

## **West Midlands Interchange DCO Examination**

### **Examining Authority's Record of an Unaccompanied Inspection 3 on 3 June 2019**

#### **15.20 to 17.30 hours**

Warm but overcast weather conditions.

Paul Singleton, Examining Authority (ExA) for the application, undertook a third Unaccompanied Site Inspection (US3) on Monday 3 June 2019. The purpose of the inspection was for the ExA to view a number of the local villages around the Four Ashes location and to observe the character and traffic conditions on a number of the local roads in the area. Observations of the application site and its context were made from vantage points along the route included a number of the viewpoints used in the applicant's Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot using public roads, the canal towpath and other publicly accessible areas. As the ExA did not enter private land this allowed the inspection to be carried out on an unaccompanied basis and made it unnecessary under the Examination Rules<sup>1</sup> for notice of the site inspection to be given. No other persons were present at the site inspection and the ExA did not engage with any other persons about the purpose of his visit or the proposed development.

USI 3 started from Dobbies Garden Centre near Gailey Roundabout.

By car, north on A449 towards Penkridge and then via Bungham Lane to Water Eaton Lane. South on Water Eaton Lane. Assessed view of site and context from Viewpoint 29 (on foot). Continued on Water Lane to junction with A5, travelled west on A5 to junction with Ivy House Lane. Assessed view of site and context from crossroads at Viewpoint 24 (on foot).

By car, south on Ivy House Lane into and through centre of Brewood, inspecting Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin and St Chad and churchyard on foot and assessed view of site and context from Viewpoint 22. Continued via local roads, through Lower Green and into and through centre of Coven including observations from views on eastern and edge of the village (Viewpoint 20).

By car from Coven, via Brewood Road to A449, north on A449 and south east on Old Stafford Road. On foot, viewed canal at Calf Heath and Slade Heath Canal Bridges and character of canal either side of these structures. By car, south on Old Stafford Road and east on New Road to northern edge of Featherstone and then north on A460 into and through centre of Shareshill. Walked into and through the extended churchyard to St Mary and St Luke church to observe view from footpath at northern edge of churchyard.

By car, using local roads from Shareshill to Little Saredon and via Straight Mile to Calf Heath and Woodlands Road to turn right onto A5. Then by car east on A5 to southern edge of Cannock (junction of A5 with Wolverhampton Road).

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010