

West Midlands Interchange DCO Examination

Examining Authority's Record of an Unaccompanied Inspection 5 on 7 June 2019

10.00 to 13.30 hours

Overcast conditions with intermittent, heavy rain showers.

Paul Singleton, Examining Authority (ExA) for the application, undertook a fifth Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI 5) on Friday 7 June 2019. The inspection was undertaken mainly by car but involved walking along a short section of the canal towpath and observing key viewpoints and locations on foot.

The purpose of the inspection was for the ExA to view additional sections of the canal corridor that the ExA had not previously visited, to observe key viewpoints with the applicant's photomontages to hand, and to view specific locations referred to in the hearings and representations received during the examination.

By car, from Cannock via the A5, Four Crosses Lane, Straight Mile to Calf Hearth and then via Queens' Road to Kings Road. Viewed canal bridge, canal corridor and Hatherton Marina from public vantage points on foot.

From Kings Road, by car via Straight Mile and Deepmore Lane to Long Moll's Bridge. On foot, observed canal corridor either side of the bridge including Viewpoint 7 and the ERF facility from the towpath. Also viewed the ERF facility from Deepmore Lane.

By car along Straight Mile and Vicarage Road: observations of relationship between nearest residential properties and proposed landscaped mounds and development zones (on foot from public vantage points).

From Vicarage Road by car along Station Road and Station Drive to A449. South on A449 through all intersections from Station Drive to M54 to observe traffic conditions and proximity of residential properties to the road. North on A449 back through all of the intersections to Standeford to observe the location of Harrow Cottage and other nearby properties relative to the A449. Observation of Standeford Café and car/lorry parking area.

From Standeford, by car north to Crateford Lane. Viewing of site and surroundings from Crateford Lane including Viewpoint 17.

By car, from Crateford Lane junction with A449, north on A449, west on A5 and south on Claygates Lane and return to Crateford Lane. This route was taken to assess the nature of the alternative route and approximate additional travel time for local residents if 1-way flow proposed on Crateford Lane was to be introduced.

By car from Crateford Lane to Four Ashes PH and car park to observe Station Drive/A449 junction, relationship of Station Drive properties to proposed Development Zones and Green Infrastructure and view of site from Viewpoint 18.

By car from Station Drive, A5 and roundabout at M6 J12 to Avenue Cottages. On foot to observe relationship of cottages to existing landscape bunds to Calf Heath Quarry and proposed WMI landscape mounds and development zones. Observed nature of HGV traffic accessing and leaving the quarry.

By car from Avenue Cottages via A5 to Gailey Roundabout. West from Gailey on A5 past Stretton, Horsebrook, Belvide Reservoir, Ivetsey Bank, and Wheaton Aston to Weston Park and return via A5 from Weston Park to J12 of M6. The route was driven in both directions in order to observe nature of the route, traffic conditions and proximity of residential properties to the road. Site inspection terminated at J12.