



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Project
Reference:	TR010064
Time and date:	11 September 2024 10:00am
Venue:	Peel Meeting Room, Bury Town Hall, Bury and Microsoft Teams (Blended)

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed.

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/TR010064>

1. Welcome and Introduction

Sarah Holmes (SH) welcomed those present and introduced herself as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) and named Andrew Robinson (AR) as a panel member to examine the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island application.

SH explained the appointment was made by delegation from the Secretary of State (SoS) for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 24 May 2024.

SH explained that the ExA would be examining the application made by National Highways ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

SH explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and noted that the Examination will commence after the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

2. Audio recording

The video recording of this Preliminary Meeting is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed [here](#)

3. Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), further info can be found in the [Advice Note 8.4](#)

4. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (section 88 of the PA2008), which can be found in [Annex C](#) of the [Rule 6](#) letter of 7 August 2024 and asked for any observations on them.

The Applicant updated the ExA on Biodiversity and confirmed it has now received a letter of no impediment in respect of the proposed badgers license and will submit this to the ExA at Deadline 1.

5. Examination Timetable

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing, to amend the draft Examination Timetable contained in [Annex D](#) of Rule 6 letter and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

Bury Council raised its concerns in respect of items 6 to 9 (Deadlines 1 to 3) and requested Deadlines 1 to 3 and the publication of ExA's First Written Questions are pushed back by 1 week each. This would mean Deadline 1 would be 1 October 2024, Deadline 2 would be 22 October 2024, the publication of the ExA's First written Questions would be 29 October 2024 and Deadline 3 would be 12 November 2024.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and considerations are reflected in the [Rule 8 letter](#).

6. Hearings and Site Inspections

The ExA clarified the purpose of:

- Issue Specific Hearings
- Compulsory Acquisition Hearings
- Open Floor Hearings
- Accompanied Site Inspections
- Unaccompanied Site Inspections

The ExA sought comments on the arrangements for the above events. These were duly noted and considered by the ExA. Further information relating to hearings and site inspections can be found in our [Advice Note 8.5](#)

7. Procedural decisions

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations.

Procedural decisions can be found in [Annex G](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

No comments have been made by any of the parties in attendance.

8. Close

The PM closed at 10:40am and the ExA confirmed the examination would begin after the close of the PM as well as confirming the remaining events for the week.