# EIA Quality Mark Case Study

## Dinan Way Link Road, Exmouth

### Key Issues:
- Detailed assessments of traffic, visual impact, noise, air quality and impact on designated heritage assets to demonstrate the benefits of the link road to alleviate traffic congestion in residential areas.
- Establishing and understanding the baseline conditions and being able to clearly identify likely significant impacts.
- Comprehensive pre-application engagement with the applicant and National Trust to ensure heritage and landscape issues were considered at an early stage.
- Assessment of route options to reduce impact of the project on the Grade 1 Listed National Trust property ‘A La Ronde’ to the west and the Registered Park and Garden.

### Purpose of the project:
Dinan Way is the main distributor road around the northern and eastern edge of Exmouth. A missing section of the road meant that it failed to provide a distributor road between the A376 and residential and employment sites to the east and north of Exmouth. This led to high levels of traffic using residential streets and/or inappropriate routes. The purpose of the project was to extend Dinan Way, to fulfil its role as a distributor road and bypass.

### Description of the project:
The project involved the construction of a single carriageway road extension (6.5m wide) running for a length of approximately 830m from the junction of Dinan Way/Hulham Road to the A376 Exmouth Road. Roundabouts would link the new road to existing roads at both ends and.

A number of new landscape features which would provide ecological enhancement were identified, including an attenuation pond which would be constructed to deal with surface water runoff.

SLR worked closely with Devon County Council to produce a full EIA and planning application. Planning permission was granted in January 2017.
EIA Learning Outcomes

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Lessons learnt:

The success of the project can be attributed to:

- Understanding the nature of the link road and the sensitivities of the area within which it was to be located;
- Early engagement with key stakeholders to fully understand concerns and to discuss mitigation;
- Comprehensive assessment of a range of environmental effects identified at the Scoping stage;
- Assessing and consulting on a number of route options for the link road so that the environmentally preferred route could be identified. The final route alignment was designed to avoid, wherever possible, the highest quality habitat on the Application Site i.e. the species rich hedgebanks and hedgerows, orchards and watercourse.

In summary, the final design of the Dinan Way extension took the mitigation measures proposed by the technical assessments into account and developed a scheme which would alleviate the traffic problems in parts of Exmouth whilst protecting sensitive receptors from significant harm.

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