

Date: 12 March 2024  
Our ref: 469241  
Your ref: TR020005



The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Planning  
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Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Mr Gleeson,

**NSIP Reference Name / Code: TR020005**  
**User Code: 20044575**

## **Natural England's Written Representations in respect of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway project promoted by Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL)**

**Examining Authority's submission deadline with a date of 12 March 2024**

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.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact the case officer Sophie Moore and copy to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Sophie Moore  
Sussex and Kent Team

## Natural England's Written Representations

PART I: Summary and conclusions of Natural England's advice.  
Appendices  
Appendix A: Draft Statement of Common Ground (starting on page 4)

### Part I: Summary and conclusions of Natural England's advice

#### Summary of Natural England's advice

Natural England is still awaiting further information relating to impacts from changes in air quality as a result of the proposal upon nationally designated sites, as we are currently unable to make a robust assessment of impacts with the information provided. We continue to have no major concerns with impacts upon nationally designated landscapes, however we will be engaging with Gatwick Airport Limited with regard to impacts upon the tranquility of High Weald AONB. We are awaiting draft protected species license applications for badgers in order to provide Letters of No Impediment. We continue to be satisfied with the conclusions of the Habitats Regulations Assessment in that there is to be no adverse effect on the integrity of any of the sites assessed.

- 1.1. Part I of these Written Representations provides a summary (above) and overall conclusions of Natural England's advice. This advice identifies whether any progress in resolving issues has been made since submission of our Relevant Representations (**our ref. 449361**). Our comments are set out against the following sub-headings which represent our key areas of remit as follows:
  - International designated sites
  - Nationally designated sites
  - Protected species
  - Biodiversity net gain
  - Nationally designated landscapes
  - Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land
  - Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees
  - Connecting people with nature (National Trails, open access land and England Coast Path)
  - Other valuable and sensitive habitats and species, landscapes and access routes
- 1.2. To keep our advice and recommendations as simple and clear as possible we have chosen to only include Part I in this letter, given that our comments have not changed since our Relevant Representations response (our ref. 449361). We will continue to engage with both yourselves and Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) in order to resolve our outstanding concerns.

## 2. Internationally designated sites

- 2.1. Natural England's position regarding internationally designated sites **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361).
- 2.2. **Our position regarding impacts on internationally designated sites is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning for this is given against each impact pathway within our Written Representations Part II.**

### **3. Nationally designated sites**

- 3.1. Natural England's position regarding nationally designated sites **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361).
- 3.2. **Our position regarding impacts on nationally designated sites is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning for this is given against each impact pathway within our Written Representations Part II.**

### **4. Nationally designated landscapes**

- 4.1. Natural England's position regarding nationally designated landscapes **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361).
- 4.2. **Our position regarding nationally designated landscapes is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning to support our Relevant Representations is set out in our Written Representations Part II.**

### **5. Protected species**

- 5.1. Natural England's position regarding European protected species **has not** since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361).
- 5.2. **Our position regarding impacts on protected species is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning for this is given for each species within our Written Representations Part II.**

### **6. Biodiversity Net Gain Provision**

- 6.1. Natural England's position regarding provision of biodiversity net gain **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361).
- 6.2. **Our position regarding biodiversity net gain provision is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning to support our Relevant Representations is set out in our Written Representations Part II.**

### **7. Soils and best and most versatile agricultural land**

- 7.1. Natural England's position regarding soils and the best and most versatile agricultural land **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361)
- 7.2. **Our position regarding soils and best and most versatile agricultural land is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning to support our Relevant Representations is set out in our Written Representations Part II.**

### **8. Ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees**

- 8.1. Natural England's position regarding ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees **has not** changed since submission of our Relevant Representations (our ref. 449361).
- 8.2. **Our position regarding ancient woodland and ancient/veteran trees is as set out in our Relevant Representations. Further detail on our reasoning to support our Relevant Representations is set out in our Written Representations Part II.**

## **9. Natural England's overall conclusions**

- 9.1. Overall, our advice and recommendations have not changed since our comments at Relevant Representations stage and we continue to await further information.