

Our ref: 284032

Dear James

Please find attached our response to the above further written questions of the 21 May 2019.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk if there are further queries directed to Natural England.

Kind regards
Alison

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For all planning and other statutory consultations please use the consultations@naturalengland.org.uk mailbox.

Date: 17 June 2019
Our ref: 253535



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Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning consultation: The Examining Authority's Further Written Questions and requests for information in relation to the dDCO issued 21 May 2019

Location: Chiverton to Carland Cross, Cornwall

Thank you for your email dated and received by Natural England on 29 May 2019.

There are two questions directed to Natural England which we respond to as follows:

Question 2.1.1

Paragraph 8.11.122 of Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 8 [APP-061], explains that if a designated site was within 200m of an affected road, NOx concentrations within the site should be calculated. A potential significant effect was identified for the Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors SAC (paragraph 8.11.124). This resulting from exceedances of the vegetation criterion (30 µg/m³) and the 1% threshold (0.3µg/m³) were predicted to occur between 0-10 meters from the highway boundary.

Further investigation found that 0.2% of the total area of the SAC lies within 10m of the Affected Road Network and of this area, only a small part was found to contain an Annex 1 Habitat for which the SAC has been designated – H4c Ulex gallii Agrostis curtisii heath, Erica tetralix sub-community. As such a small amount of the qualifying habitat may be affected, it was concluded that an effect of neutral significance was predicted.

Can Natural England confirm whether they are satisfied with this conclusion?

Yes, the above statement also appears at paragraph 7.3.33 in the document 6.5 *Statement to Inform an Appropriate Assessment* dated August 2018. We confirmed in our letter to Highways England dated 7 August 2018 that "having considered the assessment, and the measures proposed to mitigate for all identified adverse effects that could potentially occur as a result of the proposal, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any permission given."

The Statement of Common Ground with Natural England includes the above letter at Appendix C and summarises previous email exchanges.

Question 2.2.1

The proposed 1.8m noise barrier (Cornish hedge) at the Chiverton Junction and 3m barrier (noise fencing) at Marazanvose would reduce noise levels for some bat roosts.

a) Please identify which bat roosts would benefit from a reduced noise level?

b) Would the proposed noise reduction measures avoid likely significant effects on bat roost receptor locations?

We understand that the Applicant will be providing the Inspector with a detailed response to this question. Our Letter of No Impediment dated 12 March 2019 confirmed that, based on the draft bat licence application documents, we are satisfied that the proposed licensable actions will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the bat species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The noise mitigation proposals in the draft bat licence application included a new 1.8m Cornish hedge, strips of woodland, acoustic hoarding and 3m high noise fencing.

If you have any queries on this letter or additional questions for Natural England, please direct these to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Alison Slade
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Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Team