



Meeting note

File reference

Status

FINAL

Author

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Date

10 May 2018

Meeting with

Norfolk County Council

Venue

Temple Quay House

Attendees

Norfolk County Council (NCC)

Mark Frith – Mott MacDonald

Heidi Slater – Pinsent Masons

David Allfrey – Norfolk County Council

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate)

Susannah Guest – Infrastructure Planning Lead

Dave Price – EIA and Land Rights Manager

Rob Ranger – Case Manager

Meeting objectives

Introduction to a potential Non-Material Change

Circulation

All

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 applicants (or others) could rely.

Project Introduction

NCC provided a brief introduction to the proposed non-material change application. The changes to the scheme mostly relate to what NCC characterise as minor alterations to the gradient of slopes to manage an earthworks balance issue which arose as a result of less material being extracted in the course of the works than was required. The changes are intended to minimise or eliminate the need to import extra material; NCC explained the alternative would be to import 250,000 cubic metres of material, generating some 25,000 additional HGV movements. NCC stated that the proposed changes to the profile of the landforms do not affect the height of the embankments or the planting.

In response to a question from the Inspectorate, NCC confirmed that the acoustic performance of the embankments was not affected by the proposed change; that they were not proposing any changes to the Development Consent Order red line boundary, and there were no anticipated ecological issues as a result of the proposed changes.

Other changes proposed as part of the non-material change include alterations to the design of some lagoons, changes to some private accesses made in consultation with the affected landowners, and a drafting amendment to allow NCC as Highways Authority to make changes to the Traffic Regulation measures provided for in the DCO.

NCC confirmed that they were currently in discussion with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding discharge of requirements in connection with the surface water management regime. The Inspectorate highlighted the importance of making sure that EA are made aware of changes proposed by NCC and the process that is required.

Consultation

NCC confirmed that they would be seeking consent to consult a reduced list of consultees than that prescribed in the regulations. The Inspectorate advised that NCC explain in their request for consent why each consultee that would otherwise have been consulted is not relevant, and why they have included any non-prescribed consultees.

Application documents

The Inspectorate confirmed that the application documents should include a tracked change version of the Development Consent Order showing the proposed amendments, a draft amendment order, and a clear explanation of why the proposed changes are not material in nature.

Actions

NCC to keep the Inspectorate advised of anticipated timescales and submissions.

The Inspectorate will review NCC's methodology for selecting consultees prior to the submission of a request for consent to the Secretary of State.