

**Meeting Note**

<b>File reference</b>	<b>TR040005</b>
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Amy Cooper</b>

<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Network Rail (NR)</b>
<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>29 June 2011</b>
<b>Attendees (IPC)</b>	<b>Kay Fry Andrew Luke Amy Cooper</b>
<b>Attendees (non IPC)</b>	<b>Malcolm Armstrong Lucie Anderton Ed McCrann Roger Clarke</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>IPC Offices, Temple Quay House, Bristol</b>

<b>Meeting purpose</b>	<b>Introduction to the Network Rail team, an overview of the Redditch Branch Enhancement Proposal and the planning process under PA 2008.</b>
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<b>Summary of key points discussed and advice given</b>	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>The applicant was advised on the IPCs openness policy and the IPC not being able to discuss the merits of a specific project. Reference was made to the publication of advice in accordance with s.51 of the PA 2008.</p> <p><b>Project description</b></p> <p>Network Rail gave a presentation outlining the proposals.</p> <p>The enhancement will take place on a single track which branches off to Redditch from the Birmingham to Bristol main line. The objective is to create capacity by increasing the train frequency from 2 to 3 trains per hour. An increase in capacity will require the construction of a 'dynamic loop', consisting of approximately 3km of double track and 2 connections to the original track, allowing trains to pass one another.</p> <p>Associated development and ancillary matters are likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new platform at Alvechurch station.</li> <li>• Overhead electrification</li> <li>• The compulsory acquisition of some land.</li> </ul> <p>Funding for this development derives from the Department of Transport (DfT) who accepted the enhancement bid. This will be available within Control Period 4, (ie until March 2014).</p>
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During construction, the existing line is proposed to be used to transport materials such as sleepers. To minimise overall disruption it is anticipated that the branch line will be closed for a number of weeks during the construction period.

#### **Anticipated project timetable**

- Q3 2011 - Submit draft SoCC to LAs, submit scoping request (if applicable) to IPC and undertake phase 1 of public consultation.
- Q2 2012 – Phase 2 of public consultation
- Q3 2012 – Submit application to IPC

#### **Environmental matters and screening request**

Desk top data has been collated, an ecological walkover survey has been undertaken and a number of further surveys are taking place including trees, flora and fauna. A replanting scheme will be implemented to replace any lost vegetation.

On 16 June 2011 NR submitted a request for a screening opinion under Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations. The IPC have 21 days to respond to the request however having reviewed the information received from NR, the IPC have requested further information in the form of a plan that clearly illustrates all the land required for, or affected by, the proposed development. The plan should show the location of all elements of the proposed development, as described in the screening request and the accompanying environmental appraisal, and should include any land required temporarily during construction such as for haulage roads and construction compounds. It would be useful to illustrate any environmental constraints on the same plan as the proposed works to help the IPC to consider the extent of any potential impact, as set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations. The IPC considers it necessary to request this further information to enable a screening opinion to be adopted.

The IPC noted comments from NR regarding the area of new embankment required and the limited extent of works that would be required outside of the existing rail corridor. The IPC advised that the provision of information clarifying the above mentioned issues would be helpful to inform the preparation of the screening opinion.

#### **Planning Process under PA 2008**

The IPC gave the applicant an overview of the planning process from pre-application to the decision/recommendation stage. From this discussion it was highlighted that:

- The applicant should be particularly vigilant when identifying statutory consultees and statutory undertakers in relation to the APFP Regulations 2009 and IPC advice note 3.
- The applicant may submit a draft DCO to the IPC, allowing 6 weeks for comment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Once the IPC has received an application we may request for more information such as audit papers in relation to responses to pre-application consultation.</li> <li>- At the pre-examination stage a minimum of 28 days must be given for relevant representations to be made.</li> <li>- The implementation of the Localism Bill should have minimal impact on procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meetings</b> Further meetings can be arranged on an ad hoc basis. The IPC may wish to hold an inception meeting with the relevant LAs and undertake a site visit. This would be ideal after the publication of the SoCC.</p>
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<b>Specific decisions/ follow up required?</b>	- Network Rail to forward local authorities contact details to the IPC.
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<b>Circulation List</b>	All attendees