



Meeting note

File reference

Status

Final

Author

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Date

22 November 2016

Meeting with**Venue**

Temple Quay House, Bristol

Attendees

Andrew Alcorn - Highways England

Chris Jones

Michael Baker

Caitlin Wentworth

Susannah Guest - Infrastructure Planning Lead

David Price - EIA Manager

Kate Mignano - Case Officer

Meeting**objectives**

Project meeting for A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down

Circulation

All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy that any advice given will be recorded and published on the planning portal website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA 2008) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which the developer (or others) can rely.

Introductions were made by everyone present, and individual roles were explained.

Project Outline

The developer provided a brief introductory presentation to the scheme, highlighting the context of the proposal in respect of the Road Investment Strategy and strategic works to improve the A303 corridor in the region. The developer provided a review of the key elements of any future Development Consent Order application including the corridor options for the A303, potential junction enhancements and a proposed bypass for Winterbourne Stoke.

The developer noted the engagement activity undertaken since the last meeting with The Planning Inspectorate in March 2016. The developer explained that this engagement had been undertaken on the corridor approach as a whole and Highways

England had been keen to explain the Planning Act 2008 process. It was noted that the Planning Act 2008 process will be different from the processes that applied to previous planning applications for similar schemes in the area.

The developer also provided an overview of their current indicative timetable for preparation of a Development Consent Order application. The developer noted that they hoped a stage of consultation would occur early in 2017 with statutory consultation later in that year, and formal submission anticipated in summer 2018.

The discussion reflected on the influence and importance of the World Heritage Site and the developer explained the roles of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and UNESCO in facilitating an upcoming advisory mission.

The developer provided an overview of the environmental survey work completed to date and work that was scheduled for the upcoming year. The developer explained their approach to the environmental survey work particularly archaeological investigation. The developer explained how they were front loading certain surveys to inform decisions regarding route options. The Inspectorate welcomed this approach and was pleased to know that survey effort was being co-ordinated and agreed with relevant key consultees and stakeholders.

The date of any potential EIA scoping request was discussed and The Inspectorate noted the implementation of the new EIA Directive in May 2017. The Inspectorate discussed the EIA Directive transitional provisions that may apply and the developer indicated that they were aware of the transitional provisions. The topic of transboundary effects was briefly noted.

Matters of landownership were discussed and the developer explained the on-going dialogue with the National Trust and other landowners. The developer explained that access by agreement was their preference and would be pursued as a default. The Inspectorate also explained the provisions of PA2008 s53 and drew the developer's attention to their Advice Note covering this topic. The Inspectorate explained that if requests under s53 were likely, the developer should inform The Inspectorate in advance so that adequate resource can be assembled.