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Dear Mike / Lucy

Planning Department
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For the attention of: Mike Blissett / Lucy Shorthouse

HS2 Ref: WAC.PS.10039

BBV Doc Ref: 1MC08-BBV_MSD-PL-CRO-NS01_NL03-100033

12 March 2024

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) ACT 2017

**SUBMISSION No. WAC.PS.10039 (WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL: B4113 STONELEIGH ROAD
GREEN OVERBRIDGE)**
**CONSULTATION ON INDICATIVE MITIGATION (NOISE, ECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE)
PROPOSALS**

promoting biodiversity, and facilitating recreational activities. The proposed planting schemes will integrate locally specific vegetation such as mixed woodland, low woodland edge planting, and shrub areas. These schemes will adhere to NVC including specific classifications like W8 which represent woodland areas predominately characterised by oak trees and elms. As part of the project, certain areas of the initial woodland clearing will be replanted thereby removing connectivity for bat flight paths as well as facilitating movement for both humans and animals. Additionally, new woodland areas are being planted to the west and south to enhance screening of the scheme;

- Embankments and cuttings, both for the railway and highway realignments have been shaped to integrate the B4113 Stoneleigh Road Green Overbridge into the character of the surrounding landscape. The highway realignment is preserving the existing road, the railway passing under the existing road, which becomes a green bridge. These works are screened by the proposed vegetation which connects to the existing woodland. The earthworks that connect the bridge with maintenance access road, to the Stoneleigh Underpass, and to the pumping station do not exceed a slope of 1:3, connecting organically to the existing country and business park landscape;
- Planting includes native broad-leaved woodland, shrub, species-rich grass and hedgerows to screen the B4113 Stoneleigh Road Green Overbridge from neighbouring residences and users of adjacent Public Right of Way and to also aid integration of the development into the landscape; and
- Selection of species that will reflect tree and shrub species native to the local landscape and take into account possible climate change impacts associated with the quality and availability of water and the potential increase in pests and diseases. In order to reduce the risk of spreading of Ash dieback, Ash will not be part of the proposed species. The planting palette for mixed native woodland comprises of *Acer campestre* (Field Maple), *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch), *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly), *Malus sylvestris* (Crab Apple), *Prunus avium* (Wild Cherry/ Gean), *Quercus petraea* (Sessile oak), *Quercus robur* (Pedunculate Oak), *Sorbus aucuparia* (Rowan), and shrubs such as: *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn), *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle), *Viburnum opulus* (Guelder Rose), *Sambucus nigra* (Elder), *Rosa canina* (Dog rose).

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 proposals will be without prejudice to the Council's determination of the future request for approval of the mitigation scheme 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 Megan Bergh at megan.bergh_ww@balfourbeattyvinci.com.

Yours faithfully,
Megan Bergh
BBV Planning Consents Specialist

cc. Lizzie Smith, Town Planning Manager, HS2
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