

TR010064: Application by National Highways for the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project

The Examining Authority's Written Questions and requests for further information

#### Issued on 17 December 2024

The following table sets out the Examining Authority's (ExA's) Written Questions and requests for information – ExQ2.

Questions are set out using an issue-based framework derived from the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues provided as Annex C to the Rule 6 letter of 7 August 2024 [PD-008]. Questions have been formulated as they have arisen from representations, examination of the issues and to address the assessment of the application against relevant policies.

Column 2 of the table indicates which Interested Parties (IPs) and other persons each question is directed to. The ExA would be grateful if all persons named could provide a substantive response to all questions directed to them, or indicate that the question is not relevant to them for a reason. This does not preclude an answer being provided to a question by a person to whom it is not directed, should the question be relevant to their interests.

Each question has a unique reference number which starts with an alphabetical code, followed by an issue number (indicating that it is from ExQ2) and a question number. For example, the first question on air quality is identified as AQ.2.1. When you are answering a question, please start your answer by quoting the unique reference number.

If you are answering a small number of questions, answers in a letter will suffice. An editable version of this table in Microsoft Word is available on request from the case team: please contact <a href="M60SimisterIsland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk">M60SimisterIsland@planninginspectorate.gov.uk</a> and include 'M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Project' in the subject line of your email.

Responses are due by Deadline 5: Friday 10 January 2025.

### **Abbreviations Used**

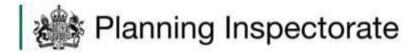
BMBC Bury Metropolitan Borough Council BNG Biodiversity Net Gain CAH1 Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 ECOW Ecological Clerk of Works EMA Environmental Mitigation Area EMP Environmental Management Plan ES Environmental Statement ExA Examining Authority ExQ1 Examining Authority's first written questions		
CAH1 Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1  ECOW Ecological Clerk of Works  EMA Environmental Mitigation Area  EMP Environmental Management Plan  ES Environmental Statement  ExA Examining Authority		
ECOW Ecological Clerk of Works  EMA Environmental Mitigation Area  EMP Environmental Management Plan  ES Environmental Statement  ExA Examining Authority		
EMA       Environmental Mitigation Area         EMP       Environmental Management Plan         ES       Environmental Statement         ExA       Examining Authority		
EMP Environmental Management Plan  ES Environmental Statement  ExA Examining Authority		
ES Environmental Statement ExA Examining Authority		
ExA Examining Authority		
ExQ1 Examining Authority's first written questions		
D Deadline		
dB Decibel		
DCO Development Consent Order		
dDCO Draft Development Consent Order		
DHA Designated Heritage Asset		
	Environmental Mitigation Area	
GhG Greenhouse Gas		
IPs Interested Parties		
ISH1 Issue Specific Hearing 1		
ISH2 Issue Specific Hearing 2		
LIR Local Impact Report		
MCC Manchester City Council		
NH National Highways		
NNNPS National Policy Statement for National Networks (2024)		
NIR Noise Insulation Regulations		
NO <sub>2</sub> Nitrogen Dioxide		
NPPF National Planning Policy Framework December 2024		
NPSNN National Policy Statement for National Networks (2015)		
PM <sub>2.5</sub> Particulate matter less than 2.5µm in diameter (where the number denotes the particulate size diameter in micro	metres)	
RPG Registered Park and Garden		
REAC Register of Environment Actions and Commitments (contained in the First Iteration Environmental Management	Plan)	
PRoW Public Rights of Way		

SoS	SoS Secretary of State for Transport	
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document	
SRN	Strategic Road Network	

## **The Examination Library**

References in these questions set out in square brackets (eg [APP-100]) are documents catalogued in the Examination Library. The Examination Library can be obtained from the following link:

TR010064-000278-M60 Simister Island Examination Library.pdf (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)



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ExQ1	Question to:	Question
Broad, gene	ral and cross-topic q	uestions
BCG.2.1	Applicant, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) and Interested Parties (IPs)	Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)  The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government published a revised NPPF on Thursday 12 December 2024. The applicant, BMBC and all IPs are invited to submit any comments on the revised version, and particularly whether any of the changes would have any implications for the examination of this application.  None of the changes in the revised NPPF are considered to have any implications for the examination
		of this application.
BCG.2.2	Applicant	The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024  The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024 came into force in May 2024. Do these regulations have any implications for the application, the assessment of effects contained in the Environmental Statement (ES) or any of the proposed mitigation measures? If so, please make any adjustments to or include any additional mitigation measures so that they align with any relevant requirements in the regulations.
BCG.2.3	BMBC	Is BMBC satisfied that no details have been provided in the application documents on the appointment process for the ECoW, who would ultimately have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the ecological elements of the scheme, and that this process would rest solely with the applicant? If so, explain why and if not, explain whether provision should be made for BMBC to approve or be consulted on the appointment of the ECoW and how this could be secured.  Please refer to Section 2.2 and Table 2.1 of First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-024]. TR010064-000587-6.5 First Iteration Environmental Management Plan - Main Text P04 (Clean).pdf. This sets out that a ECoW role must be established and maintained throughout construction and sets out the responsibilities of the ECoW. In addition, the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments contained within the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-024] includes several commitments which include specific roles for the ECoW. The First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-024] is secured through draft DCO Requirement 4. The Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan will be produced prior to commencement of

		[REP3-006] and will be substantially based on the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan [REP4-024] submitted with the application for development consent. The Applicant will consult with the relevant planning authority (Bury Metropolitan Borough Council) on matters relating to their function, prior to seeking approval from the Secretary of State of the Second Iteration Environmental Management Plan.
BCG.2.4	BMBC	Consultation Draft Northern Gateway Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)  Provide a copy of the consultation draft of the Northern Gateway Development Framework (JPA1.1) SPD that was referred to in compulsory acquisition hearing 1 (CAH1) [EV9-001] and issue specific hearing 2 (ISH2) [EV10-001]. Include signposting to the sections within the consultation draft development framework that are relevant to this application.  The consultation draft Northern Gateway Development Framework (NGDF) SPD is attached (Appendix 1 to BCG.2.4). Consultation on the draft ends on the 10th of January 2025.  Sections within the draft which are relevant to the application: Pg 30 – Planning History. Pg 84 – Development Framework Plan  The draft NGDF SPD plan has been developed in full knowledge of the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange Scheme (the Scheme) and includes reference to an indicative highway improvement area to reflect the proposal. It does not include any development parcels on land affected by the Scheme.  The draft NGDF SPD is based on the most up to date understanding of the site and its constraints available at the point of drafting.

ExQ1 Air Quality	Question to:	Question
AQ.2.1	Applicant	ES Methodology – Baseline
		<ol> <li>ES Chapter 5 [APP-044] uses the year 2018 as a baseline. Notwithstanding the transport baseline, explain why this baseline year was selected for air quality, why it represents a robust basis for assessment and why a more recent year was not used.</li> <li>Noting data supplied by BMBC in [REP3-034] and their comments in response to ExQ1 AQ.1.2 [REP3-031] that "The GM monitoring data indicates that air pollution generally decreased in 2023 compared with 2022", is there a possibility that there would be no exceedances in limit values on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in a Do Minimum scenario notwithstanding the findings in ES Chapter 5? If so, how much benefit would the scheme contribute to reducing exceedances in limit values?</li> </ol>
AQ.2.2	Manchester City Council (MCC)	Air Quality Objectives and Air Quality Receptor Locations
	Courier (mos)	In the Examining Authority (ExA)'s first written questions (ExQ1) [PD-011], the ExA directed questions AQ.1.4 and AQ.1.5 to MCC, however no response was received. Noting that there are matters of relevance to your local authority area, please provide a response to the questions.
AQ.2.3	BMBC	Programme of Air Quality Monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
		Your response to Action Point (AP) 24 from ISH2 in [REP4-029] explains why you consider a programme of air quality monitoring using diffusion tubes for NO <sub>2</sub> is required and that operational air quality monitoring could be secured in the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) at schedule 2, Part 1, 4 (7)(b).
		1. Explain further how operational air quality monitoring could be secured in the dDCO at schedule 2, Part 1, 4 (7)(b).
		Air quality monitoring could be secured in the dDCO, by requiring the third iteration EMP to include a programme of air quality monitoring using diffusion tubes for NO2 for the future operation of the Scheme.
		<ol> <li>Would any additional drafting be required to the dDCO to secure operational air quality monitoring? If so, please provide this. Yes – The dDCO at schedule 2, Part 1, 4 (7) would require additional drafting as follows:-</li> </ol>

- (7) The third iteration EMP must address the matters set out in the approved second iteration EMP that are relevant to the operation and maintenance of the Scheme, and must contain— (a) the environmental information needed for the future maintenance and operation of the Scheme; (b) the long-term commitments to aftercare, monitoring and maintenance activities relating to the environmental features and mitigation measures that will be required to ensure the continued long-term effectiveness of the environmental mitigation measures and the prevention of unexpected environmental impacts during the operation of the Scheme; (c) a programme of air quality monitoring using diffusion tubes for NO2 for the future operation of the Scheme and (d) a record of the consents, commitments and permissions resulting from liaison with statutory bodies.

  (8) The Scheme must be operated and maintained substantially in accordance with the third iteration EMP.
- 3. Explain how securing a programme of air quality monitoring for NO<sub>2</sub> and any drafting provided in your response to point 2) would meet each of the six tests for imposing requirements listed in paragraph 15.2 in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Advice Note Fifteen: drafting Development Consent Orders (which also cross refers to the tests in paragraph 57 of the NPPF).

The six tests for imposing requirements are that they are precise, enforceable, necessary, relevant to the development, relevant to planning and reasonable in all other respects.

The requirement for air quality monitoring is precise and makes it clear to the Applicant and others what must be done to comply with it. It would be simple and straightforward to detect a breach of the requirement and to seek a remedy. It therefore meets the test of enforceability.

There is a definite planning reason for the requirement related to the development, as it would demonstrate that the development has not impacted the UK's ability to meet the NO2 Limit Values within the shortest possible time and would demonstrate that the Limit Values and Air Quality Objectives are being met. It would provide evidence that the predicted improvements in air quality have been achieved and that the predicted impacts of the Scheme were accurate.

The requirement is directly related to the development. National Highways is the 'agent of change' in the area, as the main source of nitrogen dioxide pollution is the motorway.

BMBC does not consider that diffusion tube monitoring would be unreasonable or place a disproportionate burden on the Applicant.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
AQ.2.4	Applicant	National Highways Legal Requirement to Meet Limit Values and Monitoring
		Your response to AP 25 [REP4-028] states "National Highways [(NH)] does have a legal requirement to meet limit values where they apply on the Strategic Road Network". It goes on to state that "limit value compliance modelling and recent monitoring do not show any risk of limit value exceedance on the Strategic Road Network on or around the Scheme and so no monitoring is required."
		<ol> <li>Provide further details of NH legal requirements with respect to meeting limit values on the SRN.</li> <li>Provide further details of the recent modelling referred to on the SRN on or around the scheme and the results from any such modelling.</li> <li>Noting your response to BMBC's third point of context in AP 25 that NH are "under no obligation to undertake air quality monitoring unless there is a potential exceedance", and also BMBC's comment in response to ISH2 AP24 in [RE5FP4-029] that NH is the 'agent of change' in the area where the main source of NO2 pollution is the motorway, explain what would trigger NH to undertake monitoring if future concerns that exceedances in limit values on the SRN on or around the scheme were occurring, notwithstanding the findings in the ES. Would this require collaboration with the relevant local authorities?</li> <li>Explain the measures that NH could take to reduce any potential exceedances on the SRN on or around the scheme during operation, providing evidence of any examples where NH has been required to undertake measures to meet limit values on the SRN.</li> </ol>
AQ.2.5	Applicant	Dust Monitoring – Complaints Procedure
		Provide further details of how the complaints procedure would operate for local residents in respect of the Air Quality and Dust Management Plan and how the responsibilities of the Principal Contractor's Community Liaison Manager described in the First Iteration Environmental Management Plan (EMP) [REP4-024] would successfully resolve any complaints. In particular, would there be a mechanism that would allow local residents to escalate any matters to BMBC in the event of any disagreement to the Principal Contractor's response to resolving any complaints?  You may wish to combine your response to this question as part of your response to ISH2 AP23.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
AQ.2.6	Applicant	Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5
		In your response to Friends of Carrington Moss [REP4-027] you have referred to automatic analysers located on the M602 and the M60 (between Junction 5 and 6) which are considered to be representative of the PM2.5 concentrations experienced by receptor R3, which has the highest modelled particulate concentration with the proposed scheme.
		Are the readings for NO <sub>2</sub> at these locations also representative of those modelled at Receptor R3?
Biodiversity	(including Habitats	Regulations Assessment)
BIO.2.1	Applicant	Clarification – Foraging habitats
		ES Chapter 8 [REP3-010] paragraph 8.10.106 states in respect of loss of bat foraging habitat "However, the losses of woodland and grassland would be small in comparison to the overall amount of habitat available in the surrounding area". Likewise, paragraph 8.10.108 refers to 'wider landscape'.
		Explain what is meant by 'surrounding area' and 'wider landscape' in terms of the size of geographical area being referred to.
BIO.2.2	Applicant	Habitat Loss and Habitat Gain
		Your response to AP 30 [REP4-028] states "the Scheme also needs to mitigate the general loss of habitats including lowland mixed deciduous woodland (priority habitat), broadleaved woodland, modified grassland, other neutral grassland and scrub (Table 8.17, Chapter 8 Biodiversity [REP3-010])." Whilst it is noted that the response to AP 30 refers to Figure 8.1.5 in ES Appendix 8.1 [APP-089] as allowing visualisation of the locations of existing hedgerows which would be removed during construction of the Northern Loop, this does not contain all the information detailed in Table 8.17.
		Provide a plan mapping the areas where each of the habitat types in table 8.17 would be retained, enhanced, and lost. In terms of areas to be created, also include any of the habitat types not already included in the Environmental Masterplan [APP-057].

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
BIO.2.3	Applicant	Bat Activity and Impacts from Construction Lighting
		Paragraphs 8.10.114 and 8.10.115 of ES Chapter 8 [REP3-010] both refer to "the low levels of bat activity recorded" to justify the conclusions reached in those respective paragraphs relating to site lighting during construction. However, as displayed during ISH2, there are areas within the order limits that are identified on Figure 8.3.3 in ES Appendix 8.3 [APP-091] as having high activity for Common Pipistrelle bat species.
		Given that areas of high bat activity are identified, justify the conclusions reached in those paragraphs, particularly the areas closest to the proposed Northern Loop.
BIO.2.4	Applicant	Bat Activity and Impacts from Operational Lighting
		ES Chapter 8 [REP3-010] paragraph 8.10.255 states "On balance it is assessed that the lighting that would be provided would be no worse, but potentially an improvement compared to the existing lighting, and no worsening of effects is predicted".
		Noting that commitment G7 of the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) within the First Iteration EMP states that a suitable lighting strategy would be developed in accordance with good practice on lighting with regard to protected species, explain how this conclusion has been reached in the absence of a lighting strategy.
BIO.2.5	Applicant	Securing Environmental Mitigation Areas (EMAs) in Perpetuity
		The ExA notes the content of the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan in Appendix N of the First Iteration EMP [APP-141] and particularly Table N.12 which identifies the maintenance activities for landscape and ecology following the initial five years aftercare period.
		Explain whether the Third Iteration EMP, required under requirement 4(6), (7) and (8) of the dDCO, would secure the retention of the EMAs in perpetuity and if so, how. If not, provide justification of why you consider not stipulating the retention of the EMAs in perpetuity would be appropriate.

ExQ1 Climate	Question to:	Question
CC.2.1	Applicant	Road User Greenhouse Gas (GhG) Emissions
		Table 14.22 summarises the estimated construction phase GhG emissions. Explain further why use of the existing road network during the construction phase (road user GhG emissions) is a negative figure and has been included in the table, or signpost to where in the application documents this is explained.
CC.2.2	Applicant	Measures to off-set Residual Carbon Emissions
		National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS) 2024 paragraph 5.35, which is potentially capable of being an important and relevant consideration in the decision-making process under the transitional provisions set out in paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 of that same document, states that a carbon management plan should be produced as part of the DCO submission. Bullet point 4 of the list within paragraph 5.35 requires the plan to include whether and how any residual carbon emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework.
		No reference has been made to this requirement in the First Iteration EMP - Appendix O Outline Carbon Management Plan [APP-142], nor has this been directly addressed in either the Draft National Policy Statement for National Networks Accordance Tables [APP-148, page 56] or the Comparative Assessment with the designated NPSNN (24 May 2024) [AS-007, pages 15-16].
		Explain why the proposed development does not include any voluntary measures to off-set residual carbon emissions using a recognised framework as per NNNPS 2024 paragraph 5.35.
CC.2.3	Applicant and BMBC	Legal Judgements
	DIVIDO	The ExA notes that the applicant has been unable to conclude the review of the ES with regard to the implications of recent legal judgements referred to in ExQ1 CC.1.5 and this will be submitted at deadline (D)5.
		The ExA requests that as part of its response, the applicant categorises the different emissions accounted for in any updates to its assessment which differ from those used in the current

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
		assessment, particularly in relation to downstream GhG emissions and how any updated assessment would meet the findings in the Finch Judgement.
		In addition to the legal judgements referred to in ExQ1 CC.1.5, what, if any, implications does the finding in the high court ruling of Friends of the Earth Ltd & South Lakeland Action on Climate Change vs SSLUHC, West Cumbria Mining Ltd & Cumbria CC [2024] EWHC 2349 (Admin) have in the decision on this application?
		The applicant may wish to combine its response to this question as part of your response to ExQ1 CC.1.5.
		BMBC notes that the Applicant is undertaking a review of the Environmental Statement, and this will be submitted at Deadline 5. BMBC will therefore respond to this question following receipt of the Applicant's review.
CC.2.4	BMBC	Greater Manchester 2038 Carbon Neutrality Target and Climate Emergency Declaration
		To what extent does the carbon neutrality 2038 target apply to road transport emissions on the SRN?
		The carbon neutrality target applies to all emissions from the Greater Manchester geographical area so include the emissions from the SRN within Greater Manchester.
CC.2.5	BMBC	Boswell Judgements
		The ExA notes BMBC's agreed note with the applicant in response to AP27 from ISH2 [REP4-029], which summarises the factual position of the Boswell judgements. Explain whether this has any implications to your position stated in response to ExQ1 CC.1.2 and CC.1.3 [REP3-031] and that advocated during ISH2.
		BMBC acknowledges that the Boswell Judgements endorsed an assessment against national budgets consistent with the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) 2015. However, the judgement also affirmed that the acceptability of environmental information is a matter of judgement for the decision-maker and BMBC considers that the local budgets are also a relevant consideration in the determination of this application.  emporary Possession of land and Rights

CA.2.1	Applicant	Funding
		In their response to ExQ1 question CA.1.12 [REP3-023] the applicant confirmed that the Secretary of State for Transport (SoS) had commissioned a review of the Department for Transport's spending portfolio (including current and future road schemes), and that while this review was ongoing, the commitment to the scheme remained in place. This was further discussed in CAH1 [EV9-001]. Please provide any update and confirm, to the best of available knowledge, that the funds still remain available for the proposed development.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
CA.2.2	Applicant	Plot 4/2c and Plot 4/3
		Explain why temporary possession and permanent rights are being sought for both Plot 4/2c and Plot 4/3.
CA.2.3	Applicant	Crown Land
		With respect to Plot 4/3 please advise when it is expected that the necessary consent from the appropriate crown authority to the compulsory acquisition of its affected land will have been obtained.
CA.2.4	Applicant, BMBC and Hillary Family	Consultative Draft Northern Gateway Development Framework SPD and Relationship with Hillary Family Land
		The Hilary Family response [REP4-031] in paragraph 1.4 states "The indicative masterplan for the Draft SPD indicates that all of the land in the ownership of the Hillary Family within the Order limits falls within the "potential developable area". Conversely, the applicant's response to BMBC's response to ExQ1 CICE.1.3 in [REP4-027] on page 34 states "The Applicant also notes that the draft masterplan does not include any development parcels on land affected by the Northern Loop proposal".
		Can the Hillary Family and applicant clarify their respective positions by signposting to where in the draft framework this is detailed.
		As noted in the response to question BCG.2.4, the draft NGDF SPD has been developed in full knowledge of the Scheme and includes reference to an indicative highway improvement area to reflect the proposal.
		BMBC has been liaising with the Applicant in relation to its response to the same question. BMBC agree with the interpretation presented in the Applicant's response.

CA.2.5	Applicant	Plot 1/1a
		In CAH1 the applicant explained that the whole of Plot 1/1a was within the 'limits of highway deviation' as indicated by pink shading on the Works Plans [AS-006]. The termination of the linear works (indicated by dumbbells) is shown on the Works Plans to be at the very eastern extent of Plot 1/1a. Explain why the entirety of Plot 1/1a is required for permanent acquisition, which includes carriageway beyond the termination of the linear works, and also land to the north and south of the M60 outside the existing slip roads and verge.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
CA.2.6	Applicant	Plots 2/1aw and 2/1av
		In response to AP 5 from CAH1 it is stated "To ensure that the Applicant can use Egypt Lane without constraint from any third-party interests, it has erred on the side of caution and included its own land as being subject to compulsory acquisition. This approach is consistent with the approach generally adopted by the Applicant in respect of the compulsory acquisition of its own land. It is also consistent with the approach adopted on other made DCOs."
		Please supply detail of which made DCOs have used this approach.
Cumulative	and In Combination E	ffects
CICE.2.1		Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment
		Updated advice on cumulative effects assessment was published on 20 September 2024, replacing PINS Advice Note 17. Advise whether the updated advice has any implications for the assessment of cumulative effects in ES Chapter 15 [APP-075].
Design		
DES.2.1	Applicant	Equalities Act 2010
		Page 19 of the Scheme Design Report [APP-151] states "The design of the Scheme has been developed in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010 and the needs of disabled people" and notes that the Equality Impact Assessment [APP-152] "discusses how the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 have been embedded in the development of the Scheme, including design, communication and engagement strategy and mitigation strategies."
		<ol> <li>Can the applicant provide any examples of how individual components of the proposed scheme design have had regard to Equalities Act 2010?</li> <li>Reference is made in the Equality Impact Assessment to the "type and quality of new surfacing, crossing and access points for public rights of way and other routes used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders would be suitable for the intended use and context". Explain further how this would be achieved.</li> </ol>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
		3. Your response to AP 11 from ISH2 [REP4-028] stated that a document that further outlines the alignment between the design principles as outlined in "The Road to good design", the elements of the scheme design, and the design measures which form fundamental mitigation of environmental impacts, could be produced for D6 of the examination. Could such a document set out specific principles for the detailed scheme design to incorporate to ensure that it would be developed in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010? If not, explain why not.
DES.2.2	Applicant	The Planning Inspectorate's Advice on Good Design for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects  The Planning Inspectorate's guidance entitled Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design was published on 23 October 2024. Whilst the ExA is mindful that the publication of the document follows the submission of the application, we ask that you provide comments on how the design processes and proposals for the proposed development align with this advice. Include detail
DES.2.3	Applicant	whether the current scheme proposals and design processes differ from those in the advice.  Design Options for Pike Fold Viaduct and Pike Fold Bridge
		Paragraph 4.35 of the NPSNN states where a number of different designs were considered applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected. In ISH2, it was explained that as part of the design development, several structural options were considered early on in terms of the different form and function of the two bridges.
		Provide further details on the different design options considered for Pike Fold Viaduct and Pike Fold Bridge and the reasons why the favoured choice in the preliminary scheme design has been selected.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question	
	pment Consent Order		
		cles and requirements relate to the numbering of articles and requirements for the draft DCO that was	
	D3 [REP3-006] unless of		
DCO.2.1	Applicant	Use of 'Significant Adverse'	
		During ISH2, it was stated that in simple terms, using the term 'significant' would provide additional flexibility than used in other made DCOs. Provide further justification why a more flexible approach is considered necessary and reasonable for this scheme.	
Articles	Articles		
DCO.2.2	BMBC	Article 12(2)	
		No comments were received from BMBC at D2 to the applicant's response to ISH1 AP6 in [REP1-024] on page 5. Confirm whether you are satisfied with the applicant's response and if so, why.	
		BMBC is satisfied with the applicant's response, as the definition of a 'street' includes a public right of way. The public rights of way listed in Schedule 3; Part 3 would therefore be covered by Article 12(2) of the draft DCO.	

DCO.2.3	Applicant	Article 24(5) and 27(4)
		In response to AP 12 from CAH1, reference is made to the M25 Junction 10/A3 Wisley Interchange DCO 2022 (article 22) and the Lake Lothing (Lowestoft) Third Crossing Order 2020 (article 26) which contained provisions for the applicant to create rights over land for statutory undertakers and other persons who require those rights to undertake, operate and maintain the scheme.
		However, neither of these orders included the provision for rights to be acquired on behalf of statutory undertakers and any other person by way of a vesting declaration and an amendment to the Compulsory Purchase (Vesting Declarations) Act 1981. Your response to ISH1.A.52 [REP1-023] confirmed that you were not aware of any precedent for amending the 1981 Act.
		In the absence of any precedent, explain why acquiring rights on behalf of statutory undertakers and any other person by way of vesting declarations is necessary and reasonable for this scheme, expanding further on the reasons provided in paragraphs 5.73 and 5.74 of the Explanatory Memorandum.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
DCO.2.4	Applicant and BMBC	Article 38
		<ul> <li>Applicant: Noting your comments during ISH2 that operational land would only apply to land that would be permanently acquired, does this need to be explicitly stated within article 38 to ensure this would be secured? If so, provide updated drafting to the dDCO at D5 and if not, explain why not.</li> <li>BMBC: No response was received from BMBC at D2 providing comment on the applicant's response to ISH1 AP13 in [REP1-024] on pages 6 and 7.</li> <li>1. Confirm whether you are satisfied with the applicant's response to AP13 and particularly whether you are satisfied with the areas of land within the order limits that would be included as operational land providing reasons for your answer.</li> <li>BMBC is satisfied with the Applicant's response to AP13, including the areas of land within the order limits that would be included as operational land. Permitted development rights would be limited to operational land in connection with the operation of the Scheme.</li> </ul>
		2. Confirm whether you are satisfied with the applicant's response to AP13 that operational land would only apply to the land which the applicant acquires permanently and not apply to the land shaded green or blue on the land plans [REP3-004], as further advocated by them during ISH2. Are you satisfied that this would not allow the Applicant to exercise any permitted development rights on land that is subject to acquiring new rights or temporary possession? BMBC is satisfied with the Applicant's response to AP13.
Schedule 1 -	⊥ - Authorised Developn	nent
DCO.2.5	Applicant	Works No. 19, 20, 38 and 44
		These work numbers include the wording 'Works could include'. Such drafting is not precise. Following the update to schedule 8 of the dDCO at D3 [REP3-006] which includes a column outlining the works to be undertaken, should the wording be substituted with 'work to important hedgerow [add hedgerow identification] as described in schedule 8 of this Order'? If not, explain why or provide alternative drafting.
Schedule 2	- Requirements	

DCO.2.6	Applicant, BMBC and IPs	Requirement 4(6) and (7)
		<b>Applicant</b> : Explain why the Third Iteration EMP would not subject be subject to consultation with the appropriate public bodies and approval by the SoS?

ExQ1 Question to:	Question
	<b>BMBC</b> and any IP: Do you consider that the Third Iteration EMP should be subject to consultation and approval with the appropriate public bodies? If so, what wording would you suggest should be added to the dDCO to secure this?
	BMBC does not consider that the Third Iteration EMP should be subject to consultation and approval with public bodies. As set out at Requirement 4 of the dDCO, the Third Iteration would be relevant to the operation and maintenance of the Scheme post-construction and would need to be substantially in accordance with the first and second iterations, which will have been subject to consultation with the appropriate public bodies.
DCO.2.7 Applicant	Requirement 6(2)
	The use of the wording "must be submitted to and approved in writing by the Secretary of State" implies that the SoS would be under an obligation to approve any written scheme and programme for remedial measures. In order to improve precision, provide alternative drafting such as restricting any operations until such a document has been submitted to and approved in writing by the SoS.
DCO.2.8 Applicant	Requirement 7(2)
	Your response [REP2-007, page 41] to BMBC's response to ISH1.S2.16 [REP1-032] requesting that the council is copied into any consultation with Natural England on species mitigation protection stated that the proposed amendment was made to the draft DCO [REP1-004] submitted at D1. However, it does not appear that such a change was made to the dDCOs submitted at D1 [REP1-004] or D3 [REP3-006].
	Please clarify and make any necessary amendments to the dDCO to be submitted at D5.
DCO.2.9 Environment Agency and Natural England	Requirement 13 – Consultation
and Natural England	Is the 'not less than' 14 day period stipulated for consultation under this paragraph a sufficient period of time for undertaking consultation? If not, explain why not and advise what an appropriate time period would be and why.
Schedule 9 - Protective Provision	S S

DCO.2.10	Cadent Gas, National Grid	Wording for Protective Provisions
	Electricity Transmission Plc,	The ExA noted the applicant's update during CAH1 listing the parties whereby they considered additional / alternative wording to that presently in the draft DCO would be required.
	United Utilities and any other statutory	additional / alternative wording to that presently in the draft DCO would be required.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question			
	party affected by	The ExA requests that any party affected by protective provisions provides the preferred wording you			
	Protective	are seeking to the dDCO at D5 where disagreement remains with the applicant.			
	Provisions				
Geology and	d Soils				
GS.2.1	Applicant	Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land			
		Confirm that the requirements of Paragraph 5.168 National Policy Statement for National Networks (2015) (NPSNN) have been met including demonstrating that there are no areas of poorer quality land which could be used or signpost to where in the applicant documents this is detailed.			
GS.2.2	Applicant	Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land			
		Explain how the economic and other benefits associated with the retention of the best and most versatile agricultural land is outweighed by the benefits of the DCO proposal having regard to NPSNN Paragraph 5.176 or signpost to where in the applicant documents this is detailed.			
<b>Green Belt</b>	Green Belt				
GB.2.1	BMBC and IPs	Applicant's Assessment of Scheme Component Impacts on Openness			
		In response to ExQ1 GB.1.1, the applicant provided an assessment of the harm on openness for each of the components of the development which are proposed in the green belt and whether openness would or would not be preserved on pages 26-28 and Appendix C of [REP3-023]			
		Provide any comments on the applicant's assessment, explaining reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the assessment provided.			
		BMBC has no specific detailed comments to make on the Applicant's assessment on the Scheme impacts on openness. The assessment appears to have been undertaken appropriately and BMBC would not challenge this.			
GB.2.2	Applicant	Impact on Openness from Temporary Works			
		In response to ExQ1 GB.1.1 [REP3-023], it is stated "The Applicant considers any temporary works will, once completed, have no impact on openness."			

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
		Explain what, if any, impact there would be on openness during construction from temporary works, including but not limited to the construction compound and stockpiles. For any impact identified, provide detail on the extent of any harm and any measures to minimise the impacts on openness.
GB.2.3	Applicant and BMBC	Assessment of 'any other harm'
		Following the submission of further information in response to ISH2 APs 36 and 37 in respect of harm to the Designated Heritage Assets (DHAs) of Heaton Park Registered Park and Garden (RPG) and Brick Farmhouse, provide an update to the assessment of 'other harm' previously provided in your respective responses to ExQ1 GB.1.3 [REP3-023] and [REP3-031].
		BMBC consider that the proposal, with regard to Heaton Park Registered Park and Garden and Brick Farmhouse, does not cause less than substantial or substantial harm and as such does not equate to "other harm" in regard to very special circumstances.
Historic Env	rironment	
HE.2.1	MCC	Harm to Heaton Park Grade II RPG
		ES Chapter 6 – Cultural Heritage [REP4-008] identifies slight adverse effects to this DHA during both construction and operation through changes to its setting as a consequence of the proposed development. Further details on the extent of harm that would arise to the significance of this DHA is provided in the applicant's response to AP 36 from ISH2 in [REP4-028]
		<ol> <li>Noting that this DHA falls within your local authority area, provide comments on the applicant's assessment of impacts in the ES and the extent of any harm arising to its significance.</li> <li>Confirm whether or not any harm would arise to the significance of any other DHAs located within the RPG, providing reasons why this would or would not be the case.</li> </ol>
HE.2.2	BMBC	Harm to Brick Farmhouse Grade II Listed Building
		Provide comments on the information provided by the applicant in [REP4-028] in response to ISH2 AP 37 in respect of the 'less than substantial' harm identified to the significance of this DHA during the construction phase.
		BMBC has no further comments to add in relation to the Applicants' response at ISH2 AP37 (REP4-

ExQ2: Tuesday 17 December 2024 Responses due by Deadline 5: Friday 10 January 2025			
	028).		

ExQ1	Question to: e and Visual	Question
LV.2.1	Applicant	Visual Impact of Gantries and Other Road Signage
		Explain how the visual impact of gantries and other road signage has been assessed in the Schedule of Visual Effects in ES Appendix 7.4 [REP4-020]. Include how the visual impact resulting from signage on the Northern Loop has been considered and detail which photomontages illustrate the new proposed gantries and road signage.
LV.2.2	Applicant	Construction Lighting Strategy
		During ISH2, it was explained that the Outline Construction Compound Management Plan in Appendix I of the First Iteration EMP [APP-126] would include a compound layout which would detail lighting around the compound. Noting that this information is not included within section I.5, signpost to where this is detailed within the document and how the lighting layout around the compound would be secured.
LV.2.3	Applicant	Visual Impacts from Operational Lighting
		The ExA notes your response to ISH2 AP 34 [REP4-028] that mitigation for the impacts on lighting would be predominantly reliant on planting. In the absence of any specific reference to residential receptors in commitment G7 in the REAC provide further details of the mitigation measures that would be incorporated to reduce any impacts from operational lighting, particularly in the earlier years of the scheme operation when planting would be maturing.
	ssets and Waste	
The ExA do	o not wish to ask any furth	er questions on this topic at this point in the Examination.
Need		
NE.2.1	Applicant and BMBC	Scheme Benefits
		Your response to AP 1 ISH2 [REP4-028] referred to BMBC economic strategy 2024-2034 stating that it included a reference to the importance of the Northern Gateway and the Atom Valley Mayoral Development. [REP4-028] then quoted from page 23 of the strategy stating 'Page 23 of this strategy

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
		highlights that "to unlock the Northern Gateway, its growth potential and to maximise socio-economic benefits and Greater Manchester net zero ambitions, significant new transport and other infrastructure investment will be required to meet future demand generated by the site, as well as ensure employment opportunities are accessible to local residents."  Please supply more detail as to how the proposed scheme benefits the BMBC economic strategy 2024-2034 and in particular how it supports the Northern Gateway and Greater Manchester net zero ambitions listed in the quote above.
		The Scheme seeks to address current congestion issues which causes slow and unreliable journey's and reduce economic efficiency. In doing so, it will enable more effective and efficient movement of people and goods, making the area more attractive for investment and deliver a more sustainable, competitive, inclusive and resilient local economy, the key aim of Bury's Economic Strategy.
		The Scheme will improve accessibility to Northern Gateway, which the Economic Strategy notes is "a game changing opportunity to exponentially expand the borough's business base".
Noise and V	ibration	
NV.2.1	United Utilities	Vibration, settlement and/or loading of assets
		In [RR-015] United Utilities raised a concern regarding the potential effect of vibration, settlement and/or loading of their assets which may result from the construction of the proposed scheme. The applicant responded to this concern in [REP1-020]. Please confirm if you are satisfied with this response or detail any outstanding concerns.

NV.2.2	Applicant	Noise Insulation Regulations (NIR) 1975
		Your response to ExQ1 question NV.1.12 stated that an initial assessment identified no residential receptors met the NIR criteria. The response referred to the data in Appendix 11.5 Operational Noise Calculation Results [APP-113] and included the NIR criteria, which is;
		<ul> <li>The receptor is a dwelling or a building used for residential purposes and is located within 300m of the nearest point of the carriageway of the highway;</li> <li>The road traffic noise level at the dwelling after the work must be above a façade level of LA10,18h 68 decibels (dB);</li> <li>Be at least 1dB(A) greater than the prevailing noise level immediately before the work; and</li> <li>The noise level from the highway, additional carriageway, or alteration must contribute at least 1dB(A) to the relevant noise level at the receptor.</li> </ul>

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
		Following a review of Appendix 11.5 Operational Noise Calculation Results, the ExA has identified the
		following properties that appear to meet the criteria.
		15 Brathay Close
		20 Rothay Close
		43 Marston Close
		49 Marston Close
		Explain why these properties are not eligible.
NV.2.3	Applicant	Noise Important Areas
		Your response to AP 22 from ISH2 [REP4-028] explained that no additional noise barriers were proposed to be installed because "The reductions in road traffic noise are above the threshold for significant effects in the short term, and below the long-term threshold for significant effects (based on the assumption that the performance of the surface could reduce over time to -3.5 dB in the future year)."
		NPSNN paragraph 5.200 states "Applicants should consider opportunities to address the noise issues associated with the Important Areas as identified through the noise action planning process."
		There are currently gaps in the noise barriers to the M60 in the vicinity of residential areas. Please provide;
		The predicted L <sub>A10,18h</sub> dB (UK daytime road traffic noise index) for dwellings if the noise barriers were continuous.
		2. Summarise any long term noise reduction that could be supplied in locations where barriers are currently not proposed.
		3. Detail if, and how, Figure 11.9a 'Operational Daytime Noise Future Year Magnitude of Change' and Figure 11.9b 'Operational Night time Noise Future Year Magnitude of Change' [APP-071] would change particularly in the vicinity of Marston Close, Rothay Close, Brathay Close and Warwick Avenue.

ExQ1 Population	Question to: and Human Health	Question
PHH.2.1	Applicant, BMBC and any IP	Public Right of Way (PRoW) 9WHI  In response to AP 16 from ISH2 [REP4-028] the applicant detailed the proposed mitigation planting where the diverted PRoW 9WHI would run parallel to the M66. Could this mitigation be considered an enhancement? If so, detail why.
		As the Applicant advised in its response to the Action Points from ISH1 [REP4-028], the visual amenity for walkers on footpath 9WHI near to Pond 1 would be improved, as the new footpath alignments are near to areas of wet woodland and other new tree planting. The National Policy Statement for National Networks (paragraph 5.198) makes reference to opportunities to improve access and connectivity of public rights of way, with consideration of 'use, character, attractiveness and convenience'. These are factors over and above the assessment criteria in DMRB LA 112, on which the Population and Human Health assessment is based (which relate to change of length of a route). Through consideration of these additional factors, the revisions to footpath 9WHI would represent an enhancement from the existing route in terms of character and attractiveness in the long term, as this regularly used route would change to following a more diverse landscape with the combination of species-rich grassland, Pond 1 and wet woodland as indicated on Figure 2.3 Environmental Masterplan of the Environmental Statement Figures [APP-057].
PHH.2.2	Applicant	In ISH2 [EV10-001] the position of the main construction compound was discussed. The Environmental Scoping Report [APP-143] stated that the main compound would be likely located in the north-east quadrant of M60 Junction 18 but now it is proposed to be in the north-west quadrant off Mode Hill Lane. Please supply detailed explanation and justification (including that which was covered orally in the hearing) why it is acceptable that the compound is proposed to be located next to a residential area.
PHH.2.3	Applicant	Construction Compound off Mode Hill Lane  In response to AP 13 from ISH2 [REP4-028] it is stated "The Applicant will encourage the adoption of car sharing by the workforce travelling to the site to minimise the number of private vehicles in use." Explain how this would be achieved and how it would be secured in the dDCO.

PHH.2.4	Applicant and BMBC	Mode Hill Lane
		In response to AP 14 from ISH2 [REP4-028] it is stated "The Applicant further confirms that no preconstruction work to Mode Hill Lane outside the Order Limits is anticipated. The Applicant notes Bury Metropolitan Borough Council's response to the Examining Authority's first round of written questions [REP3-031] ref TT.1.3 relating to Mode Hill Lane, confirming that the adopted highway is in a condition for all traffic that may be reasonably be expected to use it." During ISH2 [EV10-001], BMBC explained that in relation to their comment regarding 'condition' in [REP3-031] this was referring to the fact that Mode Hill Lane was an adopted standard in terms of a highway not in relation to its physical condition.

ExQ1	Question to:	Question
		<b>BMBC</b> : Do you consider that Mode Hill Lane is in a suitable physical condition so that use of it to access a site compound would not add to the significant adverse effects you identified in paragraph 11.7 of your Local Impact Report (LIR) [REP1A-001]? If so, explain why.
		<b>Applicant</b> : With respect to the clarification supplied by BMBC in ISH2 do you still consider that no preconstruction work would be required to Mode Hill Lane? If work was required to any part of the highway outside of the Order Limits, how would this be secured in the dDCO?
		BMBC has liaised with the Applicant to agree the contents of this response. BMBC confirms that Mode Hill Lane is an adopted highway and is maintainable by BMBC.
		The current physical condition of Mode Hill Lane and other areas of the local highway network proposed to be used for temporary construction access, is understood to be satisfactory for the uses described by the Applicant. BMBC identified in the Local Impact Report [REP1A-001] that increased intensity and alternative vehicle types could result in intermittent significant adverse effects. BMBC understand that the alternative vehicle types would primarily be associated with early activities to install the construction compound and access from the strategic road network. BMBC understand that for the majority of the construction period, the Scheme will introduce smaller and private vehicles accessing the construction compound. Such use is consistent with its adopted highway status.
		It is BMBC's intention to carry out a joint inspection with the Applicant in each work location prior to the commencement of works in any particular area. This will include prior to formation of the construction compound off Mode Hill Lane. Any remedial work identified as arising from construction access during, or upon the completion, of the works will be discussed with the Applicant, based on the earlier inspection records.

PHH.2.5	Applicant	Mode Hill Lane
		In response to AP 14 from ISH2 [REP4-028] it stated "During construction, construction traffic using Mode Hill Lane will be limited to cars and light vehicles. Heavy Duty Vehicles will not use Mode Hill Lane for access."
		Clarify if Heavy Duty Vehicles would need to use Mode Hill Lane at any point to access the construction compound before the access/egress from the M60 would be created. If so, explain how this has been considered in the ES, signposting to where in the application documents this is covered.
PHH.2.6	BMBC	Construction Hours
		BMBC did not raise any concern with the proposed hours of construction when discussing requirement 4 of the draft DCO in ISH1. Whilst impacts from construction are noted within the LIR [REP1A-001] in respect of each environmental topic, no direct comment has been made on the suitability of the proposed hours of construction.
		Noting that paragraph 11.4 of the LIR acknowledges that construction is " <i>likely to take a significant number of years</i> ", can BMBC provide its reasoning for the acceptability, or otherwise, of the proposed construction working hours?
		The proposed construction working hours were agreed by Bury Council for the following reasons:
		Although BMBC acknowledges that there is likely to be a considerable impact on the residents affected by the proposed scheme, if the proposed hours were not accepted, then the timescale of the development would lengthen and those affected would suffer from the effects of construction noise for a longer period. After considering the DCO material, which includes the use of the best practicable means and the effects of noise nuisance over a longer period, BMBC felt that the preferred option would be for the construction phase to be over a shorter timescale.
		The safety of those working on the construction site must be considered and as a result nighttime working must be an option.
		The management plan has identified the following control measures for noise and vibration during the construction phase.
		General control measures

Noise and vibration from construction activities would be controlled by employing Best Practicable Means (BPM), as defined under Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 at all times.

BPM shall consider the recommendations of BS 5228: Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites (Parts 1 and 2) (BSI, 2014a and 2014b), and BS 7385-2: Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings guide to damage levels from ground borne vibration (BSI, 1993).

BPM will include the control of noise and vibration at source, where reasonably practicable, such as the provision of acoustic screens and the use of less intrusive alarms. Should the application of BPM at source not prove effective and noise exposure exceed the relevant trigger level (as defined in BS 5228-1), the PC will offer noise insultation and temporary rehousing.

The codes of practice for construction works and piling given in BS 5228 and the guidance therein for minimising noise emissions from the site would be applied where reasonably practical.

### Control of noise

The following noise control measures would be implemented across all construction works where practicable:

- Site management teams shall employ best practice and consider the timing, duration, and phasing of construction activities to cause minimum annoyance to sensitive receptors where practicable and reasonable.
- Seeded bunds may be used to provide noise and visual screening around the perimeter of the temporary works and construction areas.
- All ancillary plant such as generators, compressors and pumps will be positioned to cause minimum noise disturbance. If necessary, acoustic barriers or enclosures will be provided, where appropriate. Consideration shall be given to the site establishment, to ensure that low noise generators are used, where reasonably practical.
- Working methods will be developed specific to the area and will consider use of equipment and methods of operations to minimise noise.
- Where reasonably practical, fabrication of materials will be undertaken off-site.
- All plant and machinery in intermittent use will be shut down in intervening periods between work or throttled down to a minimum.
- Proper use of plant with respect to minimising noise emissions with regular maintenance will be undertaken.
- Minimising the drop height of materials into hoppers, lorries or other plant.

- Use of less intrusive alarms on vehicles, for example, broadband vehicle reversing warnings.
- Works would be planned to reduce the overall number of full carriageway closures required.
- When planning and implementing carriageway closures needing the use of the strategic diversion routes, consideration would be given to both the impacts for communities alongside the diversion route, as well as aiming to avoid strategic traffic diverting through communities alongside the M60 between junctions 17, 18 and 19 and M66 Junction 3, to achieve an appropriate balance.
- Where full carriageway closures are required, the number of nights that these would be implemented will be kept to below:
- (i) 10 or more days in any 15 consecutive nights,
- (ii) or a total number of nights exceeding 40 in any consecutive 6 months.

The provision of temporary noise screening at the edge of working areas where a road traffic noise barrier needs to be temporarily removed to allow access to construction plant to working areas.

### Construction Monitoring

Noise and/or vibration monitoring during construction would be carried out by the Primary Contractor to ensure ongoing compliance with all controls and, where relevant, consent for the works.

Monitoring would include physical measurements and observational checks, such as:

- Review of BPM and implementation of noise and/or vibration control measures; for example, location and condition of local noise screening.
- Verification that the identified noise and vibration mitigation measures are in place for activities where there is potential for likely significant effects to occur.
- Compliance with agreed hours of working.
- Measurement of noise and/or vibration levels; for example, attended noise and/or vibration measurements at the start of the high-risk activities to check levels against agreed thresholds.
- Monitoring noise and vibration procedures and practices to check adverse effects are no worse than those predicted.
- Where applicable, review of compliance with specific consent conditions and noise assessment as discussed in Chapter 11: Noise and vibration, of the Environmental Statement (TR010064/APP/6.1).
- Number and types of plant, construction method, and where applicable, any specific consent conditions.
- Vibration measurement surveys during construction will be carried out by the Primary Contractor, if required, and as agreed with the relevant local authorities.

In instances where a member of the public has made a noise and/or vibration complaint, the complaint would be registered in accordance with the site complaints procedure. An investigation would be undertaken by the Primary Contractor to review the noise and/or vibration control measures and noise and/or vibration levels.

PHH.2.7	Applicant and BMBC	Permissive Path
		Provide evidence to demonstrate that the path between Heybrook Close and Parrenthorn Road, through the Haweswater Aqueduct Underpass, is a permissive path and specifically that permission for its use has been given by all the landowners affected.
		BMBC is not aware of anyone giving explicit permission to users. Rather, it is a route that appears to have been used by the public without let or hindrance for several years.

Question to:	Question
Applicant	Permissive Path
	In the response to ExQ1 question PHH.1.6 [REP3-023] it stated "the Applicant is aware that the underpass provides a walking and cycling link between Parrenthorn School and the residential areas to the north and would potentially benefit from improvement. The Applicant is therefore exploring an opportunity to deliver some improvements through National Highways' designated funding for delivery outside of the Scheme."  The ExA is aware that it cannot be guaranteed at this stage that the bid would be successful, but if funding was received what improvements would be made?

## **Road Drainage and Water Environment**

The ExA do not wish to ask any further questions on this topic at this point in the Examination.

Traffic, Transport and Access		
TTA.2.1	Applicant	Safety
		Confirm if the relevant emergency services have been consulted regarding the proposed layout of Junction 18 Simister Island, specifically in relation to the closure of the M60 eastbound entry to the roundabout and the M60 southbound exit from the roundabout. If so, provide details of any responses received.