

Date: 20 August 2024
Our ref: 484310
Your ref: TR020005



The Planning Inspectorate
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Gleeson,

NSIP Reference Name / Code: TR020005

Natural England's response to the examiners Report on the Implications for European Sites in respect of Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project.

Examining Authority's submission deadline with a date of 21 August 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 ██████████@naturalengland.org.uk, and copy to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Summary Of Advice

Natural England notes that the examining authority has requested confirmation as to whether their understanding of the screening and adverse effect conclusions, as detailed in tables A1.1 and A1.7, is correct. In addition a specific question has been asked of Natural England relating to the conservation status of the following internationally and nationally designated sites.

- Ashdown Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ockham and Wisley Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Chobham Common SSSI

It is our opinion that the understanding of the examining authority is correct in that the following sites have been screened out from assessment as having no likely significant effect:

- Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- The Mens SAC
- Ebernoe Common SAC

In addition, the following sites have been taken through to appropriate assessment due to potential impacts from air pollution however it has been determined that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the sites and Natural England agrees with this:

- Ashdown Forest SAC
- Ashdown Forest SPA
- Thames Basin Heath SPA
- Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC

With respect to the conservation status of Ockham and Wisley Common SSSI and Chobham Common SSSI, we have received the following information from our monitoring colleagues:

- Ockham and Wisley Common SSSI- mix of favourable and unfavourable recovering, dependant on the monitored interest features on specific units within the site
- Chobham Common SSSI- mix of favourable and unfavourable recovering, dependant on the monitored interest features on specific units within the site

Due to an error on our systems that we weren't able to resolve by Deadline 9, we are unable to confirm the conservation status of Ashdown Forest SPA using recent survey data. We can however assume from information provided in the sites Supplementary Advice document that it is a mix of favourable and unfavourable recovering, dependant on the monitored interest features on specific units within the site.

More detailed information on the conservation status of individual interest features across the different units within each site is available here: [Site Search \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

Sophie Moore
Higher Officer
Sussex & Kent Area Team