

## M54 to M6 Link Road

A report of the written procedural submissions from parties attending the Preliminary Meeting

Supplementary report – Comments accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority

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Mr Nigel Billingsley of Bruton Knowles, representing Messrs Simkin, Mr B Jones and Mrs V Jones, Mrs Elizabeth Whitehouse and Mrs Stella Arblaster

#### **Agenda item 4 – Main Issues**

We would be interested to hear how the Inspectorate plans to successfully examine the data for biodiversity, ecology and natural environment information as surveys on our clients land are still ongoing, with further surveys programmed for the next 12 months, therefore we believe the application has been submitted prematurely by the applicant as surveys are still ongoing. The environmental masterplan and other similar documents on the applicant's website for the scheme are huge documents that are not easy to download or view in conventional software applications, such as Adobe, and we feel this deserves examination.

#### **Agenda item 5 – draft Examination Timetable**

We have concerns that the timetable does not give sufficient time for review of biodiversity, ecology and natural environment information as surveys are still taking place and are programmed for the next 12 months. We feel the timetable should be extended or the scheme postponed to allow time for interested parties to consider all the data provided by the applicant. We feel that not enough time has been given or enough data provided in order for us to represent our clients to the best of our capacity in the issue specific hearings.

#### **Agenda item 6 – deadlines for submissions**

We feel the way the statements of common grounds have been dealt with requires some scrutiny – it seems that the issuing of the SOCG's has not been consistent by the applicant (for example Natural England were provided with a statement of common ground in mid 2019, our client Mr B Jones were not provided with an SOCG until 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and I understand Nurton Developments have not yet been provided with a SOCG.) There seems to be an underlying selective process in issuing the SOCG's which we feel requires investigation.

#### **Agenda item 8 – Applicant's proposed scheme changes**

We would like to understand the reasoning behind the proposed scheme changes and note that not all of them substantively affect our clients landholdings, despite the proposals and representations put forward by our clients in earlier meetings held this year with the applicant. Therefore we would ask why our clients considerations do not appear to have been reviewed when proposing these scheme changes.

#### **Item 10 - Any other matters**

We feel the consultation held with interested parties and stakeholders in relation to the scheme by the applicant should be part of the examination process and held up to scrutiny and would ask this is included.