

Update on Network Rail Representations

The West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange Order 201X

21 August 2019

Four Ashes Limited

THE WEST MIDLANDS RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE ORDER 201X

DOCUMENT 18.6 – Update on Network Rail Representations

Updated Position

1. This document updates the Examining Authority in relation to the outstanding representations submitted on behalf of Network Rail.
2. As is clear from the previous representations from Network Rail, and will be apparent to the Examining Authority from the contributions of the Network Rail representative during the various ISH, Network Rail support the Application. This support was first expressed in the Network Rail response to the Scoping Report and is apparent from the Statement of Common Ground entered into with Network Rail (AS-025). Network Rail do, however, require that its interests in achieving suitable access to the West Coast Main Line, both during construction and following the development, are secured and the Applicant requires certain agreements be entered into with Network Rail to enable it to construct and operate the development.
3. Accordingly, during the course of the Examination, Network Rail and the Applicant have progressed an agreement to deal with those matters. That agreement is at an advanced stage of negotiation, however, on 1 August 2019 Network Rail advised that it had some additional requirements in relation to access arrangements. Therefore, on 14 August, a meeting was held between the Applicant and Network Rail's technical advisors to discuss those matters. At that meeting agreement was reached on all the outstanding access issues, however, it remains for that position to be reflected in revised plans and amendments to the agreement under negotiation, both in preparation at the time of writing.
4. The Applicant has had sight of a letter to the Examining Authority to be submitted on behalf of Network Rail by Womble Bond Dickinson at Deadline 8 and felt it would be helpful for the Examining Authority to have more specific information as to the current position regarding the Side Agreement referred to.
5. The Applicant is confident, on its part, that, with full agreement having now been reached on technical matters, the drafting of the agreement and contents of plans can catch up shortly and the agreement completed.