



# The Planning Inspectorate

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By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010039

Date: 2 August 2021

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Dear Mr Stirzaker,

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 51**

### **Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47 Wansford to Sutton scheme**

#### **Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination**

On 2 August 2021 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of our website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate has made some initial observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the Applicant provided under section 51 of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

#### **Plans**

The Works Plans (Doc 2.3) do not clearly show the location and extent of the proposed compounds. The Inspectorate identified other minor discrepancies while checking the plans submitted as part of the application documents. Examples of errors are provided in Box 30, and the Applicant is advised to thoroughly check the plans for any corrections necessary. With this in mind the Applicant may want to consider submitting a revised set of Works Plans that:

- show the extent and location of the construction compounds; and

- represent the extent of the proposed works with annotations that are much easier to follow.

### **Redaction of application documents**

The following documents cannot be published by the Inspectorate as their content contains confidential information that we are unable to redact due to the document type. It is considered that these documents should be available to Interested Parties during the Relevant Representations period.

As such the Applicant is advised to resubmit these documents to the Inspectorate in a form that can be placed in the public domain as a matter of urgency, and we would expect this to be before the Relevant Representation period opens:

- ES (**Doc 6.1**) Chapter 2 The Proposed Scheme
- ES (**Doc 6.1**) Chapter 8 Biodiversity
- ES (**Doc 6.1**) Chapter 15 Cumulative Effects Assessment
- EIA Scoping Report (**Doc 6.5**)
- National Policy Statement for National Networks Accordance Tables (**Doc 7.2**)
- Scheme Design Report (**Doc 7.4**)
- Environmental Management Plan (**Doc 7.5**)

### **Consultees identified on a precautionary basis**

Given the individual circumstances of this case, the Planning Inspectorate advises taking a precautionary approach to consultation under s42(1)(a) of PA2008 to ensure that all persons potentially affected by, or potentially likely to have an interest in the application are given the opportunity to participate fully in the examination of the application. On this basis, the Applicant may wish to serve notice on the bodies listed in Box 6 of the section 55 checklist when it serves notice of the accepted application under s56(2)(a) of the PA2008; unless there is a specific justification why this is not necessary.

### **Minor errors and omissions**

There are minor errors and omissions, as reflected in Box 30 of the acceptance checklist.

### **Next steps**

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and act on it accordingly. This will contribute towards a more efficient examination and give any future Examining Authority comfort that the documentation is complete, accurate and easily usable by all examination participants.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

*Deborah Allen*

Deborah Allen  
**Case Manager**

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