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for Transport

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Web Site: [www.gov.uk/dft/twa](http://www.gov.uk/dft/twa)

Your Ref: OCONNOJ\292050-000121

20 August 2020

Dear Sir,

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE)  
(ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006: REQUEST FOR A SCREENING DECISION**

**PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL SHAWS AND CRABTREE LEVEL CROSSINGS CLOSURE  
ORDER**

I refer to your letter of 9 July 2020 in which you requested a screening decision under rule 7 of the above Rules as to whether an environmental impact assessment is required in respect of the proposed closure of the Shaws and Crabtree level crossings. The report provides a plan that identifies the site, location and environmental aspects of the proposed scheme. It includes any environmental aspects likely to be affected by the proposed scheme and the measures proposed in mitigation.

In considering this request, we have taken into account the screening report enclosed with your letter and the selection criteria referred to in rule 7(11) of the above Rules. We have also consulted Lancashire County Council, Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural England in accordance with rule 7(8). Responses were received from all consultees. We consider that the proposals described in your request should be regarded as a project of a type mentioned in Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. Given the relatively minor scale of the works, and having regard to the characteristics and location of the project and the type and characteristics of potential impact, on the basis of the available information we consider that this project is unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The Secretary of State however notes the response from Natural England dated 12 August 2020 setting out that Shaws and Crabtree crossings lie 3.6km and 1.5km respectively from Martin Mere, a Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and Martin Mere, Burscough Site of Special Scientific Interest. Sufficient information on the potential impacts of the proposals on the aforementioned designated sites should be provided with any subsequent application for a Transport and Works Act Order.

Therefore, in accordance with rule 7(13) of the above Rules, **the Secretary of State's screening decision is that an environmental impact assessment is not required** in relation to the project which is to be subject of the above proposed Order.

In accordance with Rule 7(15) a copy of this decision will be placed on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/twa-inspector-reports-and-decision-letters#2020-twa-decisions-and-applications>

Yours sincerely,

**Natasha Kopala**