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Application Reference: TRA10036

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Dear Michele

### **Intention to submit requests for changes**

Following public consultation during December 2018 and January 2019, Highways England intends to submit written requests for changes to the DCO to the Examining Authority. These changes are 1) an amendment to the layout, siting and size of the main construction compound, 2) a change to proposed accommodation works to ensure suitable access to Blackwell Farm is maintained; and 3) amendment to the Book of Reference to note a right in favour of Hazlegrove School which has been omitted. Changes 1 and 2 would require amendment of the red line of the Order to include new land and inclusion of new areas affected by compulsory powers.

### **Change 1 – Main construction compound**

Highways England has been informed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation that much of the land currently identified as the main construction compound is required by them for the installation of new landing lights. Highways England were not aware of the timing or impact of this proposal during pre-application consultation and the conflict of proposed uses has only become apparent following submission of the DCO application.

Highways England have been in correspondence with DIO and have been informed that the proposed landing light works will be carried out in between April 2019 and March 2020 and that co-use of the area required for those works is not acceptable to DIO. They advise that for safety reasons they will not agree to any other party working in or moving equipment about near the lights. Given this, Highways England have identified land immediately adjacent to the existing proposed compound area, within the same landownership, and which has been the subject of ecological surveys as part of the buffer zone which it considers is suitable for use as the replacement main construction

compound. Highways England would therefore propose to undertake formal consultation on and request a change to the red line of the Order to include this new construction compound area. Discussion on using that area has been undertaken with the landowner and further environmental assessment to prepare supplementary environmental information for that area is ongoing.

### **Change 2 – associated development - accommodation work – provision of access to Blackwell Farm (Work 59)**

The access track proposal was added to the application in response to pre-application consultation and discussion with the landowner of Blackwell Farm as their preferred route for this accommodation work. An objection to that access has been received from an adjacent landowner concerned that the junction with the public highway would be very close to their property. Highways England has continued to work on options for access to Blackwell Farm and has identified another way of providing access by widening the corner and junction of the existing public highway rather than constructing an entirely new access track on what is currently greenfield land in agricultural use. The land required for widening is mostly highway verge, with an area in the ownership of the party for whom the access works are required and a small area is in third party ownership. The proposed widening would require less land take and less new hard surfacing than the current track and would move the junction of the access away from the objector's property. The local highway authority have been informally consulted on the proposed change and have raised no objection. Environmental assessment to prepare supplementary environmental information for that area is ongoing.

### **Change 3 – Hazlegrove School**

Highways England has also identified an error in the landowner consultation. One party (Hazlegrove School) holding rights within the order land which will be affected by the scheme was consulted as a class 1 and 3 affected person but should have been consulted as class 2. At the same time as undertaking consultation on the proposed changes Highways England would intend to also consult Hazlegrove School as a class 2 affected person.

In assessing the proposed changes, Highways England has had regard to the advice contained in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 16. Highways England note that the substance of the scheme is the construction of a new highway within the meaning of section 22 (1)(a). Given that the changes proposed are to the location of a temporary construction compound, an accommodation work and the detail of the Book of Reference and that no changes are proposed to the highway to be constructed, its configuration, layout, or speed limit, Highways England consider that the changes proposed do not alter the substance of the scheme applied for.

The Applicant is progressing the production of further environmental information which will be consulted on along with the proposed changes.

Highways England would welcome the opportunity to discuss the timetabling of procedural decisions in respect of these requests at the Preliminary Meeting.

Yours sincerely

Elliot Hayes  
Assistant Project Manager Regional Investment Programme South West