



Meeting note

File reference	TR010037
Project name	A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	16 September 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Teams Meeting
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Project update

The Applicant explained that during 2020 it had continued its programme of Pre-application engagement with stakeholders. In July 2020 the Applicant had prepared and circulated amongst stakeholders a scheme update newsletter summarising refinements to design arising from the feedback received to statutory consultation undertaken in Summer 2019. A round of supplementary consultation was then carried out in August/September 2020.

The Applicant stated that the consultation had been undertaken to ensure that the views of any additional or new affected land interests and Statutory Undertakers had been captured. The Applicant was working towards fixing the scheme's Red Line Boundary in October/November 2020.

The Applicant outlined its recent programme of survey work, which included: supplementary local road traffic surveys in October 2019; air quality monitoring surveys in February 2020; a Station Lane/A11 traffic survey in July 2020; and archaeological trenching surveys and water quality monitoring in August 2020. The Applicant also confirmed engagement with the Environment Agency and the lead local flood authority in June 2020, together with ongoing ecological survey work.

The Applicant explained that for the 2020 survey at Station Lane, they also analysed a second location which had previously been surveyed in 2019 to provide a baseline and assess change accordingly.

The Applicant described various further updates to the scheme design that were being considered ahead of a 'design fix' before the application was finalised and submitted to the Inspectorate. Key stakeholders had been consulted on the changes being considered.

The Applicant confirmed ongoing engagement with Norfolk County Council (NCC) with regards to NCC's proposals to extend the existing Thickthorn Park and Ride facility. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant's programme would overlap with NCC's. The Applicant confirmed that it expected the park and ride extension to be constructed and operational first.

Draft documents

The Applicant explained that it was aiming to provide a suite of draft documents for the Inspectorate to review in November 2020. The draft documents would include: Draft Land Plans and Work Plans; draft Development Consent Order; draft Explanatory Memorandum; draft Consents and Agreements Position Statement; draft Statement of Reasons; draft Funding Statement; draft Consultation Report draft ES chapters (comprising the introduction, description of the project, methodology and alternatives) and draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Report.

The Inspectorate emphasised the importance of providing well-progressed drafts in order to increase the value of its feedback. The Applicant agreed to the Inspectorate's request for the draft documents to be accompanied by instructions about which documents/issues the Inspectorate's review should concentrate on in order to provide most value to the Applicant. The Inspectorate stated that it would be assisted if the Applicant could also provide a draft of the Case for the Scheme in order to, amongst other things, understand how the Applicant was approaching policy tests. The Applicant agreed to this request.

The Inspectorate explained that in order to assist Examinations, it routinely advised applicants to include construction compounds on the Works Plans. The Applicant confirmed its intention to describe each compound as a separate work within the draft dDCO and to show all compounds on the Works Plans.

Applicant's next steps

The Applicant outlined its ongoing survey programme going forward including: Further archaeological trenching and drainage surveys in September 2020; topographical surveys in March 2021 and pavement surveys in April 2021.

The Applicant's programme anticipated submission of the application in Q1 2021.