

Date: 15 July 2024
Our ref: 481499
Your ref: TR020005



The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Mr Gleeson,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: TR020005

Natural England's answers to the Examiners Written Questions 2 in respect of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway project.

Examining Authority's submission deadline with a date of 15 July 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 [REDACTED] [@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk), and copy to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Summary Of Advice

EN.2.1- We can confirm that our position has not changed from the relevant representations response, as the DEFRA guidance update is specific to applications which are currently required to achieve a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. The applicant has opted to achieve BNG voluntarily and in the absence of a Biodiversity Gain Statement for NSIPs, which is expected to be out for consultation later this year, we continue to agree with their approach.

EN.2.7- We consider the information signposted to in the applicant's response to ExQ1 EN.1.19 [REP3-090] sufficient to support the conclusions made in the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [REP3-043].

EN.2.8- We can confirm that we are content with the favourable/unfavourable statuses of Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Special Area of Conservation (SAC) provided by the applicant and that the information provided in the HRAR is sufficiently specific.

EN.2.10- Our licensing team is currently reviewing the information submitted by the applicant in relation to badgers, but is still awaiting information relating to Great Crested Newts. They have advised that there is no reason that draft licenses wouldn't be able to be provided by the end of examination, but cannot confirm this at this current stage.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Moore
Higher Officer
Sussex & Kent Area Team