road segregated footway/cycleway will be provided to the north side of the A4130 west of Collett Roundabout to connect to the same provision in the adjacent Didcot Science Bridge section of the Proposed Development.

6.3.7 North of the Collett roundabout, there will be dedicated, off-road, segregated two-way cycleways and footways either side of the highway. Two parallel crossings will be provided to facilitate the proposed D-Tech development site and bus stops. The facilities on the northbound side will cease at the parallel crossing located north of the accesses to the proposed D-Tech development site. These facilities will continue adjacent to the southbound carriageway leading up to the Abingdon roundabout.

With regard to a public exhibition, two public exhibitions were held in 2018 at the Didcot Civic Hall Wednesday 7th November and at the Cornerstone, Didcot Saturday 17th November. Approximately 300 people attended the exhibitions.

In 2020 COVID regulations prevented the delivery of a second in-person event and an event was held in an online consultation room which was live from Friday 20 March to Thursday 30 April 2020. A variety of methods were used to maximise participation during this event, including:

- Sending over 22,000 letters to residential properties in the area;
- Directly contacting landowners with whom OCC had previously been in contact with;
- Radio adverts;
- Printed and online newspaper adverts;
- Social media posts via the OCC Facebook page and Twitter feed;
- Directly contacting Parish Councils;
- Directly contacting OCC and District Councillors; and
- Including phone numbers on all correspondence for people to call to ask questions and request information packs to be sent to them in the post.

In summary 686 pieces of feedback were submitted through the 2020 consultation period.

A meeting was also held with Didcot Town Council on 9th September 2020 where OCC presented the 2020 virtual consultation boards.

Further details on the community engagement carried out prior to submission can be found in the Statement of Community Involvement.

OCC will continue to engage with Didcot Town Council throughout the determination of the planning application.