



National Infrastructure Planning
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To the Applicant
(By email only)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010064

Date: 30 April 2024

Dear Nicola Eastwell

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 51

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project

Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination

On **30 April 2024** the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied/ d the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of our website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate has made some initial observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the Applicant provided under section 51 of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the Examination of the application. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.

Scheme Visualisations

The scheme design report (TR010064/APP/7.6) identifies the Pike Fold Viaduct and Pike

Fold Bridge as “prominent new structures”.

There do not appear to be plans provided which show the details of the external appearance and means of landscaping, that would meet these requirements.

It is recognised that there are engineering drawings (sections and elevations) for the Pike Fold Viaduct and Pike Fold Bridges are included in the application. However, in the absence of additional visualisations, it is difficult to understand how the scheme may appear on the ground, and what vision is expected to be delivered to achieve a design that would deliver a scheme that would meet the tests of good design which is a thread through the NPS for National Networks. While it is understood a finalised design may not be presented at this stage, sufficient information clearly demonstrating the design vision, and the approach taken to achieve this should clearly be presented.

Road Safety Audit (Stage 1/2)

The application as submitted does not appear to include a Road Safety Audit. It is suggested that an appropriate Road Safety Audit is undertaken and submitted to assist in the assessment of the road safety aspects of the proposals having regard to the relevant requirements of the National Planning Policy Statement for National Networks (ref: Section 4.60 – 4.66).

Minor errors and omissions

There are minor errors and omissions, as reflected in Box 30 of the acceptance checklist.

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and act on it accordingly.

It is requested that you action these points before the commencement of the Relevant Representation period. This will contribute towards a more efficient examination and give any future Examining Authority comfort that the documentation is complete and accurate.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters, please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Bart Bartkowiak

Bart Bartkowiak
Case Manager

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