



Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 4

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| Topic | Various environmental matters, including biodiversity, the historic environment, landscape and views, and the water environment. |
| Date | Thursday 9 November 2023 |
| Time | 1.30pm |
| Venue | <p>Blended hearing held at the Stoke by Nayland Resort, Keepers Lane, Leavenheath, CO6 4PZ (free onsite parking), and online through Microsoft Teams (instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered).</p> <p>Seating available at the venue from 1.00pm.</p> <p>The virtual room opens at 1.00pm for those participating online.</p> <p>Join between 1.00pm and 1.15pm to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the Arrangements Conference, greeted and given further instructions. The Arrangements Conference will be hosted at 1.15pm by the Case Team. It will cover housekeeping arrangements for those participating online and answer any questions about taking part.</p> |
| Attendees | <p>All registered Interested Parties are welcome to attend. Those wishing to make oral representations on this specific topic should register in advance with the case team.</p> <p>(Email bramfordtotwinstead@planninginspectorate.gov.uk or call 0303 444 5000.)</p> <p>The Examining Authority would be assisted by the attendance of representatives from the following, and would be grateful for confirmation of attendees and whether they will be joining in person at the venue or virtually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Applicant• Essex County Council• Suffolk County Council• Babergh District Council• Mid Suffolk District Council• Braintree District Council• Natural England• Historic England• The Environment Agency• The Parish Councils of Assington, Bures St Mary, Leavenheath, Little Cornard, Polstead and Stoke by Nayland• The Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Stour Valley Partnership• The RSPB• The Woodland Trust• The Suffolk Preservation Society |

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| 1.30pm | Examining Authority opens the Hearing. |
| Item 1 | Welcome, preliminary matters and introductions. |
| Item 2 | Purpose of this Issue Specific Hearing (please read Annexes A and B below in advance). |
| Item 3 | <p>Biodiversity, ecology and nature conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Habitats Regulations Assessment. Potential effects of surface and ground water quality changes on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. • Clarification of proposals for ecological replacement, mitigation, enhancement and biodiversity net gain, and how they would be secured inside and outside the Order Limits. • Impacts, mitigation and monitoring in relation to the Hintlesham Woods SSSI, including the process for transposing the existing overhead line onto new pylons around the north and west of Hintlesham Wood and the mounting of the proposed line onto the existing pylons, including site preparation and maintenance. • Impacts and mitigation in relation to other ancient woodlands. • The proposed removal of veteran tree T378 and proposed protection for other ancient and veteran trees. • Impacts and mitigation in relation to other Sites of Special Scientific Interest. • Update on protected species licences and letters of no impediment. • Any other matters arising from the responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions. |
| Item 4 | <p>The historic environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Suffolk councils' concerns with the proposed route outside and to the west of Hintlesham Woods and its impacts on the setting of listed buildings. • Hintlesham Hall, associated listed buildings and the setting provided by the former park: assessment, impacts, harm, Limits of Deviation, sensitivity testing and the nature and sufficiency of the proposed mitigation. • Assessment of effects on cultural heritage assets associated with famous artists and writers, including Benton End House and Overbury Hall. • Update on proposals for archaeological investigations, and on the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation. • Any other matters arising from the responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions. |

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| Item 5 | <p>Landscape and views:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Examining Authority’s Unaccompanied Site Inspection 4. • The setting of the Dedham Vale AONB, and the case for additional undergrounding in section F of the proposed route in relation to effects on the AONB and the Stour Valley. • Consideration of the statutory purpose of the AONB. • Special qualities of the Dedham Vale AONB. • Location of the Dedham Vale east cable sealing end compound. • Whether additional viewpoints and assessment are required, including: from the PRow network east of the A131; the temporary haul road from the A131; a viewpoint closer to the Stour Valley east cable sealing compound; and from the PRow network on the edge of Wickham St Paul. • Sufficiency of visual mitigation for the cable sealing end compounds. • Sufficiency and security of landscape and visual mitigation and compensation planting generally. • Inter-project cumulative effects and mitigation at the existing Bramford substation. • Any other matters arising from the responses to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions. |
| Item 6 | <p>The water environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogeological risk assessment: its nature, timing and approval, including how it is secured. • Any other matters arising from the responses to the Examining Authority’s First Written Questions. |
| Item 7 | Any other business. |
| Item 8 | Review of actions arising. |
| Item 9 | Close of Issue Specific Hearing 4. |

Note that the agenda is provided for general guidance and may be subject to change on the day.

If you simply wish to observe this hearing, you will be able to:

- attend the event in person to watch the proceedings;
- view a livestream of the event (a link will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin); or
- view the recording of the livestream that will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Annex A

Procedure at Issue Specific Hearings

The Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 dictate that the Examining Authority presides at a hearing, that it has powers of control over the conduct of the hearing, and that it is responsible for determining the procedure.

The parties requested to attend are specified on the first page of this document. If you wish to participate in the Hearing and have not already confirmed your attendance, please do so as soon as possible by contacting the Case Team on 0303 444 5000 or bramfordtotwinstead@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the Examining Authority will conduct the Hearing in such a way that legal representation will not be required. The Examining Authority will lead the questioning of parties making oral representations and probe, test and assess the evidence. There is usually no cross-examination of witnesses by other parties, though the Examining Authority does have the power to allow this under certain circumstances.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend the Hearing in person. Contact the Case Team who will ensure you have access to the Hearing virtually. Please ensure that you read our [Privacy Notice](#) before attending the Hearing.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage](#) of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the Hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can therefore view and listen to it using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded.

Parties who have registered to attend (both in person and virtually), and invitees, will receive an email shortly before the Hearing containing a joining link and telephone number to enable participation virtually as necessary. If attending virtually, please join the Arrangements Conference promptly. The Case Team will admit you from the virtual lobby and register your attendance. The Arrangements Conference allows procedures to be explained and will enable the Hearing to start promptly.

The Hearing will finish when the Examining Authority considers that all matters have been covered and all participants have had an opportunity to make their representations. If there are additional matters to be dealt with, it may be necessary to defer some matters to written questions.

A summary of the evidence presented orally at Issue Specific Hearing 4 should be included in post-hearing submissions to be submitted by Deadline 4 in the Examination Timetable (16 November 2023).

The Examining Authority would recommend any parties who are new to the process and wish to learn more about the background and procedures in hearings to read the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.5](#), *The Examination: hearings and site inspections*.

Annex B

The purpose of this Issue Specific Hearing

This Hearing is being held to address the environmental matters listed on the agenda. These have been identified by the ExA through its reading of submissions and site inspections to date.

The agenda is indicative and is subject to change on the day. Documents in the Examination Library should be taken as read and need not be repeated in oral submissions, although signposting to key documents may assist.

Discussion at the hearing may include the following documents, and active participants are advised to have an electronic or hard copy of each available:

- The LEMP [APP-182]
- Planning Statement [APP-160]
- ES Chapter 8 [APP-076]
- ES Appendix 6.1 [APP-097]
- Draft DCO [REP2-005]
- Work Plans [APP-010]
- Archaeological Framework Strategy [APP-186]
- Outline Written Scheme of Investigation [AS-001]
- Hintlesham Hall Assessment [APP-128]
- HRA Report [REP1-007]
- ES Figure 8.5 [APP-152]
- ES Chapter 4 [APP-072]
- ES Appendix 6.2: Annex A Dedham Vale AONB Approach and Identification of Setting Study [APP-099]
- RR and WR from Natural England [RR-042] and [REP2-026]
- RR and WR from Historic England [RR-036] and [REP2-024]
- Suffolk councils' LIR [REP1-045]
- Suffolk councils' LIR Annexes A to F [REP1-044]
- Babergh District Council Addition to Joint LIR [AS-007]
- Essex councils' LIR [REP1-039] and Deadline 2 submission [REP2-009]
- RR and Deadline 2 submission from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils [RR-001] and [REP2-008]
- RR and Deadline 2 submission from Suffolk County Council [RR-006] and [REP2-013]
- Representation from Assington PC *et al* [REP1-070]
- RR from the RSPB [RR-044]
- RR and WR from the Suffolk Preservation Society [RR-048] and [REP2-031]
- RR and WR from the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Stour Valley Partnership [RR-028] and [REP2-021]