

Neil Morgan on behalf of Slough MotoX Parc

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE

- 1.1 *SLOUGH MOTOX - M4 JUNCTIONS 3 TO 12 SMART MOTORWAY - WRITTEN SUMMARY OF ORAL SUBMISSIONS PUT AT HEARING HELD ON 19TH NOVEMBER.*
- 1.2 *I apologise for the delay in submitting this written summary, however I have not received any correspondence to date setting out the Development Consent Order timetable. Please note our postal address below.*
- 1.3 *I confirm the objection of Slough MotoX Parc to the M4 Smart Motorway Scheme.*
- 1.4 *We offer a professional motocross facility for the borough and beyond attracting over 200 riders per month. We actively working on plans to significantly increase rider numbers and to improve facilities.*
- 1.5 *The motorway widening scheme will have a catastrophic effect to the facility. The temporary possession of land including a large and vital section of the track would make the remainder of the track unsafe and uninteresting for riders. As a consequence the track would be forced to close for the duration of the works associated with the construction of the new bridge, at least one year, but possibly longer. Based on previous experiences of re-branding the facility and decreases in rider numbers we have major concerns about the long term viability of the facility following an extended closure.*

Highways England Comment

- 1.5.1 Highways England will work with Slough MotoX Parc to minimise the temporary land occupation period. However, the duration of the bridge construction works is estimated to be a period of approximately one year. Once ground investigation and detailed design has been finalised, detailed construction planning will take place. Within the detailed construction planning stage, Highways England will review methodologies and sequences to minimise construction duration and impacts on Slough MotoX Parc.
- 1.5.2 Highways England notes that the Scheme will have a temporary adverse impact on Slough MotoX Parc, but it is anticipated that, on a permanent basis, the impact on the facility will not be significant. The facility is likely to be able to claim compensation for losses suffered as a direct consequence of the Scheme, both permanent and temporary under the provisions of the compensation code and Highways England and its advisers will continue to engage with the facility and its advisers to discuss the appropriate compensation.
- 1.6 *We also have major concerns that increasing the height of the bridge and road leading to and from it on the park side will increase the fall, resulting in a wider embankment being needed and permanently reducing the track size. The current engineering proposals do not account for noise and security bunds on the site that run alongside the fall, and along with the increase of the fall will need to be an increase in the bund, which we believe will impact on a large section of the track.*

Highways England Comment

- 1.6.1 It is correct that the increase in the span of Recreation Ground Bridge will make the new bridge up to 1.1 metres higher and this means that the footprint of the embankment will increase. Consequently, the security fence required to contain and secure the activities of the Slough MotoX Parc is likely to require amendment which may reduce the available track areas. At present, the geotechnical investigation and detailed design have not been completed so the extent of the changes to the embankment cannot be quantified precisely. However, the toe of the new embankment will not extend any further than the limits shown on the Works Plans (REP5-006) and on the schematic land area plan overlaid on Google Earth provided to Slough MotoX on 16 December 2015 and 12 January 2016, and appended to this response at Appendix A.
- 1.6.2 Highways England will continue to engage with Slough MotoX during the detailed design phase so that it is aware of the proposed works and in order to try and minimise the impacts on the facility as far as possible. This commitment will be secured in the revised version of the CEMP to be submitted at Deadline VIII.
- 1.7 *The facility provides an important social function in the area by controlling anti-social riding and trespass. Closure of the facility will result in an increase in illegal riding in the boroughs parks and farmland. This is something that we have been working closely with Slough borough council to reduce for years, and any closure of the track will increase the risk that a member of the public is seriously injured or even killed due to anti-social moto-cross riding on unauthorised land.*

Highways England Comment

- 1.7.1 As noted above, Highways England will seek to mitigate any adverse effect on the facility.