

From: [David Dutton](#)
To: [Development Management](#)
Subject: Planning application 25/01061/FUL Junction 19 M62 site compound
Date: 11 November 2025 13:32:28

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Hi Tom

Thank you for consulting the GMEU.

Summary

There are unlikely to be any significant ecological issues associated with this development.

European Protected Sites

I am satisfied that the development is unlikely to have any significant effects to the Rochdale Canal SAC or the Manchester Mosses SAC. I accept the development is part of the already approved Simister Island national infrastructure project, already subject to an appropriate assessment. This development does not add any cumulative risk being in reality a part of the project omitted from the original project design. It is a supplementary location for site materials and machinery not an increase in the overall scale of the main project.

Great Crested Newts

There are a number of ponds within 250m with known populations of great crested newts. The site compound however already exists and is sub-optimal for this species. The main risk will occur during site restoration when the existing stockpiles of topsoil are restored. The applicant has committed to enter into district licensing. Given the nature of the development, I have no issues with this approach.

Technically no condition is required as the process would be in the hands of Natural England and their agent for delivery of the new ponds unless the LPA would want mitigation beyond the requirements of DLL. However, the developer may decide to change their approach and not enter in to DLL at which point further survey would be required. Given gcn have been recorded in the wider landscape, I therefore recommend a condition along the following lines.

The development has the potential to cause harm to great crested newts and entered in to District Level Licensing.

Prior to development confirmation that:

- *no changes to this mitigation approach have occurred or;*
- *if changes have occurred further information on the new mitigation approach to gcn.*

should be provided to and agreed in writing by the LPA

Other Protected Species and other Wildlife including nesting birds.

The site compound already exists. Whilst currently vacant, the site has previously been utilised as a site compound. The risks are therefore very low and restricted to accidental harm to other protected species and wildlife that may stray on to the site compound whilst operational. I am satisfied that a general precautionary working measures method statement covering species such as badger, amphibians and nesting birds can be dealt with via (in line with the measures already accepted for the Simister Island remodeling)a

condition along the following lines.

Prior to operation a precautionary working measures method statement for wildlife including badger, amphibians and nesting birds will be provided to and agreed in writing by the LPA.

Contributing to and Enhancing the Natural Environment & Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Section 187 of the NPPF 2024 states that the planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment. 10% BNG is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

The development is for the continued use of an existing temporary compound, created for previous works along the M62 that are now complete. There will be no additional loss of habitats. On completion soil stripped as part of the previous permission will be restored across the site.

With regards BNG, I have accepted that the site is exempt. Whilst there is potential for debate over the stockpiles of soil stripped to create the compound for the previous development, considered as vegetated habitat that will be lost when the site is restored, I would regard this as unreasonable, given this habitat would be lost with or without the permission, ie restoration is already approved. No further information is required.

With regards mitigation/enhancement, I recommend a condition to restore the site to agricultural grassland within an agreed period of months of the compound no longer being required.

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