

Date: 7th December 2020
Our ref: WJS/520324
Your ref:

Chartered Surveyors

Olympus House, Olympus Park
Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4NF
T 01452 880000
E bill.simms@brutonknowles.co.uk
W brutonknowles.co.uk
Offices across the UK

Natasha Kopala
Head of Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Sent by email – transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Dear Madam

**Girlguiding Greater London West (GGLW): M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley Interchange
DfT Request for Comments from Girlguiding Greater London West**

We write further to your letter dated 27th November 2020 addressed to our client Girlguiding Greater London West seeking comments on the following matters:-

Diversion of Gas Main Between Court Close Farm and the Gas Valve Compound: The Secretary of State invites the Applicant and GGLW to provide any further comments in response to the comments from GGLW and the Applicant provided in response to the Secretary of State's consultation letter of 4th November 2020.

GGLW welcomed further communications with Highways England since its submission dated 19th November 2020 as follows:-

- A draft plan of the Gas Main route along the northern side of the A3 was received on 30th November
- Notes of the meeting held with Highways England on 12th November 2020 were received on 2nd December
- A meeting with Highways England was held on Thursday 3rd December
- A telephone conversation with a Highways England representative took place on Friday 4th December

At the meeting on 3rd December the Applicant made it clear that the alternative route for the gas main along the north side of the A3 was very unlikely to be possible since further investigations had determined that there were technical and legal issues as well as time constraints and additional costs.

It was clarified that the limited communication since the end of the Consultation Period in July had arisen as neither party knew the outcome of the alternative routes proposed for the PMA. GGLW still fervently hope that Change 7 will be accepted to preserve the integrity of its campsite and would happily accept the translocation of soil to other areas of the site in order to assist with this. The outcome of this will impact on the detailed design discussions. GGLW clarified that they will be very keen to meet with HE/BBA once the outcome of the DCO was known, in order to progress detailed design.

A further alternative route of the gas main through the campsite was discussed. However, there is currently no drawn plan. Even though the route is predominantly within GGLW's campsite, the Applicant explained that other affected parties would need to be consulted as well as relevant utilities and planning consent also would need to be sought from Elmbridge Council.



Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Bruton Knowles LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC418768
Registered Office Olympus House, Olympus Park, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 4NF.



A list of Partners is available upon request

If the route along the northern side of the A3 is not possible, GGLW strongly favours a route across the open field of the campsite as opposed to the current proposal through its woodland. GGLW's preference would be for the DCO not to be granted until this route has been fully developed and considered. Should that not be possible, GGLW is prepared in principle to grant rights for the gas pipeline to be routed through its field outside the DCO red line boundary. If the Secretary of State is unwilling to delay the DCO due to time constraints, GGLW requests that it requires the Applicant to add a Requirement to the DCO such that sufficient time is built in to the programme so that this route can be developed and fully considered.

Requests for Comments from the Applicant and Interested Parties on the responses to the Secretary of State's consultations of 4th and 16th November

McAteers – GGLW have no issue about the proposed width of the road from Painshill to the campsite.

Summary

GGLW's principal concern is still safeguarding of the young people who use our campsite for fun, relaxation, to learn new skills and for the outdoor benefits to both their physical and mental health and wellbeing which it feels would be severely compromised if the PMA goes through the site. The route of the PMA as in Change 7 is clearly GGLW's preferred route and GGLW sincerely hope that this is the one that will be selected as it alleviates our concerns for the young people.

GGLW's second concern is the significant loss of trees caused by the currently proposed route of the gas main through the centre of its established woodland that GGLW sees as part of the Ancient Woodland albeit not designated. These trees provide a significant screen to the campsite and GGLW now understands that it would also not be permitted to replant substantive trees within a 12 metre corridor centred on the line of the pipe. GGLW would be willing to work with Highways England to pursue an alternative route across its campsite which would avoid the loss of many established trees. Although this would cause restrictions to camping and activities whilst it is built, in the long term it would have less impact and ensure GGLW's woodland is protected, something that fits the ethos of Girlguiding and which GGLW are always keen to promote with its young members.

Yours faithfully



Bill Simms BA (Hons) MRICS
Partner