

Date: 31 May 2022
Our ref: 393673
Your ref: TR010039



National Infrastructure Planning
The Planning Inspectorate

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
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Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir/Madam,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: TR010039 A47 Wansford to Sutton
User Code: 20029797

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.

Please find below our responses to the Examining Authority's (ExA's) further written questions and requests for information (ExQ3).

3.2.1. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Could Natural England confirm whether it is satisfied with the Applicant's response in the Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [REP5-010] relation to the question of the potential hydrological link between the Proposed Development and Rutland Water Special Protection Area and Ramsar site?

Natural England notes that the Report to Inform Habitats Regulations Assessment now recognises that Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar has a hydrological linkage to the scheme. Given the distances involved and the nature of the hydrological connection, we are satisfied with the conclusion that the proposal will not have a likely significant effect on Rutland Water Special Protection Area and Ramsar, and that it can therefore be screened out from Appropriate Assessment.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Rees
Lead Adviser – Sustainable Development
West Anglia Area Team