



Department for Transport

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Dear Ms Wakeham,

TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006: REQUEST FOR A SCREENING DECISION

PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL (SUFFOLK LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER

I refer to your letter of 19 January 2017 to Robert Fox in this Unit in which you requested a screening decision under rule 7 of the above Rules as to whether an environmental impact assessment is required in respect of the proposed works relating to the closure of, and/or changes to rights at, 25 level crossings in Suffolk and creation of alternative routes.

In considering this request, we have taken into account the screening report enclosed with your letter (Anglia Level Crossing Reduction Strategy: EIA Screening Request: Suffolk Order 367516/RPT026 Revision E of 18 January 2017) and the selection criteria referred to in rule 7(11) of the above Rules. We have also consulted Suffolk County Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Ipswich District Council, West Suffolk District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. Responses were received from all the consultees except Historic England.

We consider that the proposals described in your request should be regarded as a project of a type mentioned in Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council. Having regard to the characteristics and locations of the project and the type and characteristics of potential impacts, on the basis of the available information we consider that this project is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Therefore in accordance with rule 7(13) of the above Rules, **the Secretary of State's screening decision is that an environmental impact assessment is not required** in relation to the project which is to be subject of the above proposed Order.

Yours sincerely,

Natasha Kopala