



Stafford Western Access Route Utilities Statement

June 2015

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Utilities Statement has been produced by Staffordshire County Council to support the planning application for Stafford Western Access Route. The application is for development within the red line boundary (SWAR/PLANNING/02) and includes:

- Construction of new highway from Greyfriars Place to Doxey Road and Doxey Road to Martin Drive
- Associated demolition of buildings at Saint Gobain
- Associated flood compensatory storage within Doxey and Tillington Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest

1.2 The Highway Authority is permitted to carry out improvements within or adjacent to the existing local highway and therefore does not require planning permission for the areas within the blue line boundary (SWAR PLANNING/02). This is in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. This includes improvements and re-alignment of:

- Existing Doxey Road between West Coast Main Line and Castle Street, including provision of a new service road
- Greyfriars Place to A34 Foregate Street and along A34 Foregate Street to Browning Street

1.3 This Utilities Statement provides details of the County Council's engagement with utility companies during the design development. A plan illustrating the location of statutory undertakers equipment can be found on drawing number SWAR/PLANNING/18.

2. ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Stafford Western Access Route interfaces with apparatus owned by a variety of Statutory Undertakers. In April 2014, County Council design engineers consulted with approximately 23 different statutory undertakers to determine the impact of the project on their equipment. Many of the 23 contacted were unaffected but those listed below have confirmed that they have apparatus in the vicinity of the project:

- Western Power Distribution
- BT Openreach
- City Fibre
- GTC
- Instalcom
- Severn Trent Water
- National Grid
- Virgin Media

- 2.2 In addition to the above, the design team has and continues to make enquiries with statutory undertakers to determine their requirements for new ducting to be included within the project.

3. WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION

- 3.1 Western Power Distribution (WPD) has confirmed that they have apparatus both underground and overhead which is affected by the project. In design development the design team have been in extensive dialogue with representatives of WPD; these discussions have resulted in design changes due to the presence of WPD apparatus.
- 3.2 WPD owns and maintains a fluid filled cable which supplies power to the West Coast Main Line. This duct is within the working area and the design has been adjusted to provide suitable depth of cover which has been agreed with WPD. Further work is on-going with WPD and the Principal Contractor to determine the optimal construction approach. All works in the vicinity of the duct will be approved by WPD prior to construction and engagement between the design team and representatives of WPD will continue during detailed design.
- 3.3 In addition to the above, WPD has overhead power lines that cross over the proposed road at the north of Doxey Road long stay car park. Due to the difficulties in achieving required clearances over the River Sow combined with the thickness of the proposed structure, there is potential for encroachment within WPD's prescribed safety clearances to the overhead line (6.7m minimum). Given the complexities in determining the finished road level, WPD has commissioned specialist consultants to determine whether or not there is encroachment on statutory clearances. Feedback received in May 2015 confirms that the proposed finished road level achieves a clearance of 6.7m and that no further work is required. However, the design team is currently reviewing four options to further increase clearance; these options range from increasing tension in the line to raising the height of the pylon within the sub-station at Madford Retail Park. This work will continue alongside detailed design.
- 3.4 It is envisaged that any diversion or protection works required to WPD apparatus will be permitted under the statutory undertaker's powers to manage and maintain their asset.

4 BT OPENREACH

- 4.1 BT Openreach has confirmed that they have apparatus affected by the project and were approached as part of the formal process in April 2014.
- 4.2 The diversion and protection team are currently preparing the detailed design for any diversionary works which may be required. On-going

engagement with representatives of BT Openreach will continue alongside detailed design; if possible and subject to the outcome of the planning application there may be opportunity to complete advanced diversionary works to assist the construction programme. If this cannot be achieved, their diversionary works will be carried out during construction.

5 CITY FIBRE, GTC, INSTALCOM, SEVEN TRENT WATER, NATIONAL GRID & VIRGIN MEDIA

- 5.1 All the above Statutory Undertakers have confirmed that they have apparatus which is affected by the project. The design team is in dialogue with each company to understand the exact impact of the project on their apparatus and if diversion/protection works are required then it will be carried out during construction.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The project does have an impact on a number of statutory undertakers' equipment – both underground and overhead. The design team will continue to engage with the relevant owner to provide and accommodate their diversion/protection requirements during construction. The Principal Contractor will develop method statements and safe working practices/control measures to manage construction activities in the vicinity of the apparatus; where appropriate approval from the relevant owner will be sought prior to construction taking place.

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