



From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Trudy Harrison MP

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web Site: www.gov.uk/dft

11 February 2022

Dear Resident, Owner or Occupier,

Changes to site design and operation of the Sevington Inland Border Facility

We are writing to provide you with an update on the development and use of the Sevington Inland Border Facility at Ashford. The site has been in use by the Department for Transport (DfT) as an Inland Border Facility since 4 January 2021, following the end of the EU Exit transition period.

The Sevington Inland Border Facility gained Relevant Approval in December 2020 for use of a period of up to five years from the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government ('the Secretary of State') under Article 4 of The Town and Country Planning (Border Facilities and Infrastructure) (EU Exit) (England) Special Development Order 2020 ('the 2020 SDO'). Since then, requirements have evolved, which necessitated the submission of an updated proposal to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), which was submitted and approved in November 2021.

DfT will be submitting updated proposals for Sevington Inland Border Facility to meet new operational requirements for the site and enhance biodiversity on the land to the east of Highfield Lane, adjacent to the Inland Border Facility.

The land to the east of Highfield Lane, otherwise known as 'Sevington East,' is approximately 48 hectares of agricultural land. Over the last year, part of this area has been used to temporarily stockpile material which was excavated from the land to the west of Highfield Lane.

Through engagement with the local community to date, it is understood there is a desire to maintain the eastern land as a green space. DfT shares this vision for the site and, as part of a further submission, is proposing to create a local biodiversity asset on the site. The proposals for Sevington East focus on bringing landscape and biodiversity enhancements and will not include plans for development or changes to the current access to the field.

Further to the operational site improvements delivered through the three relevant approvals under the 2020 Special Development Order, some additional ancillary infrastructure associated with the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) operations is required.

In the following days you will receive further information on the proposed changes, as we seek further views from the community to shape those proposals.

Additionally, the proposed changes can also be viewed on the website at www.inlandborderfacilities.uk from Monday, 14 February. Feedback can be provided until Monday, 28 February 2022. Updates regarding activities at the Sevington Inland Border Facility will continue to be posted on the website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M/L' with a flourish underneath, followed by a period.

TRUDY HARRISON

**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
TRANSPORT**