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Planning Inspectorate Case Team M54/M6
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Planning Inspectorate Case Team M54/M6

M54 to M6 Link Road Scheme – Formal request for Scheme changes October 2020

Since the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the above Scheme in January 2020, Highways England ('the Applicant') has been progressing discussions with stakeholders on minor design changes to refine and improve the Scheme. In consequence of these discussions, the Applicant wishes to incorporate the design changes outlined in the enclosed 'Formal Request for Scheme Changes' document (reference 8.5) within the Scheme and formally requests that the Examining Authority accept the changes to the application for consideration during the Examination.

A Notification of Proposed Scheme Changes document was submitted to the Inspectorate on 28 July 2020. A full review of the Environmental Statement has since been undertaken to assess how changes would affect its conclusions, with the results of this assessment provided in the enclosed 'Environmental Statement Addendum' document (reference 8.6).

Consultation on Scheme changes was carried out between 24 August 2020 and 21 September 2020. The Applicant has carefully considered consultation responses and taken responses into account when determining whether and how to take changes forward. Further information on the consultation carried out is provided in the enclosed 'Consultation Statement' document (reference 8.7), including copies of consultation materials.

This request for Scheme changes is based upon those in the Notification of Proposed Scheme Changes document (reference 8.3), with some minor amendments to take account of consultation responses received and the carrying out of further technical environmental work.

The following new documents are provided to accompany this request:

- 8.5: Formal Request for Scheme Changes, October 2020
- 8.6: Environmental Statement Addendum: Proposed Scheme Changes October 2020

- 8.7: Consultation Statement: Proposed Scheme Changes. *Due to file size this document has been split into:*
 - 8.7: Consultation Statement: Proposed Scheme Changes Report and Appendix A
 - 8.7: Consultation Statement: Proposed Scheme Changes Appendices B and C
 - 8.7: Consultation Statement: Proposed Scheme Changes Appendices D and E
- 6.2 Environmental Statement Figure 8.35 Great Crested Newt 2020 (new figure)
- 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendix 8.15 Great Crested Newt Baseline Survey Results 2020 (new appendix)
- 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendix 8.16 Ancient Hedgerow Assessment (new appendix)

We have also submitted revised copies of the following application documents that will replace existing documents should the changes be accepted by the Examining Authority:

- 1.5 Guide to the Application
- 2.2 Land Plans
- 2.4 Works Plans
- 2.5 General Arrangement Plans
- 2.7 Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans
- 2.8 Traffic Regulation Measures Plan
- 2.9 Classification of Roads Plan
- 2.10 Engineering Section Drawings
- 2.11 Outline Drainage Works
- 3.1 Draft DCO (including separate validation report)
- 3.2 Explanatory Memorandum
- 4.1 Statement of Reasons
- 4.3 Book of Reference
- 6.1 Environmental Statement including:
 - Chapter 8 Biodiversity
 - Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration
- 6.2 Environmental Statement Figures including:
 - 2.1-2.7 Environmental Masterplan
 - 2.9 Construction Works
 - 11.1 Noise Location Plan
 - 11.2 Noise Affected Routes
 - 11.3 Long Term Change in Traffic Noise Levels (DM2024 to DM2039)
 - 11.4 Short Term Change in Traffic Noise Levels (DM2024 to DM2039)
 - 11.5 Long Term Change in Traffic Noise Levels (DM2024 to DM2039)
- 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices
 - 7.1 Arboricultural Impact Assessment
 - 8.2 Biodiversity metric calculation
 - 11.3 Construction Phase Noise Predictions Monitoring
 - 11.4 Noise Modelling Details
- 6.8 TPO Impact/ Removal Plans
- 6.11 Outline Environmental Management Plan
- 7.4 Transport Assessment
- 7.5 Outline Traffic Management Plan

For further detail on what has been changed in the above documents and previous references please refer to the Formal Request for Scheme Changes' document (reference 8.5).

Please note that updated Crown Land Plans (reference 2.3) have not been submitted with this submission. The Coal Authority confirmed in their letter dated 3 June 2020 that their interests are not Crown land for the purposes of the Planning Act 2008. This means that there are no Crown interests within the limits of the DCO application and, accordingly, no Crown land plans are required.

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge safe receipt of this letter and trust that you have sufficient information to be able to take a decision on these matters in a timely way, but should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



Andrew Kelly

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