

Date: 14 August 2024
Our ref: 484225
Your ref: **Luton Airport Expansion**



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010
Application by London Luton Airport Limited (“the Applicant”) Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed London Luton Airport Expansion (“the Proposed Development”).**

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.

We have the following responses to the Written Question that has been directed to us:

CHILTERN NATIONAL LANDSCAPE (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

3. It is noted that in 2013, Chilterns Conservation Board made an application to extend the boundary of the Chilterns National Landscape and in June 2021, Natural England announced proposals to consider this application. Natural England are requested to provide an update regarding whether they have confirmed any of the proposed candidate areas as set out at figure 14.7 in [REP4-037](#) to progress as part of the boundary review.

A: Natural England has continued to make progress in considering whether the landscape within the vicinity of Luton Airport is of such outstanding natural beauty that it is desirable to designate it under provisions within section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to vary the existing boundary of the Chilterns National Landscape (formerly AONB). This has involved further technical work across our ‘Area of Search’ through 2024. The ‘Area of Search’ for the project is an area broadly identified as being potentially suitable for designation and within which technical assessments will be made to determine whether the area meets the criteria for designation as National Landscape. Work on Chilterns Boundary Review Project is on-going at this stage and information about the proposed Candidate Area locations are not yet in the public domain.

We would point out that the area indicated on Figure 14.7 ‘Landscape and Visual Assessment Constraints Plan’, drawing no: LLADCO-3C-ARP-00-00-DR-YE-0061, Revision 01 as a ‘Candidate Area for Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ has not originated directly from Natural England and is incorrect. This area appears to show part of the ‘Area of Search’ for the project. At

this stage, Natural England do not have fixed boundary Candidate Area maps. We are working towards producing these and sharing them publicly as part of a Public and Statutory Consultation. This is currently scheduled to take place in Winter (January / February) 2025.

However, we can confirm that we are we considering areas immediately to the east of the Order Limits as drawn in figure 14.7, and it is possible that there may be some slight overlap in particular locations between the red line Order Limits and Candidate Areas, once boundaries for these have been drawn.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Alison Collins MCIEEM
West Anglia Area Team