

Ref: TR010036

Application by Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for works to the A303 between Ilchester and Sparkford

Examining Authority's Note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Wednesday 22 May 2019

1. Background

- 1.1 As Examining Authority (ExA) we undertook our third Unaccompanied Site Inspection to support our examination of an application for development consent for the proposed dual carriageway on the A303 linking the Podimore Bypass and the Sparkford Bypass on 22 May 2019. The application has been made by Highways England (the Applicant).
- 1.2 Inspections were undertaken from publicly accessible land including highways and public rights of way. No access to private land including that forming part of the application site was sought and therefore we were able to undertake the inspection on an unaccompanied basis.
- 1.3 As with our earlier unaccompanied site inspections, notes of which are available as part of the Examination Library (document references [EV-005 and EV-006] we undertook the inspection on our own. We did not encounter any interested parties or other persons during our inspection.
- 1.4 Weather conditions were good, being dry and sunny. Visibility was very good. Our inspections were undertaken both by car and on foot using a car to travel between the main locations.
- 1.5 The purpose of this Note is to inform the Applicant and interested parties of actions already taken by the ExA.

2. Particulars of the Inspection

- 2.1 As with the previous inspections the purpose of the visit for us as ExA was to become more familiar with the Application site and surrounding area. We also took the opportunity of seeing the locality with summer foliage, as the previous site inspections had been in the autumn and winter. Our visit commenced at approximately 15:00 hours and finished at 16:30 hours.
- 2.2 We started our visit travelling from the south along the A359 through Queen Camel and then visited the Camel Hill Services. We then travelled westwards to view the environs of Pepper Hill Cottage turning at Camel Hill Farm. We then re-crossed the A303 and drove down Gason Lane, travelled along Blackwell Road to the junction with Traits Lane where we inspected the site of the accepted material change.
- 2.3 We then travelled through Wales to West Camel travelling back to the A303 via Howell Hill. Next, we went to the Bakery and the Methodist Chapel stopping in this vicinity.

- 2.4 We then travelled along the A303 to the Podimore roundabout, returning east through Podimore and to the B3151 via Stockwitch Farm. We then parked in the layby on the southside of the B3151 and walked to the southern end of footpath Y 27/21 to viewpoint 6 on the visual receptor plan [APP-121].
- 2.5 We went over the Higher Farm overbridge and noted the location of the western end of Bridleway Y 30/29.
- 2.6 We then travelled back along the A303 in an easterly direction and left the area by travelling along Sparkford High Street.

Lesley Coffey

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**Lead Member of the Panel of
Examining Inspectors**

Robert Jackson

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Panel Member