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Highways England and Natural England

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010019

Date: 27 October 2015

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 17**

**Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent  
for the M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway**

**Request for further information**

I write to request further information from the applicant and Natural England in respect of the following.

1. The Statement of Common Ground with Natural England submitted to Deadline II REP2-008 confirms agreement that there are no likely significant effects on the following two European designated sites:

- i. Thursley, Ash, Pirbrigh and Chobham SAC; and
- ii. Thames Basin Heaths SAC.

However, the Environmental Statement (ES) refers to three further European designated sites:

- iii. Molegap to Reigate Escarpment SAC;
- iv. Southwest London Waterbodies SPA; and
- v. Southwest London Waterbodies Ramsar.

**On or before Deadline III in the examination timetable (5 November 2015):**

- Can the applicant please provide a list to identify all of the European designated sites which were considered in the ES, and explain the reasons why some sites were considered further in the Assessment of Impacts on European Sites (AIES) APP-327, and why others were not taken forward?
- Can Natural England please confirm that it has considered the three further European designated sites listed above, and provide its opinion as to whether

these sites would be affected by the scheme?

2. The London Borough of Hillingdon (LBHill) states, in its answer to question 4.4.3 in my first written questions, that protected species have been found in a proposed construction compound <sup>REP2-044</sup>. The Council does not specify the construction compound to which it refers.

**On or before Deadline III in the examination timetable (5 November 2015):**

- Can the applicant and Natural England confirm that they are aware of the concerns of LBHill, and if so explain how those concerns are being addressed?

If you have any queries about the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the case team in the usual way.

Yours faithfully

*Wendy Burden*

**Wendy Burden**  
**Examining Authority**

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.