

Dear PINS,

As a chartered environmental scientist with 30 years experience of ecology studies in our local area I have been extremely dismayed about the lack of regard paid by Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) in their submissions in relation to the wider ecological networks surrounding the airport, and the adverse impacts that their proposal will have in addition to the significant adverse impacts already being caused by the airport.

The West Sussex and Surrey County Council Local Impact Reports (document reference REP1-068 and REP1-097) summarise the situation well and highlight a large number of shortcomings within the proposal in relation to the nature recovery networks now required by law under the Environment Act 2021.

I have already made a written submission for the previous deadline reinforcing these points, and assumed that there would be some form of questioning made to GAL and subsequent responses from them on this topic on this topic.

I also assumed that the 1 May Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) on environmental matters would have an agenda item to allow further discussion/ examination of ecology and biodiversity matters.

On checking the library I find no evidence that the issue of ecological networks has been examined properly, and furthermore the ISH on 1 May did not even have an agenda item set for ecology and biodiversity matters.

Please can PINS let me know when and how it intends to resolve concerns around this issue.

I would hope at the very least that there can be a whole or partial ISH devoted to ecology and biodiversity matters in the next round in June. However I will be concerned that will be too late in the examination process to give this topic the coverage that it needs and time for GAL to respond, so would appreciate it greatly if PINS could make questions to GAL to challenge them on this in the meantime.

Regards, Ben Benatt CEnv MCIEEM