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Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010015

Date: 8 May 2014

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and the Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)**

**Application by Norfolk County Council for an Order Granting Development  
Consent for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)**

**Notice of Preliminary Meeting and availability of relevant representations**

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the Examining Authority for this application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

This letter is an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting at which the subsequent examination procedure will be set out and the details discussed. Please note that it contains a number of supporting annexes. The arrangements are:

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>Monday 2 June 2014</b>
<b>Venue opens at:</b>	<b>1.30pm</b>
<b>Meeting begins:</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Blackfriars Hall; The Halls, St Andrew's Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1AU</b>

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to me about the way in which the application is to be examined. It is important to appreciate that the Preliminary Meeting only deals with the procedure to be followed. The advantages or disadvantages of the application will be considered later, during the examination period itself which, in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, starts after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. Further information on this is given in Advice Note 8.4, which is available on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal

website at:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

I wish to run a fair, efficient and effective Preliminary Meeting so that all relevant views can be heard. As such, I strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure, if possible, to choose a representative to speak for the group. However, at this stage may I thank those of you who have submitted relevant representations, which have already helped shape my provisional thoughts on how to examine this application.

I attach an agenda for the Preliminary Meeting at **Annex A** to this letter. This is based on my initial assessment of the Principal Issues arising from the application. They are shown at **Annex B**. At the Preliminary Meeting I will want to hear views on these principal issues from the applicant, statutory parties, local authorities and interested parties, and also on whether changes or additions to the timetable set out in **Annex C** may be necessary.

### **Attending the Preliminary Meeting**

If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting please write, email or telephone the Planning Inspectorate, using the address and contact details at the front of this letter marking correspondence for the attention of Nicholas Coombes, the Case Manager. We need to receive your confirmation before **Tuesday 27 May 2014**.

In your response, please indicate whether you wish to speak at the Preliminary Meeting, and on which agenda items, listing points you intend to make.

**If you wish to make any submissions on matters not set out in the agenda**, please set out the submissions that you wish to make. I will attempt to accommodate reasonable requests and will alter the agenda on opening the Preliminary Meeting if I consider this will assist the discussion about the procedure for the examination.

Please note that you are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the actual examination. An audio recording and a written note of the Preliminary Meeting will be made and both published on our website to enable those who did not attend to follow the event.

If you are an interested party not attending the Preliminary Meeting you will still be able to make written representations to the Planning Inspectorate and participate at appropriate hearings that will be arranged as the examination gets underway. Should you no longer wish to be an interested party and do not wish to be involved in the examination process, please notify us of this in writing.

### **After the Preliminary Meeting**

Following the Preliminary Meeting you will be sent a letter setting out the timetable for the examination. The audio recording and written note of the meeting will be published on our website as soon as practicable.

The Planning Act 2008 provides for the examination to be primarily a consideration of the written representations about the application, having regard to oral representations made at the appropriate hearings. All relevant and important matters

will be taken into account before I make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will take the final decision on whether or not to approve the Development Consent Order for the Norwich NDR.

### **Award of costs**

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against interested parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant cost guidance that applies to National Infrastructure projects. The "Awards of costs; examinations of applications for development consent orders" is available on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/>

I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

*Elizabeth Hill*

**Elizabeth Hill**  
**Examining Authority**

### **Annexes**

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Initial assessment of principal issues
- C** Draft timetable for examination of the application
- D** Availability of relevant representations and application documents
- E** Notice of appointment of Examining Authority
- F** Procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority

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 Planning Inspectorate 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.

## Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

**Date of meeting:** Monday 2 June 2014

**Venue opens at:** 1.30pm

**Meeting begins:** 2.00pm

**Venue:** Blackfriars Hall; The Halls, St Andrew's Street,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR3 1AU

1	Welcome and introductions
2	Examining Authority's (ExA) remarks about the examination process
3	Draft timetable for the examination – see <b>Annex C</b>
4	Deadlines for submission of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All written representations</li> <li>• Local Impact Reports</li> <li>• Responses to ExA's written questions</li> <li>• Statements of Common Ground</li> <li>• Notifications relating to hearings</li> </ul>
5	Hearings and accompanied site visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of accompanied site visit to application site and surrounding area</li> <li>• Dates reserved for open floor hearing(s)</li> <li>• Time period reserved for issue specific hearings</li> <li>• Time period reserved for compulsory acquisition hearing</li> </ul>
6	Initial assessment of principle issues
	Close of the Preliminary Meeting

**Please note:** The agenda may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA will allow a break at a convenient point in the hearing, and a one hour lunch break if necessary.

### **Initial assessment of principal issues**

This is the initial assessment of the principal issues arising from consideration by the Examining Authority of the application documents and relevant representations received.

It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters. The Examining Authority will have regard to all important and relevant matters when it writes its recommendation to the Secretary of State after the examination has concluded.

The issues are in alphabetical order and should not be taken to imply an order of importance.

**Air quality**, including issues related to:

- construction period, including dust
- operational period

**Biodiversity and habitats**, including issues related to:

- impacts on habitats and biodiversity
- mitigation measures

**Compulsory Acquisition**

- the requirement for the powers sought and the need to establish a compelling case in the public interest
- financial arrangements

**Design and engineering standards**, including issues related to:

- design concept and process, including road alignment, carriageway design, junction strategy and crossings

**Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)**, including issues related to:

- adequacy of the draft DCO and requirements
- protective provisions for statutory undertakers

**Economic and social impacts**, including issues related to:

- the impact on the local and wider economy, including the relationship with Norwich airport
- the impact on local regeneration and growth
- the impact on tourism

**Environmental Impact Assessment**, including issues related to:

- cumulative effects

**Landscape and visual impact**, including issues related to:

- landscape and visual impact
- landscaping and screening
- impact of lighting

**Need**, including issues relating to:

- the justification for the DCO in terms of need, including impact on traffic distribution, highway safety and convenience; and value for money

**Noise**, including issues relating to:

- noise and vibration during construction
- traffic noise during operation

**Planning policy context**, including issues related to:

- local, regional and national planning policies and plans

**Severance/access**, including issues related to:

- highways/ public rights of way
- non-motorised users
- agriculture and agricultural holdings.
- countryside and recreation

**Water issues**, including issues related to:

- impact on water quality in construction and operational phases
- flood risk

### Draft timetable for examination of the application

The Examining Authority's (ExA) examination of the application takes the form of consideration of written representations about the application. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at the hearings. The ExA is under a duty to **complete** the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	<b>Monday 2 June 2014</b>
2	Issue by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination timetable</li> <li>• ExA first written questions</li> </ul>	<b>As soon as reasonably possible</b>
3	<b>Deadline 1</b> Deadline for receipt from applicant of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at any hearing</li> <li>• Report on status of negotiations with affected persons in respect of compulsory acquisition for each plot (Annex F)</li> </ul>	<b>Noon  Thursday 5 June 2014</b>
4	<b>Deadline 2</b> Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on relevant representations (RRs)</li> <li>• Comments on revisions to application documents</li> <li>• Comments on Report on status of negotiations with affected persons in respect of compulsory acquisition</li> <li>• Written representations (WRs) by all interested parties</li> <li>• Local Impact Report from any local authorities</li> <li>• Responses to ExA's first written questions</li> <li>• Notification of wish to speak at the Compulsory Acquisition or open floor hearings in July</li> </ul>	<b>Noon  Monday 30 June 2014</b>
5	Open floor hearings <i>To be held at locations close to the proposed route during the evening</i>	<b>Monday 7, Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 July 2014</b>

6	<p>Accompanied site visit</p> <p><i>To include the approximate proposed route, nearby villages and the Wensum Valley</i></p>	<b>Tuesday 8 July 2014</b>
7	<p>Open floor hearing</p> <p><i>To be held in central Norwich during the day</i></p>	<b>Wednesday 9 July 2014</b>
8	<p>Compulsory acquisition hearing (including, if required, issues related to s127 of the Planning Act 2008)</p> <p><i>To be held in central Norwich during the day</i></p>	<b>Thursday 10 and Friday 11 July 2014</b>
9	<p><b>Deadline 3</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on WRs and responses to comments on RRs</li> <li>• Comments on Local Impact Reports</li> <li>• Comments on responses to ExA's first written questions</li> <li>• Post-hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at any hearing</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA</li> <li>• Revised draft DCO from applicant</li> <li>• Notification of wish to make oral representations at the issue specific hearings in July</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noon</b></p> <p><b>Friday 11 July 2014</b></p>
10	<p>Issue specific hearings</p> <p><i>To be held in central Norwich during the day</i></p>	<b>Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30, Thursday 31 July and Friday 1 August 2014</b>
11	<p><b>Deadline 4</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at any hearing</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noon</b></p> <p><b>Friday 8 August 2014</b></p>
12	<p>Issue by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second written questions</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 15 August 2014</b>
13	<b>Deadline 5</b>	<b>Noon</b>

	<p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to ExA's second written questions</li> <li>• Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> </ul>	<p><b>Monday 8 September 2014</b></p>
14	<p><b>Deadline 6</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to ExA's second written questions</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noon</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 23 September 2014</b></p>
15	<p>Issue specific hearings</p> <p><i>To be held in central Norwich during the day</i></p>	<p><b>Tuesday 30 September, Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 October 2014</b></p>
16	<p><b>Deadline 7</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post-hearing documents including any written summary of an oral case put at any hearing</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA</li> <li>• Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noon</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 9 October 2014</b></p>
17	<p>Issue by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ExA's draft Development Consent Order</li> <li>• Report on the Implications for European Sites</li> </ul>	<p><b>Friday 17 October 2014</b></p>
18	<p><b>Deadline 8</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on the ExA's draft Development Consent Order</li> <li>• Comments on the Report on the Implications for European Sites</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noon</b></p> <p><b>Friday 7 November 2014</b></p>
19	<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.</p>	<p><b>Tuesday 2 December 2014</b></p>

**Availability of relevant representations and application documents**

Norfolk County Council, as applicant, has provided a copy of the application documents as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for inspection and copying at the following two venues:

- Norfolk Record Office
- Hellesdon library

Anyone wishing to view documents in relation to the examination of the project, which are regularly updated, can do so via the internet on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/norwich>

Access to the internet is available at the locations listed and most local libraries.

**Norfolk Record Office**

Martineau Lane  
Norwich  
NR1 2DQ

Opening times:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday Thursday	9am – 5pm 9am – 7pm
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Copying charges:	Black & White	A4: 50p	per sheet
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**Hellesdon Library**

Woodview Road  
Hellesdon  
Norwich  
NR6 5QB

Opening times:	Monday, Saturday	10am – 1pm
	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	10am – 1pm, 2pm – 5pm
	Thursday	10am – 1pm, 2pm – 8pm

Copying charges:	Black & White	A4: 10p,	A3: 15p	per sheet
	Colour	A4: 50p,	A3: £1	per sheet

You may also wish to view the information online in your local library. Libraries adjacent to the route have been supplied with a poster explaining how you can access and view the documents online. Copying charges may apply, but Norfolk County Council does not charge for access to the internet.



**Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) –  
Rule 4**

**Application by Norfolk County Council for an Order Granting Development  
Consent for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR)**

**Notice of appointment of Examining Authority**

On 16 April 2014 a single examining inspector was appointed to hold the examination of the above application under Section 79 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

The single examining inspector is:

- Elizabeth Hill

*Pauleen Lane*

**Dr Pauleen Lane CBE FICE MBA  
Group Manager, National Infrastructure  
On behalf of the Secretary of State**

## Procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made the following procedural decisions under Section 89(3) of the Planning Act 2008:

### 1. Compulsory Acquisition report

The ExA requests from the applicant a report on status of negotiations with affected persons in respect of compulsory acquisition for each plot.

This report should follow the structure of the Book of Reference, listing each plot and affected person. A report should be given for each on the status of the negotiations between the applicant and such persons. This should include any matters outstanding, measures being taken and estimated timescales to resolution.

The report should be submitted at Deadline 1 of **Annex C** on Wednesday 4 June 2014.

### 2. Revisions to application documents

The ExA has accepted from the applicant, Norfolk County Council, revised application documents. These include corrections and updates to the application documents and also minor modifications to the proposed scheme.

These documents have been published on the Norwich NDR project page of the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website at:

<http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/norwich>

The ExA invites comments on these documents from interested parties. Such comments may stand alone, or be incorporated within Written Representations. In either case, comments are requested for Deadline 2 of **Annex C** on 30 June 2014.