



Meeting note

File reference	A19/A184 Testos Junction Improvement Scheme
Status	Final
Author	Susannah Guest
Date	21 September 2016
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	For the developer Paul Ahdal Helen Apps Graeme Wills (Jacobs) Ben Wade (Costain) Amarjit Doow-Powell
	For the Planning Inspectorate Susannah Guest and Richard Kent
Meeting objectives	To discuss progress and forward programme for the A19/A184 Testos Junction project
Circulation	Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy that any advice given will be recorded and published on the Infrastructure Planning website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA2008) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which developer (or others) can rely.

Introductions were made by everyone present, and individual roles were explained.

Project Update

Highways England noted the background to the progress of this project, observing that they had previously engaged with the Inspectorate including:

- EIA Scoping (under Regulation 8 of the 8 of the EIA Regulations) (September 2014);
- Formal consultation under S42, S44 and S47 of the PA2008 (October / November 2014);
- Submission of draft application documents to the Inspectorate for comment (July 2015).

Highways England had written to the Inspectorate in November 2015 stating that proposals for A19 Testos would be combined with proposals for the nearby A19 Downhill Lane junction.

The purpose of this meeting was for Highways England to inform the Inspectorate that a decision had now been taken to separate out the two schemes and they confirmed that each scheme would progress via its own application and Development Consent Order process. Highways England provided an overview of the reasons for this decision, noting that the schemes were identified separately in the Road Investment Strategy, had different scheme objectives and would have potentially different timescales for delivery.

The discussion agreed that matters relating to how works would be phased and the assessment of the respective cumulative effects of the two projects would be of critical importance. It was noted that a Preferred Route Announcement for A19 Downhill Lane junction might be expected just before submission or during the examination of the A19 Testos proposals. Highways England were exploring the possibility of consulting on a single route option for the Downhill Lane junction proposals prior to announcement of a preferred route.

Highways England outlined an early and indicative timetable for submission of the two schemes: A19 Testos to be submitted around summer 2017 and A19 Downhill lane to be submitted around Q2 2018.

The Inspectorate queried Highways England's approach to update/further consultation on the A19 Testos proposal. Highways England were of the opinion that minimal/no changes had been made to the scheme since the previous public consultation in October / November 2014. They noted that any updates to people affected by the scheme and to be included in the Book of Reference would be investigated and a focussed non-statutory consultation exercise would follow accordingly. The potential costs and benefits of a further round of statutory consultation were discussed. The Inspectorate noted the benefits of consultation were strongly connected to drawing out issues and risks in advance of formal submission and any subsequent examination phase. The Inspectorate noted the provisions and intentions of s48 PA2008 in this respect.

A series of future meetings was discussed and an agreement to hold further discussions relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment process for this project, with a particular focus on the approach to the assessment of cumulative effects.

The Inspectorate suggested that they would investigate whether the historical Testos planning portal webpage could be re-opened to avoid the need for a new notification by Highways England.