

Councillor Briefing Note

Difference Between

THaT Consultancy Report and a Road Safety Audit

THaT Consultancy Report:

Reviews the planning application as a whole and assesses whether the development is acceptable in transport and highway terms. Considers traffic generation, junction capacity, access arrangements, sustainability, compliance with planning policy and likely impacts on the local road network. Commonly submitted during the planning application stage and may conclude that a development should be refused because of unacceptable transport impacts.

Road Safety Audit (RSA):

Reviews the detailed design of a road or highway scheme to identify potential safety problems. Focuses on road safety risks for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and other road users. Usually undertaken during the design and implementation stages of a scheme and identifies safety issues and possible mitigation measures.

The **THaT report** asks:

“Will this development create unacceptable transport and highway impacts, and is it consistent with planning policy?”

A **Road Safety Audit** asks:

“Assuming a road scheme is going ahead, are there any safety hazards in the design that could lead to accidents or injuries?”

Why the **THaT** Report remains Valid

The fact that the report is not a Road Safety Audit does not reduce its value as planning evidence.

The consultancy was instructed to review the planning application and provide an expert opinion on highway and transport matters. It concluded that the proposal was unacceptable on those grounds.

A **Road Safety Audit** would be a different exercise entirely and would normally be commissioned as part of the design and highway approval process, not as a review of whether the planning application is acceptable in principle. Formal road safety audits are typically undertaken on proposed highway schemes and design layouts to identify and mitigate safety issues.

Conclusion

The **THaT Consultancy report** is a professional transport planning assessment, not a **Road Safety Audit**.

Its purpose was to evaluate the planning application's impact on the local highway and transport network and whether the proposal was acceptable in planning terms.

A **Road Safety Audit** is a separate, formal process used to examine the detailed design of highway schemes for potential **safety hazards**.

The absence of a Road Safety Audit does not invalidate the conclusions of the THaT report, which remains a relevant and material piece of evidence supporting the Parish Council's objection.