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To the Applicant
(By email only)

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010032

Date: 28 November 2022

Dear Mr Wright,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 51

Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing

Advice following issue of decision to accept the application for examination

On 28 November 2022 the Secretary of State decided that the application for the above project satisfied the acceptance tests under section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist and the application documents have been published and made available on the project page of our website.

In undertaking checks at the acceptance stage, the Inspectorate has made some initial observations in relation to the application. This letter comprises advice to the Applicant provided under section 51 of the PA2008 in respect of these initial observations. The Applicant should pay attention to its content and consider how appropriate action might be taken in response.

It is advised that you action these points before the commencement of the Relevant Representation period to assist those submitting Relevant Representations.

Minor errors and omissions

There are minor errors and omissions, as referred to in Box 30 of the acceptance checklist, of a level considered to be proportionate according to the scale of the Application.

2.2 Land Plans, 2.3 Crown Land Plans and 2.4 Special Category Land Plans

- It is noted that categories are not always consistently described between plans and the corresponding documents, for example, the category described as "Temporary Possession of Land and Permanent Acquisition of Rights" is described only as "Acquisition of rights" in the BoR. Adding an explanation of any difference in

description may assist readers unfamiliar with the legislative requirements to better understand the documents.

- The plot numbers on Volume C (sheets 21-49) of 2.2 Land Plans are not searchable.
- The Applicant is advised to undertake a full check of the Plans and make corrections of errors or for clarification, for example:
 - Ensure all cut lines are included and unobscured, eg, cut line to sheet 10 on sheet 4 on 2.2 Land Plans and between sheets 23 and 25 on all Land Plans.
 - Ensure that all descriptions in the BoR are accurate according to the Land Plans and descriptions of similarly located plots, eg, 04-17 and 04-12.
 - Ensure all plots are given a unique identifier where necessary, eg, 04-30, 04-37, 04-242.
 - Ensure all plots are clearly numbered, eg, the small plot to the North of 04-185, the small plot to the South of 04-256 and the small plot to the South-East of 08-13 on the Land Plans.
 - Ensure that all plots included in the BoR are identified on the Crown Land Plans, eg, 04-272 and 04-273.
 - Ensure that all plot labels and boundaries are legible and unobscured.

2.6 Works Plans: Composite and Utilities

- The Applicant is advised to undertake a full check of the Works Plans and make any corrections of errors or for clarification, for example:
 - Ensure all works have start and end markers as shown on the legend, eg, G1b and G1a on sheet 4 and OH2 on sheets 4 and 12.
 - To assist with searching for works, the Applicant should be consistent when naming works numbers with or without an 0 and/or a space and ensure that they are the same format on both the Works Plans and the dDCO, eg ULH6 and ULH 06, and CA2 and CA 2.

2.7 Rights of Way and Access Plans

- The Applicant is advised to undertake a full check of these Plans and make any correction of errors or for clarification, for example:
 - Check the description in Schedule 1 of the dDCO against the Rights of Way and Access Plans to ensure the location on the plans is clear, eg Work No. 1H (iii) and (iv), 1L and NS167.
 - Check that the designations are accurately, consistently, and clearly identified on the plans as reflected in the dDCO, eg, NS167 between 10/12 and 6/10 described on page 165 of the dDCO and as shown on the plans.

4.2 Book of Reference (BoR)

- The Applicant is advised to check for correctness and consistency, eg road name 'Gammon Field' or 'Gammonfields' should be checked and corrected where necessary throughout the application documents (eg BoR and Consultation Report).
- The Applicant is advised to add the relevant DCO article reference against plots for clarity, please refer to paragraph 10, Annex D of the [Planning Act 2008: guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land](#). It is noted that this is explained in the introductory text of the BoR, however it aids the reader if each individual plot description lists the relevant article.

6.2 Environmental Statement (ES) and associated documents

- The Applicant is advised to undertake a full check of these documents and make any correction of errors or for clarification, for example:
 - Figure 2.2 – Shows an area with green stars which is not on the key.
 - Figure 2.4 – The Environmental Constraint masterplan featured in each of the plans does not show all section listed as being present (ie. 5-8). The Inset identified that these should not be included, but there is no further explanation. In addition, there are plans that do not appear to be present, for example plan 7 of section 1.
 - Figures 10.2 and 14.4 open with an error message. The Applicant is advised to provide new versions to avoid confusion.

Please pay close attention to the advice set out in this letter and act on it accordingly. This will contribute towards a more efficient examination and give any future Examining Authority comfort that the documentation is complete and accurate.

We trust you find this advice helpful, however if you have any queries on these matters please do not hesitate to contact our office using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Church

Eleanor Church
Case Manager

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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