



The Planning Inspectorate

Application by Gloucester Council for the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme

Case reference: TR010063

Examining Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection 1 (USI1) to which the Application relates on Wednesday 31 January and Thursday 1 February 2024

Examining Inspectors Edwin Maund and Luke Regan (the Panel appointed as the Examining Authority for the application for the M5, Junction 10 Improvements Scheme) undertook the inspection on Wednesday 31 January and Thursday 1 February 2024.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot. The visit was undertaken on foot along accessible Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and footways in the vicinity of the DCO boundary. The wider highway network involved car-based observations.

The site inspection was undertaken in order to view the location of the proposals from a number of public viewpoints. It was also to observe existing (peak and off-peak) traffic conditions, surrounding properties and adjacent environmental receptors on the local highway network within the DCO boundary and the wider area.

Details of the site visit for each of the two attended days is set out below in Annex A and B respectively.

Annex A

Wednesday 31 January

Weather conditions were dry and overcast with a temperature of approximately 10 degrees Celsius (feeling cooler due to wind chill). The inspection commenced at 12:15 and finished at approximately 16:30. Weather conditions allowed for long range views to be visible at all times.

The ExA Drove:

- through Elmstone Hardwicke via The Green, The Orchards and Lowdilow Lane in a north/west direction (stopping to observe prevailing noise levels);
- along Tewkesbury Road (A4019) in both directions throughout the extent contained within the DCO boundary (including the sections east and west of the M5);
- south along Piffs Elm Road and Boddington Road through Boddington and Staverton (stopping in the vicinity of the St Mary Magdalene Boddington Church to observe prevailing noise levels);
- both north and south along Withybridge Lane (stopping to observe the broad proposed location of the proposed link road in the vicinity of the River Chelt);
- north west along the Old Gloucester / Hayden Road corridor (B4634) between Boddington Road and Tewkesbury Road;
- through Stoke Orchard several times (Stoke Road and Stoke Orchard Road) in both an east and west direction (stopping to observe prevailing noise levels) via Hardwicke (Main Road); and
- along the extent of Stanboro Lane (cul-de-sac) to the west of the M5 and north of Cheltenham Road (A4019).

The ExA also walked along the PRoW Network from Hayden Road south of the A4019 towards Withybridge Lane and in the vicinity of the River Chelt where it was accessible / in situ including in the area where the link road and River Chelt bridge is proposed. Then walking east along the A4019 back to Hayden Road.

With reference to Location Plan on Page 4 in Appendix 9.3 of the Environmental Statement 'LVIA Chapter Photo Sheets (TR010063 – APP 6.15), this included walking along the PRoW connections to the south of Moat Farm and Old Hall continuing west to the vicinity of photograph location 'P9'.

Annex B

Thursday 1 February

Weather conditions were dry, and sunny with a temperature of approximately 4 degrees Celsius. The inspection commenced at 08:30 and finished at approximately 10:15. Weather conditions allowed for long range views to be visible at all times.

The ExA Drove:

- through Elmstone Hardwicke via The Green, The Orchards and Lowdilow Lane in a north/west direction (stopping to observe prevailing peak period noise levels and traffic volumes) via Hardwicke (Main Road);
- through Stoke Orchard (Stoke Road and Stoke Orchard Road) in an east direction (stopping to observe prevailing peak period noise levels and traffic volumes) via Hardwicke (Main Road);
- north along the A435 and onto Pamington Lane (B4079);
- west along Ashurst Road (A46) to the M5, Junction 9;
- south along the M5 to Junction 11; and
- north along Withybridge Lane concluding at Tewkesbury Road (A4019).