

# NOTICE OF SCREENING DECISION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## THE M2 JUNCTION 5 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 M2 Junction 5 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 existing Stockbury Roundabout to provide a grade-separated junction with four slip roads. Two new bridges will be constructed to carry the A249 over the roundabout and the overall length of improvements to the A249 is approximately 2.3 km. Associated works also include, improvements to the roundabout and M2 slip roads, widening of Oad Street and the construction of a new link road.

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 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Ancient Woodland, Roadside Nature Reserves, Scheduled Monuments, non-designated heritage assets and listed buildings. Other sensitive areas include four Air Quality Management Area, six Noise Important Areas and groundwater Source Protection Zones 1, 2 and 3.

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

Effects on Heritage Assets. Effects during construction due to loss of habitats, the demolition of residential dwellings and loss of land. Effects on views from residential dwellings in the long term.

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 A249 Trunk Road in the Parishes of Stockbury, Bredgar, Newington and Borden, in the Boroughs of Swale and Maidstone in the County of Kent, from a point approximately 228 metres southwest of the A249 junction with South Green Lane to a point approximately 100 metres southwest of the Wormdale Hill overbridge crossing the A249 Trunk Road, a distance of approximately 2.3 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 <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m2-junction-5-improvements/> and copies of it have been deposited and may be inspected free of charge at all reasonable hours from 13 June 2019 until 25 July 2019 at the following locations:

- (1) Highways England, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4LZ;
- (2) Swale Borough Council, Sheppey Gateway, High Street, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1NL;
- (3) Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ;
- (4) Kent CC, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
- (5) Sittingbourne Library, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 4AH;
- (6) Maidstone Library Kent History And Library Centre, James Whatman Way, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1LQ.

Paper copies of the Environmental Statement can be obtained by writing to Highways England at the above address or by email at [M2J5@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:M2J5@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 25 July 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.



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Divisional Director

Highways England Company Limited

Date: 24.05.19