



Planning Inspectorate

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Your Ref: 20241164

Our Ref: APP/K2230/W/25/3363212

Date: 21 May 2025

Sent by email:

planning.appeals@gravesham.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (SI 571/2017) ('THE EIA REGULATIONS')

Appeal by: M Shilling

Site Address: Land south of White Post Lane, Cobham, Gravesend

I refer to the above appeal. The Secretary of State has considered the application in accordance with Regulation 14 (1) of the above Regulations.

The development proposed, namely, change of Use of Land to form a Gypsy/Traveller site comprising the siting of 1 Mobile Home, 1 Touring Caravan, and 1 Dayroom, falls within the description at 10 (b) of Schedule 2 to the above Regulations. In the opinion of the Secretary of State, having taken into account the criteria in Schedule 3 to the above Regulations, the proposal would not be likely to have significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed development is located within the 6km Zone of Influence of the Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar site (c. 5.8km northeast).

The Ramsar site is vulnerable to impacts due to disturbance from recreational pressures as a result of an increase in the local population. In relation to recreational pressures, the proposed development is likely to result in localised effects for which mitigation measures are proposed (a financial contribution towards Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMMs) measures).

Considering the nature, scale and location of the proposed development and nature of the receiving environment, whilst there may be some impact on the surrounding area and nearby designated sensitive areas as a result of this development, it would not be of a scale and nature likely to result in significant environmental effects.

Accordingly, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Secretary of State by Regulations 14(1) and 7(5) of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State hereby directs that this development is not Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development.

Under regulation 28(1) of the above Regulations, the relevant planning authority must take steps to secure that this screening direction is placed on the part of the Planning Register which relates to

the application in question. I would be grateful if you could do so to ensure that the Secretary of State's view is publicly available.

(This direction does not affect any duties of the appellant under other legislation, including The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.)

Yours faithfully

Ashvin Bhatia

Ashvin Bhatia
EIA and Land Rights Advisor
(Signed with the authority of the Secretary of State)

cc: Mr Spencer Copping (WS Planning & Architecture) - Agent

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