

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Project ref: M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley
interchange improvement – TR010030

Our ref: WA/2019/126852/09-L01

Your ref: 20023020

Date: 1 May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement project

Please see below our comments for ‘deadline 8’ submissions for the M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement project Development Consent Order application.

The Role of the Environment Agency

The Environment Agency has a responsibility for protecting and improving the environment as well as contributing to sustainable development.

Our work helps to support a greener economy through protecting and improving the natural environment for beneficial uses, working with business to reduce waste and save money, and helping to ensure that the UK economy is ready to cope with climate change. We will facilitate, as appropriate, the development of low carbon sources of energy, ensuring people and the environment are properly protected.

We have three main roles:

We are an **environmental regulator** – we take a risk-based approach and target our effort to maintain and improve environmental standards and to minimize unnecessary burdens on business. We issue a range of permits and consents.

We are an **environmental operator** – we are a national organisation that operates locally. We work with people and communities across England to protect and improve the environment in an integrated way. We provide a vital incident response capability.

We are an **environmental advisor** – we compile and assess the best available evidence and use this to report on the state of the environment. We use our own monitoring information and that of others to inform this activity. We provide technical information and advice to national and local governments to support their roles in policy and decision-making.

One of specific functions is as a Flood Risk Management Authority. We have a general supervisory duty relating to specific flood risk management matters in respect of flood risk arising from Main Rivers or the sea.

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Environment Agency position

Since we issued our previous response for deadline 6 on 3 April (REP6-021), we received an updated Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) from the applicant on 24 April, which we understand the applicant proposes to submit at this deadline.

We have now reviewed the updated FRA (reference: HE551522-ATK-EWE-RP-LW-000003; dated: April 2020) and agree that it is fit-for-purpose for this application. The FRA has been sufficiently updated to address any concerns that we have previously raised and we now consider all flood risk matters to be agreed.

Given the above, we now consider all matters within our remit to be agreed. The Statement of Common Ground between us and the applicant will reflect our updated position.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Clark Gordon
Strategic Planning Specialist
Environment Agency, Thames area