

Hunts Green Farm – Alternative proposals for temporary material stockpile – response to AP4





Hunts Green Farm (blue) showing impact of railway and associated works (AP4) following completion. Contours added







Our reasons.....

 Viability of Hunts Green Farm will be destroyed if temporary stockpile is sited on the arable fields (E & F) and historic permanent pasture (C & H). This was discussed at the Parliamentary Select Committee in November. These are the most productive fields for both arable and hay production and is the core of Robert Brown's business

In addition.....

- The adjacent bird reserve (D) will be severely impacted. Any dumping between March and July will have effect on young birds that take refuge in the pasture (as described by Robert Brown at our last appearance)
- Hay meadows (C & H) are fragile habitats dumping will destroy hay meadow flora assemblage and associated invertebrate community (Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust)

By positioning the stockpile to the West it will be located on much poorer, chalk scarp sloping soils with exposed flints (A & B). These will be difficult to access by Mr Brown, both during and after construction

Much less area will be required for the stripped topsoil as there is very little depth above chalk. We believe it is possible to store the volume required by HS2 on alternative areas on the farm without the luxuriant use of 33 ha high quality land – the best of Mr Brown's farm



Historic permanent pasture which would be lost if temporary material stockpile goes ahead and bird reserve under threat









This illustrates the quality of the permanent pasture fields (area C & H) – a dense, multi-species sward, established early in the last century. This area lies adjacent to the bird reserve (area D) and provides a habitat for birds, particularly during the period grass is being grown for hay. The use of the grass fields as part of the temporary stockpile will destroy the fauna and flora of this site as well as creating disturbance to the bird reserve.



Best arable soil – intended to be covered by temporary placement site, reasonable topsoil over clay





This shows a profile of the topsoil of the arable field (Area E), immediately to the east of the trace. This is a reasonable clay loam but overlying clay with flint. This soil in its current condition will grow cereal crops and in favourable seasons such as 2014 and 2015 can achieve 10 tonnes / hectare for wheat. The soil structure is however fragile and will be destroyed by removal and stockpiling; the depth is variable from 20-30 cm and will result in clay subsoil being incorporated in the extraction. The subsoil will also be at risk of compaction and the reprofiling the arable fields with excavated spoil up to 3m in depth will prevent the growing of arable crops for the foreseeable future.



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Chalk and flint – no topsoil, very poor on slope of Area A





In comparison the area to the West of the trace (Area A) lies on a scarp slope. Topsoil is virtually nonexistent and has a high proportion of flint in its volume. If this area was used for the temporary material stockpile it is unlikely that there would be a requirement to remove topsoil. The subsequent reinstatement would be less critical as it is probable that this area would be planted with trees and / or returned to pasture.



Looking West and down hill to corner of field (Area A) on Leather Lane and Cottage Farm land (Area I)











With the significant slope it is likely that the volume that could be accommodated will be well in excess of 3m height, allowing for gentle angles for the sides and avoiding the line of the pylons. For 1m increase in height the volume stored will rise by 50,000m³









Area B - looking North East and North West to each corner of the field





The contours of the field indicate the depth of the 'valley' is 10- 15m. The height differential from east to west is around 20m suggesting this area would accommodate substantially more than the average 3m height of stockpile. Each 1m additional height will add 65,000m³





Area	Volume m ³	Comment	HGF impact
A	110,000	Use subject to Historic England constraints. Would hope full potential capacity of 178,000m ³ could be used	\checkmark
В	156,000	Use subject to footpath rerouting. Volume appears low considering dip and slope	\checkmark
Е	82,000	Arable field. Still taking best land affecting viability	x
F	203,000	Arable field. Still taking best land affecting viability	x
G	73,000	Arable field – not on Hunts Green Farm X but taking best land	
Total	624,000	Lower than HS2 AP4 proposal (753,000 m ³) but less topsoil stripping required allows HS2 to propose this solution	





Cottage Farm NTS application has been accepted. If HS2 proceed to purchase the property this land could become available. Approximately 5 ha available assuming it is set back from the main A417.

It would also provide better use of area A – both areas could be utilised as one, facilitating improved profiling and height of stockpile

	Area (ha)	Height of stockpile (m)	Volume (m ³)
Area A	5.8	3	178,000*
Area B	6.5	3	156,000*
Area I Cottage Farm land	5.0	5	250,000
Total	17.3		584,000

* HS2 figures

- Volume required by HS2 is 754,000 m³ in AP4; revised to 624,000m³
- Our solution provides 78% & 94% volume with less topsoil storage
- Ambition for rate of movement of material along the trace is critical factor

