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Balancing Ponds

- 2.1 The design of HS2 Phase One includes various drainage measures to control the rate, volume and quality of water run-off from the HS2 rail corridor and other associated infrastructure, taking into account projected climate change impacts. These systems will help to avoid an increase in flood risk and will help to maintain natural water flow by encouraging storm water to soak into the ground or, where that is not reasonably practicable, will discharge it into watercourses or surface water/combined sewers at a controlled rate.
- 2.2 This will be undertaken by implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) which include balancing ponds and various other drainage techniques (such as use of swales and linear soakaways).
- 3.2 Balancing ponds will typically be unlined and have banks with a varying profile. Their size will depend on local drainage requirements taking climate change allowances into account. The majority will not be designed to hold water permanently, but will be dry most of the time, except following intense rainfall events. Although infiltration to ground is the preferred option for sustainable drainage systems, in certain locations ponds may be designed to be permanently wet where there are site specific environmental requirements to retain water. Those required for land drainage purposes will often resemble depressions in the ground rather than actual ponds, and are often called detention basins.

(Source: HS2 Info Paper E17 Balancing Ponds & Replacement Flood Storage Areas)



Balancing Ponds

5.1 The balancing ponds and replacement flood storage areas for the Proposed Scheme have been designed to ensure compliance with European legislation such as the Management of Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive (as implemented through UK national regulations) and national legislation such as the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Large balancing ponds may also be governed by the Reservoirs Act 1975, as amended by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

5.2 Their design is also based on the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the associated web-based Planning Practice Guidance on flood risk, produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

5.3 Detailed arrangements – for example, maximum water discharge rates and water storage capacity – will be finalised in conjunction with statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency (EA), Lead Local Flood Authorities (e.g. county councils, London Boroughs and metropolitan borough councils in the West Midlands) and sewerage undertakings.

(Source: HS2 Info Paper E17 Balancing Ponds & Replacement Flood Storage Areas)

