



Meeting note

File reference	A19/A184 Testos Junction Improvement Scheme
Status	Final
Author	Susannah Guest
Date	9 November 2016
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Highways England Offices, The Cube, Birmingham
Attendees	For the developer Paul Ahdal Helen Apps Graeme Wills (Jacobs) Tom Steele (Jacobs) 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 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. It was agreed at the meeting that, for clarity on the Inspectorate's website, Highways England would now write to the Inspectorate to inform them that the projects were being progressed separately. Based on the current timescales for both projects, Highways England were working on the assumption that both schemes would be opened for traffic at the same time in c. March 2021.

Highways England provided a brief overview of engagement activity planned for early 2017. The potential costs and benefits of a further round of statutory consultation were discussed. The Inspectorate queried whether the relevant local authorities had any comment on Highways England's proposed approach to engagement. 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.

Highways England provided a brief overview of the current project programme. The Inspectorate queried whether Highways England were intending to submit a suite of draft documents to the Inspectorate for review. The Inspectorate suggested that sufficient time should be included within programme assumptions to allow for their receipt and review of any documents and for Highways England to subsequently amend any documents if it were considered necessary.

The Inspectorate queried the current relationship between Highways England's Testos Junction scheme, Downhill Lane proposals and the nearby International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) proposals. The complexity of the proposed highway improvement elements and, in particular the potential interfaces and implications for individual red line boundaries, were noted. The Inspectorate confirmed that red line boundaries of separate Development Consent Order (DCO) applications can overlap and queried land and asset ownership in the area.

As part of the review of draft documents, the Inspectorate does not normally review Environmental Statement documents but it was considered that early sight of a draft chapter explaining the approach to the assessment of cumulative effects between the proposed development and the Downhill Lane and IAMP projects could be beneficial.

Highways England explained that there were a small number of issues raised in the Scoping Opinion for the Testos scheme that they were proposing to scope out of the assessment but that such matters would be clearly explained and justified in Environmental Statement and other relevant application documents.

The meaning and potential interpretation of PA2008 s22(9) "area of development" was discussed, noting in particular whether site compounds/temporary lay down areas that were not on land on which a highway was to be constructed or altered or on any adjoining land expected to be used in connection with the construction or alteration of that highways would or would not contribute to the area of development calculation.

The Inspectorate asked whether there might be elements of the two schemes (A19 Testos and A19 Downhill Lane) that could be considered 'shared' or where provision of a work through one DCO could assist in the delivery/operation of the other, an example being the size of attenuation ponds. The Inspectorate noted that for any request for compulsory acquisition powers or rights over land there would need to be a clear justification in respect of each plot.

Highways England briefly explained their proposed approach to the Testos junction (and cumulative development) traffic modelling scenarios for the various assessments and the likely deliverables in respect of traffic and transport modelling.

Highways England and the Inspectorate agreed that the frequency of future project update meetings should be increased to monthly contact in the lead up to the submission of the application for the Testos scheme.