

FAO: Rick Conners

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Our Ref: NGET/ZC HS2 Phase 1/Sch 16/LBH

Submitted via planning Portal: **Ref:PP-13539246**

6 November 2024

Dear Rick,

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) ACT 2017
LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON:
NATIONAL GRID ZC OVERHEAD LINE DIVERSION
SITE RESTORATION UNDER SCHEDULE 16 5 (1)

Further to our pre-application consultation by e-mail dated 9th April 2024 and response from Rick Conners dated 20th June 2024 when you confirmed you had no comments or questions.

We submit herewith a request for the agreement to a site restoration scheme under Schedule 16 paragraph 5 (1) of the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017.

The submission for agreement comprises a location plan, reinstatement works table and sketch drawings on which the area of land covered by the restoration scheme has been marked up to outline the restoration undertaken. These details are provided in accordance with the HS2 Planning Forum Note 11 on the required content and format of site restoration schemes submitted for agreement.

It should be noted that the information provided relates to the entire project which falls within both Buckinghamshire and London Borough of Hillingdon and is provided for completeness. However the works for the ZC overhead line diversion within London Borough of Hillingdon solely relate to the works to the east of the River Colne.

Background

National Grid was required to modify its overhead line (OHL) network on the ZC route to allow construction of the High Speed 2 (HS2) railway line within the Colne Valley where HS2 crosses the National Grid's existing ZC overhead line in span ZC45-46 on a proposed viaduct. The works, in summary, for the diversion of the ZC route between pylons ZC44 and ZC48 comprised:

- Removal of five existing pylons - ZC44, ZC45, ZC46, ZC47 and ZC48;
- Construction of six new pylons - ZC44R, ZC45R, ZC46R, ZC47R, ZC47A, and ZC48R;
- Re-wiring of overhead line between pylons ZC42 and ZC49;
- Installation of a temporary mast (ZC44T) and overhead line between pylons ZC43 and ZC45;
- Earthing works at pylons ZC38, ZC39, ZC50, ZC51 and ZC52.

These works took place within the Colne Valley. The works are split across the administrative areas of London Borough of Hillingdon and Buckinghamshire County Council. The works area for these diversion works are shown on the enclosed background information note.

National Grid has at the request of HS2 undertaken these works on the ZC Overhead Line between 2019 and May 2024. A temporary site compound was established for these works to the west of Harvill Road which accommodated the storage of plant, materials and site offices. This temporary compound and land held temporarily by National Grid to the west of Harvill Road has been transferred to other parties acting on behalf of HS2, who are still working at the site, and such the land has not been fully reinstated, and is not covered by this submission.

In order to undertake the works a number of temporary access improvements were made from the public highway, as approved within separate Schedule 4 submissions made to London Borough of Hillingdon and Buckinghamshire CC, these included:

- The widening of existing highways bellmouths – involving removal of short sections of hedgerow, installation of temporary culverts, temporary stone tracks, and gates.

In addition, associated works included:

- Installation of temporary stone access tracks and hard standings to support new and temporary pylon/temporary mast construction – including creation of new/widening of existing temporary access points through hedgerows between fields.
- Installation of temporary trackway to access pylons – including creation of new/widening of existing temporary access points through hedgerows between fields.

- Erection of temporary fencing.
- Erection of scaffolding
- Installation of temporary culverts and bridges to cross ditches (approved within separate Schedule 33 submissions to relevant LLFA).
- Installation of temporary bridge over the River Colne.

Prior to the works taking place the land was being used for a variety of purposes including agricultural use, minerals yard and for recreational purposes including, woodland, fishing lakes, golf courses and Denham Country Park. The land, once no longer required by HS2 in due course, is to revert to its previous uses save for where it is in the HS2 trace.

The land was possessed under Schedule 16 and National Grid, on behalf of the nominated undertaker is required to put the land into such condition as is provided for in a scheme agreed with the owners of the land and the relevant planning authority. This scheme seeks such agreement with London Borough of Hillingdon Council. Agreements with all the affected landowners have now been reached. Where relevant reinstatement works to the public highway and public rights of way are excluded from this submission having already been agreed and works implemented within Schedule 4 approvals.

Site Restoration Scope

National Grid's contractor, Morrison has now left site. Land taken via temporary possession for the ZC Overhead Line has now been either passed onto to other Contractors acting on behalf of HS2 or returned to HS2 so that it can be handed directly back to landowners in due course. Some land returned by National Grid to other parties will not be returned to landowners and has been taken by HS2 on a permanent basis in the HS2 trace. This restoration scheme for agreement details the scheme which has been implemented in areas where no further HS2 works are expected so to ensure the land once returned to landowners is provided in a satisfactory condition. It relates only to land taken on a temporary possession basis and forms land outside of the area that will be retained for HS2 main works.

The restoration for each land parcel has been discussed and agreed with individual landowners, but has in the majority of cases involved the removal of temporary fencing, stone roads and hardstanding, together with culverts, gates and trackway installed to deliver the overhead line works. Where required the land has been levelled to restore the land to its previous condition, and where topsoil was stripped to facilitate the work it has been returned in accordance with the ZC diversion schemes Soil Management Plan. Sections of hedgerow where these were removed to facilitate access and working areas have been replanted with same species initially removed, where no further HS2 works are to take place.

Restoration activities such as removal of trackway, stone, gates, fencing and culverts and has been undertaken by National Grid's main works contractor. Where restoration is required following the completion of contractors works in some instances this has/ will be undertaken by the directly affected landowner e.g Buckinghamshire Golf Course. In these cases individual agreements have been reached with the directly affected landowners for them to carry out restoration of site to their own satisfaction. Activities that will be undertaken by landowners include re-seeding of grassland and management of replanted hedgerows/woodland depending on the landowners preference. Landscape works undertaken were done by a sub-contractor to the National Grid Main works contractor Morrison.

In those areas where land has been passed onto another HS2 contractor, soil stockpiles remain, these will be restored by other parities acting on behalf of HS2 at a later date as part of the main HS2 works. The ZC main works compound area and access tracks to pylons to the west of Harvill Road have been left in at request of HS2 and are being utilised by follow on contractors at site, these will be restored by other parities acting on behalf of HS2 at a later date as part of the main HS2 works. The enclosed reinstatement works table and background information notes set out the details of area covered by the restoration scheme and outlines the restoration at each location.

A site specific habitat restoration plan was developed to guide habitat reinstatement, compensation and enhancement requirements for the ZC Colne Valley Overhead Line Diversion. It covers those parts of the site reinstatement where there are specific ecological requirements, including compensation or enhancement that is a requirement of bat and great crested newt (GCN) licenced mitigation, or ecological enhancements that have been agreed with stakeholders such as Denham Country Park.

None of these works comprise mitigation planting, which will be carried out later by other HS2 contractors.

Safeguarding Direction

This application submitted by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc on behalf of the nominated undertaker, lies within the area designated for consultation under the High Speed Two Safeguarding Directions issued by the Secretary of State for Transport on 22 August 2018. The application need not be referred to High Speed Two Ltd for consultation for the purpose of the Directions. Should you have a query or require further guidance on safeguarding, please contact the Safeguarding Planning Manager at town.planning@hs2.org.uk, or

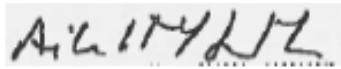
The Safeguarding Planning Manager,
High Speed Two (HS2) Limited,

Two Snowhill,
Snow Hill Queensway,
Birmingham,
B4 6GA.

I trust the above gives you sufficient information to determine the request for agreement under Schedule 16 (5). Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact:

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National Grid,
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Crossgates House,
Crossgates,
Leeds,
LS15 8DU.
Email: aileen.smith@nationalgrid.com and phone: 07899 062273.

Yours faithfully,



Aileen Smith,
Head of Central Consents
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

CC. sukhpreet.khull@hs2.org.uk - Town Planning- HS2