

Deadline 6

In response to the Examining Authorities second written questions issued on Wednesday 2 March 2022.

No	Question to	Reference	Question
12.10	National Trust	<p>Potential for increased recreational pressure on qualifying features of the Special Protection Area (SPA).</p> <p>National Highways Deadline 2 Submission - Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report [REP2-004]</p> <p>Natural England Deadline 2 Submission - Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1) [REP2-054]</p> <p>National Trust Deadline 2 Submission - Written Representation [REP2-079]</p>	<p>The Applicant provided an explanation as to why the proposal is unlikely to result in an increase in recreational pressure (see Table 5.1 of [REP2-044] from improving road access to the National Park and encouraging more people to visit by car. Natural England [REP2-054] has not raised any issues with the approach.</p> <p>Please confirm whether, or not, you are satisfied with Applicant's response at [REP2-004].</p>

Linked information:

National Highways Deadline 2 Submission - Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report [REP2-004]	HRA Table 5.1 contains the following references to recreation: Vulnerabilities include 'Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities' (HRA Table 5.1, p22) 'The remaining SPA site vulnerabilities have been taken into consideration. As the Scheme is for road infrastructure only, it is not considered likely that the Scheme would result in an increase in fire/fire suppression, reduced fecundity/genetic depression, outdoor sports/recreational activities, or hunting.'
Natural England Deadline 2 Submission - Response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (WQ1) [REP2-054]	No specific comments in relation to recreational impacts
The Applicant provided an explanation as to why the proposal is unlikely to result in an increase in recreational pressure (see Table 5.1 of [REP2-044*] from improving road access to the National Park and encouraging more people to visit by car *nb. this links to page 3 of HRA Appendix B PINS	HRA Appendix B contains no specific statements in relation to recreation

Screening Matrices, whereas Table 5.1 is contained within the HRA Screening Report	
Please confirm whether, or not, you are satisfied with Applicant's response at [REP2-004*]. *nb. this links to the original HRA Screening Report	See extracts from HRA Table 5.1 first row above

National Trust response

National Trust's Written Representation included a general comment at paragraph 2.5 about the impacts that the scheme will have on the National Park as a result of additional traffic and associated noise, visual disturbance, air pollution and potentially additional recreational pressure. This comment was not made in relation to qualifying bird features of the SPA.

We are conscious that the Examining Authority's question 12.10 appears to be posed specifically in relation to the qualifying features of the SPA. As this is not an issue that we raised, and the information above (contained within documents linked to ExA question 12.10) provides very little information on this matter, National Trust does not wish to offer further comment. Should the ExA require further advice specifically in relation to whether recreation may result in likely significant effects on the SPA then we consider that Natural England would be best placed to provide additional advice on this matter.