

Date: 24 December 2015
Our ref: 174171
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

Dear The Planning Inspectorate,

Consultation: TR010019 Application to the Highways Agency for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M4 junctions 3 to 12: Smart Motorway - Examining Authority's second written questions

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 the second written questions round issued on the 11th December 2015, Natural England hereby provides responses to the matters raised:

4.4.2 In light of the response by *Natural England* (NE) to the Rule 17 request REP3-024 confirming that NE agrees with the applicant that there were no likely significant effects from the project on any of the five European designated sites identified in the Environmental Statement, *could NE clarify the reason why they agree to no likely significant effects on the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Area of Conservation?*

Natural England can confirm it has considered the ***Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Area of Conservation*** thoroughly and considers this proposal to have no likely significant effect on this Site, or pose any likelihood of harm to the underlying Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The broad reasons for this are due to the nature, scale, and location of the proposal to the Site, however more specific detail is provided below.

In terms of air quality, the Site does not lie within 200m of the M4, or indeed within 200m of any affected linkage (as defined by the Highways Agency [Design Manual for Roads and Bridges](#) screening criteria vol. 11), and therefore must be screened out in terms of potential impacts upon the Site in terms of any potential increases in nitrogen oxides or nitrogen deposition as a result of the proposal. In terms of any other potential impact, we advise that there is no potential for likely significant effect or harm upon the underlying SSSI due to the nature, scale, and proximity of the proposal to the designated Site (approx. 28km south of the M4).

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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