



3C Eagle  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000  
e-mail: Richborough@pins.gsi.gov.uk

---

To Interested Parties

Our Ref: EN020017

Date: 29 June 2016

---

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 and 16**

**Application by National Grid for an Order Granting Development Consent for  
the Richborough Connection Project**

**Notification of Hearings and starting points for the Accompanied Site  
Inspection**

Further to my Rule 8 letter dated 16 June 2016, I write to advise you of the details of the open floor hearings and issue specific hearings that will be held during the course of the examination of the above application. I also provide details of the starting points for the Accompanied Site Inspection and initial list of locations to be visited.

**Notification of the dates, times and places of hearings**

The dates, times and places of the open floor and issue specific hearings to be held on 27 to 29 July 2016 are set out in **Annex A** to this letter.

To assist with the organisation and procedure at the hearings, Interested Parties who wish to speak at one or more of the hearings should notify Chris White, Case Manager via the details at the top of this letter by 12 noon **Monday 11 July 2016**, specifying which hearing/ session they wish to speak at.

Where several people or organisations want to make the same or similar points at hearings, they are encouraged to identify a representative who can speak on their behalf. Please inform us if you plan to attend a hearing, even if you do not want to speak and notify us of any special needs you may have (for example, disabled access, hearing loop etc). Please also ensure that you include your Interested Party reference number in your correspondence.

Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing or arising directly from the matters raised by Interested Parties or the Examining Authority (ExA) questioning. However representations made at the hearing should not simply repeat matters previously covered in a written submission or earlier hearing. Rather they should draw attention to those submissions in summary form and provide further detail, explanation and evidential corroboration to help inform the ExA.

The Open Floor Hearings are being held to provide an opportunity for Interested Parties to make oral representations about the application, subject to the ExA's powers of control over the conduct of the hearing. Depending on the numbers wishing to speak, it may be necessary to limit the time allocated to each speaker.

### *Cross-questioning*

The DCLG Guidance<sup>1</sup> explains that at hearings it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations. Questioning at the hearings will therefore be led by a member of the Panel, supported by other Panel members. The ExA may decide to allow oral cross-questioning of one party by another where there is clear disagreement between parties in question but only where this meets the tests set out in Rule 14(5) of the Examination Procedure Rules<sup>2</sup>, namely, that it is necessary to ensure adequate testing of the representations, or to ensure that a party has a fair chance to put their case. Any such requests should identify the hearing in respect of which the request is made, the person who will undertake the cross-questioning and provide a time estimate.

### *Written summaries*

Participants should note that there are deadlines in the examination timetable for the submission of written summaries of oral evidence and any other requested information after each set of hearings to assist with the management of documentation.

### *Agendas for hearings*

We will aim to publish agendas for hearings approximately 5 working days in advance of the hearing date; but the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

## **Notification of the Accompanied Site Inspection**

The ExA intends to inspect sites along the route for the proposed overhead line in the company of Interested Parties. The Panel thanks all those who have suggested locations to visit. Although we have considered these, we have decided that an accompanied inspection to some locations is not necessary, for example because the suggested location has been or will be the subject of an unaccompanied site inspection or because the Panel will visit another location with a very similar relationship to the proposed project.

---

<sup>1</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent

<sup>2</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)

An updated list of the locations we have visited on an unaccompanied basis can be found at the this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN020017-000675>

The anticipated locations for the Accompanied Site Inspection are:

Canterbury North substation; views of the location for the Sturry Link Road and Sturry strategic development site; Broad Oak and environs including Nook Farm, Godwin Farmhouse and the proposed reservoir site; West Blean and Thornden Woods; Kemberland Wood; Foxhill Stables; Westbere compound; Tile Lodge Farm; Nethergong campsite; Docker Hill Farm, railway crossing south of Monkton (to view location of proposed diamond crossing); Sheriffs Court Farm; water treatment works south of Minster including views of proposed bridge crossing; Whitehouse Drove, Quex Park Farm and the former Richborough power station site.

A final itinerary and route will be published on the Planning Inspectorate website **ONLY**, no later than **Monday 18 July 2016**, taking into account any relevant submissions made at Deadline 2 and any practical changes required as a result of testing the route.

Please note that the Panel's inspection of sites is not an opportunity to provide oral representations on the proposed development or to discuss evidence, however, participants may be invited by the Panel to point out specific features of fact.

#### *Notifications*

The Accompanied Site Inspection will take place on **Monday 25 July 2016: Day 1 and Tuesday 26 July 2016: Day 2**.

It will commence each day at Sturry Road Park and Ride car park, Canterbury, CT1 1AD. Parking costs £3 per day. Transport to accompany the ExA will be provided. Participants are asked to assemble promptly (by the vehicular entrance to the car park, on Stour Crescent NOT at the bus stop on the A28) at 9:30am ready for briefing and commencement of the site inspection at 10:00am.

Parties wishing to attend the Accompanied Site Inspection should advise Chris White, Case Manager in writing (by email or post) via the details at the top of this letter by **12 noon** on Monday **11 July 2016**. It would assist the preparation of the Accompanied Site Inspection if you could also notify the Planning Inspectorate of any special requirements you may have during the day(s).

For the Accompanied Site Inspection it will be necessary for all parties, to wear appropriate sturdy footwear and weather-proof clothing; insect repellent and sunscreen is also recommended. All parties are also advised to wear high visibility jackets, if they have them, when walking on the public highway. A limited number of high visibility vests will be available to borrow from the Planning Inspectorate on the day.

### *Joining the site inspection*

When we publish the final itinerary we will provide estimated timings for specific stops. It is not possible to predict precisely how long each part of the visit will last. Parties wishing to join the visit should attend the advertised start point in good time. The ExA will not wait for parties who are not present at the start point at the notified time.

### *Sites on private land*

Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances, the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of the visit, and may ask those refused access to wait with the transport provided.

If you have any further queries, please contact the case team.

Yours faithfully

*Frances Fernandes*

**Frances Fernandes**  
**Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors**

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the National Infrastructure Planning website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

## Annex A

### Dates, times and places for the Open Floor and Issue Specific Hearings

The Examining Authority will be holding the following hearings under Sections 93 and 91 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended):

Date and Time	Hearing	Venue
<p><b>Wednesday 27 July 2016</b></p> <p><b>9.30am arrival</b> <b>10.00am start</b></p> <p>The Open Floor Hearing will conclude when all Interested Parties have made oral representations</p>	<p><b>Open Floor Hearing</b></p>	<p><b>Canterbury Cathedral Lodge</b> The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EH</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 27 July 2016</b></p> <p><b>6.00pm arrival</b> <b>6.30pm start</b></p> <p>The Open Floor Hearing will conclude when all Interested Parties have made oral representations</p>	<p><b>Open Floor Hearing</b></p>	<p><b>Canterbury Cathedral Lodge</b> The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EH</p>
<p><b>Thursday 28 July 2016</b></p> <p><b>9.30am arrival</b> <b>10.00am start</b></p>	<p><b>Issue Specific Hearing on the DCO - including Schedule 9 deemed Marine Licence and any other agreements</b></p>	<p><b>Discovery Centre Suite:</b> Lawrence Suite (ground floor) Discovery Park Building 500 Spitfire Way Sandwich Kent CT13 9FR</p>
<p><b>Friday 29 July 2016</b></p> <p><b>9.30am arrival</b> <b>10.00am start</b></p>	<p><b>Issue Specific Hearing – hearing on the effect of the Broad Oak reservoir proposal on the Application</b></p>	<p><b>Discovery Centre Suite:</b> Lawrence Suite (ground floor) Discovery Park Building 500 Spitfire Way Sandwich Kent CT13 9FR</p>