



Meeting note

Project name	A5036 Port of Liverpool
File reference	TR020033
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	20 March 2018
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Susannah Guest – Infrastructure Planning Lead Richard Kent – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Conor Rafferty – EIA and Land Rights Advisor Highways England Sheena Crombie, Sara Moreton, Amarjit Doow-Powell, Sam Whitfield, Katerina Stamatopoulou Arcadis Andrew Saunders, Alison Morrissy, Ben Twiss
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

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 its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

Scoping Opinion

The Applicant noted the recent publication of the Scoping Opinion and tabled some matters for discussion. The Applicant noted on-going work with Natural England in respect of methodologies for night time ecological surveys.

The Scoping Opinion advised that any decommissioning of elements of the Proposed Development at the end of their design life should be assessed where significant effects are likely to occur. In response, the Applicant proposed to provide a more descriptive indication regarding the post-40 year design life within the Environmental Statement (ES).

In respect of night time lighting, the Applicant explained that photomontages would likely provide minimal detail in this environment, due to the high level of background lighting in place and as such would not be provided. The Inspectorate advised that this should be explained in the ES and, if possible, the approach should be agreed with the local planning authority.

In respect of transport data, the Applicant proposed to provide an overview in the ES but not necessarily to include the data itself. The Inspectorate advised that the ES should clearly present how the information from the data has fed into the technical assessments within the ES, such as air quality and noise.

In respect of the historic environment, the Inspectorate advised that the ES should clearly set out why an assessment of impacts on landscape components and landscape character is/was not considered necessary.

The Applicant's Scoping Report refers to the intention to undertake additional geotechnical investigations and the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be clear whether additional information was needed to inform the understanding of baseline conditions needed to undertake the impact assessment, or whether the additional investigations related to the detailed design stage. The Inspectorate advised that ambiguity on these points could potentially lead to questions about the adequacy of the ES.

The Inspectorate advised that the inclusion of a description of the reasonable alternatives considered by the Applicant was a requirement of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and the Applicant confirmed that it intended to include such a description in the ES.

The Inspectorate noted that any late responses from statutory consultees to the Scoping process would be forwarded to the Applicant.

The Inspectorate raised the issue of the High Court Challenge being brought against the Applicant by Sefton Borough Council and specifically asked whether this action would impact on the programme leading to statutory consultation. The Applicant advised that consultation was currently programmed for October 2018 but we anticipated the High Court challenge to have been resolved before that date. [Post meeting – the date for the High Court hearing was confirmed to be 23rd October 2018]

The Applicant provided a brief overview of the project programme and it was agreed that a future meeting would be arranged in autumn.