



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

M42junction6@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your Ref TR010027

Our Ref IPP - 61

Monday 24 June 2019

Dear Mr Cullingford,

**Application for a Development Consent Order for the M42 Junction 6 Improvement
Waterway: Grand Union Canal**

Deadline 2 Response to Examiner's Question

We write to provide our response to the examiner's question:

"Examiner's Question 1.6.14:

Viewpoint DD – Are the Canal and River Trust satisfied that Viewpoint DD has been scoped out for further consideration in the assessment on the basis of the reasons set out in paragraph 8.3.32 of the ES?"

ES Para 8.3.32: "Consultee responses from The Canal and River Trust received as part of the scoping opinion [REF 8-12] requested that an additional viewpoint (Viewpoint DD) be included in the assessment scope from the Grand Union Canal in Catherine-de-Barnes, as this is considered to be an important recreational receptor. This location was accordingly surveyed as part of the March 2018 field surveys, and these established that no views towards the Scheme would be available to users of the canal. Accordingly, this additional receptor was scoped out of further consideration in the assessment."

Trust response

The Trust noted the following in its deadline 1 representation:

"The ES does include an assessment of the Landscape and Visual Impacts from the canal though Viewpoint DD (found at figure 8.2 sheet 4 of 31) was subsequently scoped out as no views towards the scheme would be available to users of the canal. This is because the location of Viewpoint DD is where the canal is in a cutting at the northern end of Catherine de Barnes. Within the 'Zone of Theoretical Visibility' (Figure 8.6) there are sections of the canal to the south of Hampton Lane which are not within a cutting and where views towards the scheme will be available across arable fields that slope away from the canal towards the order limits. We consider that further viewpoints from along this stretch would benefit the understanding of the potential impacts of the proposed works on users within the canal corridor and ask that further assessment be undertaken to this effect. This would demonstrate any requirements for screening to protect the outward views from the towpath and waterspace.

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It is noted that the submission includes proposed landscaping adjacent to the junction works. We therefore consider that this natural screening is of importance to protect the views from the canal corridor and ask that these be required as early on as possible in order that they grow to provide an appropriate level of screening as soon as possible, for both visual and noise protection, to minimise the visual impacts of the proposal on canal users."

Our comments on the scoping opinion do not specify where the viewpoints should be, and we note that there is a substantial length of canal from which views of the proposed road works are likely to be visible in the wider landscape. Viewpoint DD is at the northern most end of the stretch of canal where there is potential for visual impacts. This length of canal is highlighted in our deadline 1 representation in relation to proposed locations for the accompanied site inspection and includes points south of DD where the canal is not in a cutting and from which wider views across the landscape towards the M42 and the order limits are available. We therefore consider that at least one further viewpoint should be selected and fully assessed on this basis.

Selecting Viewpoint DD within the canal cutting does not assess these matters thoroughly and further consideration should be given to potential visual and landscape impacts on users of the canal network. Whilst we appreciate that DD has been scoped out, we consider that other viewpoints would be more appropriate and less likely to be scoped out. See map below for assistance.

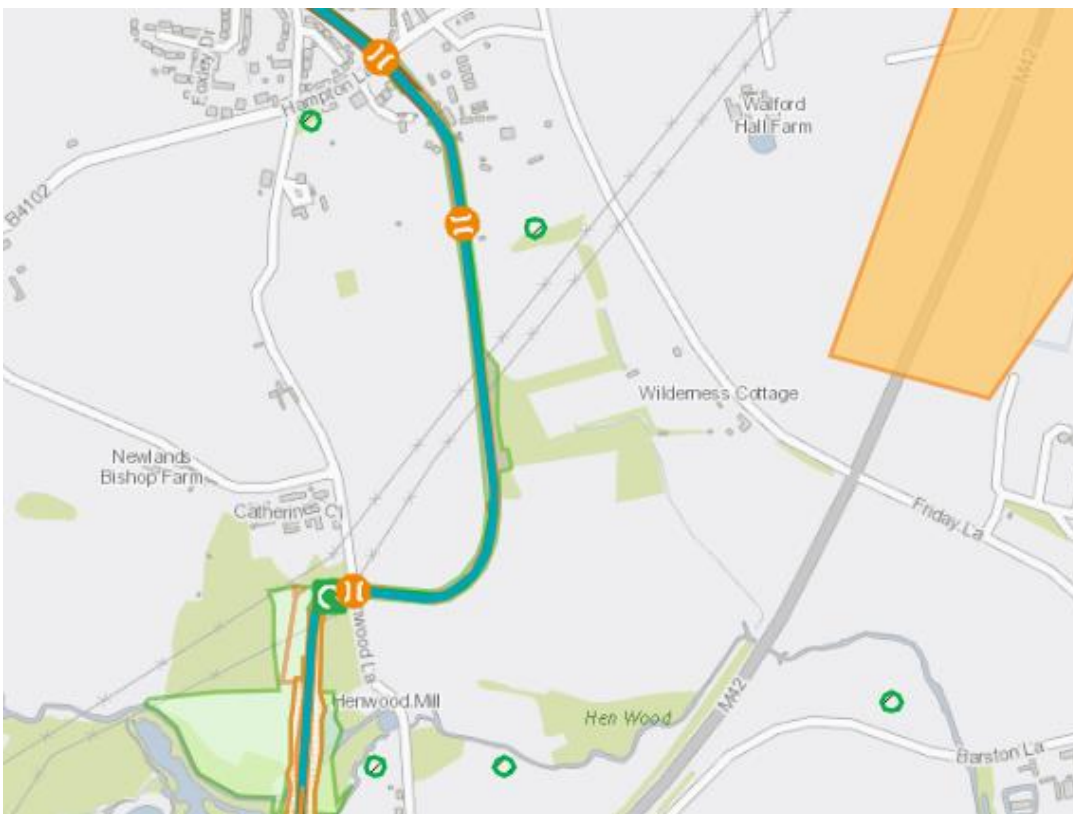
Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

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Planning Manager

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<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design>



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