



Meeting note

Project name	A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme
File reference	TR10060
Status	FINAL
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	2 March 2022
Meeting with	National Highways
Venue	Microsoft Team
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.

Scheme Update

The Applicant advised that there is a targeted consultation ongoing until 18 March 2022 to address updates on noise assessments for certain properties. There have been minor updates to land assembly and land referencing. The current target submission is early June 2022 however responses to the ongoing consultation may impact this.

Following further consultation, the options for the relocation of the Cadent gas main has been narrowed to a single route option. The Applicant suggested the gas main may constitute an NSIP but will require further discussions with Cadent to conclude on this point. The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant has had any engagement with BEIS on this which the Applicant confirmed they have not as yet as is dependent on the outcome of discussion with Cadent. .

The Inspectorate queried about ongoing supplementary consultation that took place in November 2021, the Applicant confirmed that there were no significant changes to the scheme arising from these consultations. No new issues have been raised by the Local Authorities during these consultations that would require further investigation.

Submission of Draft DCO Application Documents and timescales

The Applicant stated that the current planned date for draft submission is 25 March 2022, this is to contain:

- Draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum
- Statement of Reasons
- Sample Plans (Works x3, Lands, Streets, Engineering drawings and sections)
- Chapters 1-5 of the Environmental Statement
- 1st iteration Environmental Management Plan
- Consultation Report
- Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Borrow pits report
- Consents and licenses position statement
- Interrelationship document (subject to completion)

The Inspectorate advised that the standard time for a response to draft documents to be provided is between 6-8 weeks, depending on the nature of the documents to be reviewed and whether there were any novel issues that needed to be considered. The Inspectorate explained that it would be easier to construct a timescale for return of comments once the documents have been received.

Any other business

The Applicant requested clarification of the use of hyperlinks in examination documents. The Inspectorate advised that its Advice Notes on this subject were in the process of being updated but verifiable websites such as .gov and chartered organisations can be included without redaction provided a full reference was provided and the Applicant should also include website access dates in reference lists.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The Inspectorate said they will get back to the Applicant with timescales for reviewing the draft documents once these had been received, this will allow for a date to be set for a follow up meeting.

