



Meeting note

Project name	M60/M62/M66 Simister Island
File reference	TR010064
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	12 May 2023
Meeting with	National Highways
Venue	MS Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which Applicant (or others) could rely.

Purpose

The Applicant gave feedback following the Statutory Consultation giving an overview of responses. The Applicant explained there is work ongoing in regard to responses in design development, and there is ongoing engagement with local authorities and statutory environmental bodies.

Statutory Consultation

The Applicant explained that the Statutory Consultation lasted a period of six weeks from Wednesday 15 February to Tuesday 28 March 2023, with a Statement of Community Consultation agreed with Bury Council.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate of the timeline which included webinars and engagement events in February and March. The levels of engagement includes:

- Parrenthorn High School c. 100 attendees;
- Our Lady of Grace Hall c. 110 attendees;
- Unsworth Cricket Club c.120 attendees;
- At the engagement van events c.400
- Webinars and telephone events; and
- Overall 369 online and paper responses received c.46 email responses (Correct at the time of the meeting).



Feedback

The Applicant summarised to the Inspectorate feedback received during consultation including:

- Bury and Rochdale Councils – provided positive support for the scheme;
- Bury Council Environmental Protection Team – provided a technical response focusing on Air Quality;
- Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham – explained that the proposed improvements are critical to employment opportunities for Greater Manchester;
- Natural England – focused on peat, peat habitats and ground water, effects to Special Areas of Conservation, impacts on ancient woodland and loss of agricultural land;
- Environment Agency – focused on flood risk impacts, pollution containment prior to discharge, and potential for land contamination;
- Historic England – there were relatively few designated heritage assets, there were potential for archaeological remains which can be addressed in a Written Scheme of Investigation;
- Campaign Groups – focused on traffic modelling, carbon emissions and baselines, alternatives, noise and air pollution, green belt, and safety;

The Applicant confirmed that the environmental issues identified above would be addressed in the Environmental Statement (ES). The Applicant also explained that Air Quality was a key concern amongst consultees particularly considering the number of other development proposals in the local area and these would be identified within the cumulative effects chapter of the ES, where relevant.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate about feedback from the local communities which included topics such as:

- Understanding scheme improvements and the benefits it would have;
- The need for the scheme and how it relates to congestion and safety issues at other junctions within the region;
- Permanent and temporary acquisition of land, an assessment of alternatives and options to limit scheme footprint;
- Impacts on property values and the potential opportunity for compensation; and
- Environmental topics with respect to air quality, noise, road drainage and water environment, landscape and biodiversity, population and human health.

Next Steps

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they are analysing the feedback from the consultation. The Applicant is also developing preliminary designs informed by feedback, and assessing potential changes and whether any additional targeted consultation is required.

The Applicant is seeking to provide a digital ES, a separate discussion with the Inspectorate is to be arranged regarding this.



The Planning Inspectorate

There will be engagement with Local Authorities and Statutory Environmental Bodies responding to comments and discussions on potential mitigation strategies.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the Interim Report on Consultation is scheduled for publication on 20 June 2023. In addition, the DCO application submission date is scheduled for 19 December 2023.

Question / AOB

The Applicant advised that the current submission date is 19 December 2023. The Inspectorate advised that this date may cause Local Authorities difficulty in providing a response to adequacy of consultation and further discussion would be required.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that they would provide further information on draft document submission.

The Inspectorate asked whether the project was being prepared on a design and build basis. The Applicant confirmed that Costain Jacobs were involved such a capacity.

The Applicant agreed to arrange another project update meeting with the Inspectorate in June or July 2023.



The Planning Inspectorate