

M54 to M6 Link Road

PI Ref TR010054

Written Representation by I & A Simkin

Introduction

1. I & A Simkin ("Messrs Simkin") are the owners of interests in land which the applicant seeks to acquire by compulsion. Messrs Simkin is an interested party falling within the definition set out at section 102(1)(aa) of the Planning Act 2008.

Objection

2. Messrs Simkin objects, to the acquisition of permanent rights over plots 6/29, 6/30, 6/31 and part of the permanent acquisition of plot 6/23?

Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment

3. Messrs Simkin welcome the "Accepted Changes", which included the complete removal of the excessive environmental mitigation previously proposed over plots 5/26, 5/27, 6/25 and reduction in the overall area of land to be acquired permanently.
4. Messrs Simkin accept that the acquisition of plot 6/23 is required to accommodate the enlargement of Junction 11 and request that the Applicant provide a design showing the position of the access to an agreeable arrangement.
5. Messrs Simkin object to the acquisition of plots 6/29 and 6/30 which are being acquired for environmental mitigation, specifically species rich grassland margin, hedgerow and relocation of an existing footpath. We do not consider the land acquisition of these two plots to be necessary. They are situated to the Eastern side of the hedge from the highway and upon reference to the Works Plans will not be impacted by, or necessary for, the scheme. We consider the narrow strip of species rich grassland as impractical (and virtually impossible) to manage on an ongoing basis.

Socio-Economic Effects

6. The proposed scheme will have an impact upon the business run by Messrs Simkin which comprises a mixed farming operation.

7. Acquisition of plots 6/23, 6/31 and 6/37, will negate the ability of the remaining field area to be used for arable production. Following commencement of the scheme works, this field may be only suitable for grazing due to the significant reduction of the field parcel and creation of an unworkable shape for arable operations. Therefore, we request the Applicant provide assurance to Messrs Simkin that the water supply to the remaining field be maintained during construction works and following completion.
  
8. Messrs Simkin maintains its objection to the acquisition of permanent rights over plot 6/31 and consider the realignment of the Bridleway, Saredon BW13 to be dangerous to Bridleway users, specifically horse riders. The only connectivity for the Bridleway is via the proposed crossing facilities over the M6, Junction 11 roundabout. Due to the increased road noise and proximity of traffic the route will be unsuitable for Bridleway users.
  
9. As part of the Environmental Statement (ES), the 2017 walking, cycling and horse riding (WCH) survey results showed no recorded users of this particular public right of way for the duration of the data collection period (Environmental Statement Chapter 12 [TR010054/APP/6.1]). The Environmental Statement Chapter 2 [TR010054/APP/6.1] sets out that the Environmental Masterplan includes measures to 'ensure the connectivity of PRow and other routes **used** by pedestrians and cyclists are maintained', this is in opposition with the survey results. The route, Saredon BW13 is not used, as evidenced in Chapter 12 of the ES and therefore should be removed, as opposed to realigned, as part of The Scheme. The Applicant has not evidenced the requirement for the land to be compulsory acquired.