

Ian Thynne
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
High Street
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20th October 2017

Dear Ian,

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) ACT 2017
SUBMISSION No C111.PS.51 LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON
CONSULTATION ON ECOLOGY MITIGATION

Further to our request for the approval of plans and specification for earthworks and fencing (ref. LBH.C111.PS.51) under Schedule 17 to the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017, 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 ref. LBH.C111.PS.51.

However, the mitigation planting shown on drawing ref. 1EW03-AEC-PL-DGA-CS01_CL01-011200 will comprise part of the overall mitigation scheme in relation to scheduled works.

Once established, this site could receive protected species from other areas affected by HS2 works and this will need to be informed by existing and future surveys, together with detailed designs and construction methodologies as they develop.

Further mitigation works will be brought forward by HS2's main works contractor, where necessary, and a request for approval to the overall mitigation scheme for the above scheduled works and will be submitted prior to the request to bring into use the scheduled work, in accordance with paragraph 9(4)(b) to Schedule 17. The relevant scheduled work(s) will be listed in the final bringing into use submission.

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 drawing ref. 1EW03-AEC-PL-DGA-CS01_CL01-011200 and detailed in Appendix A and provide any comment in writing.

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 the Council's determination of the future request for approval to 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 me using the below details.

Yours sincerely,



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APPENDIX A: Colne Valley Viaduct South Embankment Wetland Habitat Creation Site planting proposals

The mitigation planting for the Colne Valley Viaduct South Embankment Wetland Habitat Creation Site, as shown on drawing ref. 1EW03-AEC-PL-DGA-CS01_CL01-011200, is submitted for informal agreement in advance of the future bringing into use approval. The habitats to be created, planting specifications and species' selection are detailed in the sections that follow.

Pond margin and aquatic plants

Due to the timing of the works, ahead of the main construction works, commercially available plants and seed will be used for establishment of pond margin habitats. The pond margin and aquatic species used will be aligned to the Planting Zones shown in Table 1 and indicated on drawing ref. 1EW03-AEC-PL-DGA-CS01_CL01-011200.

Seed mix and planting species mix will follow the indicative specification and sowing rate set out in HS2 requirements (as summarised in Table 1).

Table 1: Summary of pond margin and aquatic planting requirements

Pond zone	Water requirements	Planting specification
1	Plants with low water requirements	Marginal seeding (4 g/m ² indicative sowing rate) within 4m of pond edge
2	Plants with moderate water requirements	Ragged robin, Sneezewort, Meadowsweet, Skullcap, Marsh Woundwort, Water Avens
3	Marginal plants that require constant waterlogging	Water Plantain, Marsh Marigold, Yellow Flag Iris, Purple Loosestrife, Water Mint, Water Forget-Me-Knot, Lesser Spearwort
4	Submerged plants	Flowering Rush, Broad Leaved Pondweed

Terrestrial habitat - Wetland

Wetland habitat will aim to provide terrestrial habitat for great crested newts, reptiles and foraging bats. The habitats will be enhanced by the provision of the hibernacula suitable for amphibians and reptiles.

Due to the timing of the works, ahead of the main construction works, commercially available seed will be used.

The seed mix used will be selected with reference to the indicative specification and sowing rate for wetlands as set out in HS2 requirements. The final seed mix will be developed by a suitably qualified ecologist.

Terrestrial habitat – hedgerow

New hedgerow habitat created at the site will be suitable terrestrial habitat for great crested newts and reptiles, and foraging and commuting habitat for bats.

The hedgerow planting schedule used will follow HS2 requirements which includes the following schedule of species:

- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Holly
- Dogwood
- Blackthorn
- Field Maple
- Spindle

In addition, individual English Oak and Black Poplar trees will be planted within the hedgerow.

The final planting schedule will be developed by a suitably experienced landscape architect who understands the ecological requirements of the planting type.

Procurement

The plants will be procured by HS2 through an appointed nursery who is sourcing seed and growing on the plant material for these works. The plant material is all native species with seed coming from a number of areas to give a broad genetic base; one third of the seed from the region, one third from up to 2 degrees south and one third from 2-5 degrees south (assuming Greenwich is 0 degrees). Checks on plant health, provenance and biosecurity are being undertaken and monitored.

Management

An Ecology Site Management Plan (ESMP) will be created in order to specify management requirements for both the establishment period, and in the longer term. The relevant local authority will be consulted on the ESMP content in due course. Management will be implemented within the timescales set out in HS2 Information Paper E26 – Indicative Periods for the Management and Monitoring of Habitats Created for HS2 Phase One¹.

The approach to the maintenance of the site will follow the approach set out in HS2 Information Paper E16 – Maintenance of Landscaped Areas².

¹ [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593579/E26 - Indicative Periods for the Management and Monitoring of Habitats v1.2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593579/E26_-_Indicative_Periods_for_the_Management_and_Monitoring_of_Habitats_v1.2.pdf)

² [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593569/E16 - Maintenance of Landscaped Areas v1.3.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593569/E16_-_Maintenance_of_Landscaped_Areas_v1.3.pdf)