



# Department for Transport

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To:

Highways England

cc:  
All interested parties

5th November 2019

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Dear Sir/Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

### **Application by Highways England (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling.**

#### **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED A303 SPARKFORD TO IICHESTER DUALLING.**

The Examining Authority submitted on 12 September 2019 a Report and Recommendations in respect of its findings on the above application to the Secretary of State for Transport (“the Secretary of State”). In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has until 12 December 2019 to make a decision on the application.

There are a number of issues on which the Secretary of State would be grateful if Highways England could provide further clarification and information on:

#### **Temporary Possession (TP) and Compulsory Acquisition (CA)**

The Secretary of State notes the written submission made by Somerset County Council (“SCC”) on 10 June 2019 to the Examination regarding the Department of Transport Circular 2/97 which address questions in relation to the preparation of orders for the compulsory purchase of land for highways and car parks. The Secretary of State, in line with the provisions contained in paragraph 72 of that Circular, would like to invite the Applicant to provide further evidence of what consideration has been given in relation to acquiring the full title to the plots of land numbered 27 (Downhead turning head), 61 (Camel Hill Turning head), 62 (Traits lane turning head), 63 (Gason Lane turning head) and 64 (Camel Hill Services turning head) required for the turning heads. If no consideration was given to this matter what was the rational or reason underlying this approach. Would the Applicant also provide details of what, if any, contact or approach was made to the SCC on this matter.

#### **Birdstrike**

The Secretary of State notes in representations received on 19 October 2018 that the MOD [www.planningportal.gov.uk/planninginspectorate](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planninginspectorate)



is concerned that the proposed ponds at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton would potentially increase the risk of birdstrike to military aircraft operating in the area. The Applicant in consultation with Ministry of Defence (“MOD”)/Defence Infrastructure Organisation as necessary is invited to provide further evidence and representations namely on what further consideration might be given to addressing the concerns of the MOD.

### **Non-Motorised Users (NMUs)**

The Secretary of State requests an update from the Applicant regarding the provision of a west bound route for NMUs, as suggested by SCC. In particular, the Secretary of State requests an update from the Applicant regarding the possibility of upgrading the Higher Farm Lane Bridge.

The Secretary of State requests information on whether the Applicant has continued its efforts to secure the provision of an alternative route for NMUs to replace the route currently provided at Traits Lane and Gason Lane and to provide an update on any progress made regarding this matter. If no further efforts have been made by the Applicant then the Secretary of State would wish to understand the rationale for adopting such an approach.

If the Applicant has any further information that would assist the Secretary of State in considering the impact of the Proposed Development on NMUs, it would be helpful if they could provide that information.

### **Local Transport**

The Secretary of State notes that the Transport Report dated July 2018 (APP-150) submitted by the Applicant to the Examination does not assess the significance of the increased traffic on the local transport network. The Secretary of State therefore requests that the Applicant provide an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on traffic conditions for the local population and any potential mitigations needed to address these impacts.

The Secretary of State also invites the Applicant to provide further evidence that the proposed development would not lead to congestion levels which would exceed pre-development levels at the beginning and end of the school day at Hazlegrove Junctions. If there are increased congestion levels has the Applicant considered what mitigation levels might be put in place to alleviate the congestion.

### **Effects of de-trunking the road on the local community**

The Secretary of State notes that the SCC in their deadline 4 submissions were concerned that the de-trunked section of the A303 could be subject to anti-social behaviour and that the financial burden of dealing with such effects would have to be borne by them. The Secretary of State would therefore like to invite the Applicant to provide any further evidence on measures that might be adopted to mitigate the potential effects of anti-social behaviour.

The Secretary of State would also like to invite the Applicant to provide details of what additional mitigation measures could be put in place to mitigate the adverse impact on businesses on the de-trunked section of the A303.

### **Noise**

The Secretary of State invites the Applicant to provide further evidence that residential receptors, in particular, the consented residential development at Long Hazel Park and Sparkford High Street, would not be subject to a Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (“SOAEL”) in accordance with the Noise Policy Statement for England, including details of any mitigation measures necessary to achieve this.

### **The deadline for any response is 26th November 2019**

Responses to the matter outlined in this letter should be submitted by email to [A303Sparkfordtollchester@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A303Sparkfordtollchester@planninginspectorate.gov.uk). Please send any hard copy response to

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Case Team, The Planning Inspectorate, Eagle Wing 3/18, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. If you will have difficulty in submitting a response by the consultation deadline, please inform the Project Team.

Your response may be published on the project page for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling on the Planning Inspectorate website as soon as possible after the above deadline for response at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester-dualling/>

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State's decision whether or not to grant development consent for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Susan Anderson