

Our ref: 3/2/458  
Your ref: 06/02337/FULLN

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**For the attention of Ms Sam Enright**

08 June 2007

Dear Ms Enright,

**BRACKNELL FOREST CORE STRATEGY EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC -  
RESPONSE TO PARTICIPANTS WRITTEN STATEMENTS**

Following the Highways Agency's (the Agency) submission of our Written Statement on the 24th May 2007, we have had an opportunity to review the Written Statements for the other participants at the forthcoming Bracknell Forest Core Strategy Examination in Public. This represents the Agency's comments on those Written Statements.

The Agency has only commented on the Core Strategies (CS) that we have made our own Written Statements for namely:

Theme 4 - SOMEWHERE TO LIVE (CS15)  
Theme 5 - SOMEWHERE TO WORK AND SHOP (CS19 and CS20)

Representations with relevance to the above mentioned policies and HA's comments are as follows:

**Participants Reference 0384/0445/1352  
Theme 4, CS 15**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 0385  
Theme 4, CS 15**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 0405  
Theme 4, CS 15**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 0445**  
**Theme 4, CS 15**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 1334**  
**Theme 4, CS 15**

Airtrack Railways Limited (ARL) is pursuing development on land between Bracknell & Wokingham that would allow ARL to part fund 'Airtrack' - a new 4.5 km twin track rail link running from the western access of Heathrow Terminal 5 to the Reading to Waterloo line and which is currently being developed by BAA Plc. We note that in our letter of 12 March 2007 in response to the Bracknell Forest Borough Council's Site Specific Representations Consultation, we stated that this and other sites should have a robust and credible evidence base and that this would include an evaluation of transport impact (which would also cover the Strategic Road Network) to ensure that they are deliverable.

It is acknowledged that Bracknell Forest have undertaken an Assessment of Traffic Impact on the Trunk Road Network (TRN) dated March 2007 that makes consideration for 750 dwellings at Amen Corner. However, should the CS policy be aligned as recommended by ARL, it is unclear what the nature and quantum of development in the vicinity would be. The site has potentially easy vehicular access to the Strategic Road Network and we consider that it would be likely have a material impact on that Network. We have particular concerns about the reference at para 1.17 of ARL's representation that 'The land to the west of Bracknell offers the opportunity for development linked directly to the strategic road network and the rail network.' We suggest that housing and employment development linked directly to the strategic road network is in danger of generating unsustainable car commuting patterns. We would caution that Park & Ride schemes do not necessarily provide more sustainable transport solutions, for example if they result in an overall increase in parking availability. Also we have concerns about the impact of an additional station stop at the site on the operation of the proposed Airtrack service. We are not aware that ARL have carried out any evaluation of the transport impacts of the Core Strategy with their recommended changes. We are concerned that without an adequate evaluation of transport impacts any core strategy amended as suggested by ARL might risk failing PPS12 (paragraph 4.24) Test of Soundness 7.

**Participants Reference 1336**  
**Theme 4, CS 15**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 1336**  
**Theme 5, CS 19 and 20**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 1342**  
**Theme 5, CS 19 and 20**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

**Participants Reference 1387/1388/1392**  
**Theme 4, CS 15**

The Highways Agency does not wish to comment on this written statement.

Yours sincerely,



**PAUL HARWOOD**  
REGIONAL MANAGER  
NETWORK STRATEGY  
HIGHWAYS AGENCY