

Date: 26 January 2023  
Our ref: 410977  
Your ref: TR010039



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Ms Dominey

**TR010039**

**Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Application by National Highways Limited ("the Applicant") Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed A47 Wansford to Sutton Dualling scheme.**

Thank you for your letter, dated 19 January 2023, inviting Interested Parties to comment on information submitted by the Applicant in response to questions in the Secretary of State's consultation letter of 10 January 2023.

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.

We note that the Applicant has submitted Volume 9: 9.44 Great Crested Newt Survey Report (January 2023) which concludes that great crested newts (GCN) are unlikely to be present on site. Since the Applicant will not be pursuing a licence for the scheme the report has not been provided for comment by Natural England's Wildlife Licensing Service. Schemes should always ensure that they have followed best practice guidance for their surveys and follow the publicly available standing advice for GCN as linked here [Great crested newts: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/great-crested-newts-advice-for-making-planning-decisions) to ensure their conclusions are robust. The best practice guidance for GCN surveys are also available by following the above link.

We will endeavour to respond to the Secretary of State's request that Natural England confirm the outcome of its assessment of the draft bat European Protected Species Licence application by the deadline of 2 February 2023.

I hope our comments are helpful.

Natural England  
26 January 2023

For further information please contact:  
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