

Appendix 20-PD-1: Consultation

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Appendix 20-PD-1: Consultation

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report appendix consolidates key comments raised in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion (**Appendix 5-PD-2** of PEI Report **Volume 4**) from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and other consultees, such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and local planning authorities in relation to Socio-economics.

1.2 Scoping Opinion and Additional Consultation

Scoping Opinion

- 1.2.1 A scoping exercise was undertaken in early 2025 to establish the content of the assessment and the approach and methods to be followed.
- 1.2.2 The EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 5-PD-1** in PEI Report **Volume 4**) was issued on 28 March 2025 and records the findings of the scoping exercise and details the technical guidance, standards, best practice and criteria to be applied in the assessment to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on socio-economics.
- 1.2.3 Following receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion on 08 May 2025 (**Appendix 5-PD-2** in PEI Report **Volume 4**), the requirements summarised in **Table 1** have been identified by consultees in relation to socio-economics.
- 1.2.4 **Table 1** outlines how and where these issues have been addressed within the PEI Report and/or will be addressed within the Environmental Statement (ES) to ensure they are taken account of as part of the ongoing assessment of effects on socio-economics.

Table 1: Scoping Opinion Responses

Consultee	Topic	Summary of comment	How and where addressed
PINS	Impacts on local and private assets (including residential properties, local businesses, community facilities, open space and visitor attractions), either via direct works or indirect via in combination effects identified by other discipline assessments during operation. (All parts)	3.126: The Scoping Report states that impacts on local and private assets beyond the construction phase are unlikely as operational activities such as maintenance would be minimal. The Inspectorate considers that insufficient information on the type, location and duration of maintenance activities has been provided to support this position. As such, the Inspectorate is not able to scope this matter out. The ES should either provide a statement justifying why significant effects are not likely to occur, supported by further information on operational activities, or provide an assessment of effects where significant impacts are likely to occur.	Based on further information on the operational activities anticipated as part of the Proposed Development outlined in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development in PEI Report Volume 2 , a statement justifying the decision to scope out operational effects on local and private assets is set out in section 20.4 of Chapter 20: Socio-economics in PEI Report Volume 2 .
	Permanent disruption to Public Rights of Way (ProW) and canal towpath access during operation. (All parts)	3.127: This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that operational maintenance activities would have a minimal effect on PROWs and towpath access. The Inspectorate considers that insufficient information on the type, location and duration of maintenance activities has been provided to support this position. As such, the Inspectorate is not able to scope this matter out. The ES should either provide a statement justifying why significant effects are not likely to occur, supported by further information on operational activities, or provide an assessment of effects where significant impacts are likely to occur.	Based on further information on the operational activities anticipated as part of the Proposed Development outlined in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development in PEI Report Volume 2 , a statement justifying the decision to scope out operational effects on local and private assets is set out in section 20.4 of Chapter 20: Socio-economics in PEI Report Volume 2 .

Consultee	Topic	Summary of comment	How and where addressed
	Land use impacts on planned and proposed developments during operation. (All parts)	3.129: The scoping report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that, due to the limited nature of operational activities, impacts to land use on planned and proposed development are not considered to be significant. The Inspectorate considers that insufficient information on the type, location and duration of maintenance activities has been provided to support this position. As such, the Inspectorate is not able to scope this matter out. The ES should either provide a statement justifying why significant effects are not likely to occur, supported by further information on operational activities, or provide an assessment of effects where significant impacts are likely to occur.	Based on further information on the operational activities anticipated as part of the Proposed Development outlined in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development in PEI Report Volume 2 , a statement justifying the decision to scope out operational effects on local and private assets is set out in section 20.4 of Chapter 20: Socio-economics in PEI Report Volume 2 .
Braunston Parish Council	Physical effects on canal users	Boat users and waterway related businesses are identified as receptors; BPC welcomes the inclusion of waterway users in the EIA but is concerned that very little detail is provided in terms of the methodology for assessing effects on boat users of water flow velocity, additional stop locks, reduced headroom or effects of bank raising on moorings and there is no mention of tunnels as pinch points regarding effects of water flow. The EIA should assess the effects of the proposed development on the use of the canal by its users in practical as well as economic terms.	The impact on canal users as a result in changes to the canal has been assessed within section Error! Reference source not found. of Chapter 20: Socio-economics in PEI Report Volume 2 , with physical changes to the canal such as water flow accounted for in line with Chapter 3: The Proposed Development in PEI Report Volume 2 .

Consultee	Topic	Summary of comment	How and where addressed
Braunston Parish Council	Physical effects on canal users	There is no discussion on the effects of the project on the frequency of lock closures at Braunston due to drought. This should be scoped in to the EIA.	As outlined in Chapter 3: The Proposed Development in PEI Report Volume 2 , whilst extra water will be added to the canal network, the flow will be carefully controlled to avoid significant increases. Water velocity will be kept at or below 0.3 metres per second (m/s), which is considered unsubstantial to change the fundamental water flow characteristics of the canal. Frequency of lock closures has therefore not been directly assessed as result of the Proposed Development.