

Meeting note

Project name	M60/M62/M66 Simister Island
File reference	TR010064
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	29 November 2023
Meeting with	National Highways (“The Applicant”)
Venue	Microsoft 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 applicants (or others) could rely.

Scheme Update

The Applicant reiterated the planned submission date of 18 January 2024.

The Applicant stated the impacts of a January submission date on the rest of the project schedule, if accepted. Plans relating to engagement required under Section 56 are currently being developed to begin outreach through publications should the application be accepted.

The Applicant advised that the expected period of participation for relevant representations is expected to last seven weeks, or 35 days.

The Applicant summarised recent engagement with Natural England (NE), noting that final comments have been received relating to soil matters.

The draft Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report has recently been shared with NE, along with the draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), with details within both having been previously discussed earlier in the year. The Applicant expects these discussions to extend past the period of application. Decisions relating to planned engagement with the Environment Agency and Historic England are currently ongoing. The Applicant is currently drafting the Statement of Common Ground with these bodies and these documents will reflect any agreements in place.

The Applicant continues to work with Bury Council and recently presented draft Environmental Statement chapters to the relevant environmental protection and conservation officers. Monthly meetings with the council are continuing, with

comments on recently submitted draft documents expected to be heard at the next occurrence.

Draft Documents Feedback

The Applicant discussed a comment from the Inspectorate relating to the works plans within the submitted draft documents. The Inspectorate recommended that any relevant limits of deviation are provided within the application documents to aid the ease of reading and cross referencing.

Trends/Issues from recent schemes

The Applicant inquired about relevant trends and issues with recent schemes that could be insightful towards its own submission. PINS directed the Applicant towards recent Section 51 advice following recent acceptances. The Applicant was advised to provide necessary plans and information in line with Regulations 5 & 6 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009.

AOB

The Applicant noted that there could be possible delays in application submission following the Christmas period. In response to a query from the Inspectorate regarding funding approval, The Applicant confirmed that the normal governance approval process with the Department for Transport (DfT) is progressing in line with expectations.

Information on local authority contact details was requested by PINS.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant to provide the GIS shapefile a minimum of ten working days prior to submission, as set out in section 18 of Advice Note Six.

The Inspectorate also requested that the Applicant informs the Inspectorate of any possible delays to its submission.