



# The Planning Inspectorate

## **The Planning Act 2008**

### **Application for Development Consent for the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project**

**Case Ref: TR010064**

### **The Examining Authority's Note of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection**

#### **Background**

The Examining Authority ('the ExA') undertook an unaccompanied site inspection to support the examination of an application for development consent for the proposed M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project ('the application') on the morning of Wednesday 3 July 2024.

The ExA carried out its unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways).

The site inspection was undertaken to view the location of the proposed development, the wider area and the existing highway network.

#### **Particulars of the Site Visit**

The visit was undertaken by: Sarah Holmes and Andrew Robinson.

The visit was undertaken by car. Weather conditions were wet with a temperature circa 11 degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were suitable to appreciate long range views. The inspections commenced at approximately 07:45 and finished at approximately 09:00. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A.



## **Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on the morning of Wednesday 3 July 2024**

The ExA undertook a site inspection at the following locations.

The ExA travelled east from M60 Junction (J) 17 to M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange (Simister Island Interchange). The ExA observed traffic congestion where the on slip joined the M60 eastbound at J17. The ExA also observed that the M60 westbound was slow moving from just before J17 with the on slip road to the westbound M60 on the roundabout at J17 also experiencing traffic congestion.

The ExA used Simister Island Interchange to join the M60 southbound and travelled to M60 J19. The ExA observed that the traffic was free flowing from the Simister Island Interchange to the M60 south and that there was slow moving traffic on the M60 northbound carriageway off slip for traffic joining the M60 westbound and the interchange roundabout.

At M60 J19 the ExA used the roundabout to return to the M60 travelling northbound back towards Simister Island Interchange. At Simister Island Interchange the ExA joined the M62 and travelled east to J20. The ExA observed that the traffic on the M62 eastbound was free flowing.

On reaching the M62 J20 the ExA used the roundabout to turn around and rejoin the M62 travelling west to return to the Simister Island Interchange. The ExA observed that traffic on the M62 westbound carriageway was slow moving from J19 to the Simister Island Interchange.

At the Simister Island Interchange the ExA joined the M66 travelling north to J2. On reaching M66 J2 the ExA used the roundabout to turn around and return to the Simister Island Interchange via the M66. The ExA observed that the traffic on the M66 was free flowing from the Simister Island Interchange to M66 J2 on the north and southbound carriageways.

The ExA then joined the M60 travelling west to J17 where traffic was congested and slow moving. At J17 the ExA turned around and rejoined the M60 travelling east back to the Simister Island Interchange. The ExA observed that the M60 eastbound was again congested where J17 on slip joined the eastbound carriageway.

The ExA then joined the M60 southbound, travelling again to J19 where they turned around to join the M60 northbound back to the Simister Island Interchange. The ExA observed that the traffic on the M60 southbound was free flowing. The ExA observed that there was

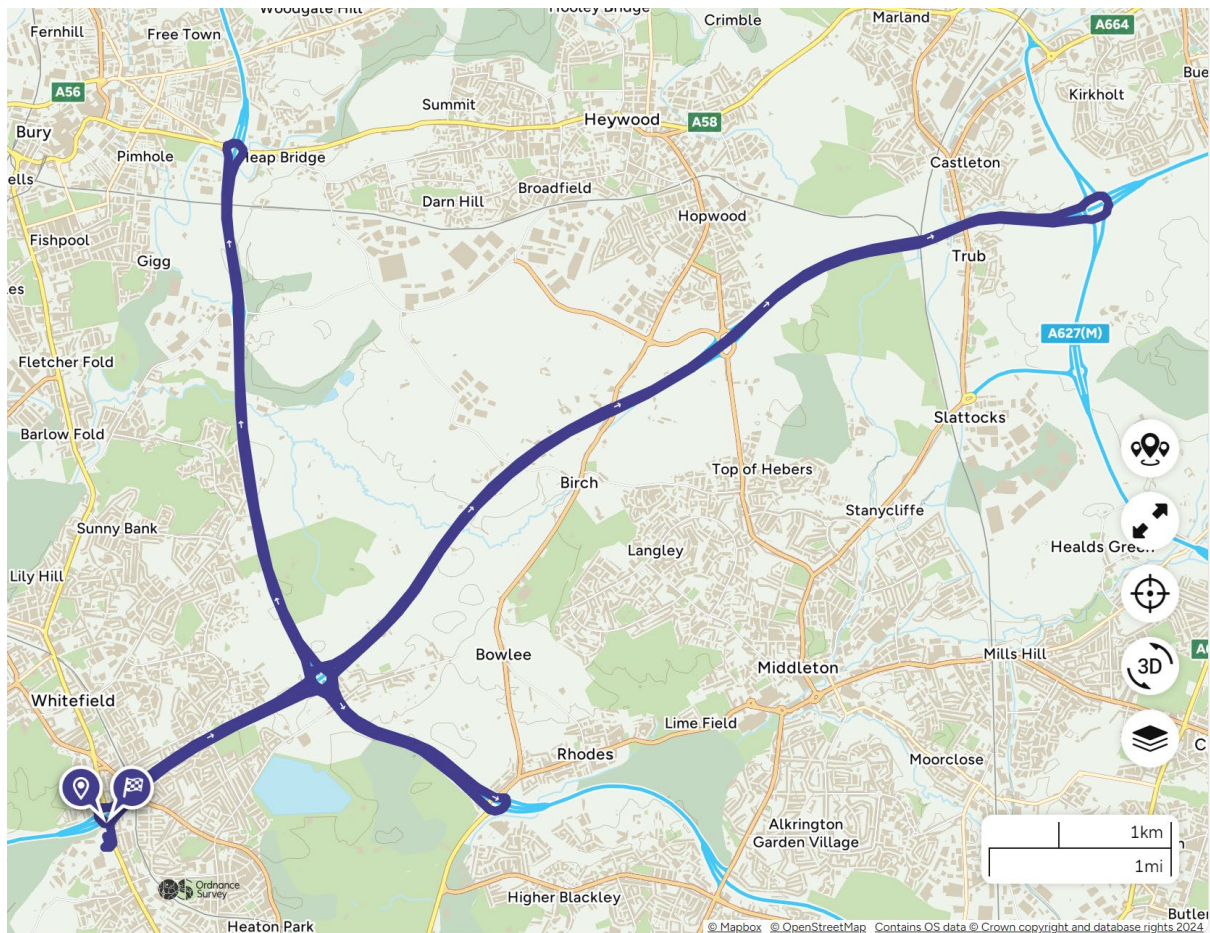


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congestion on the M60 northbound at the Simister Island Interchange. The ExA observed some vehicles leaving the M60 northbound and entering the roundabout at the Simister Island Interchange in order to access the M60 westbound rather than using the dedicated slip road which was more congested.

At the Simister Island Interchange the ExA joined the M60 westbound and returned to J17. The ExA observed that the traffic was slow moving from J17 continuing westbound.

The route is shown below.





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The ExA carried out its unaccompanied site inspection from publicly accessible land (roads, footpaths and bridleways).

The site inspection was undertaken to view the existing highway network, the location of the proposed development and the character and appearance of the surrounding area.

#### **Particulars of the Site Inspection**

The visit was undertaken by: Sarah Holmes and Andrew Robinson.

The visit was undertaken by car. Weather conditions were sun with showers with a temperature circa 14 degrees centigrade. Weather conditions were suitable to appreciate long range views. The inspections commenced at approximately 11:30 and finished at approximately 12:00. A list of the locations visited is attached at Annex A.





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## Annex A: List of locations visited on the Unaccompanied Site Inspection on the morning of Wednesday 3 July 2024

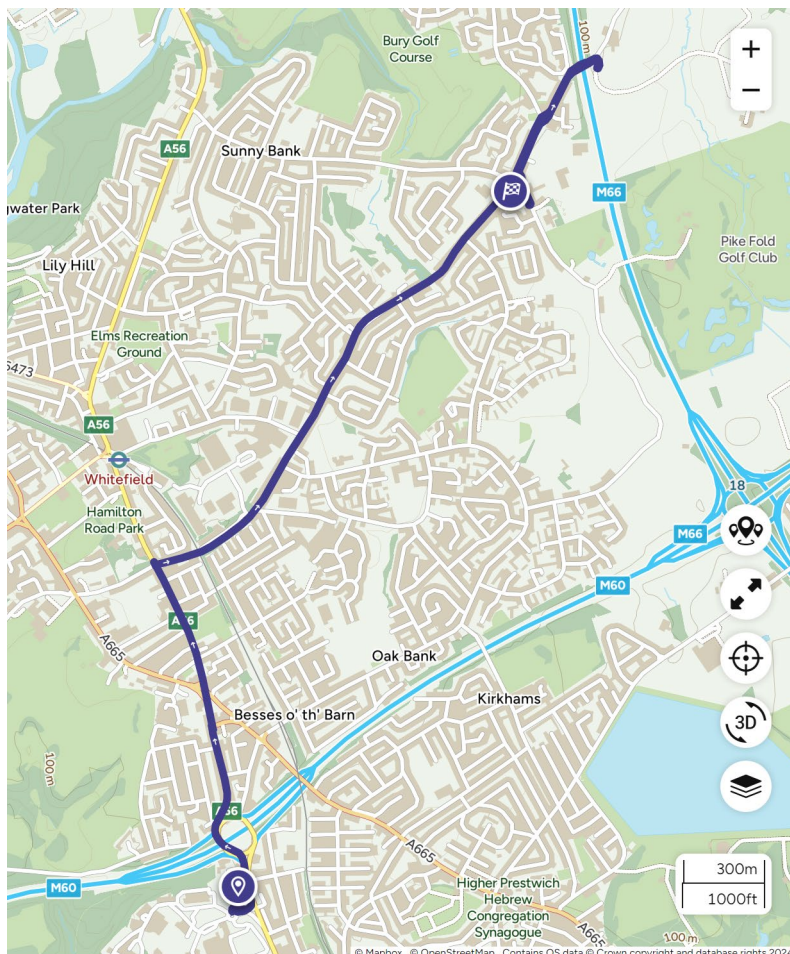
The ExA undertook a site inspection at the following locations.

The ExA travelled to Unsworth via the A56 Bury New Road, Moss Lane and Parr Lane. The ExA stopped at the Grade II listed Unsworth War Memorial to observe the character, appearance and setting of the designated heritage asset and its proximity to the Proposed Development.

The ExA then continued onto Castle Road and stopped on the bridge over the M66. The ExA observed traffic volumes, extent of proposed works and existing tree coverage bounding the motorway.

The ExA then sought to proceed along Griffie Lane although noticed that a 'Private Road No Access' sign was displayed and therefore turned around and continued along Castle Road, Parr Lane, Moss Lane and then south along the A56 Bury New Road.

The route is shown below.





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The ExA then turned onto the A665 Bury old Road and then left onto Thatch Leach Lane heading west towards Oak Lane and then turning right onto Mode Hill Lane. The ExA observed the condition of Mode Hill Lane noting the proposed use of this road as an access to the proposed construction compound located on the area of agricultural land located to the north west of the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange.

The route is shown below.

