



Meeting note

File reference	TR010017: A19 / A1058 Coast Road Junction Improvements
Status	FINAL
Author	Kay Sully and David Price
Date	Monday 21 October 2013
Venue	Highways Agency (HA) Offices, The Cube, Birmingham.
Attendees	Mark Wilson (PINS), Kay Sully (PINS), David Price (PINS), Richard Kent (PINS), Guy Lewis (HA), Phillippa Glennie, Nicola Ashworth
Meeting objectives	To highlight areas of concern in the screening opinion which may result in an ES being required
Circulation	HA

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

PINS and HA discussed the recently submitted screening opinion and in particular the progress of outstanding environmental assessment reports required to support the application. PINS highlighted some concerns regarding certain assumptions made within the screening report and which would need to be monitored against the developing levels of information and greater understanding of the effects through the ongoing design stages of the project. PINS and HA discussed the procedural requirements in the event that an applicant voluntarily submitted an Environmental Statement as part of their application for a DCO. PINS agreed to provide specific advice under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 following the meeting.

HA provided an update with regard to the timescales for the completion of survey work including the air quality assessment. HA confirmed that diffusion tube monitoring to establish accurate baseline conditions was ongoing and would be completed by December 2013. PINS discussed the approach to establishing the baseline assessment for air quality and how the DEFRA advice referred to in the HA screening report will be addressed in the application documents. HA stated that it was their intention to discuss the monitoring data with DEFRA and obtain agreement from them prior to submission as to the air quality baseline information and in particular the baseline for emissions of NO₂ and PM₁₀.

HA asked questions about the format of the environmental information requested in PINS screening opinion and in particular whether it could be provided in a single document (with non-technical summary) but still meet the requirements in the Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedures (APFP) Regulations. PINS confirmed that a single document could be produced and that it was not necessary to provide separate assessment reports for the APFP Regulations. PINS confirmed that if the development is not EIA development it would be better to avoid referring to this

environmental information as an Environmental Statement. The DMRB and detailed design processes were also discussed, in particular the requirements under regulation 6(2) of the APFP Regulations (Matters prescribed in relation to applications for specific types of projects). PINS stated the importance of ensuring the application form clearly states where the information can be located and that items are appropriately cross referenced. HA asked questions about the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and whether this could be included within the main report alongside assessments of drainage design and the water environment. PINS emphasised the importance of consultation and ensuring that the key consultees were satisfied with the approach. In this instance HA confirmed that North Tyneside Council are the relevant drainage authority responsible for the FRA and that they would discuss this approach with them. PINS stated that whatever is agreed all relevant information in relation to the FRA should be included as part of the application.

HA and PINS also discussed matters in relation to the assessment of People and Communities, combining DMRB topics of Community and Private Assets and Effects on All Travellers, and HA's progress in terms of baseline and predicted traffic modelling to be assessed and their importance with regard to other topic areas, for example noise and air quality assessments. PINS stressed the importance of assessing potential for cumulative environmental effects (particularly in respect of the construction phase) and HA confirmed that these will be considered as part of the assessments, and that their approach in terms of identified projects to be included will be clearly explained.

PINS discussed specific points raised in the screening opinion in particular the depth of cutting (including generation of materials and waste management) and potential interaction with groundwater. HA confirmed that this was being taken into account in the assessment report and that significant effects are not anticipated. HA confirmed that legal representation had recently been appointed and would be supporting in the preparation of the DCO application. PINS welcomed the early involvement of legal practitioners given the prescriptive legal basis of the Planning Act 2008. PINS highlighted the importance of ensuring that any specific mitigation beyond integral design choice should be clearly identified within the report and cross referenced to the relevant requirements within the DCO that will secure the mitigation measures proposed.

PINS confirmed that they would be available and would welcome regular contact with the applicant during the pre-application stage. HA confirmed that teleconference meetings would in most instances be the best method for these meetings. Follow up meetings are to be agreed.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

PINS provide s.51 as described above.