



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	M60/M62/M66 Simister Island
<b>File reference</b>	TR010064
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	28 July 2023
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Highways
<b>Venue</b>	MS Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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 applicants (or others) could rely.

### *Schedule Overview*

The Applicant confirmed that the consultation took place from June to August 2020, and the preferred route announcement occurred in January 2021. Statutory Consultation took place from February to March 2023.

The Applicant confirmed that they expect the DCO submission date to be 27 December 2023, with the start of construction aiming to take place in Q4 2025. The project is aimed to be open for traffic in 2029.

### *Interim report on Statutory Consultation*

The Applicant confirmed that 460 responses were received. The feedback has been analysed and an Interim Report has been produced.

The key findings include:

- Over 50% of respondents agreed with the need for a hard shoulder, the use of the existing carriageway to create a second free-flow lane and the addition of required land for environmental mitigation;
- Over 40% of respondents agreed with the proposed road drainage and the water environment mitigation measures; and
- Respondents showed the greatest concern over the noise levels.



## ***Supplementary Consultation***

The Applicant confirmed that 34 design changes were identified after the close of consultation, which include:

- Adjustments for Red Line Boundary for land ownership;
- Updates to drainage design and removal of the Whitefield area; and
- Removal of land identified for environmental mitigation.

Additionally, 11 design changes were identified as requiring a supplementary consultation, and 23 design changes were identified as requiring an update to affected stakeholders.

The Applicant confirmed that targeted letters will be issued to all stakeholders, affected by the design changes including a before and after image of change. The supplementary consultation will launch on 31 July to 10 September for a period of six weeks. Update letters to affected stakeholders are planned to be sent out around 14 August 2023. The supplementary consultation feedback will be analysed and included as a supplementary chapter in the full consultation report.

## ***Stakeholder Engagement***

Bury Council:

- Monthly meetings ongoing (including representations from planning, highways and property services);
- DCO workshop 1: Role of Bury Council in DCO process on 18 July 2023;
- DCO workshop 2: Draft DCO submission, likely at the start of October;
- Separate engagement with Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Environmental Protection Teams; and
- Developing the Statement of Common Ground.

Statutory Environmental Bodies:

- Natural England's Discretionary Advice Service is being used to address several issues arising from their statutory consultation response including peat, designated sites, and the Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- A meeting with the Environmental Agency is planned in August to discuss the scheme updates; and
- Statements of Common Ground are being developed with both these bodies.

Specific meetings with landowners will occur in order to discuss changes to the scheme.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicants if they have any of the environmental team attending and contributing in meetings with Bury Council. The Applicant answered that they have had direct engagement from their specialists, and they aim to discuss the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Statement of Common Ground.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant if there have been any requests from councils for Planning Performance Agreements (PPA). The Applicant responded by saying they have been discussing the demands of the process and have been listening to them, but they have not asked directly for a PPA. The Applicant have provided links to Inspectorate advice notes.



## ***DCO Production and Draft Documents***

The Applicant explained that Volumes 1 through 7 documents are under production at this stage, and the initial authoring is expected to be completed for internal review in September 2023.

The schedule of Draft Documents is being prepared for consideration, and is anticipated to include the following which the Applicant will confirm:

- Location plan;
- General arrangement plans and land plans;
- Draft DCO and explanatory memorandum;
- the Environmental Statement Project Description chapter; and
- Environmental management plan and register of environmental action and commitments. This has not been requested by the Inspectorate Environmental Services Team.

The Applicant confirmed that the date of draft documents submission is still to be confirmed, but it is likely to occur in late September 2023.

## ***AOB & Next Steps:***

The Applicant explained that there will be supplementary consultation and continued analysis of the feedback from the consultation. The Applicant is developing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to assess the impacts of the scheme and to complete the drafting of the ES.

The Applicant is also engaging with local authorities and statutory environmental bodies to respond to comments and to host discussions on potential mitigations strategies. In addition, the Applicant is engaging with interested parties to understand potential impact and mitigation options.

The Applicant confirmed these key dates:

- Supplementary consultation 31 July to 10 September;
- Draft document submission to PINS end of September;
- DCO Workshop 2 with Bury Council early October; and
- DCO application submission date scheduled for 27 December.