



The Planning Inspectorate

Status	Final
Author	Richard Hunt
Date	15 December 2016
Meeting with	North Somerset Council (NSC), Network Rail, CH2M, Bond Dickinson, Natural England and specialist advisors
Attendees	James Willcock (NSC) Jennifer Devereux (NSC) Aime-Dawn White (Network Rail) Representatives from COSS (Network Rail) Richard Guyatt (Bond Dickinson) Sarah Holmes (Bond Dickinson) Harriet Webb (CH2M) Carolyn Francis (CH2M) Liz Allchin (CH2M) John Martin (Natural England) Dr Tim Rich (Whitebeam specialist advisor) Libby Houston (Whitebeam specialist advisor) Anton Kattan (Pure Ecology) Emma Cottam (The Planning Inspectorate) Richard Hunt (The Planning Inspectorate)
Circulation	All attendees

Note of Pre-application Site Visit

Site visit aims

The aim of the site visit was to review key elements of the proposed passenger rail reinstatement from Portishead to Bristol within the Avon Gorge Woodlands Special Area of Conservation, in particular the interaction of the scheme with the Bristol Whitebeam and grassland habitats during construction and operation.

Itinerary

The site visit started at the south end of the Avon Gorge close to Bedminster Cricket Club. All attendees were briefed by the Network Rail Controller of Site Safety (COSS) prior to walking northwards along the existing freight railway track towards Pill for a distance of approximately 2.5km, prior to descending to the River Avon Trail and returning to the start location.

Features visited

Various stops were made along the route to review:

- Areas of former quarrying, their potential suitability for use as temporary construction compounds and the presence of ecological features;

- Potential construction accesses;
- Location and type/ height of proposed security fencing;
- Existing bridge structures that may require strengthening works;
- Existing retaining wall features;
- Areas of cliff instability;
- Areas of grassland habitat;
- Areas (particularly tunnels) which provide suitable bat roosting habitat; and
- Areas of tagged whitebeam trees.