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Your ref: TR010034



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir

NSIP Reference Name / Code: A57 Link Roads Issue Specific Third Round of Questions - Hearing Addendum to Question 12.8
User Code: TR010034

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England's answers to the ExA's and in response to National Highways response provided as Annex 1.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact Andy Stubbs at

Yours faithfully

Andy Stubbs
Senior Planning Adviser East Midlands

374997

Annex 1: Natural England's responses to Examining Authority's 3rd round of questions.

<p>Question 1.12. Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority, Environment Agency Natural England Remaining concerns Apart from the issues covered elsewhere in these third written questions, please could Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, and Natural England summarise any remaining concerns that they have about the dDCO?</p>
<p>Answer</p> <p>Natural England have no remaining concerns about the dDCO.</p>
<p>Question 2.3. Local Planning Authorities, Environment Agency, Natural England Remaining concerns Apart from the issues covered elsewhere in these third written questions or in their signed Statements of Common Ground, please could Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, and Natural England summarise any remaining concerns that they have about the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case for the Scheme [REP2-016]• Environmental Management Plan (First Iteration) [REP9- 008]• Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments [REP9-009]• Works Plans [REP9-002], Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [REP9-003], Scheme Layout Plans [REP8- 004], and Engineering Drawings and Section Plans [REP5-005]• compliance of the Proposed Development with relevant legislation and policy, including local policies• any other important and relevant matters, including in relation to the ExA's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues [PD-005]
<p>Answer</p> <p>Natural England have no further comments to make with regards to REP2-016, REP9-008, REP9-009, REP9-002, REP9-003, REP8-005 REP5-005 and PD-005.</p>
<p>Question 4.4.</p>

<p>Natural England, Local Planning Authorities</p> <p>Remaining concerns</p> <p>Apart from the issues covered elsewhere in these third written questions, please could Natural England, Peak District National Park Authority, Derbyshire County Council, and High Peak Borough Council summarise any remaining concerns that they have about the Applicant's consideration of the Peak District National Park?</p>
<p>Answers</p> <p>Natural England has no further comments to make at this stage.</p>
<p>Question 11.4.</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>High Peak Borough Council Written Response at Deadline 8 [REP8-025] Peak District National Park Authority Written Response at Deadline 8 [REP8-026]</p> <p>High Peak Borough Council [REP8-025] and Peak District National Park Authority [REP8-026] confirmed that issues relating to high nutrient levels within their administrative areas are not applicable to the proposal as these concerns relate to Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation / River Wye, which is more than 20km from Proposed Development at closest point. Would Natural England confirm that they have no issues or concerns regarding high nutrient levels in relation to the Proposed Development on the basis set out by the two local authorities?</p>
<p>Answers</p> <p>Natural England can confirm we have no issues with regards to nutrient levels within the administrative areas of High Peak Borough Council and Peak District National Park Authority in relation to the proposed development due to the locality of the scheme not being within the Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation catchment.</p>
<p>Question 12.2.</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Report on Implications for European Sites [PD-014]</p> <p>The traffic modelling indicates an increase in the number of vehicles that will use the A57 Snake Pass and A626 (Woodhead Pass. This may lead to an increase in particulate emissions. Please could Natural England comment on whether the increase in particulates in runoff and any other relevant sources of particulate from the ARN within 200m of the European sites represents a potential impact pathway for likely significant effects on any of the qualifying features.</p>
<p>Answer</p>

Natural England currently does not have guidance on particulates in runoff from cars so are unable to make any specific comments to there being a potential impact pathway for likely significant effects on qualifying features of European sites.

Question 12.5.

Natural England

Peak District National Park Written Response at Deadline 9 [REP9-035]

Peak District National Park Authority [REP9-035] indicated that they have remaining concerns regarding noise disturbance to the bird qualifying features of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Phase 1) SPA resulting from increases in traffic numbers. Does Natural England have any further comments on information provided by Applicant at Deadline 6 [REP6-017] and/ or the concerns of Peak District National Park Authority regarding noise disturbance to birds?

Answer

Natural England supports the inclusion of Noise disturbance to bird qualifying features of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Phase 1) SPA resulting from increase in traffic numbers as part of the HRA. Whilst Natural England agrees that it should not be assumed birds are habituated to existing roads, the figures provided by the Applicant at Deadline 6 (REP6-017) on traffic noise do indicate that noise levels will not be of an increase of 3dB or more against existing levels for which a Likely Significant Effect could be concluded. Natural England are satisfied therefore that there will not be LSE to the bird qualifying features of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Phase 1) SPA resulting from increases in traffic numbers.

Question 12.6.

Natural England

Peak District National Park Written Response at Deadline 9 [REP9-035]

Peak District National Park Authority [REP9-035] indicate that they have concerns remaining regarding the visual disturbance of birds by increases in traffic numbers. Does Natural England have any further comments on information provided by Applicant at Deadline 6 [REP6-017] and/ or concerns of Peak District National Park Authority regarding visual disturbance to birds?

Answer

Natural England again supports the inclusion of visual disturbance of birds by increases in traffic numbers, however noise would be the biggest factor in affecting the density of breeding birds. Although traffic modelling does indicate an increase in traffic on the A628 and A57, as the noise levels figures provided by the Applicant at Deadline 6 (REP6-017) indicate no LSE to the bird qualifying features, Natural England are satisfied that there will be no LSE to the bird qualifying features of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Phase 1) SPA resulting from visual impacts from increase in traffic numbers.

Question 12.8.

Applicant, Natural England

CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch Deadline 6 Submission – Response to the Examining Authority’s Second Written Questions – Appendix A Roadkill assessment for Peak District Mountain Hares [REP6-025]

Concerns have been raised by Peak District National Park Authority and CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch regarding the effect of increased traffic numbers on the A57 and A628 on the Mountain Hare population. Would the Applicant and Natural England please provide comment on the contents and conclusion of the report presented by CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch [REP6-025]?

Answer

On the advice of Natural England’s Mountain Hare expert, the report and conclusion presented by CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch (REP6-025) should be taken into consideration for the project.

Question 12.9.

Local Authorities, Natural England Environment Agency

Remaining concerns

Apart from the issues covered elsewhere in these third written questions, please could Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority, Natural England, and the Environment Agency summarise any remaining concerns that they have about the Applicant’s consideration of biodiversity, ecological and geological conservation, or the Habitat Regulation Assessment?

Answer

Natural England has no further concerns to raise.

Question 14.1.

Natural England, Environment Agency, Local Authorities, statutory undertakers

Remaining concerns

Apart from the issues covered elsewhere in these third written questions, please could Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, High Peak Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Statutory Undertakers summarise any remaining concerns that they have about the Applicant’s consideration of:

- the utility infrastructure
- transboundary effects
- security
- major accidents and disasters
- civil and military aviation and defence
- decommissioning
- cumulative and combined effects
- other important and relevant considerations

Answer

Natural England has no further comments to make on these issues.