

Our Ref: SB-PH-ISH3

Date: 15 January 2021

The Planning Inspectorate
The Square
Temple Quay
Room 3 O/P
Temple Quay House
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir or Madam

Portishead Branch Line – MetroWest Phase 1

Below is the North Somerset Levels Internal Drainage Board's post Issue Specific Hearing 3 submission.

Existing Culverts

The Board has entered into a statement of common ground with the applicant and has agreed with the applicant that existing culverts will be repaired and replaced as necessary depending on the structural condition of the culverts. The Board still feels, however, that during the design process, a check should be carried out on the capacity of culverts in accordance with the government's peak river flow allowances for the lifetime of the development.

After undertaking this check, any necessary changes in culvert sizes should be instigated. Although this is not something that needs to be completed at this stage, it should be secured by the Development Consent Order, potentially by an amendment to Requirement 23 of the Draft Development Consent Order by inclusion of 'and culvert' after the word 'watercourse', for the sake of clarity.

Accompanied site visit

The Board would like to suggest that the Examining Authority may benefit from a site visit with the IDB to view the watercourse adjacent to the proposed footbridge at Portishead. The Board feels that the maintenance and public safety issues in this location could be better explained by viewing the topography of the area together with a full explanation of the maintenance activities of the Board and an explanation of the potential flood risk to properties through impeded maintenance activities. This is difficult to convey on a plan due to changes in ground level and complexities of maintenance. Alternatively, the Board may be able to provide a narrated video of the area to explain the issue.

Yours Faithfully



Simon Bunn
Development Control Officer