



Meeting note

File reference	TR010017 - A19/A1058 Coast Road Junction Improvement
Status	FINAL
Author	Rob Ranger
Date	24 April 2014
Meeting with	Highways Agency
Venue	Highways Agency offices, The Cube, Birmingham
Attendees	Highways Agency (HA) Guy Lewis Nicola Ashworth Phillippa Glennie Darlene Procter The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Mark Wilson David Price Rob Ranger
Meeting objectives	General Project Update
Circulation	Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

HA briefly summarised their proposal to upgrade the A19/A0158 junction to achieve full grade separation. They confirmed that they had carried out statutory consultation in November 2013, and they anticipated submission of a DCO application in October 2014.

They described some of the changes to the scheme that had been made arising from consultation responses, such as improved provision for non-motorised users, and explained that negotiations with landowners in relation to temporary use of land for construction compounds were ongoing; with several options existing.

PINS advised that if a scheme changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not normally necessary for an applicant to undertake a full re-consultation. However, it is important that the correct statutory consultees are identified for the scheme as it is submitted, including any affected landowners.

HA also described their ongoing work to assess the environmental impacts of the scheme, which they were considering in discussion with the relevant technical consultees. The HA confirmed they had not identified anything in the course of this

work to date that would affect the view previously taken by PINS that the scheme was not EIA development. They had produced a non-statutory scoping document describing the environmental assessment work they were doing, and the work they intend to undertake.

PINS acknowledged receipt of the non-statutory scoping document, and agreed to provide any advice that was felt necessary under S51 by mid-May. PINS advised that it was important for the HA to continually evaluate the position that the scheme was not EIA development and consult PINS as required. PINS advised HA that when an application is submitted, PINS will again consider whether or not that application constitutes EIA development and should be accompanied by an Environmental Statement, and if new information has come to light or the scheme has significantly changed since the time it was last screened that screening decision will be re-examined. PINS advised that it would be beneficial if the application were accompanied by a clear explanation of the environmental impacts associated with any changes to the scheme and the extent to which any changes would affect the findings of no significant effects.

HA explained that some equipment operated by statutory undertakers (for example, electrical cables) would have to be moved if the junction were modified. The HA sees benefit to this equipment being moved as advanced works before the DCO application is determined, potentially using powers available under separate planning regimes. This will potentially limit the overall duration of scheme construction and improve safety during construction by removing existing hazards.

PINS advised that, if the advance works proposed do not constitute an NSIP and can be consented via a different regime, there is no apparent obstacle to undertaking them in advance of an application or decision. (It is a criminal offence to undertake works that constitute an NSIP without the benefit of a DCO.) PINS suggested that if these works were separate from but consequential to the scheme and not implemented before submission of the application then information on the impacts should be assessed along with those of the scheme, in line with established practice.

PINS also advised that if these works were necessary to deliver the scheme and outside of the DCO application then the Examining Authority was likely to seek reassurance that there was no impediment to their delivery; also, that if an impediment emerged, it would not be possible to materially change the application to accommodate it.

HA discussed the possibility of recycling the waste arising during the construction of the scheme. HA explained that they hoped to reduce the environmental impact by working in parallel with the other nearby schemes; for example, reducing the need to transport the waste to landfill and instead using it as infill at nearby sites

PINS welcomed the aspiration, but advised that any assumptions/mitigation relied upon in the assessment of scheme impacts will need to be secured via appropriate legal means e.g. requirements to the DCO. If it is felt necessary to have flexibility to proceed without this parallel working (for example, in the event that one of the schemes is delayed or timing is not compatible) then the worst case scenario should be assessed.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

PINS agreed to review the scoping document and provide any S51 advice before 15 May 2014.

HA agreed to set any detailed questions about their consenting strategy for the advance works in writing, for a detailed reply in due course.

PINS and HA agreed to meet again later in the year. PINS strongly supported that this meeting take place by teleconference.