

## Road Safety Audit – General

Where changes to the local highway network are proposed as a consequence of either the access arrangement (s278 works) or off site highway improvements (s38 works), in respect of a development scheme, Northumberland County Council requires the preliminary design to be the subject of a **Stage 1 Road Safety Audit**. This document accompanies the Transport Assessment and provides an independent road safety assessment of the key design and operating arrangements of the highway works. Subsequent separate stages of Road Safety Audit, as described below, will be undertaken should the scheme progress to detailed design and completion.

The Road Safety Audit will identify potential road safety issues or problems that may affect all users of the highway and to recommend measures to eliminate or mitigate these problems. A Road Safety Audit is not simply a check that a scheme meets design standards.

Formal guidance on Road Safety Audits is contained within HD19/15 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 5 Section 2.

## Road Safety Audit – Who is involved ?

Road Safety Audits are undertaken by an Audit Team, which must be independent of the Design Team. The Audit Team comprises of a minimum of two persons with appropriate levels of training, skills and experience in Road Safety Engineering and/or Accident Investigation.

## Stages of a Road Safety Audit

There are four different stages of a Road Safety Audit each forming their own independent report, but which refer to each other, and these are detailed below:-

### Stage 1– Completion of Preliminary Design

Stage 1 Road Safety Audits are undertaken at the completion of preliminary design and where possible, before planning consent is granted. This is the last occasion at which land requirements may be increased and it is therefore essential to consider fully any road safety issues which may have a bearing upon land take before planning consent is granted. At the Road Safety Audit Stage 1 all team members shall visit the site together and examine the existing highway layout or features and where the new highway improvement scheme ties into the existing highway. The Developer will provide the NCC Development Management Officer with the Stage 1 report prior to the start of any detailed design. **A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit will be sought for major developments. During pre-application discussions a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit should be progressed and commissioned to support the planning application when it is submitted.**

### Stage 2 – Completion of Detailed Design

Stage 2 Road Safety Audits are undertaken at completion of the detailed design stage of the works, following the receipt of planning consent. The Audit Team will be able to consider the layout of junctions, position of signs, carriageway markings, lighting provision and other issues. At the Stage 2 Road Safety Audit all team members shall visit the site together and examine the existing highway layout or features and where the new highway improvement scheme ties into the existing highway. Once the Developer has provided the NCC Development Management Officer with the Stage 2 report, the detailed design can be completed in line with recommendations.

### Stage 3– Completion of Construction

The Stage 3 Road Safety Audit should be undertaken when the highway improvement scheme is substantially complete, preferably before the works are open to road users and within a maximum of four weeks following works completion. The Audit Team will examine the scheme site during daylight and during the hours of darkness, so hazards particular to night operation can also be identified. The Audit Team Leader shall invite representatives of the Police and the Local Authority Maintaining Agent to accompany the Audit Team to offer their views for the Stage 3 Audit.

## Stage 4 - (Monitoring)

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During the initial 12 month and 36 month periods following the highway improvement scheme being open to traffic, a check should be kept on the number of personal injury accidents that occur (if any), so that any serious problems can be identified and remedial work arranged quickly. Stage 4 accident monitoring reports shall be prepared using 12 months and 36 months accident data from the time the scheme became operational. These reports shall be submitted to Northumberland County Council. The accident records shall be analysed in detail to identify:

- Locations at which personal injury accidents have occurred; and
- Personal injury accidents that appear to arise from similar causes or show common factors.

The accident monitoring reports should identify any road safety problems indicated by the data analysis and observations during any site visits undertaken. The reports should make recommendations for remedial action.

### Northumberland County Council – Road Safety Audit Capability

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Northumberland County Council, Technical Services - Design Section offers a comprehensive Road Safety Audit service to Developers making alterations to the highway network within the County. The safety audit process ensures that any changes made to the highway are safe and will not increase risk to any road users.

Our highly skilled team of experienced engineers have excellent local knowledge and can undertake Safety Audit work (at all stages) in respect of development led highway improvement schemes within the County.

The Auditors will also, where necessary, advise the Design Team throughout the design process of the relevant information required to undertake a Road Safety Audit, preparation of the Audit Brief and how to formally respond to the Audit report through a Designers Response and Exceptions Report (if required).

All Road Safety Audits are undertaken in accordance with the national standard *HD19/15 - Road Safety Audits* by a team of two suitably experienced and qualified Road Safety Auditors. **The current Audit CV's of the Northumberland County Council Road Safety Auditors will be made available upon request.**

The Northumberland County Council Road Safety Auditors can undertake all four stages of audit for your development scheme and the advantage of utilising the same Audit team, throughout the various stages of Audit, being that the design can be assessed in a timely manner by the same team from concept to completion stage. This best ensures that safety issues can be identified and addressed during the design process and therefore minimises the likelihood of costly revisions to the highway improvement scheme after completion.

Other benefits of appointing our Road Safety Auditors for Safety Audit work include:

- A wide range of road safety engineering and/or accident investigation experience;
- Excellent local knowledge of the highway network within Northumberland;
- Extensive knowledge of the latest design standards and guidance;
- Fully trained and accredited in accordance with the national standard *HD19/15 – Road Safety Audit*;
- Awareness of the various stages within the planning and construction process (relevant to new development and highway improvements within Northumberland) in order to ensure the Audit reports are submitted in a timely manner to meet your deadlines;
- Highly competitive rate compared to companies offering the same service; and
- Where Northumberland County Council's Road Safety Auditor's are commissioned to undertake all four stages of Audit for the development scheme the previous 3 years available accident data for the location (which must be provided by the Developer with the Audit Brief) will be supplied by Northumberland County Council free of charge and both the Stage 4 (12 and 36 month monitoring) Road Safety Audits will be undertaken free of charge. Where Road Safety Audits are commissioned externally the above would incur additional costs for the Developer.

If you are developing a scheme and would like to benefit from our very competitive Road Safety Audit services please contact:
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<b>Gary Mills (Senior Engineer, Design Section – Roads)</b> for a quote and to arrange an audit. <i>You will also be provided with Audit Brief &amp; Designers Response Templates to complete when requesting the Audit.</i>
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**Northumberland**

Northumberland County Council

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