

7. Summary & Conclusion

Summary

- 7.1.1 The choice to realign the River Eye was made following extensive options assessment and review involving numerous stakeholders. This assessment is summarised in the River Eye Options Appraisal Report. The report demonstrates how the diversion of the River Eye provides the best overall option for the scheme and provides the greatest potential benefit for the local environment. Realignment of the River Eye also eliminates significant H&S risks by avoiding diversion of the 132 kV overhead powerlines and enabling construction of the new River Bridge in dry conditions away from the river.
- 7.1.2 The river diversion and associated works are supported by the Environment Agency, Natural England and Leicestershire County Council. They provide a significant opportunity to provide environmental enhancement, restore and re-naturalise the River Eye which would not otherwise be feasible.
- 7.1.3 The diversion of the River Eye provides a unique opportunity to restore the condition of the SSSI and realise a number of the restoration and rehabilitation measures for the river, as outlined in the River Eye SSSI Strategic Restoration Plan (Natural England, 2015).
- 7.1.4 The impact of the river diversion on the affected landowners has been minimised as far practicable. Throughout the design process, the council has met with the affected landowners to ensure they are fully aware of design developments and to understand how they use the land in order to mitigate the impacts of the scheme. As a result of these discussions, the council has made significant changes to the design for the specific benefit of the landowners. Furthermore, land take from landowners has been reduced as far as practicable and land that may be able to be offered back to the landowner post scheme completion has been identified and shared with the landowners.
- 7.1.5 The construction of the NEMMDR scheme will have only minor, localised effects on flood risk from the River Eye within agricultural land located to the east of the proposed scheme upstream of proposed crossing of the River Eye.
- 7.1.6 Flood risk to the scheme and impacts of the scheme on flood risk elsewhere have been assessed in accordance with the relevant planning guidance and the analysis carried out for the River Eye crossing has been reviewed and accepted by the Environment Agency.

Conclusion

- 7.1.7 Based on my professional opinion, a thorough knowledge of the Scheme and supported by the expert evidence provided by my colleagues I have concluded the following:
- 7.1.8 The proposed diversion of the River Eye is justified and forms a necessary and beneficial part of the Scheme which has successfully completed all necessary stages of the planning process.
- 7.1.9 The land included within the CPO for the purpose of diverting the River Eye is both necessary and sufficient to enable the safe construction of the scheme.