

Paula Carney
Director, Planning
WYG

BY EMAIL

5th May 2017

Dear Mrs Carney

Re: Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 5 (1) 2011 and Amendment Regulations 2015: Request for EIA Screening Opinion for 'Fulton Quarter'. A proposed development of circa 80,000 sqm GEA (across 1.679 ha) from a combination of: C3 Residential: circa 66,000 sqm GEA (circa 800 dwellings); A1-A4 Retail, B1 office, and/or D2 leisure and assembly: circa 5,000 sqm GEA; D1 non-residential institutions: circa 10,000 sqm GEA (or an additional 120 dwellings if this isn't taken up) and associated parking, open space, landscaping and infrastructure. To be delivered over 10-15 years from 2018 in either a single phase or split into two phases covering Fountain Studios and Stadium Retail Park.

Thank you for your letter dated 5th April 2017, in which you requested that the planning authority adopt a screening opinion of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, as amended, in respect of a forthcoming planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the aforementioned site.

The description of the proposed development is for the redevelopment of the existing Fountain Studios currently Television/Audio Recording Studios and Wembley Stadium Retail Park currently a mixture of A1, A3/A4 uses and associated car parks for circa 80,000 sqm GEA (across 1.679 ha) from a combination of: C3 Residential: circa 66,000 sqm GEA (circa 800 dwellings); A1-A4 Retail, B1 office, and/or D2 leisure and assembly: circa 5,000 sqm GEA; D1 non-residential institutions: circa 10,000 sqm GEA (or an additional 120 dwellings if this isn't taken up) and associated parking, open space, landscaping and infrastructure.

Having considered the proposals as detailed in your letter, Brent Council is of the opinion that the application does not fall within Schedule 1 Development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011 but within Schedule 2 Development, Part 10, Infrastructure Projects (b) – Urban development projects. However, Brent Council has also given consideration to the characteristics of the development, its location and potential impact as set out in Schedule 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2011 and Planning Practice Guidance. Planning Practice Guidance indicates the types of case in which, an EIA is more likely to be required. It states:

'Environmental Impact Assessment is unlikely to be required for the redevelopment of land unless the new development is on a significantly greater scale than the previous use, or the types of impact are of a markedly different nature or there is a high level of contamination.'

EIA is more likely to be required where:

*'(i) the area of the scheme is more than 5 ha; or
(ii) it would provide a total of more than 10,000m² of new commercial floorspace; or
(iii) the development would have significant urbanising effects in a previously non-urbanised area (e.g. a new development of more than 1,000 dwellings).'*

'Account is also to be taken of the physical scale of such developments, potential increase in traffic, emissions and noise.'

(Reference: National Planning Practice Guidance, Environmental Impact Assessments, Annex A: Indicative Screening Threshold)

Taking into account the scheme's scale, nature and location, associated proposed assessments and mitigation measures together with the cumulative impact of the wider site allocations and other known development sites in the vicinity it is not anticipated it will result in significant environmental effects. Therefore, the Local Planning Authority does not consider that the forthcoming application for this site requires an EIA.

Ecology and Nature Conservation

Planning Practice Guidance states, in general, the more environmentally sensitive the location, the lower the threshold will be at which significant effects are likely. Environmentally sensitive locations are considered to comprise:-

- a) Sites of Special Scientific Interest, any consultation areas around them (where these have been notified to the local planning authority under article 10 (u)(ii) of the GPDO), land to which Nature Conservation Orders apply and international conservation sites; and
- b) National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, World Heritage Sites and scheduled monuments.

There are no areas which have an ecological designation (as listed above) on or immediately around the site. I am of the view that the proposed development would not cause any significant adverse impacts on these types of environmentally sensitive locations. In addition the site itself has little of ecological value, limited to incidental shrub planting and some maturing trees. As such it does not warrant EIA in relation to these issues.

Traffic related impacts-Movement and Safety

The council does not consider that the development will result in significant impacts on the movement network to warrant an EIA. The council accepts that the development will lead to some traffic and air pollution within the vicinity of the development but that the impact is not significant when taking into account the existing situation and the mitigation proposed in relation to this site, the wider masterplan area and the management of movement to and from the stadium/its environs on event days. As identified the proposed transport assessment should identify impacts and suitable mitigation measures to reduce the potential for adverse impacts of the day to day functioning of the site and on event days.

Contamination

It is considered that there is slight risk of contamination at the site but it is not considered to be large enough, complex or unusual enough to require an EIA. However, the possibility of contamination should be investigated further as is proposed through a Phase 1 Ground Condition Survey being submitted in association with the planning application.

Archaeology and Architectural Context

The site is not located within an Archaeological Priority Area (as defined on the proposals map). It is not located within a conservation area. The Fountain Studios, although associated with production of national television shows are not of such historical or technical/architectural merit that they have been statutorily listed. It is close to the National Stadium Wembley which is subject to Local Plan policies seeking to protect longer distance views to it and in particular its arch. Nevertheless, scale and height of the proposed buildings means it is unlikely to have significant impact on the setting of features of historic or cultural importance. Although the Grade 2 Listed SSE area is close, it is and will be further visually separated from this by development built, currently being constructed as well as that likely to be constructed as a result of future planning permissions. The height of the proposed building appears to be within the parameters of policies to protect the longer distance views of the National Stadium. Therefore in relation to these issues it is not considered to warrant the submission of an EIA. The justification of the heights and form of the development together with its impacts on the setting of the stadium/longer distance views can be set out in the design and access statement, together with a townscape/views assessment to accompany the planning application.

Air Quality and Noise

The site does fall within Brent's Air Quality Management Area. The development is not likely to release significant pollutants or hazardous, toxic or noxious substances into the air and the proposed use is not predicted to have a significant effect upon air quality or traffic generation in the area when taking into account existing and proposed developments. However, the application should be accompanied by an air quality assessment.

It is anticipated the proposal will result in an increase in noise levels during construction. The development itself, particularly the residential element could potentially be subject to the noise impact of stadium events. However, the noise levels generated from the development and impacting on it will be subject to mitigation measures through the appropriate construction method statement and logistics plan and noise impact assessment. As such the impacts are not considered to be significant enough to warrant an EIA.

Flood Risk and Water Quality

The site is currently mostly buildings or hard standing. It is located in Flood Zone 1 and Zones 2 so ranges from a medium to low probability of fluvial flooding, the surface water flooding risk ranges from high to very low and there is also a flood risk from reservoirs. A flood risk assessment, sequential approach and drainage strategy with associated proposed mitigation measures will accompany a planning application to ensure that the development does not cause an unacceptable flood risk and potentially provide an opportunity for betterment in relation to surface water run-off and water quality. The impacts on flood risk and water quality are not significant enough to warrant an EIA.

Other impacts

The council has assessed other possible impacts (as set out in the attached screening checklist) and effects of the development, and considers that there are none that are significant enough to warrant an EIA.

Date of Decision: 5th May 2017

On behalf of the Council of the London Borough of Brent



Paul Lewin
Planning Policy & Projects Manager
Planning and Regeneration
Brent Council

SCREENING CHECKLIST

(taken from Guidance on EIA: Screening, European Commission, June 2001)

Summary of features of project and of its location indicating the need for EIA

Questions to be Considered For further guidance on factors to be considered see the more detailed questions listed in the Scoping Guidance	Yes / No / ? Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
1. Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc)?	Yes – Redevelopment will introduce residential, reprovide commercial space and potentially educational space.	No – The development is an intensification of an existing brownfield site within an urban context. The proposed uses are consistent with what would be expected in development plan policy. Given the urban characteristic of the area, plus know impacts of other adjacent development it is not considered that there will be significant impacts to warrant EIA.
2. Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Yes – only those typical of construction activities within an urban area, but limited amounts of non-renewables such as oil based fuels. The majority of materials are existing materials are likely to be recycled which is true of a significant proportion of the new materials required.	No – the construction of this proposed development in this location is not predicted to have a complex or unusual effect and therefore would not have a significant effect on natural resources.
3. Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	No - the proposed development will not involve the use, storage, transport or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to people or the environment.	No – as the proposed use for the redevelopment of the site will not have a significant effect on human health or the environment.
4. Will the Project produce solids during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes –There will be waste produced from construction.	No – mitigation to be agreed prior to works as part of a waste management and construction management plan.
5. Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to air?	No – There are no elements of the proposed development that will result in the generation or release of noxious, hazardous or toxic substances to air.	No – There will not be any environmental nuisance in respect to significant release of pollutants or contaminants.
6. Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Noise and some vibration may be generated by construction, but this can be managed by conditions.	No – The effects are not predicted to be significant or unusual. Noise, and light will be generated but these effects are not predicted to be significant in this context.

Questions to be Considered For further guidance on factors to be considered see the more detailed questions listed in the Scoping Guidance	Yes / No / ? Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
7. Will the Project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	No, there is no high level record of contamination within the area that would lead to an assessment that this could be possible as a result of the proposed development.	No – The level of contamination would not be significant enough to warrant an EIA.
8. Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	No – the construction and operation of the site do not involve the use of high risk substances or the use of high risk technologies.	No – It is considered that there would be no significant risk of accidents as a result of the end use of the development.
9. Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	Yes – the project will through the provision of dwellings result in changes in the demography of the area, providing much needed housing. Existing employment on site is likely to be re-provided, albeit in a different form. The potential consolidation of educational provision in association with adjacent sites could positively impact on retention of adolescents who move away for educational reasons.	No – in the context of the predicted overall population growth in Brent the proposed number of dwellings is unlikely to have significant adverse effect.
10. Are there any other factors which should be considered such as consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?	No – the wider area has been subject to development plan proposals for its regeneration as well as the adjacent sites considered previously in association with planning permissions which have taken account of cumulative development impacts.	No – The proposed development is not expected to introduce a cumulative significant adverse impact.
11. Are there any areas on or around the location which are protected under international or national or local legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural or other value, which could be affected by the project?	No	No
12. Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, which could be affected by the project?	No	No
13. Are there any areas on or around the location which are used by protected, important or sensitive species of fauna or flora e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, overwintering, migration, which could be affected by the project?	No	No
14. Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	No

Questions to be Considered For further guidance on factors to be considered see the more detailed questions listed in the Scoping Guidance	Yes / No / ? Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
15. Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	No	No
16. Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	Yes, the site will be able to better fit into the wider planned movement network which incorporates routes to the SSe Arena and National Stadium.	No. The application however, together with other sites owned by the applicant will comprehensively address potential movement patterns to increase the area's pedestrian permeability improving accessibility within it and the surrounding area.
17. Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	Yes – the North Circular and local roads suffer at times from high levels of congestion.	No – The application site together with adjoining sites are through their reconfiguration together with traffic management particularly on event days are likely to reduce levels of congestion currently exhibited. At other times the impacts of the development on congestion levels will not be significant. Overall the effects are not predicted to be significant enough to warrant an EIA.
18. Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	Yes, parts are on the approaches to the National Stadium from key public transport facilities/routes. It will be visible to potentially thousands of people at some times.	No. The development sits within a very urban context. The current buildings present poor frontages to their adjacent areas, these deficiencies can be overcome by adopting sound urban design principles. It will not have a significant effect to warrant an EIA.
19. Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes, there is a grade 2 listed building and the National Stadium Wembley, an iconic world renowned location for football.	No – the development will be separated from the listed building by existing development, that which is under construction and that proposed. The height of the proposed development is expected to be within parameters set out in the development plan that would protect the long distance views of the stadium and in particular its arch. As such no EIA is required on this issue.
20. Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	No	No

Questions to be Considered For further guidance on factors to be considered see the more detailed questions listed in the Scoping Guidance	Yes / No / ? Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
21. Are there existing land uses on or around the location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying which could be affected by the project?	Yes, the area is urban in its nature, surrounded by existing and proposed residential and commercial properties, as well as significant visitor attractions such as the SSE arena and the National Stadium Wembley.	No – the impacts of event days on proposed residents of the development will be mitigated through appropriate measures in the design of the dwellings. The impact on the movement of patterns associated with the stadium is part of a wider package of measures that overall should lead to better outcomes, particularly for visitors by vehicle on event days. As such no EIA is required on this issue.
22. Are there any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	Yes, the site is within a wider regeneration area identified in the Development Plan.	No. The site has been considered in conjunction with a masterplan for adjacent site, plus the wider area and the movement patterns associated with event days. As such no EIA is required.
23. Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	Yes, the site is part of a wider regeneration area identified in the Development Plan.	No. The site has been considered in conjunction with a masterplan for the adjacent site and wider area. As such no EIA is required.
24. Are there any areas on or around the location which are occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities, which could be affected by the project?	No.	No.
25. Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	No	No.
26. Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	Yes – the site is within an Air Quality Management Area.	No – in the context of existing volumes of traffic the development will be small. In relation to congestion / movement on event days, the development can be considered as part of a wider package of measures that should improve efficiency in traffic management, reduce vehicle idling times/congestion.
27. Is the project location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions e.g. temperature inversions, fogs, severe winds, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	Yes, parts of the site are within flood zones 2 and 3 so range from a medium to low probability of fluvial flooding. The surface water flooding risk ranges from high to very low and there is also a flood	No, the site has been subject to a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as part of the Action Plan allocation, which identified it for the range of uses proposed. A flood risk assessment, sequential

Questions to be Considered For further guidance on factors to be considered see the more detailed questions listed in the Scoping Guidance	Yes / No / ? Briefly describe	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? Yes/No/? – Why?
	risk from reservoirs.	approach and drainage strategy with associated proposed mitigation measures will accompany a planning application to ensure that the development does not cause an unacceptable flood risk and potentially provide an opportunity for betterment in relation to surface water run-off and water quality. The impacts on flood risk and water quality are not significant enough to warrant an EIA.

The **Screening Checklist** provides a list of questions to help identify where there is the potential for interactions between a project and its environment.

These questions have been considered for each “Yes” answer in the **Screening Checklist** and the conclusion and the reasons for it noted in the checklist. The questions are designed so that a “Yes” answer will generally point towards the need for EIA and a “No” answer to EIA not being required.

Questions to be Considered

1. Will there be a large change in environmental conditions?
2. Will new features be out-of-scale with the existing environment?
3. Will the effect be unusual in the area or particularly complex?
4. Will the effect extend over a large area?
5. Will there be any potential for transfrontier impact?
6. Will many people be affected?
7. Will many receptors of other types (fauna and flora, businesses, facilities) be affected?
8. Will valuable or scarce features or resources be affected?
9. Is there a risk that environmental standards will be breached?
10. Is there a risk that protected sites, areas, features will be affected?
11. Is there a high probability of the effect occurring?
12. Will the effect continue for a long time?
13. Will the effect be permanent rather than temporary?
14. Will the impact be continuous rather than intermittent?
15. If it is intermittent will it be frequent rather than rare?
16. Will the impact be irreversible?
17. Will it be difficult to avoid, or reduce or repair or compensate for the effect?