

Date: 05 November 2015
Our ref: 169737
Your ref: TR010019



M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway Case Team,
3/18 Eagle Wing,
The Planning Inspectorate,
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Re: Request for further information

Dear The Planning Inspectorate,

Consultation: 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

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Further to the request issued by the Examining Authority for information from all Interested Parties under Rule 8 on 11th September 2015, and the request issued on the 27th October 2015 by the Examining Authority for further information, Natural England hereby provides responses to the matters raised:

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.*

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?

Natural England can confirm it has considered the three further European designated sites listed on Page 1 of this advice letter, however has scoped these sites out of further scrutiny at an early stage due to the nature, scale, and location of the proposal in relation to the sites. In summary, Natural England advises that there will be no impact upon these sites, or indeed to the underlying Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

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 REP2-044. The Council does not specify the construction compound to which it refers.

- *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?*

Natural England is of the understanding, through direct liaison with the applicant, that the Compound in question is number 11 at Stockley Road near Junction 4, and that an incorrect extract from a Reptile Survey Report was previously sent to the LBHill providing information for a survey site that was not Compound 11. We are also of the understanding that LBHill have since been informed of this error and that no reptiles (or other protected species) have been found at Compound 11.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Mary Tomlinson on the contact details below. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

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