



3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: A14CambridgetoHuntingdon
@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Martin Clarke
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
Beds
MK41 7LW

Your Ref:
Our Ref: TR010018
Date: 27 January 2015

Dear Martin Clarke

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) - Section 51

Application by the Highways Agency for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Advice following issue of acceptance decision

On 27 January 2015 the Secretary of State decided to accept the above application for examination.

The Planning Inspectorate's published 'Acceptance of applications checklist' makes some observations regarding certain documents. This advice is offered to explain more fully how some application documents could be improved.

Environmental Statement (ES)

The ES contains limited information on the dimensions of the different elements of the proposed scheme. Illustrative cross sections of the proposed scheme including cuttings, embankments, structures and planting are shown at Figure 3.3 (**Doc 6.2**) of the ES, the locations of which are shown on Figure 3.2 (**Doc 6.2**). These drawings are intended to show the outline environmental design of the scheme, and are to scale, although not dimensioned. The elevations of the proposed structures and depths of cuttings at these locations can be measured off plan using the scale provided, but are not shown definitively. Given that the proposed bridges and other new structures would be amongst the most visually prominent features of the scheme, it would be useful for these dimensions to be included on the cross section plans.

The proposed road widths can be inferred from figures contained within the ES (e.g. Figure 3.3), but are not specifically identified for the full extent of the scheme. Please provide updated cross sections which illustrate the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the proposed development, including specific reference to the existing ground levels and taking into account the extent of the vertical and horizontal limits of deviation

referenced in Paragraph 6.12.1 (**Doc 6.1**).

It is noted that Engineering Section Drawings (**Doc 2.9**) have been provided as part of the DCO application. Confirmation should be provided that it is these drawings which have been used as the basis for the presentation of the illustrative cross sections provided in Figure 3.3 (**Doc 6.2**).

The Environmental Statement does not specifically refer to or confirm that the Engineering Section Drawings (Doc 2.9) have been used to inform the assessment. This means that it is not possible to readily determine the basis upon which the assessments have been undertaken. Please can you confirm if consultees have had access to this information during the statutory consultation. This is of particular importance for several topics in the Environmental Statement including the landscape and visual assessment as the depths of cuttings and heights of embankments, overbridges and associated structures would inevitably impact upon the assessment outcome.

In this regard it is noted that the methodology referred to in *Interim Advice Note 135/10 Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment* sets out at Annexes 1 and 2 that the first stage of the methodologies for assessment of landscape and visual effects is 'Define Project Characteristics... Size and extent... Location and alignment... Type... Massing'. Confirmation should be provided that the Engineering Drawings have been used as the basis for the assessment.

It is also noted that the photomontages provided within the ES (Figure 10.6, **Doc 6.2**) are stated to be for illustrative purposes and cannot therefore be relied upon for dimensions or accuracy. Confirmation should be provided of the engineering design used as the basis for the presentation of the photomontages.

Engineering Section Drawings

The Section Drawings can be difficult to follow as they do not appear to proceed in a logical order. Referencing the sections to Works Plans is also problematic, as frequently the features shown in section do not appear on the Works Plans.

A number of labelling errors have been listed in the s55 checklist which should be corrected. Where a number of similar works exist in proximity, such as in Huntingdon Town Centre, a map could be provided to identify them. The Inspectorate also considers that the ends of each section line could be labelled East/West etc as the aspect is not consistent.

Land Plans

The s55 checklist details a number of occasions where the scale of the land plans is insufficient to identify certain plots. Please provide sufficient detail to describe these plots, possibly using inset maps as with other small parcels of land.

Statutory consultees

The Planning Inspectorate notes that the Highways Agency consulted National Grid as the regional gas distribution network operator. However, a number of other regional operators hold licenses covering England and Wales, and it is not clear from

information in the public domain which public gas transporter undertakers hold licences in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, on a precautionary basis, the Planning Inspectorate suggests that all operators with national licences are notified in accordance with s56 of the Planning Act 2008.

I trust that this advice is useful to you and aids your preparation for examination of the scheme. We suggest any new drawings be made available to the Planning Inspectorate with the s58 certificates to inform initial assessment of the preliminary issues, or submitted to the Preliminary Meeting if the earlier date is not possible.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Coombes

Nicholas Coombes
Case Manager

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.