



## Meeting note

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| <b>Project name</b>       | A47 Projects   |
| <b>File reference</b>     |  |
| <b>Status</b>             | Final  |
| <b>Author</b>             | The Planning Inspectorate  |
| <b>Date</b>               | 2 August 2018  |
| <b>Meeting with</b>       | Highways England with representatives from Mott MacDonald Sweco and becg |
| <b>Venue</b>              | Teleconference   |
| <b>Meeting objectives</b> | Projects Update  |
| <b>Circulation</b>        | 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.

### Outstanding matters from scoping

#### Air Quality (AQ)

The Applicant advised that in the absence of summer data, it intended to apply a factor to the existing six to nine-month dataset to account for a lack of summer data. The Inspectorate advised that ideally both summer and winter datasets would be provided but in the absence of such data the Applicant should provide details of the method used to factor the data and justify its use within the Environmental Statement (ES).

The Applicant discussed its approach to the assessment of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) stating that it did not normally provide a separate assessment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, instead using PM<sub>10</sub> as a proxy for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The Inspectorate stated that the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges guidance on assessment of particulate matter predated the introduction of limit values set out in UK regulations and therefore did not necessarily reflect best practice for the assessment of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The Applicant offered to provide technical justification for their approach from their air quality specialist to share with the Inspectorate.

The Applicant referred to the scope of the materials assessment for the A47 Biofield scheme, querying the need for an assessment of packaging waste. The Applicant stated that it would not be possible to obtain details of packaging waste for the Proposed Development as details such as suppliers/ materials would not be available prior to submission. The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful to provide an estimate of packaging waste, for example drawing on industry standard metrics for the scale/ type of project. If this is not possible, the Applicant should justify the exclusion of such information from the assessment within the ES.



## Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

### Wansford

The Applicant has considered the implications of the European Court of Justice 'People over Wind' judgement for the Proposed Development. The Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site is a drinking water protected area. The Applicant advised that it had met with Natural England (NE) and agreed that, as mitigation of impacts on drinking water was a priority for the Proposed Development and that mitigation had been applied for the purposes of maintaining drinking water quality, there would be no impact on the features of the European sites due to the works. The Applicant indicated that it was agreed with NE that there would not be a need to consider the drinking water impacts mitigation as mitigation for the purposes of the HRA, and that there would therefore not be a need to progress from HRA screening stage to appropriate assessment stage. The Applicant requested the Inspectorate's view on this approach. The Inspectorate advised that the approach to consideration of mitigation when screening projects for likely significant effects is an evolving issue, and that it would consider the proposed approach further following the meeting and subsequently provide comments to the Applicant. The Inspectorate enquired whether NE was prepared to sign a Statement of Common Ground regarding this approach. The Applicant will update the Inspectorate on this point.

### Project update

#### Blofield

The Applicant advised that it had been liaising with the County Archaeologist regarding archaeological works but had no further update at present. The Applicant stated that drainage design work was ongoing and would not be completed until it obtained the results of the survey work. A small reduction of the red line boundary is possible, subject to the final design.

The Applicant advised that the drainage design is outstanding but that it is progressing with 3D modelling. A 3D 'fly through' will be available as part of the public consultation exercise, and possibly on a website.

The Applicant outlined potential options for the diversion of the Cadent gas pipeline, noting that these were under development and subject to agreement with Cadent.

#### Wansford

Plans for consultation have been delayed due to a review of the design details – the Applicant anticipated that any changes would be within the red line boundary that was considered at scoping stage. The Applicant explained that drainage surveys would be carried out in the next couple of months. The local community and parish councils have indicated an alternative route and the Applicant is considering this.

Additionally, the Applicant has secured funding to design a mixed-use walking / cycling / equestrian route and plans to run a mini consultation at the same time and locations as the statutory consultation. This project would not be part of the DCO application for the Wansford scheme.

#### Thickthorn



The Applicant has now defined the route and has engaged with parishes and local MPs. Following discussions with NE and the County Archaeologist, the Applicant will carry out further investigations to establish the complete area covered by the scheduled monument.

The discussion noted the need for coordination in the area was noted as an adjacent scheme, with outline planning permission and reserved access, is progressing.

## **Programme update**

### **Blofield**

Statutory consultation is anticipated to take place between 10 September 2018 and 19 October 2018, with submission to the Inspectorate in Q3 2019.

### **Wansford**

Statutory consultation is anticipated to take place between 18 September 2018 and 29 October 2018, with submission to the Inspectorate in Q4 2019.

### **Thickthorn**

Statutory consultation is anticipated to take place between 5 October 2018 and 15 November 2018, with submission to the Inspectorate in Q4 2019.

### **North Tuddenham**

The Applicant advised that this scheme will be progressed later in the year and indicated that a scoping report would be submitted in early 2019.