



## Notes of Meeting

<b>Title of meeting</b>	Planning Inspectorate / Highways Agency South West Introductory meeting		
<b>Venue</b>	Room 2/04, Temple Quay House, Bristol		
<b>Date</b>	10 December 2014	<b>Time</b>	13:30 – 15:00
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate (PINS)</b> Simone Wilding (Head of Case Management) Susannah Guest (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Frances Russell (EIA and Land Rights Manager) <b>Highways Agency (HA)</b> Richard Ormerod Colin Gimblett Mark Arberry Deborah Perrson		

1.	<p><b>Meeting Protocol</b></p> <p>Simone Wilding (SW) opened the meeting and advised on the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on their website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 as amended (the 2008 Act) and also to note that any advice given under section 51 does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.</p>
2.	<p><b>Overview of potential Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in South West arising from the Road Investment Strategy</b></p> <p>The recent publication of the Road Investment Strategy (RIS) has led to a potential increase in schemes likely to fall under the Planning Act 2008 regime (PA2008). All attendees were keen to understand the possible numbers of projects, their programming and when/how best to have a more in-depth discussion in relation to each of the projects and/or the overall programme in the Southwest.</p> <p>Against the schemes noted in the RIS for the Southwest, the following were considered by HA at that time to be likely NSIP schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A30 Chiverton to Carland Cross;</li><li>• A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down;</li><li>• A358 Taunton to Southfields;</li><li>• A417 'Missing link' at Air Balloon (however this scheme is identified as 'Developed for next Road Period 2021')</li></ul> <p>There was uncertainty about whether the following schemes may be likely NSIP schemes:</p>

- M49 Avonmouth Junction
- A303 Sparkford – Ilchester dualling

The following was not considered to be an NSIP scheme:

- M5 Bridgewater Junctions

The following questions arose:

- To what extent can options be revisited when a scheme has been ‘resurrected’;
- To what extent is it possible to twin track HA work and processes with PA2008 requirements in particular early engagement;
- The status of parties in the PA2008 regime.

It was noted that the National Networks National Policy Statement (NN NPS) was due to be laid before Parliament in December 2014 and its importance to the PA 2008 regime was outlined. The NN NSP was likely to include information on alternatives. It was also noted that HA colleagues may want to be aware of likely changes to the EIA Regulations coming into force in 2017 in respect of consideration of alternatives. In terms of options, it was noted that recent challenges on Heysham and Thames Tunnel may be of interest.

PINS highlighted the difference between historic/previous rounds of consultation and that which is a statutory requirement as part of the PA2008 regime. PINS noted the various groups that the PA2008 defines in respect of the PA2008 regime including interested parties, statutory parties and affected persons.

PINS drew attention to its Advice Note Series as well as the Pre-Application Prospectus. PINS offered to provide a ‘workshop’ on the PA2008 regime to the project/delivery team for the HA South West NSIP projects. Debbie Persson would be the contact for arranging such a meeting

3. **Next Steps**

All agreed that another session early in the new year once all project leads for the NSIP projects are in place would be welcomed.

4. **Post Meeting Follow Up**

- Publication of NN NPS:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-networks-national-policy-statement>
- Link to Pre-Application Prospectus:  
<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/application-process/pre-application-service-for-applicants/>
- Circulate draft meeting note and agree.