



Meeting note

Project name	A27 Arundel Bypass
File reference	
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	27 July 2018
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Teleconference
Meeting objectives	Inception 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.

Highways England provided an overview of the scheme and the non-statutory consultations undertaken to date. Highways England noted that some elements of project were under review in respect of junction design and the best means of crossing the flood plain (embankment or viaduct).

Highways England indicated that they were currently engaging with a number of stakeholders, including the relevant local authorities.

Certain environmental constraints were discussed in respect of potential development in the flood plain (Arun Valley); existence of some protected species; the ancient woodland within the South Down National Park; and the ability to undertake intrusive investigations.

The Applicant explained that ground investigation (GI) survey effort has been constrained within the area of affected ancient woodland. The Inspectorate advised that the assessment should be informed by suitably robust baseline information and based on recognised practice and guidance. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider carefully how less detailed baseline survey information would affect the overall assessment.

The Applicant explained the background to other constraints including proposals within the flood zone area adjacent to the River Arun. The Inspectorate explained the importance of early engagement and advised the Applicant to work with Environment Agency and other relevant consultation bodies to address issues in relation to flooding and flood risk.

The Inspectorate discussed methods to address uncertainty in the design of the Proposed Development and advised the Applicant to refer to the Inspectorate's Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope. The Inspectorate explained the benefit of obtaining detail particularly in respect of the scoping process. The Applicant was advised to refer to the Inspectorate's Advice Note 7: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping.

Highways England outlined a high level programme and anticipated that the next key milestone could be submitted a Scoping Request to The Inspectorate in Q4 2018.

Next steps

- The Inspectorate requires a GIS shapefile to identify the land for which the scoping request is made – the Inspectorate will advise Highways England what information is required.
- A site visit may be beneficial to inform the preparation of a Scoping Opinion.