



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Hartlepool Western Growth Corridor
<b>File reference</b>	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	23 March 2018
<b>Meeting with</b>	Hartlepool Borough Council
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>The Planning Inspectorate</b> <b>Hartlepool Borough Council</b>
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Inception Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. 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.

The Applicant provided a presentation covering the history of the scheme to date.

A discussion was held regarding the definition of a 'highway' Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as set out in the Planning Act (PA2008). The discussion queried:

1. Whether the scheme could be an 'improvement' highway NSIP by virtue of the bridge over the existing Strategic Road Network being an improvement under PA2008 s22(5) and likely to have a significant effect on the environment.
2. Whether, if the scheme were an improvement but not likely to have a significant effect on the environment, the project taken as a whole might be considered as an alteration NSIP. PA2008 s235 interpretation of 'alteration' in relation to a highway includes stopping up the highway or diverting, *improving*, raising or lowering it.
3. Whether if the scheme were an alteration, could one of the exclusions identified in PA2008 s22(6)-(8) apply.

The Inspectorate also explained the provisions of the PA2008 s35 route and provided the relevant contact details for the Department for Transport.



## The Planning Inspectorate

The Inspectorate provided an overview of the material available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and in particular advised that the applicant could watch A19 Testos Examination in 'real time' on the website with a view to understanding the process and the responsibilities on an applicant. The Inspectorate noted the particular requirements when a body was both an applicant and a relevant local authority.

The Inspectorate advised that the National Policy Statement on National Networks sets out expectations of what an Environmental Statement should cover.