

High Speed Rail 2 London – West Midlands Additional Provision 5 and Supplementary Environmental Statement 4



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Introduction

This document is a response to the HS2 London – West Midlands Additional Provision 5 (AP5) and Supplementary Environmental Statement 4 (SES4) consultation; this response has been jointly prepared by Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council.

General Comments

In general, the Councils are satisfied with the amendments proposed in Additional Provision 5 and Supplementary Environmental Statement 4. However, issues remain around delivery of the 'No Net Loss of Biodiversity' target.

It is stated that the Hints Bridleway 4 accommodation overbridge at Buck's Head Farm is to be demolished and replaced with another accommodation overbridge instead of the bridleway proposed in AP4.

The Councils are concerned that no mitigation has been proposed for the loss of 75 metres of additional hedgerow, and expect this to be addressed. The Councils' view is that this is important given that the No Net Loss of Biodiversity calculation already shows a significant shortfall in terms of hedgerows.

It should also be noted that a private vehicular right to cross the bridge is to be bestowed on any future landowners or occupiers then use of the route as a public highway takes precedence. The use by private vehicles is subject to, and subordinate to, the public's right. In other words pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists have a public right and vehicles will be required to give way to them rather than the other way around.

This may necessitate widening of the track and the provision of passing places but HS2 Ltd. needs to make any future landowners or occupiers aware that where there is a conflict the public right is dominant.

The Councils will continue to raise these outstanding matters with HS2 Ltd. to ensure that a satisfactory solution is developed. The Councils' view is that, through ongoing dialogue and detailed design development, concerns outlined within this response can be addressed.

Non-Technical Summary	
Page and Paragraph reference	Comments
	No comments to raise.
Volume 1 to 3: Introduction and methodology, area reports, route-wide effects and glossary	
Page and Paragraph reference	Comments and points to address
Volume 2 25.1.4	As trenchless techniques will be used under Gallows Brook, Consent will not be necessary. However the gas main should be laid at least 1m below the hard bed of the watercourse. SCC's Flood Risk Management Team will be happy to confirm this point at a suitable time nearer to construction.
Volume 2, Table 12, p.110.	<p>AP5 proposes that as a result of the raising of the A5 adjacent to Buck's Head Farm the existing accommodation overbridge will be demolished and replaced. Originally this was to be a bridleway only bridge and this will now become an accommodation overbridge.</p> <p>We do not have any specific concerns relating to this amendment although we require details about the width of the bridge and height of the parapets in due course. The developer needs to be aware that the bridge will need to be wide enough to accommodate farm vehicles and path users, particularly horse riders, at any one time.</p>
Volume 2: Community Forum Area Map Book	
Page and Paragraph reference	Comments and points to address

P.133, CT-05-116b	<p>Additional Land Required for Utility Works. The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records a number of find spots and reports to the Portable Antiquity Scheme in this area. Many of these relate to medieval finds although of particular note within this collection are the three hand axes found in the general area. This is particularly pertinent bearing in mind the proximity of the Gallows Brook and the potential for late prehistoric activity associated to watercourses in the county. No doubt this area will be included when evaluating areas of demonstrable archaeological potential across this landscape.</p>
118 s.28	<p>The Statement information relating to Weeford Quarry is out-of-date and incorrect. This part of the quarry is in restoration and is not as described. A re-survey and re-assessment is required in relation to ecology.</p>
CFA21 28.2.27	<p>Additional land required for the upgrading of the A5 Hints Bridleway 4 overbridge to an accommodation overbridge (AP5-021-002) indicates an addition 75 m of hedgerow loss. No mitigation is proposed. Given the No Net Loss of Biodiversity calculation of a significant shortfall in terms of hedgerows this lack of mitigation represents an additional shortfall in regard of the no net loss of biodiversity target. The lack of provision for mitigation of hedgerow loss increases the impacts acknowledged to be of District significance. Mitigation should be identified and incorporated.</p>
Volume 5: Technical appendices – environmental topics, planning and supporting information	
Page and Paragraph reference	Comments and points to address
	No comments to raise.
Volume 5: Environmental topic map book	
Page and Paragraph reference	Comments and points to address
	No comments to raise.