



Meeting note

Project name	A1 Northumberland Morpeth to Ellingham
File reference	TR010059
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	13 March 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Telecon
Meeting objectives	Project Update
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 informed the Inspectorate that it intended to combine the two A1 Northumberland schemes; A1 Morpeth to Felton and the A1 Alnwick to Ellingham. The project would be named 'A1 Northumberland: Morpeth to Ellingham' and one Development Consent Order application would be submitted. The Applicant advised the Inspectorate that it intended to carry out a statutory consultation later in the month. The Applicant indicated that the anticipated submission date could be Q2 2020.

The Inspectorate queried to what extent statutory consultation would be undertaken given the nature of the applications had changed. The Applicant later confirmed that the scheme would be treated as a new proposal and therefore application process.

Environmental

The Applicant explained that it did not intend to undertake any further scoping exercises. The Inspectorate noted that both the original schemes had been scoped and received Scoping Reports separately and asked how the Applicant would approach that in any application process and documentation. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider how the cumulative effect of the proposed development would be translated into one application; the Applicant indicated that they intended to assess cumulative effects in two sections a.) the cumulative effects of the two schemes together and b.) the cumulative effects of the two schemes and any other relevant/agreed schemes in the respective study area. The Applicant went on to state that it intends to produce a guide to assist with the navigation of the Environmental Statement, to make clear how the

documents have been combined. The Inspectorate offered the Applicant the opportunity to share an example of this draft for review, ahead of submitting the application.

With regards to the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), the Inspectorate asked how the combination of these documents will be addressed and if the cumulative effects have also been assessed. The Applicant stated that it intends to submit one document with two separate sections relating to the two previously separate schemes. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider if the zone of influence and magnitude of potential impacts has altered by combining the schemes. If so, this should be explained and considered in the HRA Report. The Applicant confirmed that this would be taken into account, although as there is distance between the two main areas of construction, it is not anticipated that the zone of influence or the magnitude of impacts will be any greater.

Construction and Land Take

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant whether construction was originally scheduled to be carried out simultaneously on both schemes. The Applicant replied stating that although it had originally been planned to have the construction periods staggered, there had always been a period of 18 months within which the construction for both parts of the scheme would be carried out. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider whether the zone of influence and magnitude of potential impacts could alter because of this and ensure that a worst-case scenario is captured within the assessments of the ES and in the HRA Report.

The Inspectorate questioned if the areas of land take associated with the two schemes separately had changed when the schemes were combined and thus there had been changes to the Red Line Boundary. The Applicant replied that there may be some minor changes but none that it considered to be significant. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure that all consultations under s42 of the Planning Act are carried out, particularly in the instance of identifying any new neighbouring local authorities to the proposed development.

The Inspectorate also asked for clarification as to whether there had been a change in the construction compounds included in the proposed development. The Applicant confirmed that one main construction compound would be used and that it had already been acknowledged within the Environmental Impact Assessment that there would be movement from the main construction compound to a smaller, supporting compound.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- A meeting to be scheduled in early April to update on progress.