



## Meeting note

### File reference

#### Status

**Final**

#### Author

Robert Ranger

#### Date

2 November 2017

#### Meeting with

Highways England

#### Venue

Temple Quay House

#### Attendees

##### **The Applicant**

Nic Macmillan (WSP)

Jo Mahoney (Highways England) (telephone)

##### **The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate)**

Katherine King – EIA and Land Rights Advisor

Gareth Leigh – Infrastructure Planning Lead

Robert Ranger – Case Manager

Michael Breslaw – EIA and Land Rights Advisor

#### Meeting

#### objectives

EIA Scoping update meeting

#### Circulation

All

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) explained the duties placed upon it under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the PA2008). A note of the meeting would be taken recording the key points discussed and any advice issued by the Inspectorate. The note would be published on the Inspectorate's website. Any advice issued by would not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant, or others, could rely.

### Project Update

Highways England (HE) confirmed that they were still intending to submit a Scoping Report to the Inspectorate in early January 2018.

The Inspectorate asked if the A1 Morpeth to Felton scheme was affected by the reprogramming of some corridor schemes. HE explained that this was likely to be clear later in the week, and the Inspectorate asked that any programme updates be communicated. Post meeting update: The A1 Morpeth to Felton is not affected by the recent announcement on reprogramming.

The Inspectorate asked that the GIS shapefile be submitted to support the Scoping Report could be submitted in mid-December if possible, so as to clear the Christmas

period, appreciating this is longer than the usual 10 days ahead of a Scoping Report normally requested.

The Inspectorate asked for details to create a project page on the National Infrastructure Planning Website ahead of the submission of the Scoping Report. HE confirmed that this was in progress and will be submitted at the same time as the shapefile in mid-December.

HE gave a brief update on the A1 Morpeth to Felton scheme. The scheme is 12.6km long and involves the dualling of an existing single-carriageway section of the A1, of which 6km will be off-line with the existing road to be de-trunked. It includes a new bridge over the river Coquet, which is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

HE confirmed that the Scoping Report will consider the maximum possible geographical extent of the scheme, given that design work is ongoing and therefore the red line boundary included in the Scoping Report is likely to be wider than that submitted with the final application.

. HE gave a brief outline of their approach to scoping, which would have regard to the Inspectorate's Advice Note 7.

HE gave a brief outline of the potential effects and potential approach to mitigation for several topic areas, including: Heat and Radiation; Air Quality, Noise Conditions; Landscape and Visual; Cultural Heritage; Biodiversity; Road Drainage and Water Environment; Geology and Soils; People, Climate Change, Major Incidents, Communities and Health and Materials.

HE noted that some environmental works would potentially take place outside of the Order limits. The Inspectorate advised that HE that it was important to demonstrate that any mitigation relied upon is secured in the Development Consent Order (DCO) or otherwise. HE explained that those works were likely to be environmental enhancement rather than mitigation.

The Inspectorate advised not to include anything in the Scoping Report that might be potentially exempt from publication under the Environmental Information Regulations; for example, the location of Badger Setts.

The Inspectorate advised that HE should be clear in their Scoping Report where issues were proposed to be scoped out and why. The Inspectorate drew HE's attention to the recent A30 Carland Cross to Chiverton scoping opinion, which is the Inspectorate's new Scoping Opinion template and adopted a more tabular format for greater clarity.

The Inspectorate asked that due care be taken when preparing the shapefile for submission, including making sure that only the one file was submitted. They also advised that any plans included in the Scoping Report were presented in an appropriate scale.

The Inspectorate noted that all Scoping Opinions for road projects currently include advice on providing clarity on whether elements of the scheme amount to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in their own right.

**Specific decisions/ follow up required**

- HE to update the Inspectorate on any changes to timescales and anticipated scoping dates
- HE to provide the Inspectorate with the necessary details to create a project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website.