

The Planning Inspectorate
Major Casework Directorate
Temple Quay House (2 The Square)
Temple Quay
Bristol
Avon
BS1 6PN

Our ref: NE/2023/136347/01-L01

Date: 31 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application by London Luton Airport Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed London Luton Airport Expansion Project: Action Points arising from the Issue Specific Hearing on biodiversity, water, land-use, landscape and visual, design and heritage and any other matters (ISH6) held on Friday 29 September 2023

Luton Airport, 2 Percival Way, Luton, LU2 9LY

Thank you for consulting us on the above action points following Issue Specific Hearing 6.

Action Point 14: To capture in the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) whether the River Basin Management Plans published in 2022 are to be used.

River basin management plans (RBMPs) set the legally binding locally specific environmental objectives which underpin water regulation and planning activities. The RBMP are reviewed and updated every 6 years; the 2021 to 2027 plans are the latest and were published in 2022. The plans include the baseline status for water bodies, the statutory objectives for protected areas and water bodies, and the summary programmes of measures to achieve the statutory objectives.

When making management decisions, both the 2015 and 2021 baselines should be considered, ensuring that any deterioration in status over the full time period is taken into account. For the same reasons, we also need to have regard to the interim classifications, the latest of which was published in 2022. Additionally, the requirement to meet the objective of aiming to achieve good status in water bodies must also be considered. As a result, it is advised that the applicant consider these and the latest RBMP as part of their WFD assessment.



Final comments

Thank you for contacting us regarding the above action points. Our comments are based on our available records and the information submitted to us.

Should you have any queries regarding this response, please contact me.

Yours faithfully,

George Lloyd
Planning Specialist – Green Growth and Delivery

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