



Our ref: TR010064/10072025

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10/07/2025

Dear Secretary of State for Transport

Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

TR010064 - M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT

This submission is made by National Highways (the “Applicant”) in accordance with the request for comments from the Secretary of State dated 27 June 2025.

Environment Agency New Data

1. On 25 March 2025, the Environment Agency published new data which included updated flood zones and river flood risk extents. The Secretary of State notes that this data was published following the close of the examination and has not been considered by the ExA or the Applicant.

*2. The Secretary of State requests an update from **the Applicant** on any implications the new Environment Agency data would have on the Proposed Development.*

The Applicant confirms receipt of the submission made by the Environment Agency on the final day of examination into the M60/M62/M66 Simister Island Interchange (the “Scheme”) application for development consent. The submission made by the Environment Agency was accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority [AS-016] and referred to the new data subsequently published on 25 March. In that submission the Environment Agency stated, “*please note that this does not materially impact on our position, or the information already provided on the NSIP’s M60 Simister Island application*”.

Since the close of examination, the Applicant met with the Environment Agency on 30 May 2025. The Environment Agency confirmed at that meeting that it does not expect the Scheme to undertake any further assessment required as a result of the submission into the examination and the new published flood risk data [AS-016]. The email appended to examination submission [AS-016] was intended to clarify that the Environment Agency did not consider the data publication to have a material impact on their flood risk assessment of the Scheme.

Haweswater Underpass

3. The Secretary of State is aware that, during the examination, the Applicant indicated that it was exploring designated funding to support some improvements to the Haweswater underpass.

4. The Secretary of State requests an update from **the Applicant** on whether a bid has been made for that designated funding, and if so, any update as to whether that bid has been successful.

5. The Secretary of State is also aware that United Utilities Water Limited (“UU”) possess apparatus in the area in which the Haweswater underpass is located.

6. The Secretary of State requests **the Applicant** to clarify the nature of its apparatus, and the matters on which it would need to consult, or, to obtain the approval of UU in order to deliver the intended improvements.

The Applicant confirms that a bid for Designated Funding to carry out improvements to the Haweswater Underpass will be made to seek to secure its delivery in the financial year 2026/27 as all funds have now been allocated for the 2025/26 financial year. The Applicant would reiterate that there is no guarantee that funding will be made available, and the improvements are outside the scope of the Scheme.

A major aqueduct conducting water to Manchester passes beneath the underpass. Any upgrade to the underpass needs to ensure protection of UU’s asset and therefore requires UU agreement. UU also have a right of access to the aqueduct from the north side of the underpass. This right of access needs to be maintained under any of the options being considered for connecting the upgraded underpass to wider walking and cycling routes. UU have supported and contributed to the feasibility and optioneering work to date.

Outstanding Agreements

7. The Secretary of State invites **the Applicant** to provide an update on any agreements that had not been signed by the close of examination.

The Applicant confirms that five agreements were under discussion but had not been concluded at the end of the Examination as follows:

- National Grid Electricity Transmission.
- United Utilities Water Ltd.
- Cadent Gas Limited
- The Trustees of Pike Fold Golf Club; and
- Joseph Holt Limited.

The agreement with Cadent Gas Limited was completed on 18 March 2025, the agreement with United Utilities Water Ltd was completed on 13 May 2025 and the agreement with National Grid Electricity Transmission was completed on 30 May 2025.

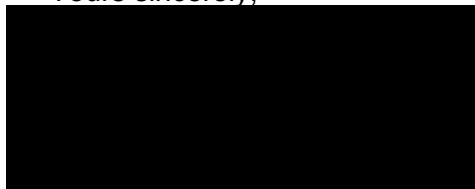
Since the end of the Examination, there has been extensive and detailed engagement between the Applicant and The Trustees of Pike Fold Golf Club regarding the scope of works proposed to the golf course and the transfer of that land within the golf course which is required to deliver the Scheme. Those discussions continue and it is hoped that the agreement will be concluded in due course.

Joseph Holt Limited is seeking an agreement to limit the Applicant’s compulsory acquisition powers over its land within Plot 1/33b. This includes limiting temporary possession of Plot 1/33b and preventing the Applicant from exercising its compulsory acquisition powers to acquire new permanent rights over Plot 1/33b if Joseph Holt Limited grants the Applicant a permanent easement.

Joseph Holt Limited has requested and the Applicant has agreed to pay costs associated with the agreement which means that the agreement can now progress. It is hoped that the agreement will be concluded shortly.

Should you have any other queries about this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely,



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