

**Comment number** .....COM06  
Name .....Dr Kirstin Lemon, GSNI  
Date submitted..... 05 March 2015  
NIMVO plot number .....N/A

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TransportNI has considered the correspondence in the above communication and responds as follows:

- 1. As part of the formal consultation process for the York Street Interchange, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland has considered the Environmental Statement.**

On page viii under the Geology and Soils sections it states :

*'From a geology and soils perspective, there would be relatively few key issues'.*

**We would like to comment that the area for the proposed York Street Interchange is underlain by a substantial amount of estuarine alluvium, also known as 'sleech'. This very loose and very soft ground should be taken into consideration prior to any development work.**

Geology & Soils

- a) TransportNI notes your email of 05 March 2015 with attached letter.
- b) TransportNI would highlight that a full Geology & Soils assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Scheme and reported in Chapter 17 in Volume 1 of the Environmental Statement (ES), which gives a more comprehensive technical assessment than the Non-Technical Summary referred to above.
- c) In particular, the assessment considered the solid and drift geology within the study area, and indeed the fact that the area is largely underlain by sleech (sub-section 17.5.2). Accordingly, the ground conditions likely to be encountered have been factored into the design of the Proposed Scheme.

- 2. Other factors to take into consideration would include the potential for contamination of the Sherwood Sandstone bedrock aquifer that underlies the 'sleech'.**

Contamination

- a) The issue of potential contamination has also been considered and assessed in relation to the scheme, and reported in sub-sections 17.5.7 and 17.6.1.5 in Volume 1 of the ES.
- b) Based on this assessment, appropriate mitigation & enhancement measures have been developed and reported in Section 17.7 of the ES.
- c) Moreover, a Ground Investigation Report (June 2015) has been prepared, which deals in detail with contamination issues. A copy can be provided on request.

- 3. Should you require any further information, then do not hesitate to contact William Smyth at this address who will be able to provide you with detailed information on the site of the proposed York Street Interchange.**

a) We would thank you for your interest in this scheme.

DRD TransportNI  
Eastern Division  
02 October 2015