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26th October, 2017
Our ref: TP/LNE/2017 - 106

Sent by email

Dear Sir/Madam,

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – Request For Screening Opinion Pursuant to Regulation 5; Re-signalling Project Land Between the Northern Portal of Copenhagen Tunnel and Kings Cross Station, Kings Cross, London.

We write to request the adoption of a screening opinion pursuant to regulation 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

The attached report and illustrative plans support Network Rail's request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion for a re-signalling proposal at Kings Cross Station extending to the north portal of Copenhagen Tunnel. The proposed works include the renewal of existing rail track; the reinstatement of track in the east bore of Gas Works Tunnel, new track layout into Kings Cross Station with associated alterations to equipment and alterations to platform alignments and temporary compounds during the construction period.

The report concludes that:

- The site is not located within a sensitive area (as defined in the EIA regulations). The characteristics of the project are understood and the characteristics of the potential effects of both the construction and operation of the proposed re-signalling, which are not unusually complex or hazardous, have been carefully considered.

- A comprehensive package of management measures during construction is proposed and would be implemented with environmental protection addressed through compliance with Network Rail's Contract Requirements including a comprehensive Construction Environmental Management Plan. This will effectively reduce and manage the potential impacts.
- The information provided in Section 4 of the report demonstrates that the proposals are not anticipated to give rise to significant environmental effects during construction and operation. Based on this assessment, Network Rail concludes that no significant environmental effects are likely to arise and therefore EIA is not necessary.
- Should Camden and Islington Council's conclude that EIA is not required, Network Rail intends to deliver the works using a combination of permitted development rights under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015.

Please note that this screening request has been submitted to both Islington and Camden Councils.

Following the receipt of the screening opinion decision we propose to draw up the detailed scheme for the platform alterations at Kings Cross Station with the intention of submitting the listed building application in January. We hope to liaise with Historic England and Camden's Conservation Officer Antonia Powell on the details of the listed building consent in due course.

Please let me know if you would like to meet and discuss the proposals.

Yours faithfully

Diane Cragg MRTPI

Town Planner LNE and EM

Network Rail