



Our ref: TR010064/S55

By Email

National Highways
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD
0300 123 5000
17/05/2024

Dear Bart,

**M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange (the "Scheme")
POST DCO-APPLICATION SECTION 51 ADVICE AND SECTION 55 CHECKLIST -
UPDATE**

National Highways (the "Applicant") has had regard to the advice provided in the section 51 advice, including comments in the section 55 Checklist issued by the Planning Inspectorate on acceptance of the application for development consent on 30 April 2024. The following updates are provided:

Consultees identified on a precautionary basis

The Applicant confirms that the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 Checklist shall be served notification of the accepted application under section 56(2)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 (the "2008 Act").

Scheme Visualisations

The Applicant notes Figure 7.7 Photomontages of the Environmental Statement Figures (TR010064/APP/6.2) shows how the Scheme will appear from the ground from four viewpoints around the Scheme. Pike Fold Viaduct is visible in the photomontages at Viewpoint PM02. The Applicant also confirms the visualisation provided for statutory consultation is available to view online at the Applicant's Scheme webpage ([M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange - scheme fly-through video](#)).

The Applicant will consider this point further and, where necessary or appropriate, submit additional visualisation prior to, or in the early stages of the Examination.

Road Safety Audit (Stage 1/2)

The Applicant confirms that a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit was undertaken during the Scheme's preliminary design process. Statements demonstrating compliance with the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPS NN) can be found in the National Policy Statement for National Networks Accordance Tables (TR010064/APP/7.2) and specifically NPS NN paragraphs 4.61 to 4.66.

As the highway authority for the strategic road network, the subject of the Scheme, the Applicant confirms that robust procedures have been integrated throughout the Scheme lifecycle to ensure that the Scheme will operate safely once constructed. The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and other relevant Regulations and Standards set out a number of considerations, processes and activities (including Road Safety Audits) that support and assure the overall safety case for the Scheme as set out in the Case for the Scheme (TR010064/APP/7.1) and the Transport Assessment (TR010064/APP/7.4).

The Applicant does not consider it appropriate to submit the Road Safety Audit as this report alone cannot assist in the assessment of the road safety aspects of the Scheme and could be misleading given that the audit was completed earlier in the design process.

Minor errors and omissions (Section 55 Checklist, Box 30)

Land Plans

The Applicant has submitted a revised version of the Land Plans (TR010064/APP/2.3) which addresses the comments which relate to the content of the plans by adding more road names and locations. The revised land plans now also incorporate additional insets to aid the visibility of smaller plots.

The Applicant notes the comment regarding the key and description of land to be used temporarily and rights to be acquired permanently. The Applicant will address the inconsistency in a revised Book of Reference (TR010064/APP/4.3) which will be submitted alongside the section 59 certificate of compliance.

Work Plans

The Applicant has submitted a revised version of the Works Plans (TR010064/APP/2.4) which addresses the comment relating to land not included in the Order Limits being two areas of land now highlighted yellow on Sheet 1 of those plans.

With regard to the Limits of Deviation, the Applicant considers that, unlike the vertical limits of deviation which are difficult to show on a plan, the horizontal limits of deviation are best defined by shading the limits of the works on the Works Plans (TR010064/APP/2.4). The Applicant believes that this approach best assists interested parties in visualising the limits of the works. The shading means that it is not necessary to define the limits in metres. There is precedent for this approach in the M42 Junction 6 DCO 2020, the M54 to M6 Link Road DCO 2022 and the M25 Junction 28 DCO 2022, amongst other made DCOs.

Rights of Way and Access Plans

The Applicant has sought further clarity on this point from the Planning Inspectorate and will, where required, provide an update at the earliest opportunity.

ES Chapter 8

The Applicant confirms that, as reported in Chapter 8 Biodiversity of the Environmental Statement (TR010064/APP/6.1), habitat surveys were undertaken in 2022/2023 for areas that had been added to the Order Limits, or where previously the land was not accessible. Surveys were also undertaken where additional information was required to determine habitat condition assessments to inform the Biodiversity Net Gain metric as the Scheme moved from DEFRA Metric 2.0 to Metric 3.1. The Applicant did not consider it necessary or proportionate to do a full update of all land parcels for the UK Habitats Survey as the 2021 data with additional targeted surveys in 2022 and 2023 (for the reasons described above) would provide a robust baseline for the environmental assessment. The Applicant considers that a change in the type or condition of habitats since the first surveys were undertaken in 2021, which would result in a change to the outcome of the assessment of significant effects, is very low / negligible due to the time required for ecologically valuable habitats to establish.

Additional documentation

In addition to the documents above, the Applicant has submitted a revised Introduction to the Application (TR010064/APP/1.2) with an updated Application Document Tracker in Appendix A.

Further to our email of 8 May, we have also submitted the final version of the Section 56 Regulation 9 Notice, and provided the address list for the prescribed consultees, relevant local authorities and the land interests (Categories 1, 2 and 3 in the Book of Reference). We will advise at the earliest opportunity should there be any updates to the lists provided.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Eastwell

Digitally signed by Nicola Eastwell
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ou=Major Projects,
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Nicola Eastwell
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