



Meeting note

Project name	M60/M62/M66 Simister Island
File reference	TR010064
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	6 February 2024
Meeting with	National Highways (Applicant)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees/ additional contacts to share meeting note

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.

Project update and planned submission

The Applicant aims to submit application on or around 26 February 2024.

Consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Historic England

The Applicant confirmed that they have received feedback from Natural England on matters prioritised following response to statutory consultation and are pursuing licensing with regards to protected species and are not anticipating any issue in this regard.

The Inspectorate asked a question regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). The Applicant confirmed that they had been in discussion with Natural England since mid-2023 and this feedback has been incorporated and shared with Natural England; the Applicant is anticipating a response to the latest shared version of their report February 2024. The Applicant updated the Inspectorate on engagement with the Environment Agency and confirmed that they have recently shared the Environment Management Plan with the Agency.

The Applicant advised that they had been in communication with Historic England, although there has been no further engagement since the last meeting. Further, the

Applicant explained that there has been engagement with Bury Council and that in December 2023 they held a meeting with Bury Council's legal team and have shared the Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) and continue to discuss matters, none of which require amendment of the order at this stage.

The Inspectorate queried whether information relating to protected species within the ES would be redacted and provided as separate appendices where required. The Applicant confirmed that this would be the case, with information relating to protected species being included within separate confidential appendices. The Inspectorate advised that although confidential, these appendices can be published on request.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant that the Environmental Support Team require the Shape file at least 10 working days prior to submission.

The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant will be sharing application documents with the host and neighbouring planning authorities and advised that it is helpful to share the consultation report and main documents with the local authorities so they can plan their resources for responding. The Applicant confirmed that they have regular meetings with Bury Council and will discuss making the application documents available following submission. The Applicant confirmed that they hold a list of LPAs and an electronic index.

Application fee

The Applicant requested information on application fees. The Inspectorate advised they will send the Applicant the fee information letter that will outline all the information the Applicant needs.

AOB

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the project has moved onto the Inspectorate's Beta webpage where all application documents will be published. The Inspectorate advised that a difference is the 'Make a Submission' tab will be re-named to the 'Have your Say' tab. The Applicant committed to considering this information within their communications work.

The Inspectorate requested that should there be any delays to the projects projected timeline and progression to submission that the Applicant make the Inspectorate aware at the earliest opportunity to aid in resource allocation and planning decision making.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Inspectorate to send submission and acceptance fee information letters to the Applicant.