



Meeting note

Project name	Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation
File reference	WW010003
Status	Draft
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	26 May 2021
Meeting with	Anglian Water
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update 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.

Project Update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had issued a direction under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008, which had been published across all channels.

The Applicant explained that it had engaged with local communities, councils and technical stakeholders through meetings and webinars to identify the site. The site had been announced on 28 January 2021. The Applicant believes they have an open communication link between the different groups.

The Applicant provided an in-depth explanation as to the current design. The Applicant stated that the visual representation of the proposed project would be presented during consultation stage/phase 2, under s47 of the Planning Act 2008.

The Applicant visually demonstrated how the proposal was to be mitigated, with a large bank surrounding the plant. The bank would be covered and allow habitats to grow. Further screening would be provided on top of the bank to limit visual impacts, only allowing the highest cylinders to be seen.

The Applicant explained that the current local plan (adopted in 2018) identifies the potential for the relocation of the works, but does not specify a location. A new draft local plan and draft area action plan process is ongoing.

Scoping Update

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that s47 consultations were commencing Mid-June 2021, along with technical stakeholder consultations. The Applicant explained the EIA Scoping Request would be submitted in October 2021. The Applicant feels this later request will benefit the proposal as the design will have evolved, feedback from s47 consultations will be captured and more data collection completed. S42 and further s47 consultations will commence early February 2022 and will last two months.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant about Regulation 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and that the Secretary of State must be notified prior to s42 consultations.

The Applicant explained that three potential site access options are being assessed. One at the NW of the site, the second a SE entrance to the site and a third, making a new exit from the A14. The Applicant had been in communication with Highways England who explained the third option may not be capable of satisfying DfT Circular 02/2013 requirement that new direct accesses onto trunk roads will not be allowed unless it can be established that such new infrastructure is essential for the delivery of strategic planned growth (paragraph 39-40). The Applicant had decided to present all three options at the upcoming consultation and that these would likely be further refined prior to EIA Scoping.

The Applicant provided visual representation of proposed footpaths passing through the site to connect communities as well as to form part of a 3Km circular route.

The Applicant stated no alterations to overhead powerlines were required and that current designs are based around the existing overhead line structures as important constraints to the development.

EIA Site Surveys Update

The Applicant provided an overview of the different surveys. The site was investigated through percussive and rotary boreholes, downhole geophysics, and trial pitting. Ecology and heritage surveys had been conducted both as field studies and digitally (under ongoing restrictions as a result of the Covid19 pandemic). Geophysical anomalies had been spotted through this digital overview and targeted trial trenching is due to commence on site this summer (in discussion with the local planning authority).

The Applicant explained ecology surveys had begun and were 50% through. Insight had been provided as to where specific species were located. The surveys are; Botanical, **bats, otter, great crested newt, breeding birds, water vole, reptiles, terrestrial invertebrate**, fish, **aquatic macroinvertebrate, aquatic macrophytes, badgers**, invasive species, common toad (those in **bold** are surveys that have started in 2021).

Digital EIA

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate on their aspirations towards digital EIA. The Applicant has completed early consultation and engagement digitally already. Going

forward the Applicant is interested to explore maintaining a digital thread, through further consultation, EIA scoping and beyond through to submission of the application itself. The Inspectorate advised that this approach is very new and is undergoing further investigation around EIA regulatory compliance and accessibility. There are a number of points to consider for example around proprietary / version control issues associated with third party hosting of a digital scoping report (and latterly application material), and the potential need for (at least for pilot projects) a “twin tracked” approach with digital and traditional formats. The Inspectorate are working at pace with MHCLG and others to discuss and resolve some of these issues on pilot projects but it was agreed that a further meeting could be held prior to submission of the scoping request to discuss this further and any learning from other projects.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- A meeting to discuss Project Speed