



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State
Rachel Maclean MP

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR
Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: rachel.macleam@dft.gov.uk
Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Resident, Owner, or Occupier,

Government preparations for the end of the transition period with the EU

I am writing to you regarding development of land at White Cliffs, Dover as an inland border facility as part of the Government's preparations for the end of the EU transition period. I want to explain the latest plans for the site, and to invite you to comment on the proposals during a period of local engagement which will run from 13th January 2021 – 2nd February 2021.

The White Cliffs site will be a temporary facility used by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) and the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) for up to five years, as an additional 'Office of Departure/Arrival' for goods moved under 'transit' customs arrangements and as a Border Control Post (BCP) for goods needing sanitary and phytosanitary checks (SPS) from 1 July 2021. The White Cliffs site would not be used as a lorry park.

This site was identified through a cross-government assessment of services we would need to provide for exports and imports after exiting the European Union. The government committed to build inland facilities where there was no space for ports to expand. The Port of Dover does not have sufficient land to build the infrastructure required for the new checks on EU imports including animals, plants and animal/plant

products such as food, to continue to maintain UK biosecurity, which is a legal requirement.

A Border Control Post (BCP) will carry out these essential biosecurity checks and must be located as close to the point of entry as possible with access to the strategic road network. White Cliffs was identified as the most suitable location to support the Port of Dover due to its strategic location - it is just four miles away and is close to the A2.

The site will not be used as a lorry park. However, it will include areas for HGVs and other vehicles as well as security measures and facilities to enable the checking of vehicles and goods entering and exiting the site. The number of HGVs that can be stationed at White Cliffs at any one time will be limited.

After entering the site, HGVs will visit a check point before being directed to a vacant space where they will undertake the appropriate checks as required. Checks will include paperwork inspection, as well as inspection of goods and consignments. Once the checks are complete, they will continue their journey.

These proposals are temporary and are designed to ensure no significant or long-term environmental effects. The Department of Transport (DfT), alongside other Government departments, has reviewed the options for use of the site and, based on current planning, expect the site to be needed for up to five years.

Approval for the site will be sought under the requirements of a Special Development Order (SDO). As part of the SDO, DfT is preparing a stakeholder engagement report that will record the views of individuals and organisations that provide feedback.

DfT is conducting local engagement about the proposed use of the White Cliffs inland border facility which will run from Wednesday 13th January 2021 – Tuesday 2nd February 2021. Feedback received during the community engagement period will help shape details of the

planning submission, and I would therefore welcome your views on the proposals.

Further details of the proposals, including an information booklet for the White Cliffs site, can be viewed on our website at www.inlandborderfacilities.uk, where feedback can be provided from Wednesday 13th January until Tuesday 2nd February 2021.

I would encourage you to use the feedback form on the website but hard copies of the information booklet and feedback form are also enclosed to this letter should you prefer using the paper form.

Updates regarding the progress of the White Cliffs scheme will be posted on the website.

Yours sincerely,

RACHEL MACLEAN

**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
TRANSPORT**