



MetroWest+

Portishead Branch Line (MetroWest Phase 1)

Planning Inspectorate Reference: TR040011

Applicant: North Somerset District Council

9.48 ExA.FI.D6.V1 – Fencing Grades Summary

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Somerset District Council (the **Applicant**) has submitted an application for development consent for works to reinstate the currently disused railway between Portishead and Pill, and to carry out associated and ancillary works to Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (**NRIL**) existing freight railway between Pill and Ashton Junction in Bristol.
- 1.2 It is proposed to modify or reinstall fencing on NRIL's existing freight line, including works through the Avon Gorge.
- 1.3 The Applicant's Environmental Statement has assessed the nature of the fencing on the existing freight line and its potential for environmental effects and in particular its potential landscape and visual impacts.
- 1.4 The Applicant's General Arrangement Plans (Application Ref 2.4, Version 3, Feb 2021, Examination Library ref: REP5-005) indicates the nature of the proposed fencing to be retained and/or installed. The three grades of fencing assessed are illustrated in Plate 4.8 of the Applicant's Environmental Statement, Chapter 4 (Application ref: 6.4, Version 2, March 2021, Examination Library ref: APP-099).
- 1.5 This document seeks to clarify the references to grades of fencing in the General Arrangement Plans, relying on the details indicated in the Applicant's Environmental Statement.
- 1.6 This document should be read in conjunction with the draft DCO, Requirements 14 and 25 as well as Chapter 4 of the Applicant's Environmental Statement and the General Arrangement Plans.

2. GRADES OF FENCING

- 2.1 The Applicant's Environmental Statement, Chapter 4, Plate 4.8, indicated the examples of fencing that may be installed along the existing operational freight line, and in particular through the Avon Gorge.
- 2.2 The General Arrangement Plans refer to 3 grades of fencing; Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3.
- 2.3 Plate 4.8 of the Environmental Statement is extracted below at Illustration 1: Examples of Fencing.
- 2.4 The General Arrangement Plans should be read in conjunction with Illustration 1 and the grades of fencing referred to in the General Arrangement Plans are to be interpreted by reference to the following example illustrations:
 - 2.4.1 Grade 1: high security context – Palisade fencing
 - 2.4.2 Grade 2: medium security context – Paladin fencing
 - 2.4.3 Grade 3: low security context – post and wire
- 2.5 Examples of the types of fencing to be installed on the existing freight line, principally within the Avon Gorge are illustrated below:

Illustration 1: Examples of Fencing



3. Requirements applying to fencing

3.1 Where details of fencing are included as part of a stage then the relevant planning authority will approve the fencing details before the stage commences. Requirement 25(1) and (3) of Schedule 2 to the dDCO will apply.

3.2 Where fencing is outside of a stage and also outside of the Avon Gorge Woodlands Special Area of Conservation then Requirement 25 of Schedule 2 to the dDCO will apply including, in particular, 25(2):

Permanent fencing outside of Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC

25. —(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) and without affecting requirement 31(4), a stage of the works must not commence until written details of any permanent security fencing to be installed in connection with that stage, together with a timetable for its installation, have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.

(2) Where new fencing is to be provided that does not fall within a stage, and is outside of the Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC, any permanent security fencing to be installed must be of a nature substantially in accordance with the details set out in the general arrangement plans and the Fencing Grades Summary.

(3) Any new permanent security fencing must be installed in accordance with the approved details and thereafter retained unless alternative type fencing is required for railway operational safety reasons.

3.3 Where the relevant fencing is within the Avon Gorge Woodlands Special Area of Conservation then Requirement 14(3) of Schedule 2 will apply:

(3) Work to remove, install or replace security fencing in the Avon Gorge Woodlands SAC must not commence before details of the location, siting and design of the fencing, together with any required site clearance and working space, have been submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority in consultation with

Natural England. The details submitted for approval must be located within the areas shown for fencing in the habitat impacted by construction works within the Avon Gorge Vegetation Management Plan and any permanent security fencing to be installed must be of a nature substantially in accordance with the details set out in the relevant part of the general arrangement plans and the Fencing Grades Summary. The works must be carried out in accordance with the approved details and the installed fencing thereafter retained unless alternative type fencing is required for railway operational safety reasons.

3.4 In addition to requirement 25, requirement 31(4) applies to permanent fencing to be erected as part of Work No. 26:

Clanage Road, Bristol

31(4) Any permanent new fencing to be erected as part of Work No. 26 shall be of paladin type, and shall not exceed a height to be previously approved by the relevant planning authority in writing.