

Evans, Rebecca

From: Matthew Winslow [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 November 2023 18:15
To: A12chelmsfordA120
Subject: A12 DCO - Response from Maldon District Council from SOS Invitation dated 20 November 2023

Categories: SoS Consultation Response

Dear Sir,

Thank you for consulting Maldon District Council, by letter invitation dated 20 November 2023 as part of your considerations of the application by National Highways Ltd which is seeking Development Consent for the proposed A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme. The Council has considered the representations made to the Secretary of State's Consultation 1 – dated 27 October 2023, which closed on 9 November 2023.

Maldon District Council has the following comments to make as an Interested Party and Local Planning Authority directly impacted by the scheme.

- 1) Maldon District Council supports Braintree District Council's request (dated 9 November 2023) to increase the time for Local Planning Authorities to respond to consultation requests made under Requirement 22 for Part 1 requirements from 28 days to 42 days, for the same reasons given by Braintree District Council.
- 2) On reviewing the National Highway's representations, Maldon District Council welcomes the updates provided around the Cadent Gas Main Diversion and the ongoing work National Highways and Cadent are undertaking to limit the impact on the Blue Mills Nature Reserve in the Maldon District. It welcomes the inclusion of TPO 07/22 into Schedule 9 of the Draft DCO and the limitations given for impact to trees covered by the order. The Council is pleased to note now that not only will the River Blackwater be tunnelled under to install the diverted pipe, but also there is greater detail that the bore shafts will be sited on agricultural land either side of the woodland TPO, at a depth that will now clear the river bed and tree roots of the woodland; which had been an outstanding concern. This builds positively on the position that was established at the point in time the Statement of Common Ground was signed with National Highways.
- 3) Maldon District Council also welcomes the news that the location of the rare Black Poplar at Blue Mills Nature Reserve has now resulted in a specific alignment choice for the pipeline to ensure this part of the woodland is avoided. Whilst the Council has not seen this alignment specifically, the Council is aware and supports that should any limited vegetation works be required that this is being managed through the Environmental Management Plan's commitments which now include specific references to Blue Mills Nature Reserve, its TPOs and the black poplars.

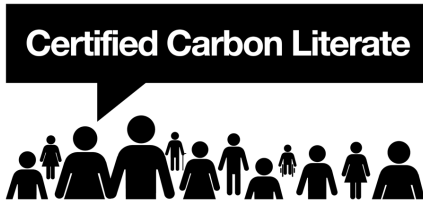
Thank you for consulting Maldon District Council on this important project and it awaits the Secretary of State's decision with interest.

Regards,

Matthew Winslow BSc. (Hons.) MSc. MRTPI AinstLM (He/Him)
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