

West Midlands Interchange DCO Examination

Examining Authority's Record of an Unaccompanied Inspection 4 on 5 June 2019

21.20 to 22.10 hours

Warm and reasonably clear viewing conditions before dusk.

Paul Singleton, Examining Authority (ExA) for the application, undertook a fourth Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI 4) on Wednesday 4 June 2019. No representatives of the applicant or any Interested Parties were present. For health and safety reasons the ExA was accompanied by Robert Ranger and Dean Alford from the Planning Inspectorate's case management team.

The purpose of the inspection was for the ExA to view the site and its wider landscape setting from the Toposcope (Viewpoint 32) on Shoal in the AONB at and immediately after dusk. Key landmarks which help to define the physical extent of the application site were identified before dusk. At and after dusk, the ExA observed the extent and intensity of existing artificial illumination, (from street lights, lighting to buildings and other sources), visible in the vicinity of the site and the wider view from this viewpoint in order to inform his judgement as to what effect the artificial lighting associated with the proposed WMI development would be on this elevated view, on the surrounding area, and on the levels of light pollution in the locality.

The inspection was undertaken on foot using publicly accessible paths from the Shoal Hill Tavern to and from the Toposcope. 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 Rules¹ for notice of the site inspection to be given.

¹ Rule 16 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010