

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Network Rail – IP Western
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

FAO: Dr Richard Hunt, Senior EIA Advisor

24th April 2015

Dear Sir,

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (EIA Regulations)

Notification under Regulation 6 (1) (b)

Application for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 8 (1)

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (Network Rail) intends to construct a new rail link from the Great Western Mainline to London Heathrow Terminal 5 to provide a more direct rail route for passengers travelling to Heathrow from the west. The proposed scheme will require the construction of a 5km twin bore rail tunnel between the Great Western Mainline at Heathrow Terminal 5 and the construction of a new connection to the existing Mainline at Langley.

The proposed scheme is categorised as an NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 because the railway will, when constructed, be wholly in England; will be part of a network operated and approved by an approved operator; will include a stretch of track that is a continuous length of more than 2 kilometres; is not on land that was operational land of a railway undertaker immediately before the construction work began, or is on land that was acquired at an earlier date for the purpose of constructing a railway; and, the construction of the railway is not permitted development under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

The proposed scheme is EIA development for the purpose of Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

Network Rail hereby provides notification under Regulation 6 (1) (b) that they propose to provide an environmental statement (ES) in respect of the proposed development, and requests a written opinion on the information to be included in the ES in accordance with Regulation 8 (1) of the EIA Regulations.

The enclosed Scoping Report forms part of our formal request for a scoping opinion. Advice note seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: screening and scoping (Infrastructure Planning Commission, 2012) (republished March 2015) has been used to guide the content of the enclosed Scoping Report. The report also contains the information required under Regulation 6(3). As set out in Advice note seven we enclose two paper copies and one electronic copy of the Scoping Report.

If you require any further information in relation to this matter please contact Liz Wood-Griffiths, Consents Manager, Western Rail Link to Heathrow, Western House, 1 Holbrook Way, Swindon SN1 1BD (email Elizabeth.Woodgriffiths@networkrail.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,
For and on behalf of Network Rail



Liz Wood-Griffiths
Consents Manager

Cc Susannah Guest – Infrastructure Planning Lead

Enc: Environmental Impact Assessment – Scoping Report, Western Rail Link to Heathrow

Ref: 129088-JAC-REP-EMF-000001 Rev A02

Prepared by Jacobs for Network Rail