



Meeting note

File reference	Lake Lothing Third Crossing
Status	Final
Author	Louise Evans
Date	24 July 2017
Meeting with	Suffolk County Council (SCC)
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Gareth Leigh – Infrastructure Project Lead Katherine King - EIA and Land Rights Advisor Richard Price – Case Manager Louise Evans – Case Officer The Applicant Michael Wilks, Consenting Manager, SCC Andrew Pearce, Assistant Project Manager, SCC Hywel Roberts, EIA Lead, WSP Shay Goane, Delivery Manager, WSP
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (The Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on the National Infrastructure webpage in accordance with s55 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

Background of the scheme

To help solve congestion issues in Lowestoft, in particular on the A47 Bascule Bridge (part of the Strategic Road Network) a new link across Lake Lothing is being proposed. The Secretary of State issued a direction under S35 in March 2016.

The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will comprise the following:

- a new roundabout on the southern side of Lake Lothing replacing the signalised junction at the intersection of Waveney Drive and Riverside Road;

- a new roundabout on the northern side of Lake Lothing, joining to Peto Way between Barnards Way and Rotterdam Road and a rebuilt roundabout, replacing the existing at the intersection of Rotterdam Road, Denmark Road and Peto Way;
- a bridge over the East Suffolk Line and Associated British Port (ABP)'s land on the northern side;
- an opening bridge over Lake Lothing – the Applicant has engaged with CABI over the design, and now proposes a single leaf rolling bascule bridge which is taller than the original proposal; and
- a new road to the west on the southern side of the crossing (the new access road has been moved further west than previously, which would require removing a row of sheds).

The Applicant stated that ABP would require a dedicated control tower on the southern side of Lake Lothing, and that this would be brought forward using a parameters approach. The Inspectorate advised that this should be listed as a separate work within the Development Consent Order (DCO) if the Applicant intends to transfer the control tower to ABP. If it is intended to transfer control tower operations to ABP that should be clear in the DCO.

In discussing how to undertake consultation with further information becoming available as the application progresses, the Inspectorate advised that a specific targeted consultation on traffic modelling could be undertaken after completion of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report consultation should new information become available. Any consultation should then be described and reported upon, perhaps in a distinct section within the Consultation Report.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Applicant explained that they had undertaken a number of the required surveys. The surveys had indicated that there were some listed buildings in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Ecology surveys had indicated the potential for at least one species of bat within the Order Limits. Further surveys for reptiles and bats are scheduled for autumn (2017).

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider whether a requirement is required in respect of a local skills strategy.

Flood risk modelling is ongoing and the Applicant is in discussion with the Environment Agency. So far, studies indicate a small increase in flood risk at one location where flooding already occurs. No likely significant effects are envisaged at any of the European sites scoped.

The Inspectorate advised that the Environmental Statement (ES) would be required to comply with the 2009 EIA Regulations, but was content for the Applicant to include in the ES an explanation of how the Proposed Development complies with the new areas contained within the updated 2017 EIA Regulations (e.g. human health).

Upon considering the design plans which have been drawn up, the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the content of the ES and consultation. It is important for the Applicant to be clear in what they intend to apply for in the DCO, as well as maintaining a balance between detail and flexibility when presenting options at consultation. Furthermore, it is especially important in the DCO and the ES to be clear about what is mitigation and what are enhancements for the area. It was suggested

that another meeting between the Applicant and the Inspectorate could be held on the wording of the DCO and other application documents in order to secure mitigation and associated development.

Timescales

The Statement of Community Consultation will be published on 18 August 2017.

The six week statutory consultation period will start on 4 September 2017. The Applicant intends to submit their application in February or March of 2018, and to begin construction in late 2019.

Draft documents review

The Inspectorate advised that six weeks is usually required for their review of the draft application documents, and that documents usually received for review are the Consultation Report, Explanatory Memorandum, DCO, Book of Reference and Statement of Reasons.

Specific decisions/ follow up required?

- It was agreed that an update meeting would be held in November 2017.