



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE EAST OF ENGLAND

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3 September 2003

Dear Sir/Madam

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
ACQUISITION OF LAND ACT 1981

A12 HATFIELD PEVEREL TO WITHAM LINK ROAD

1. I am directed by the First Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Transport ("the Secretaries of State") to refer to the concurrent public local inquiries ("the inquiries") held at the Ramada Jarvis Chelmsford Hotel, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex between 13 and 15 May 2003 by Mr W K Hutchinson CBE, an independent Inspector, nominated by the Lord Chancellor and appointed by the Secretaries of State, to hear objections to, and representations about, the following draft Orders: -

THE A12 TRUNK ROAD (HATFIELD PEVEREL TO WITHAM LINK ROAD) ORDER 20 ;

THE A12 TRUNK ROAD (HATFIELD PEVEREL TO WITHAM LINK ROAD SIDE ROADS) ORDER 20 ;

THE A12 TRUNK ROAD (HATFIELD PEVEREL TO WITHAM LINK ROAD) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (NO PS) ORDER 20 ;

THE A12 TRUNK ROAD (HATFIELD PEVEREL TO WITHAM LINK ROAD) SUPPLEMENTARY SIDE ROADS ORDER 20 ; and



THE A12 TRUNK ROAD (HATFIELD PEVEREL TO WITHAM LINK ROAD) SUPPLEMENTARY
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (NO OD) ORDER 20 .

2. The draft Orders, if made, would authorise a new link road between Hatfield Peverel and Witham on a southerly route.

THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

3. A copy of the Inspector's report is enclosed. In this letter paragraph numbers in the Inspector's report are indicated by the abbreviation "IR". The Inspector's conclusions are at IR 8.1 to 8.64 and his recommendation is at IR 9.1. He concluded that the advantages of the alternative northern route were sufficiently overwhelming to warrant further investigation as to whether it would be the better choice for the Link Road and recommended that none of the published Orders be made.

THE DECISION OF THE SECRETARIES OF STATE

4. The Secretaries of State have carefully considered all the objections, alternative proposals, counter objections, representations and expressions of support made, both oral and written, together with the Inspector's report.

5. The Secretaries of State agree with the Inspector's conclusions and accept his recommendation not to make the Orders in paragraph 1 above. In reaching their decision they have taken fully into account the delay that this will cause to providing a link road but are satisfied on the evidence before them that it is not appropriate to continue with the published southern route. The Secretaries of State will accordingly ask the Highways Agency, in the light of the Inspector's report, to appraise the option of a northern link at the same time as assessing all other possible options.

AVAILABILITY OF THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

6. A copy of this letter and the Inspector's report has been sent to all those who objected, made representations or expressed support. Any person who is entitled to be supplied with a copy of the Inspector's report may apply to the Secretaries of State within six weeks of receipt of this letter to inspect any document appended to the report. Any such application should be made to Sue Proberts, at the Government Office for the East of England, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 2DF (01223 372756). Applications should state the date and time (within normal office hours) when it is proposed to make the inspection. At least three days notice should be given if possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Dowie', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Dowie
Director Planning and Transport