

Date: 29 February 2024
Our ref: 468118



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Ms Taylor,

Planning consultation: Post-Regulation 19 work on Air Quality (HRA)

Location: Dover, Kent

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 22 February 2024 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

Summary Of Advice

Having considered the submitted Dispersion Modelling Assessment: Ammonia (January 2024) and updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (February 2024), we can now confirm that we are satisfied that an adverse effect on the integrity in relation to air quality can be ruled out on the following sites:

- Dover to Kingsdown Cliffs Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Lydden to Temple Ewell Downs SAC
- Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment SAC
- Sandwich Bay SAC
- Thanet Coast to Sandwich Bay SPA and Ramsar

We welcome the thorough explanation provided in paragraph 5.47 in relation to ruling out impacts upon Thanet Coast to Sandwich Bay Ramsar site and agree with the justification provided. We also agree with the justification provided in paragraph 5.48 for coastal saltmarsh and mudflat habitats, in that areas regularly inundated and flushed with coastal sea water are unlikely to be impacted by localised changes in air quality.

However, we should highlight that lowland fen habitat is present at receptor E46 (Table 5.6) yet this hasn't been addressed in the appropriate assessment. We therefore advise that the lowland fen habitat is addressed for completeness.

Final Comments

For queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sophie Moore at sophie.moore@naturalengland.org.uk. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Sophie Moore
Lead Advisor
Sussex & Kent Area Team