



Meeting note

File reference	TR010020 A19/A184 Testos Junction Improvement Scheme
Status	Final
Author	Richard Kent
Date	23 June 2015
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Highways England Offices, The Cube, Birmingham
Attendees	For the Applicant Helen Apps Gary Frost Graeme Wills (Jacobs) For the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) Susannah Guest (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Richard Kent (EIA Advisor)
Meeting objectives	To discuss progress and forward programme for the A19/A184 Testos Junction Improvement Scheme
Circulation	Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introductions were made and PINS stated that any advice provided would be published as s51 advice in accordance with the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

Highways England explained that the project team are currently considering the potential for the A19/A184 Testos Junction improvement to be combined with a junction improvement at the Down Hill Lane junction (1 junction to the south of Testos). Both junctions are included as commitments in the Department for Transport's 2014 Road Investment Strategy (RIS)¹. A business case has been prepared for these being combined into a single scheme and a decision is anticipated by summer 2015. It was noted that Highways England's Delivery Plan for 2015-2020² refers to the schemes potentially being combined to enable greater efficiency and reduction of the impact of delivery to customers.

A19 Testos Scheme

If the A19 Testos scheme were to progress in its current form (as a standalone project to the Down Hill Lane junction improvement), Highways England anticipated an application submission date of Autumn 2015.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/road-investment-strategy>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-england-delivery-plan-2015-2020>

Work on the A19 Testos scheme remains ongoing. There was discussion about Highways England's progress on preparing a suite of draft documents, including the Development Consent Order (DCO) and Explanatory Memorandum, Land Plans, Works Plans, Book of Reference and Statement of Reasons and potentially the Consultation Report.

PINS advised on their draft document review service and encouraged the applicant to share draft copies of the Draft DCO, Explanatory Memorandum, Land Plans and Works Plans in particular. PINS also advised on the turn-around time of these document reviews and that the applicant should be mindful of this when considering their potential submission date.

Highways England and PINS then discussed matters of the applicant's duties in progressing from acceptance to pre-examination and subsequently to examination, including administrative arrangements, certification and notices, fees and examination procedures.

Combined Scheme

The potential combined scheme of the A19 Testos and Down Hill Lane junctions was then discussed. Highways England anticipated that, should the decision be taken in summer 2015 that the schemes would be combined, they would begin work towards a preferred route announcement and considered this could be made in mid-late 2016. Highways England indicated that it was likely that a scoping opinion for the new scheme would be sought from the Secretary of State and considered that the combined scheme may be submitted mid-late 2017.

Highways England outlined their potential approach to notifying consultees and other parties if the projects were to be combined. PINS advised that any combined scheme would be registered and considered as an entirely new project and that Highways England would need to discharge all its obligations under the PA2008 as such.