



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

9.10 ExA.WQ1.D2.V1 – Appendix GC.1.19-1 to Applicant's responses to the Examining Authority's Written Questions ExQ1

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Question number GC 1.19 – The Examining Authority (ExA) recognises that some of the baseline survey information included within the ES is of some age. Can the Applicant set out in a single schedule (with reference to the relevant chapters) any additional baseline data gathering that has taken place or is ongoing or otherwise set out that existing baseline data remains fit for purpose.

Applicant's response

The table below details all ecological surveys completed since submission of the DCO in November 2019 and further surveys proposed. The baseline ecological data submitted as part of the DCO submission in November 2019 for other species and habitats remains fit for purpose.

Ecological feature	Survey type and DCO reference	Dates(s)	Survey results included in DCO documents	Study area
Habitats	Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (see ES Appendix 9.1, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-133].	26 October 2020	No	Area off Station Road, which will be incorporated into the proposed Pill station.
Habitats	Arboricultural survey and management plan of Forestry Commission land (see Annex M, DCO Document Reference 8.12 Avon Gorge Vegetation Management Plan ver. 02) [AS-044].	20 February 2020	Yes	Forestry Commission land within the Avon Gorge – positive management area.
Habitats	Botanical survey of whitebeam planting site – Red Oak Plantation (see Annex H, DCO Document Reference 8.12 Avon Gorge Vegetation Management Plan ver. 02) [AS-044].	29 June 2020	Yes	Forestry Commission land within the Avon Gorge - Red Oak Plantation.
Habitats	Detailed botanical survey and National Vegetation Classification of Field East of Court House NSWS (see ES Chapter 9 Ecology and Biodiversity Ver. 02 (DCO Document Reference 6.12) [AS-031].	7 September 2020	Yes	Field East of Court House North Somerset Wildlife Site (NSWS).
Habitats	Pre-construction detailed botanical survey (see DCO Document Reference 8.12 Avon Gorge Vegetation Management Plan ver. 02) [AS-044].	June 2021	No	Avon Gorge – Geo-technical works areas on rock faces. Including Bristol rock-cress.
Habitats	Pre-construction rare whitebeam survey and tagging (see DCO Document Reference 8.12 Avon Gorge Vegetation Management Plan ver. 02) [AS-044].	June 2021	No	Within or close to construction works areas Avon Gorge.
Habitats	Pre-construction survey of proposed positive management areas on Network Rail land (see DCO Document Reference 8.12 Avon Gorge Vegetation Management Plan ver. 02) [AS-044].	June 2021	No	Specified areas within Avon Gorge.
Habitats	Pre-construction Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey (see ES Appendix 9.1, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-133].	June 2021	No	Survey of small areas of land not previously accessible.
Badger	Pre-construction survey, including bait marking (see ES Appendix 9.6 CONFIDENTIAL, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-138].	February 2021	No	Disused line (includes highway works) and freight line.

Ecological feature	Survey type and DCO reference	Dates(s)	Survey results included in DCO documents	Study area
Bats	Static detector bat activity surveys (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	Monthly between May and October 2019	Yes	Along the freight line from Pill Viaduct to the junction with the disused line.
Bats	Roost surveys – Tree ground assessments (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	22 nd July 2020	Yes	Trees within Network Rail land along the freight line between Clange Road and the Bower Ashton level crossing.
Bats	Trapping surveys (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	1 survey in August or September 2020	No	Clifton Bridge Tunnel no. 2 and Sandstone Tunnel - freight line.
Bats	Daytime inspection (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	31 July 2020	No	Clifton Bridge Tunnel no. 1
Bats	Daytime inspection of roost (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	9 October 2020 and February 2021	No	Adit Cave 7
Bats	Dust emergence survey (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	June 2020	No	Sheepway Bridge and Portbury Dock Road Bridge (disused line)
Bats	Static detector bat activity surveys (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	June 2020	No	Derelict store (ST 49542 75696) – disused line
Bats	Static detector bat activity surveys and daytime inspection (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	31 July to 4 Aug 2020	No	Pill Station Arches – freight line
Bats	Static detector bat activity surveys (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	15 nights datalogger January – February 2021	No	Clifton Bridge Tunnel no.1, Clifton Bridge Tunnel no. 2 and Sandstone Tunnel - freight line.
Bats	Pre-construction surveys of structures for licence (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	May - September 2021	No	Disused Line (up to and including Pill Station)
Bats	Pre-construction roost surveys for licence – Tree assessments (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	May – September 2021	No	Disused Line (up to and including Pill Station)
Bats	Pre-construction roost surveys – Structure assessments (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	May – September 2021	No	Lodway Farm
Bats	Pre-construction surveys for licence – tunnels, structures and Adit cave 7 (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	June - October 2021 January – February 2022	No	Freight line

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Bats	Pre-construction roost surveys for licence – Tree assessments (see ES Appendix 9.2 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-036].	May - September 2021	No	Freight line
Birds	Pre-construction peregrine nesting surveys (see ES Appendix 9.3c, CONFIDENTIAL, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-136].	March 2022	No	Freight line.
Birds	Pre-construction barn owl nesting surveys (see ES Appendix 9.3c, CONFIDENTIAL, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-136].	June 2021	No	Disused and Freight lines
Birds	Pre-construction bird survey for potential nesting sites in structures and inspection of vegetation for active birds' nests prior to clearance if within breeding bird season (See Master CEMP, DCO Document Reference 8.14 Ver. 02) [APP-211/AS-046]	March - August 2022	No	Disused and Freight lines
Dormouse	Assessment of dormouse habitat (see ES Appendix 9.7, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-139].	20 th August 2020.	No	Pill Tunnel Eastern Portal compound.
Dormouse	Assessment of dormouse habitats (see ES Appendix 9.7, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-139].	23 rd March, 20 th August and 15 th September 2020	No	The freight line from Ham Green to Bower Ashton, through the Avon Gorge.
Dormouse	Pre-construction assessment of dormouse habitat. (see ES Appendix 9.7, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-139].	May 2021	No	The freight line from Ham Green to Bower Ashton, through the Avon Gorge.
Great Crested Newts (GCN)	Pond surveys (HSI and eDNA if necessary survey) (see ES Appendix 9.4 Ver. 02, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [AS-038].	March 2021	No	Within Bristol City Council boundary and 250m of the proposed scheme. Single pond identified at ST 5640 7198.
Otters	Pre-construction surveys (see ES Appendix 9.8, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-139].	April to September 2021	No	Disused and Freight lines
Water Voles	Pre-construction surveys (see ES Appendix 9.9, DCO Document Reference 6.25) [APP-139].	Two survey visits mid-April to end of June and July to September inclusive 2021.	No	Disused line