



Meeting note

Project name	A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
File reference	TR010044
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	19 March 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Teleconference
Meeting objectives	Project Update
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.

Supplementary Consultation

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it intends to carry out supplementary consultation due to changes in the Red Line Boundary, scheme design and changes to land rights. The Applicant indicated that the consultation may occur in late Spring /early Summer and is considering how this could be approached considering the current public health crisis surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider its' methods carefully, particularly around enabling all members of public to engage with the process. The Inspectorate also advised that if there were changes to the Order Limits, the Applicant should ensure that any updates to the relevant parties under PA2008 s42 should be addressed. The Applicant responded that it does not consider a further round of statutory consultation will be required. It intends to notify a number of relevant prescribed parties with regards to the changes in Red Line Boundary and will also contact parties who live in areas near some of the potential borrow pit sites. Further to this, the Applicant expressed that it is considering hosting two information events in the vicinity of the borrow pit locations, if conditions allow.

Utilities and Changes in Order Limits

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it has a number of geophysical and archaeological surveys ongoing on site, has identified a number of further utilities and is in discussions with the respective companies, such as Anglian Water. The Inspectorate asked how this is being accommodated in the Applicants' programme and whether Anglian Water are likely to want a significant changes to the scheme, or if the Applicant anticipates any significant implications. The Applicant responded by explaining that a few larger scale works will need more coordination. It has carried out a review of the diversions and can confirm that they are not Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

in their own right and can be included within this Development Consent Order (DCO). The Inspectorate asked if the Applicant will have an appropriate level of detail for the upcoming consultation, if different land is required, to which the Applicant responded that it will be in a position to adequately explain within the supplementary consultation where the changes to the order limits are and the reasons for such changes. The Applicant explained that there are small areas where the order limits have been extended but also areas where there have been reductions in land identified as a consequence of engagement with utility companies.

Trial Trenching and Land Access

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that ground investigations are close to complete and archaeological trial trenching is nearing completion of Phase 1. To date, nothing of particular significance has been revealed that would change the initial thinking of the proposed development. The Applicant went on to explain that it has been working with the local authority's archaeologists, whose work in inspecting trenches has proved beneficial.

The Inspectorate asked if any powers will be required relating to access land to undertake any necessary survey work, noting the provisions of PA2008 s53, s172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 as well as powers available to Highways England under other legislation. The Applicant noted it was aware of all the available provisions and did not anticipate requiring any permission under s53 PA2008.

Environment Update

In terms of surveys, the Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the wintering birds survey has been completed and the results are being fed into the biodiversity assessment. Agricultural soil sampling and Phase 2 of the archaeological trial trenching are due to commence in the coming weeks.

The Applicant stated that the following work is underway;

- collating background information to populate the 'Scheme History and Alternatives' within the Environmental Statement;
- developing a Schedule of Mitigation to enable all measures to be recorded in a single document, and
- engagement with local authorities to establish a baseline position within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

In addition, the Applicant informed the Inspectorate that additional to the targeted consultation, it will be engaging with the Environment Agency and Natural England regarding mitigation and developing the mitigation masterplan.

Draft Documents

The Applicant stated that it intends to submit a suite of draft documents for review to the Inspectorate and provided an update on the likely timeframe for those documents.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- PINS National Infrastructure website to be updated regarding the intended submission date. New date to be confirmed by Applicant.
- Draft documents submission to be arranged.

