Note from the Inspector to Milton Keynes Council, Barton Willmore for Gallagher Estates, David Lock Associates for Burford Group and Merton College, and Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterways Trust:

An amendment to MKC46 has been requested by Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterways Trust (B&MK) in its representation on the proposed main modifications. For the avoidance of doubt on this matter, as a first step I have asked the Council to set out its understanding of what has been agreed between the parties concerned. From the Council's response it appears that a new alignment for the canal broadly as set out in the B&MK representation has not been agreed by all parties concerned. The text of the Council's response is as follows:

"The Council has noted the representations from the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Trust which proposes an alternative alignment for the Waterway to the alignment previously agreed between the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, Gallagher Estates and the Council and as shown on the Policies Map (Examination Document MKC46).

The alignment of the Waterway to the north of the A421 in Eagle Farm North is agreed in principle with Gallagher Estates and Milton Keynes Council.

David Lock Associates are currently doing further work for the Waterway Trust, looking at the alignment of the Waterway where it exits Eagle Farm North and crosses the A421 to the south. Initial work by David Lock Associates had shown the alignment of the Waterway curving into the eastern edge of the SLA through the land owned by Mr Ripper. This alignment has not been agreed. The alignment of the Waterway as shown on the revised Policies Map (attached) therefore reflects the indicative route as shown in Package F of the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trusts ‘A-Z Project Delivery Plan’ (Examination Document B154 - http://www.b-mkwatertway.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/BMK-A-Z-Project-Delivery-Plan-2012.pdf)."

Therefore the Council is suggesting that a revision to the alignment shown on MKC46 (see attached) may be appropriate.

In this light, I wish to confirm:

Firstly whether the revised alignment is acceptable to all parties, and

Secondly whether it can be confirmed that no other interests/landowners would be affected by the proposed re-alignment.
Unless it can be confirmed that it is acceptable and that there is no doubt that no other interests would be affected by the revision of the alignment, it would not be appropriate to recommend it as part of the modifications to the Plan. If that were the case, I consider that the most appropriate way forward would be to leave that element of Policy CS 5 unaltered (and by implication the Proposals Map which currently shows the safeguarded reservation under Policy T13 of the Milton Keynes Local Plan). It would then be a matter for all parties to agree any revision to the alignment as part of the work to complete the development framework for the Strategic Land Allocation.

In order to avoid delay to my report I would be grateful for a response by Friday 10 May.

Inspector
4th May 2013