

Presiding Inspector
Mr C Parker BA(Hons), PGCert, MA, FRGS, MRTPI, IHBC
C/O Crown Development Case Team
Planning & Environmental Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate

Spatial Planning Team
South East Region
Operations Directorate
National Highways
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
GU1 4LZ

crownapplications@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 470 1046
26 November 2025

National Highways Update

Type of application Planning permission

Local Planning Authority Ashford LPA

Application Reference PINS CROWN/2025/0000002 **Ashford** OTH/2025/1437

Applicant name Department for Transport DfT, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Defra and His Majesty's Revenues and Customs HMRC

Site Address Sevington Inland Border Facility, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 6GE

Description of the proposed development Buildings, Goods Vehicle parking spaces, entry lanes, refrigerated semi-trailers, staff car parking spaces, access, site infrastructure, utilities, hardstanding, landscaping and ancillary facilities and associated works; and ongoing use of the site for an Inland Border Facility and Border Control Post, operating 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Dear Inspector Parker

I am writing on behalf of National Highways to confirm our position in respect of the above application, which is due to be considered at the forthcoming Inquiry, scheduled to commence on 2 December 2025.

National Highways has been engaging constructively with the applicant and has agreed a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG), dated 24 November 2025, which has been submitted to you.

The SoCG confirms that National Highways raises no objection to the application, subject to a condition securing the necessary strategic road signage. The wording of this condition has been agreed and is included within the SoCG.

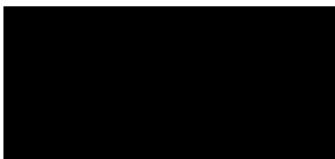
All other matters relevant to National Highways have been proactively considered and satisfactorily addressed through ongoing discussions with the applicant, the local planning authority, and Kent County Council prior to the Inquiry.

National Highways has no outstanding concerns.

Given that an agreed position has been reached on all matters of interest to National Highways, we do not consider it necessary to attend the Inquiry. However, should you consider that our attendance at the round table session on planning conditions would be of assistance, we will, of course, make ourselves available.

If you or others have any questions regarding our response, please contact me directly or at

Yours sincerely



Kevin Bown BSc(Hons) MPhil CMS MRTPI
Spatial Planner

CC'd The Applicant (C/O James Sheppard JLL)
Ashford Borough Council
Kent County Council Highways