



**DEADLINE 8 RESPONSE**  
**KENT DOWNS AONB RESPONSE TO**  
**APPLICANT'S SUBMISSIONS AT DEADLINE 7**  
**Doc 9.179 Computer Generated Views from Thong Lane**  
**green bridge south**

**Interested party Ref no: 20035310**

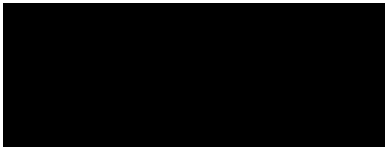
**Doc 9.179 Computer Generated Views from Thong Lane Green bridge south**  
**[\[REP7-189\]](#)**

The Kent Downs AONB Unit welcomes the provision of computer generated images looking west from the proposed Thong Lane South green bridge. To date, while sectional and engineering drawings have been provided, material that more clearly illustrates the new junction has been absent, despite previous requests for this from the AONB Unit and others.

A baseline image (i.e. without the proposed junction and associated works) would have been helpful to enable an appropriate comparison between the 'before' and 'after' scenarios. At present, the affected land comprises largely open, undeveloped, flat agricultural land and existing highway infrastructure is limited to the east and west carriageways of the A2, plus associated slip roads but these are located tight to the A2 carriageways. The project significantly extends the amount of highway infrastructure that is visible in the view and occupies a large proportion of it and involves significant incursions south and in particular north of the A2 where there is currently little in the way of built development.

The images confirm the AONB Unit's concerns that the complicated, multi-level junction with the A2 will result in a significant intrusion of built form into the immediate setting of the AONB, fundamentally and permanently altering the character of the land. Impacts would be exacerbated by movement of traffic as well as lighting on top of the viaducts. While woodland/tree planting mitigation is

proposed, much of the infrastructure would remain a highly visible and adverse intrusion into the landscape, even at Design year 15, although it is recognised that in views from the Thong Lane South Green bridge, planting along the bridge's western side would, by Year 15, be largely shielded by the maturing vegetation proposed. However, in view of the proposed change to Design principle S2.12 set out in the Design Principles V5 submitted at D7 ([REP7-141](#)), there is no longer certainty that any planting would be provided along the bridge's western edge.



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5 December 2023