

Date: 29 October 2015
Our ref: 169778
Your ref: TR010018



A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon team
3/18 Eagle Wing
The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY to A14CambridgetoHuntingdon@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended), the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) (EPR) – Rule 9

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Documents for Deadline 13 – Natural England comments on the Report on the Implications for European Sites

Further to your letter dated 27th October 2015, Natural England offers the following comments on the Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES, October 2015) for Deadline 13.

Natural England has reviewed the RIES and is satisfied that this presents a detailed account of the information submitted throughout the examination by the applicant and interested parties, up to 28th September 2015, in relation to potential effects to European sites. The report identifies that a total of five European sites were screened by the applicant prior to examination. Of these, the applicant concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the five European sites and their qualifying features. We note that the interested parties did not dispute the applicant's conclusion of no likely significant effects on these European sites and their qualifying features during the examination. As an interested party, we can confirm that Natural England remains satisfied with this conclusion. We have no additional comments to make on the RIES.

Further to our letter dated 20th October 2015, submitted for Deadline 12, we have now had the opportunity to review the detail of Highways England's Proposed Change DR1.40a. This includes an area east of Longstanton Brook required for the provision of essential mitigation for water voles under a Natural England conservation licence. We agree with the findings of the report (REP7-034) that the inclusion of this additional area of land, and the removal of the flood plain compensation area which is no longer required, is unlikely to give rise to any new likely significant environmental effects from those assessed in the Environmental Statement. On this basis Natural England advises that the Proposed Change has no implications for the Letter of No Impediment issued on 13th August 2015.

I hope these comments are helpful. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Janet Nuttall on 0300 060 1239. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Kathleen Covill
Senior Adviser

cc. Nicholas Coombes, Case Manager, Planning Inspectorate