



**Kent Downs
National
Landscape**

Interested party Ref no: 20035310

KENT DOWNS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE TEAM

RESPONSE TO

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM ALL INTERESTED PARTIES DATED
28TH NOVEMBER 2024**

National Highway's response to Secretary of State letter of 12 November 2024

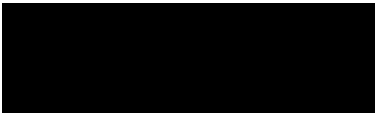
The Applicant advises that they have, in line with the request from the SoS, sought views from Active Travel on what further measures could be delivered to, amongst other matters, enhance and improve active travel opportunities. In a letter dated 22 November, attached at Annex A to the Applicant's response, ([link](#)), from Active Travel, it is advised at 2.5.1 that:

Installation of lighting should be considered on utility routes, with operating hours potentially limited to reduce energy consumption and minimise light pollution in sensitive locations. The provision of lighting should also be considered for traffic-free routes expected to see significant use after dark. This is particularly important on routes used by commuters or as part of safer routes to school networks, where demand remains high during winter months. Additionally, lighting may be necessary where traffic-free routes connect with the highway network or where road safety issues are identified.

In response to this request, the Applicant has proposed that the advice be considered furthered as part of engagement with Active Travel England under amendments to Design principle PRO.07, which is amended to include cycle tracks, routes, bridleway, footpaths and permissive paths that are provided or improved as part of the Project to be subject to structured stakeholder engagement.

Some of the utility routes and traffic-free routes are located within the Kent Downs National Landscape, or adjacent to its boundary, and also within or adjacent to sites designated for ecological purposes. In considering any proposed lighting within these locations, it is requested that potential impacts on both wildlife and the dark night skies of the National Landscape, are taken into account in the design of any lighting. In order to help achieve this, it is requested that lighting schemes affecting the NL are designed to minimise light spill, avoid bright white and cooler temperature LEDs, there should be no light either above or near the horizontal and tall lighting columns should be avoided with light fittings installed at the lowest height to achieve the required lighting levels. In addition lighting should be switched off when utility sites are not in use and the lighting should be operated only when presence is detected through the use of motion detectors. The Kent Downs National Landscape Team therefore requests that it is included as one of the relevant stakeholders with whom there is engagement with on the design.

I hope the above is helpful and would be happy to provide further clarification if required.



Katie Miller, MRTPI

Planning and Place Manager, Kent Downs National Landscape Team

10 December 2024