



Application by Suffolk County Council for an order granting development consent for the Lake Lothing Third Crossing

Record of Unaccompanied Site Inspection

Background

The Examining Authority (ExA) for the application undertook an unaccompanied inspection of the application site and its surroundings on 30 October 2018.

The purpose of this inspection was for the ExA to acquire a broad familiarity with the site and its surroundings in advance of the Preliminary Meeting and Open Floor Hearing; both scheduled to take place on 5 December 2018.

Particular of the site inspection

The inspection was undertaken by David Morgan (lead member of the ExA) and Peter Widd (member of the ExA). The ExA was supported by Richard Price (Case Manager).

A route was planned in advance of the inspection, having regard to matters raised in the Relevant Representations and key areas of interest arising from the ExA's reading of the application documents. The inspection was undertaken by car and on foot on public roads and footpaths. No access was required to private land so advance permission to enter land was not required and the inspection could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.

Weather conditions were very poor with heavy rain restricting the ability to refer to documents outside of the vehicle. Notwithstanding this, visibility remained fair and the inspection had value in terms of providing the ExA with a useful overview of the general character of the site and its surroundings.

Amongst other things, the ExA took note of the following:

- The alignment of the proposed crossing, as articulated in the application documentation;
- the relationship between various photomontages provided in the Environmental Statement and the 'on-site' experience;
- the existing road configuration to the north and south of Lake Lothing (both inside and outside of the proposed Order Limits);
- existing land uses north and south of Lake Lothing (including those within the Enterprise Zone to the south);
- derelict land and disused buildings south of Lake Lothing;
- berthed leisure vessels at Haven Marina;
- Associated British Ports operations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development;
- the existing crossings at the east and west of the harbour; and
- the relationship of the Proposed Development to designated heritage assets in the vicinity of the eastern end of the harbour.

The inspection began at approximately 9.15am and, owing to poor weather conditions, finished at approximately 10.45am.

Further Unaccompanied Site Inspections may take place in the course of the Examination and an Accompanied Site Inspection is scheduled to take place on 12 February 2019.