

Date: 06 March 2017
Our ref: 208372
Your ref: TR010021



The Planning Inspectorate
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: Silvertown Tunnel - Silvertown DCO Examination Second Written Questions

Location: Greenwich and Newham London Boroughs

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 February 2017 which was received by Natural England on 10 February 2017.

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.

Second Written Questions

Natural England would have the following comment to make in relation to the specific questions, as numbered below, as issued by the Examining Authority.

TE2.2

At this point this matter is still not agreed however further discussions to clarify the use of land temporarily possessed as part of the project should allow agreement to be reached. Preferably land which is enhanced for biodiversity should be included in the future management plan for the site as a whole even if this requires the landowners to take on management responsibility.

CL2.6

At this point in time Natural England is satisfied with the content and arrangements as specified within the updated CoCP. There are no matters outstanding here.

ME2.5

1. With regard to any further assessment in relation to the proposed features of the rMCZ Natural England agrees with the proposals to conduct surveys six months prior to construction in order to determine the presence of potential suitable habitat for Lagoon Sea Slug. The final survey methodology will be agreed with the EA and MMO prior to any survey work going ahead.
If there are Lagoon Sea Slugs found to be present or if suitable habitat is identified then mitigation will be drawn up and agreed with the MMO in advance of works for the jetty. There are also plans to subsequently understand long term impacts to Lagoon Sea Slug habitats through resurveying of the study area once construction is completed and jetty and decommissioning of the jetty and dredge work is finished.
2. Natural England would agree that the rMCZ has been considered at all stages (equally weighted) even though it isn't out for consultation as yet so there wasn't any statutory obligation to consider any of its features.

This concludes Natural England's comments to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Second Written Questions as issued on the 10th February 2017.

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 Piotr Behnke on 0208 026 3893. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely,

Piotr Behnke
Sustainable Development
Thames Team