



**Kent Downs
National
Landscape**

Interested party Ref no: 20035310

KENT DOWNS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE TEAM

PLANNING ACT 2008

SCHEDULE 4

Correction of errors in development consent decisions

I write in connection with the recent decision on the Lower Thames Crossing DCO to query whether there has been an omission/error in the DCO in respect of the matter below.

At 15.4.105 and 15.4.106 of the [Examining Authority's Report](#) the Examining Authority agrees with the Kent Downs National Landscape team, Natural England and Gravesham Borough Council that the provision of a green bridge at Park Pale represents an opportunity to provide additional *necessary* landscape mitigation, that such a bridge would reduce the harmful effect to the Kent Downs AONB and considers that the Applicant has discounted it too readily.

This view is accepted by the Secretary of State at paragraph 442 of the [Decision Letter](#), where it is set out that:

".... The ExA agreed with interested parties that Park Pale is a strategic location for a green bridge opportunity [ER 15.4.105]. The ExA agreed with the Applicant that Park Pale does not need to be replaced to facilitate the delivery of the Proposed Development but considered that mitigation for the adverse landscape effects on the AONB have not gone as far as possible, especially noting that moderate residual adverse effects would remain. The development of Park Pale as a green bridge would, in the ExA's opinion, reduce the harmful effect to the AONB, which it considered had been too readily discounted [ER 15.4.106]. The ExA noted that the adverse effects on the AONB would reduce over time, but fundamentally there would be an adverse change affecting many of the special qualities in this area. The ExA concluded the effectiveness

of the two proposed green bridges at Thong Lane South and Brewers Road have been overstated, and that the mitigation for the harm caused to the AONB has not gone far enough [ER 15.4.107]. The Secretary of State agrees with this conclusion."

In light of these findings, we query whether it was intended for the DCO to be amended to include the requirement for the replacement of the existing bridge at Park Pale with a green bridge. Should this comprise an error, we would formally request that the DCO be corrected under the above provisions.



Nick Johannsen,

Director,

Kent Downs National Landscape Team

28 April 2025