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Dear Julia Lopez MP,

Thank you for your letter pertaining to the proposed relocation of the M25 works compound.

I was disappointed to hear our efforts in engaging the local community had fallen short of your expectations. Being a good neighbour now and throughout construction is a top priority for everyone at the LTC. This of course, and as you rightly flagged, means ensuring that there are minimal impacts on communities and individuals. Furthermore, it means that we engage openly and constructively with you and your constituents.

We have been working to deal with the concerns you and your constituents have around the M25 works compound and communication about its proposed relocation.

Therefore, I can confirm that all residents in Church Lane will from today be receiving a letter explaining the change and offering them a chance to comment. Responses will be accepted between 1 September 2022 and 2 October 2022. Please find attached the letter residents of Church Lane will be receiving.

Please find below further information about the use and reasons for the proposed relocation of the M25 works compound:

- The compound will be used mainly for laydown areas, material storage and welfare facilities as in previous layout
- The additional land closest to the residents is primarily earmarked for material (earth) storage, which will add some screening from other works, reinforcing our position that the impacts of lighting and noise will be consistent with those set out in the 2021 Community Impacts Consultation
- The impacts would continue to be mitigated by the good practice measures set out in the Code of Construction Practice and Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments
- Access to the compound will remain as set out in the 2021 Community Impacts Consultation, via North Road (B186) initially and then from the M25 once we have established the temporary works accesses
- The change was made to substantially reduce the Project's impact on a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation at North Ockendon Pit, taking account of Havering Council's concerns about this which included highlighting an upgrade to the site's conservation status
- The change will also release land elsewhere that would have been acquired for ecological mitigation

In terms of the timing on our decision to propose the change of the compound layout, we had identified North Ockendon Pit as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) through a desktop study using data supplied to us by GiGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London: the custodian of environmental data for London boroughs). This is a locally valuable site, and while only temporary construction use was planned, we proposed to reinstate the habitat after use and to provide permanent mitigation through new habitat on land to the west of the M25, as noted in your letter.

During the Community Impacts Consultation in 2021, Havering Council expressed concerns that we intended to make temporary use of a SINC during construction work, drawing to our attention that this site was due to be

upgraded to a Metropolitan SINC, denoting regional conservation importance – effectively heightening the importance of this site.

We met with Havering Council in February this year to discuss our approach to SINC in the borough, and we agreed to reconsider the activities planned at this site. We met with Havering Council again in April this year and confirmed that we intended to move these activities out of the SINC to the new planned location. A very small impact will remain in the form of an access point for vehicles and utility connections from the B186 to reach the route across to the new planned location. This not only eliminates over 90% of temporarily impacted land at the habitat, but also fulfils our duty to minimise the amount of land we would need to acquire (the land west of the M25), whilst making best use of public funds.

Thank you for raising these issues with us. My team will reply separately with detailed responses to the specific issues you raised on behalf of your constituents. As my team have noted already, they would welcome the opportunity to meet with Church Lane residents to discuss this matter and will be in touch with plans to meet with the Church Lane residents in due course. If you would like a briefing on this issue we'll be more than happy to arrange this.

Yours Sincerely,

Matt Palmer



Lower Thames Crossing Executive Director