



Meeting note

Project name	Northampton Gateway Rail Freight Interchange & Rail Central (Strategic Rail Freight Interchange) projects
File reference	TR050006 & TR050004
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	11 September 2018
Meeting with	Network Rail
Venue	Telecom
Meeting objectives	Planning Act Process 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 persons could rely.

All participants agreed that this meeting was not to discuss the merits of the schemes, but to discuss the Planning Act process and anticipated timeframes for both proposals.

Planning Act process

The Inspectorate provided Network Rail with an overview of the Planning Act process including the 28 day acceptance period and the process for submissions of Relevant Representations. Network Rail was also advised that interested parties will be able to attend and participate in examination hearings and that the Examining Authority has 6 months to complete the examination. This is followed by a 3 month period for the Examining Authority to write its recommendation and submit it to the Secretary of State for Transport. Following receipt of the Examining Authority's Recommendation Report, the Secretary of State has 3 months to make the decision on whether or not development consent can be granted.

Project time frames

The Inspectorate advised that the Preliminary Meeting for the Northampton Gateway project will be held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 as detailed in the Rule 6 letter dated 10 September 2018. A link to the letter can be found [here](#).

The Rail Central Strategic Rail Freight Interchange application is due to be submitted in mid-September 2018. Therefore, if the Rail Central application is accepted for examination the Northampton Gateway application would likely be in the last months of the examination when Rail Central commences examination.



The Planning Inspectorate

Network Rail asked if joint examination hearings would be held, the Inspectorate advised that this would be unlikely.

Network Rail queried how to best make representations on the proposals and were advised by the Inspectorate to include all relevant information in their submissions and where any information is relevant to both proposals, Network Rail should submit it into both examinations (if they wish for both Examining Authorities to consider this information).