



Meeting note

File reference	TR020003
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	18 October 2019
Meeting with	Heathrow Airport Ltd
Venue	Teleconference
Meeting objectives	Technical meeting 1
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.

Technical Presentation

The Applicant made a technical presentation providing further detail on elements of the masterplan submitted as part of its Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) in the Statutory Consultation process:

Thermal storage pond

The Applicant outlined the operation of the proposed thermal storage pond to provide cooling in summer and heating in winter, noting the potential to assist in decarbonising the airport activities by reducing reliance on combustion technology whilst also reducing emissions to air.

Flood storage areas

The Applicant outlined its proposed flood storage measures providing an overview of storage ponds to the north of the M25-M4 junction in the Thorney Country Park / Poynings area. The Applicant outlined its philosophy for development of the storage areas and the potential for these to have flood, habitat and recreational benefits. This included discussion of the proposed approach to integrating blue and green infrastructure and the creation of a green loop providing continuous leisure and recreational routes around the airport.

Carbon sink meadow

The Applicant described its ongoing investigation of potential grass species that may be used to sequester carbon dioxide if planted adjacent to the new runway and taxiway infrastructure.

London National Park City

The Applicant summarised the aims of the National Park City designation and described measures within its green infrastructure strategy that had potential to contribute to these aims.

Rail infrastructure

The proposed approach to management of rail infrastructure was described including the revised sidings arrangement at Colnbrook and proposed modifications to sidings at West Drayton to facilitate rail connectivity to the west. The Applicant also provided a brief update on potential Southern Rail options that it was aware of being promoted by others (eg Spelthorne Borough Council).

The Applicant also provided an update on elements of infrastructure likely to be moving from the area including BA Waterside Office, BT's Data Centre and Aggregate Industries site or that could be reprovided within the area.

Greenbelt

The Applicant discussed its current work to define the function of areas of greenbelt within the study area likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development.

Land / Works Plans

The Applicant provided a presentation to explain how it was looking at presenting the land and works plans in a way that included the required level of detail whilst maintaining, due to the scale of the Proposed Development, the required usability for examination. The Applicant explained that with their current approach the number of 'tiles' (the divided sections of the site plan that will individually display multi-layered detail) was currently in the region of 60.

The Inspectorate asked whether various tiles could be looked at simultaneously and queried the file size of each tile in order to understand whether they could be adequately hosted on the National Infrastructure Planning website. The Applicant explained how it was looking into inter-activeness for multi-layered use and that each tile could be around 15MB in size.

There was discussion about the scale of the plans with the Applicant explaining that it was looking at whether the main infrastructure works could be captured within single tiles to aid usability. The Applicant explained that in trying to capture the main works on single tiles at the desired scale left little room for overlap. The Inspectorate advised that a minimal overlap with neighbouring tiles was acceptable if the main works could be wholly captured within single tiles. It was agreed that both the land and the works plans should have the same scale of 1:1250. The Inspectorate encouraged the use of a consistent grid approach across works and land plans to aid navigation and readability.

Statements of Common Ground

The Applicant displayed a draft of its Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) template and its proposed SoCG structure. The Inspectorate noted that the SoCG template included topics that would not be universally relevant to all the parties. The Applicant explained that not all topics on the template were relevant to every party and that they would be removed if so. The Inspectorate emphasised the value of the content of a SoCG rather than necessarily needing to treat parties consistently.

The Inspectorate also noted a suite of SoCGs were planned with airspace bodies and queried their inclusion. The Applicant noted it was still in the process of reviewing the structure and speculated that their inclusion may relate to future airspace operations.

The Inspectorate noted that the template's appendix summarising engagement between the parties was helpful.