

NOTICE OF SCREENING DECISION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
THE A2 TRUNK ROAD BEAN AND EBBSFLEET JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 105B(2)(b) OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (as amended)

Highways England Company Limited (“Highways England”) hereby gives notice that it has been determined that the A2 Trunk Road Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction Improvements proposal (the “project”), which is a relevant project within the meaning of section 105ZA(2) of the Highways Act 1980 (as amended), falls within Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU and should be made subject to environmental impact assessment.

This determination has been made, with consideration of the relevant selection criteria in Annex III to the Directive, because:

1. *Criteria 1(a) - the size and design of the whole project.*

The project relates to improvements to the grade-separated junctions at Bean and Ebbsfleet and approximately 4.5km of the A2 trunk road. The current roundabouts will be enlarged with traffic signal controls, an additional bridge constructed over the A2 and a new slip road constructed at Bean.

2. *Criteria 2(b) - the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected, with particular regard to the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground; and 2(c) - the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.*

Key environmental constraints include Sites of Special Scientific Interest, ancient woodland, veteran trees, Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings. Other sensitive areas include eleven Air Quality Management Areas, eight Noise Important Areas, source protection zones 1 and 2, abstraction points, country and heritage parks, Local Wildlife Sites and an area of schedulable archaeological quality.

3. *Criteria 3(b) - the nature of the impact; and 3(h) - the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.*

Permanent loss of three veteran trees. Effects on water quality in the River Ebbsfleet, linked to large scale rainfall events, that may temporarily lower water quality and affect ecology for the period of time that the event occurs. Effects on Heritage Assets. Effects on Landscape Character. Effects on views from residential dwellings. Effects during construction due to the loss of Spirits Rest Horse Sanctuary and the demolition of residential dwellings.

Highways England, as the relevant highway authority, is considering implementing the project. Highways England proposes to:

- (a) improve highways (including raising, lowering or otherwise altering);
- (b) stop up highways;

- (c) construct new highways, including highways which are to become trunk roads;
- (d) stop up private means of access to premises;
- (e) provide new private means of access to premises;
- (f) carry out works to mitigate the adverse effects of the above works; and
- (g) use land in connection with the above works,

all on or in the vicinity of the A2 Trunk Road in the Parishes of Bean, Southfleet, Stone, Swanscombe & Greenhithe and Gravesend & Northfleet in the Districts of Dartford and Gravesham in the County of Kent, from a point approximately 850 metres southwest of the B255 Bean Lane bridge crossing the A2 Trunk Road to a point approximately 10 metres northwest of the B262 Hall Road bridge crossing the A2 Trunk Road, a distance of approximately 4.5 kilometres.

The project is subject to environmental impact assessment and an Environmental Statement has been prepared. The Environmental Statement may be inspected on the Highways England website at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/a2-bean-and-ebbsfleet-junction-improvements/ and copies of it have been deposited and may be inspected free of charge from 14 February 2019 until 28 March 2019 at the following locations:

- (1) Highways England, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ (Monday-Friday 09:30am to 5:30pm);
- (2) Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR (Monday-Thursday 8.45am to 5.15pm, Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm);
- (3) Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council, The Groves, Swanscombe, DA10 0GA (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am to 4.00pm, Wednesday by appointment only);

Paper copies of the Environmental Statement can be obtained by writing to Highways England at the above address or by email at A2BeanandEbbsfleetJunctionsImprovements@highwaysengland.co.uk at a cost of £300.

Any person wishing to make representations about the project and the Environmental Statement may do so in writing to Highways England at the above address or by email at the above email address before 28 March 2019. Highways England will take into consideration any representations so made before deciding whether or not to proceed with the project with or without modifications.

Further information about the project and this notice may be obtained from Highways England at the above address or by telephoning 0300 123 5000 or by email at the above email address.

John Kerner

Divisional Director

Highways England Company Limited

Date: 17 January 2019