

WALTHAM ST LAWRENCE PARISH CHURCH

COMMENTS ON EXA'S FIRST WRITTEN QUESTIONS

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE

1. *SMART M4 NOISE*

1.1 *With reference to your letter of 11 September 2015 Rule 8 M4 Smart Motorway Para 7.4.11. Can you please confirm that the provision of low-noise surfacing will apply across all lanes of our section (between J8/9 - 10) and that this has equivalent effect to a porous road surface.*

Highways England's Comment

1.1.1 Highways England can confirm that a Thin Surface Course System (generically referred to as low-noise surfacing) will be provided across all lanes for the full length of the M4 between junction 8/9 and junction 10. Indeed a Thin Surface Course System will be provided across all lanes for the entire length of the M4 between junctions 3 and 12 (paragraph 6.3.47 of the Engineering and Design Report (Application Document Reference 7-3)). This is secured by requirement 5 at Schedule 2 to the draft Development Consent Order (“DCO”).

1.1.2 There are a number of Thin Surface Course Systems available from different manufacturers and their noise reduction properties vary from 2.7 to 7.2 decibels (A-weighted) (“dB(A)”) below that of traditional surface courses. In comparison porous asphalt has noise reduction effects of 6.3 dB(A) (A review of current research on road surface noise reduction techniques, TRL, 2010 can be viewed here, <http://www.trl.co.uk/reports-publications/report/?reportid=6569>). However it should be noted that porous asphalt is no longer used in the UK for a number of reasons, including that it has been shown to be prone to create patches of ‘black-ice’ during the winter months, and is therefore not considered safe.