

**Planning Department**  
**Warwick District Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Parade**  
**Royal Leamington Spa**  
**CV32 4AT**



For the attention of: Mike Blissett / Lucy Shorthouse

HS2 Ref: WAC.PS.10043

BBV Doc Ref: 1MC08-BBV\_MSD-PL-CRO-NS01\_NL03-100050

15 February 2024

Dear Mike / Lucy

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) ACT 2017**  
**SUBMISSION NO WAC.PS.10043**  
**WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL: B4455 FOSSE WAY OVERBRIDGE**  
**CONSULTATION ON INDICATIVE MITIGATION PROPOSALS (NOISE, ECOLOGICAL AND**  
**LANDSCAPE)**

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Further to our request for the approval of plans and specifications for the construction of B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge under Schedule 17 of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017, (WAC.PS.10043), HS2 Ltd is writing to you regarding indicative mitigation information plans which were provided to the authority with the request.

The indicative mitigation shown does not require approval to plans and specifications under paragraphs 2 or 3 to Schedule 17 and does not form part of the request for approval (Reference WAC.PS.10043).

However, the mitigation planting shown on the Landscape and Environmental Masterplan (LEMP) (1MC08-BBV\_MSD-PL-DGA-NS01\_NL02-131406) will comprise part of the overall mitigation scheme in relation to the following scheduled works:

- Work No. 2/153 – A diversion of Fosse Way commencing at a point 560 metres south-west of its junction with Welsh Road and terminating at a point 400 metres north of its

junction with Long Itchington Road. Work No. 2/153 includes a bridge over Work No. 2/146.

Further mitigation works will be brought forward by HS2, where necessary, and a request for approval to the overall mitigation scheme for the above scheduled works will be submitted prior to the request to bring into use the scheduled work, in accordance with paragraph 9(4)(b) to Schedule 17. Further information is provided in Planning Forum Note 10.

We wish to consult the Council on mitigation proposals on a progressive basis, to ensure its views are taken into account prior to the bringing into use request. We therefore request that you review the planting proposals shown on the Landscape and Environmental Masterplan (1MC08-BBV\_MSD-PL-DGA-NS01\_NL02-131406) and provide any comment in writing.

## Noise

A noise demonstration report, 1MC08-BBV\_MSD-EV-REP-NS01\_NL02-100089, has been produced to accompany the Schedule 17 application that provides the following information:

- a) A description of the additional mitigation options considered to control noise;
- b) Plans showing the surrounding environment and receptor positions;
- c) Details of the methodology used in predicting noise and vibration levels;
- d) Assumptions relating to the acoustic performance of rolling stock and track;
- e) Tables setting out the predicted levels of operational noise at all individual receptors where the lowest observable adverse effect level (LOAEL) is likely to be exceeded.

The predicted levels of noise provided in line with item e) above show that none of the operational noise impacts are 'environmentally significant' and that no additional mitigation in the form of noise barriers is required to meet the objectives set out above for the Long Itchington Wood to Offchurch area that incorporates the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge. The mitigation option that was considered was not selected as it would have limited impact in resultant noise levels and represented a low benefit when compared with cost.

There are no noise related undertakings and assurances (U&As) that are specifically applicable to Long Itchington Wood to Offchurch area that incorporates the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge.

## Ecology

Planting proposed within the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge Landscape and Environmental Masterplan<sup>1</sup>, includes pockets of broadleaved woodland to the west of HS2 where a new roundabout will be constructed at the intersection between the realigned B4455 Fosse Way

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<sup>1</sup> B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge Landscape and Environmental Masterplan (Document reference number: 1MC08-BBV\_MSD-EV-DGA-NS01\_NL02-560800-S3-P01)

Overbridge and Welsh Road. In addition, there will be shrub and hedgerows on the realigned sections of the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge and the Welsh Road to the east and west of HS2. The landscape and ecology habitat creation proposed will compensate for the permanent loss of the terrestrial habitat that will be lost as part of the development of the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge, Offchurch Cutting and the Offchurch Greenway Green Overbridge.

The woodland creation will aim to establish a W10/W8d woodland National Vegetation Community (NVC) community (as defined by British Plant Communities, J.S. Rodwell 1991) through planting of species including pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and wild cherry *Prunus avium*, of local provenance. The woodland and hedgerow creation will aim to achieve habitat connectivity and creating new blocks of connectivity towards the Offchurch Greenway Green Overbridge. The habitat creation will aim to be in line with the aspirations of the Warwickshire Nature Recovery Network Map<sup>2</sup>.

The B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge is valuable for commuting bats. Bat fencing, woodlands and species-rich hedgerows are to be created for Offchurch Cutting and B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge assets to direct and guide bats towards areas of safe passage across the HS2 line such as Offchurch Greenway Green Overbridge. Fencing will be consented separately, as part of the Offchurch Cutting pack. This will reduce the impacts of the assets of Offchurch Cutting to the north and south of B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge on the Assumed Commuting Route for bats in this area. Additionally, woodland planting proposed will provide additional bat roosting opportunities in the long term.

No pond loss will take place for the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge, but there will be the loss of core terrestrial habitat with the construction of the Offchurch Cutting, B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge and Offchurch Greenway Green Overbridge assets. The GCN licence method statement AMP63<sup>3</sup> is a document that outlines the GCN mitigation actions required to be in accordance with the HS2 GCN organisational licence (licence reference WML-OR25). The method statement requires the creation of 3.3 hectares of terrestrial habitat (hedgerow, scrub and woodland) and pond creation for Offchurch Cutting, B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge and Offchurch Greenway Green Overbridge. This was considered sufficient by the licence to provide suitable mitigation for this AMP.

The works within B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge will not require the closure of badger setts. The ecological fencing, which is to be consented separately, along with the woodland and hedgerow planting proposed [REDACTED] safe crossing point of Offchurch Greenway Green Overbridge located within this area.

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<sup>2</sup> Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (2019). Nature Recovery Network. Available at: <https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/bringing-wildlife-back/nature-recovery-network> (Accessed 7th June 2022)

<sup>3</sup> AMP 63 - Method Statement for Works under HS2 Organisational GCN Licence (Document reference number: 1EW04-LMJ-EV-MST-NS01\_NL02-054009\_C06 )

The proposed woodland, hedgerow and scrub planting in the vicinity of the asset at the B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge and at Offchurch Cutting, works for which are to be consented separately, is anticipated to increase the availability of habitat for a range of protected and notable species.

## Landscape

The landscape earthworks at B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge have been designed to better integrate the works with the local topography and tie into the overbridge and associated other nearby earthworks.

At B4455 Fosse Way Overbridge, woodland planting will be used to integrate the road as it crosses the trace and at the new roundabout at Welsh Road.

Pockets of native broadleaved woodland have also been provided to the west of HS2 where a new roundabout will be constructed at the intersection between the realigned B4455 Fosse Way and Welsh Road. The woodland planting will provide screening, landscape integration and habitat creation. The screening, landscape integration and habitat creation mitigation will be further bolstered by sections of hedgerow that has been provided along the approaches to the overbridge and the realigned sections of the various roads to the east and west of HS2.

Planting will include native broad-leaved woodland, shrub and hedgerows and the selection of species will reflect tree and shrub species native to the area landscape, as mentioned above, and consider possible climate change impacts associated with the quality and availability of water, as well as the potential increase in pests and diseases.

We acknowledge that the current LEMP is out of date and does not match what it shown on the GA plan, as the LEMP appears to show planting across scheme elements such as the proposed Long Itchington Road, the accommodation access and the HS2 vehicular accesses. An up to date and accurate LEMP will be submitted for approval at the S4 stage before the BIU stage. This updated LEMP will match the scheme shown on the General Arrangement plans and the other consent drawings.

It should be noted that the differences between the consolidation and the detailed design LEMPs are quite substantive, with the key changes as follows:

Southwest quadrant; A GSMR compound has been incorporated adjacent to the cutting, with access roads provided to the compound and the existing Springhill Cottages. Planting is located within the areas remaining between the access roads, Fosse Way and site boundary. The planting graduates from grass verges through to

shrub and then woodland planting to provide a mixed habitat mosaic that will provide screening of the GSMR compound and create a visual and physical boundary between the compound, HS2, and Springhill Cottages.

- Northwest quadrant; Majority of woodland screen planting has been removed north of hedgerow, due to requirement for maintenance access and limited space within the GVD. Hedgerow remains and includes trees within hedgerow.
- Southeast quadrant; Maintenance access provision has reduced volume of woodland within this quadrant and turns diagonally to the west of the quadrant bisecting the planting. Access road is set within grass verges graduating to a narrow layer of shrubs, then woodland planting to provide screening and mixed habitat.
- Northeast quadrant; Block of woodland planting is bisected by maintenance access provision but remains relatively substantial. Hedgerow with trees runs to the east but is set back further from the road to reduce gradient of cutting.

Should you have no objections to the mitigation planting proposals, please would you indicate this in your response. Any comment made at this stage on the mitigation proposal will be without prejudice to the Council's determination of the future request for approval to the mitigation proposals for the above scheduled works. However, the advice will inform pre-submission discussions for such approvals and will be submitted with or referred to in requests for approval.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Lindsay Yeomans.

Yours faithfully,

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