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12<sup>st</sup> February 2019

Dear Mr MacDonald

**For the attention of the Examining Authority for the Manston Airport regarding Supplementary Relevant Representation**

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On 8 October 2018 the RSPB submitted a relevant representation on the application for development consent by RiverOak Strategic Partners Ltd for Manston Airport (registration identification number 20014646).

Since sending our representation we have noticed an error in the Environment Statement (dated July 2018, reference TR020002/APP/5.2-1) that accompanied the application.

The Environment Statement states that:

- “as part of the third Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) SPA review<sup>1</sup>, golden plover was removed as a designated species from the (Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay) SPA (likely due to declining numbers), although this change is currently unratified” (page 7-35, paragraph 7.8.7)
- “Following the third JNCC review (Stroud et al. 2016) of the SPA designated species, it was suggested little tern be removed, due to recent absence from the (Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay) SPA, although this change is as yet unratified” (page 7-38, paragraph 7.8.28).

These two statements are incorrect.

The reference to the ‘third JNCC review’ in the Environment Statement is to Phase 1 of this Review, the report of which was published in 2016 and is available here: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7309>.

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<sup>1</sup> Stroud, D.A., Bainbridge, I.P., Maddock, A., Anthony, S., Baker, H., Buxton, N., Chambers, D., Enlander, I., Hearn, R.D., Jennings, K.R., Mavor, R., Whitehead, S. & Wilson, J.D. - on behalf of the UK SPA & Ramsar Scientific Working Group (eds.) (2016). *The status of UK SPAs in the 2000s: the Third Network Review*. [c. 1,108] pp. JNCC, Peterborough

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The RSPB is part of BirdLife International,  
a partnership of conservation organisations  
working to give nature a home around the world.

Phase 1 assessed whether the UK's network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) is sufficient for the bird species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. It did not assess whether a species should or should not be removed as a designated species for any SPA.

Therefore, the Environment Statement is incorrect when it states that the Review has removed or suggested the removal of golden plover or little tern from the designation of the Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay SPA.

We hope that this clarification is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause the Examining Authority and the applicant.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

**Dora Querido**  
**Conservation Officer**