



Meeting note

Project name	A47 Wansford to Sutton A47 North Tuddenham to Easton A47 Blofield to North Burlingham A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvement
File reference	TR010039 - A47 Wansford to Sutton TR010038 - A47 North Tuddenham to Easton TR010040 - A47 Blofield to North Burlingham TR010037 - A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	30 January 2018
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Robert Ranger – Case Manager Dean Alford – Case Officer Alison Down - EIA and Land Rights Advisor The Applicant Andrew Gosling (Highways England (HE) - Assistant Project Manager (APM) for Wansford) James Powis (HE - APM for Tuddenham) Jonathan Donlevy (HE - APM for Blofield) Alan Nettey (HE - Development Consent Order (DCO) Process Manager) Bryn Jones (Mott MacDonald Sweco JV - Technical Director) Jacob Lister (BECG) Jamie Gordon (BECG) James Butt (Mott MacDonald Sweco JV – Stakeholder and Public Liaison Manager)
Meeting objectives	A47 Projects 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.

Introductions

HE and the Inspectorate representatives introduced themselves.



Update on the A47 projects

Following the previous meeting at Bristol, the Applicant confirmed that there had been significant changes to three of the A47 projects including an increase in the site boundaries. These changes will be reflected in the shape files and scoping reports that will be submitted for the schemes.

The A47 schemes have been refined as a result of the feedback received from relevant stakeholders and interested persons, in particular, the local planning authorities affected by the schemes. There have been regular monthly meetings between Highways England and the Local Authorities.

The Applicant advised that a draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) meeting is scheduled for 31 January 2018, and that the SoCC's will be finalised in late February. The Applicant confirmed that there will be 4 SoCC's in total.

Projects timetable

The Applicant advised that statutory consultation will commence on the following dates:

A47 Wansford to Sutton – 29 May 2018
A47 Blofield to North Burlingham – 29 May 2018
A47 North Tuddenham to Easton – 11 June 2018
A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvement – 11 June 2018

Scoping requests will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the following dates:

A47 Wansford to Sutton – 5 February 2018
A47 North Tuddenham to Easton – 5 February 2018
A47 Blofield to North Burlingham – 5 February 2018
A47/A11 Thickthorn junction improvement – 9 February 2018

The above scoping requests have now been received.

The Planning Inspectorate requested scoping reports and shape file submissions for each scheme are staggered over a period of days as opposed to submitting all submissions at once as this will ease the strain on available resources. The Applicant confirmed it will provide an update on when the scoping requests will be submitted.

The Applicant was advised that the timeframe for issuing scoping opinions is 42 days from the date of receipt of a valid request. Arrangements can be made to hold a meeting to discuss the scoping opinions once they have been issued. The Inspectorate can clarify/explain comments made in the scoping opinions but cannot make additional comments beyond those contained in the opinions.

The Applicant advised that it will be using a colour coding process for each scheme which will assist all parties in understanding which documents relate to which project. The colour coding scheme will be used throughout the consultation process.



The Applicant advised it is continuing to work towards the original submission date of 23 February 2019 for the Tuddenham project. HE will forward a list of the anticipated submission dates for all of the projects to the Inspectorate following the meeting.

Statutory Consultation

The Applicant confirmed that it is developing a process for Statutory Consultation which will include a number of public events for each DCO application. Local employers and large businesses will be specifically targeted and weekend public events will be held at local centres (e.g. town centres and shopping centres) to target the general public and road users. There will be hard copies of documents available at relevant local authorities' offices. A feedback loop process will be developed to encourage feedback from interested parties.

The Applicant acknowledged that there is potential for confusion over the section 42 and section 47 consultation as this will be carried out over the same timeframe. However, the Applicant is confident these issues will be mitigated by the use of a project colour coding process. The Applicant will liaise with the relevant local authorities, including Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the combined authority.

Level of Interest

The Applicant advised it has had several meetings with affected landowners and local Parish Councils. The Applicant will continue to work with the public and local councils to find the best solutions.

Update from PINS

The Inspectorate advised who the contacts will be for each of the projects and said that they would email the Applicant to confirm the contact details and responsibilities.

AOB

The Applicant advised that the proposed start date, if development consent is granted, for the first works is March 2020. This would be the Wansford to Sutton scheme. The Applicant will keep the Planning Inspectorate updated on timeframe changes.

The Applicant advised that, at present, it did not consider that the A47 Great Yarmouth junction improvements and the Guyhirn improvement schemes would be NSIPs. The Planning Inspectorate requested to be updated on the progress of this scheme if the possibility arises that it may be progressed as a NSIP.

Site visits in late February/early March were discussed and HE confirmed that they could be accommodated.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- Action Points for Applicant:



The Planning Inspectorate

- Provide an update on scoping report submission dates
 - Propose dates for post-Scoping Opinions Feedback meeting
 - Provide an update on likely DCO submission dates
 - Provide updates on the progress of the Great Yarmouth scheme
- Action Points for Planning Inspectorate:
 - Confirm contact details and responsibilities for all A47 projects
 - Provide a contact point for queries on the Highways Act 1980 process