



National Infrastructure
Planning
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Customer
Services: 0303 444 5000
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and any other person invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010032

Date: 25 April 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 4, Rule 6, Rule 9, and Rule 13

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

Appointment of the Examining Authority and invitation to the Preliminary Meeting and Notification of Hearings

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities as the lead member of the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application. I am Rynd Smith and the other members of the ExA are Janine Laver, Ken Pratt, Ken Taylor and Dominic Young. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

We would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted us when preparing our proposals regarding how to examine this application.

Alongside this letter we have issued a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** version 2 document [\[PD-014\]](#) to assist parties, particularly those who are new to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

As a recipient of this letter, you are invited to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the procedure for the Examination of this application.

The Preliminary Meeting will be held in two parts:



Preliminary Meeting Part 1	
Date of meeting:	Tuesday 6 June 2023 (blended event ¹)
Registration Process:	From 9am
Start time:	10am
Venue:	The Forge room, London Stadium, Stratford and virtually via Microsoft Teams ²

The Preliminary Meeting will adjourn at the end of Part 1. It will be closed on Tuesday 20 June 2023, either by way of a virtual event (part 2) or a written decision, as deemed appropriate by the ExA.

Preliminary Meeting Part 2	
Date of meeting:	Tuesday 20 June 2023, if required (virtual only event).
Registration Process:	From 9:15am
Start time:	10am
Venue:	Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Invitation to the Programming Meeting

In addition, the ExA made a Procedural Decision³ that a Programming Meeting should be held in advance of the Preliminary Meeting. As a recipient of this letter, you are also invited to the Programming Meeting, but should note that the agenda of this meeting addresses matters raised by the local authorities involved in the Examination. It will not take any final decisions about how the application is to be examined. Final procedural decisions about how the application is to be examined will only be made at or after the Preliminary Meeting.

Programming Meeting	
Date of meeting:	Tuesday 16 May 2023 (virtual only event)
Registration Process:	From 9:15am
Start time:	10am
Venue:	Virtually via Microsoft Teams

¹ See Question 6 in the FAQs v2 [\[PD-014\]](#) for an explanation of a blended event.

² N.B.: Should circumstances require it, the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 may be changed from a blended event to a fully virtual event. If this is the case, notification will be via the [project webpage](#) in advance of the meeting.

³ See PD-012 in the ExA's letter of 6 April 2023 [\[PD-012\]](#)



Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is for the ExA to decide **how the application will be examined** and to hear your views on examination procedure. The Preliminary Meeting is **not** an opportunity for you to give your views on the application. The merits of the application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. The FAQs v2 [[PD-014](#)] includes information about the purpose of, and preparation for, the Preliminary Meeting.

The agenda for the Preliminary Meeting is at **Annex A** to this letter. This has been set following our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAPI) arising from our reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received, which is set out in **Annex B** to this letter.

A note and recording of the meeting will be published under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage.

Purpose of the Programming Meeting

A Programming Meeting has been introduced in this case, aiming to reduce the time taken at the Preliminary Meeting by addressing specific issues about the resources required for and timing of local authority participation in the Examination and the preparation of Local Impact Reports, brought to the ExA's attention by local authorities during the pre-examination period. By discussing these issues in a separate preparatory meeting, it is hoped to assist the efficient running of the Preliminary Meeting for all Interested Parties. This meeting is preparatory in nature. All relevant procedural decisions about how the application is to be examined will be taken at the Preliminary Meeting.

The agenda for the Programming Meeting is at **Annex C** to this letter. As with the Preliminary Meeting, this meeting is **not** an opportunity for you to give your views on the application. The ExA will limit the matters raised there to the agenda items and to clarification of procedural requests made by the local authorities.

A recording of the meeting will be published under the [Documents tab](#) on the project webpage

Written submissions about how the application should be examined

The Planning Act 2008 establishes a principally written process for the examination of applications for Development Consent Orders. **Representations made in writing carry equal weight to oral representations at all stages of the process.**

We are inviting written submissions from recipients of this letter about how the application should be examined.

For those wishing to participate in the Programming Meeting, we want to hear from you about:



- arrangements that you need to make to participate in the Examination;
- your preparation of a Local Impact Report; and
- resourcing and timing considerations in relation to these matters.

You are invited to make a written submission on these matters by **Procedural Deadline A** (5 May 2023) (see **Annex D** to this letter).

For those attending the Preliminary Meeting, we want to hear from you if:

- you consider changes need to be made to the draft Examination Timetable, set out at **Annex D** to this letter, and the reason for changes; and/or
- you wish to comment about the arrangements for future examination hearings, including the use of virtual methods.

You are invited to make a written submission about how the application is to be examined by **Procedural Deadline B** (26 May 2023) (see **Annex D** to this letter).

Requests to participate at the Programming Meeting or the Preliminary Meeting

Please note that **you are not required to attend or make written submissions to either the Programming Meeting or the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination**. If you are an Interested Party, you can make a Written Representation and comment on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties during the Examination. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged.

If you wish to participate at the Programming Meeting, you are requested to notify the ExA in writing on or before **Procedural Deadline A** (5 May 2023). See **Annex C** for instructions on registering.

If you wish to participate at the Preliminary Meeting, you are required to notify the ExA in writing on or before **Procedural Deadline B** (26 May 2023) for Part 1 and **Procedural Deadline C** (13 June 2023) for Part 2 (see **Annex D** to this letter). See **Annex A** for instructions on registering.

Additional information on the meetings can be found in the FAQ v2 [[PD-014](#)].

After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting we will issue a letter (known as the Rule 8 letter) setting out the finalised Examination Timetable.

Notification of initial hearings

We have made a Procedural Decision to hold the following initial hearings:

- Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1) on Tuesday 20 June 2023 at 6pm
- Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Project Definition on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 10am

- Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) on Thursday 22 June 2023 at 10am
- Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2) on Wednesday 28 June 2023 at 10am
- Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3) on Wednesday 5 July 2023 at 10am

Important information about these hearings is contained in **Annex E** to this letter, including what details need to be provided with a request to be heard at a hearing and the procedure that will be followed.

Other Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made some further Procedural Decisions which are set out in detail at **Annex F** to this letter. They are summarised as follows:

- Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)
- Principal Areas of Disagreement Summaries (PADS)
- Procedure for Site Inspections
- Additional submissions since the Application was accepted for Examination
- Applicant's submission of documents at Examination Deadlines
- Changes to land interests
- Request for junction layout plans
- Submission of Written Representations
- Submission of Local Impact Reports
- Deadline for notification by Statutory Parties, or certain Local Authorities, of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party
- Requesting communications by email
- Contingency arrangements for events

Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters that the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email where possible as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer. If you have received a hard copy letter but are able to receive future communications by email, please inform the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter as soon as possible.

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with the [project webpage](#). Information and advice can be found in FAQ v2 [[PD-014](#)] and **Annex G**.

A '[Make a submission](#)' tab is available on the website which provides a portal through which Interested Parties should make written deadline submissions during the pre-examination and examination stages. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex H** to this letter.

There is also a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'⁴. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination.

Your status in the Examination

This letter is addressed to those persons and organisations who fall within one of the groups described in the Planning Inspectorate's document [What is My Status in the Examination?](#)

If your reference number begins with '200', 'LTC-0', 'LTC-AP' or 'LTC-s5' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'LTC-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'LTC-OP' you are in Group C. The meaning and purpose of those groups are explained in the document published at the link above.

If having read this document you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Awards of costs

All parties will normally be expected to meet their own costs. Costs can be awarded against any party who has acted unreasonably and has caused the party applying for the award of costs to incur unnecessary or wasted expense during the Examination. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance [Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders.](#)

Management of information

Information, including representations, submitted in respect of this Examination (if accepted by the Examining Authority) and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate is published on the [project webpage](#).

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex G** to this letter.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, it is necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

We look forward to working with all parties in the Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Rynd Smith

Lead Member of the Examining Authority

⁴ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/email-subscription.php?project=TR010032&email=>

Annexes

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- C** Agenda for the Programming Meeting
- D** Draft Examination Timetable
- E** Notification of Initial Hearings
- F** Further Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- G** Availability of Examination Documents
- H** Information about the 'make a submission' tab

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 (PM pt1)

If you wish to attend and/or participate in PM pt1 you must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Procedural Deadline B (26 May 2023).

If you simply wish to observe PM pt1 virtually then you do not need to register; you will be able to either watch the public livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin – or watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Date: Tuesday 6 June 2023

Registration process: From 9:00am

Meeting start time: 10.00am

Venue: The Forge room, [London Stadium, Stratford](#) and virtually via Microsoft

Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered for virtual attendance.

Attendees: Invited Parties who have pre-registered

Please note: if for any reason it is required, the ExA may change the format of PM pt1 from a blended event to a fully virtual event. Please check the [project webpage](#) for updates.

Agenda for Preliminary Meeting Part 1	
9:00am	<p>In-person attendees</p> <p>Registration and seating available at venue from 9:00am</p> <p>Please note: Normal large venue security arrangements may be required. Please be prepared to undergo a bag search if requested by venue or security staff, therefore please do not bring anything that may result in a refusal of entry. Please arrive in good time for any checks as may be required.</p> <p>Please note: In the event of a large number of in person attendees, places will be prioritised for Interested Parties.</p>
	<p>Virtual attendees</p> <p>Please log in between 9:00am and 9:30am to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the</p>

	Case Team, greeted and registered. This will allow for any questions to be asked about taking part virtually. Virtual attendees will be given further instructions at 9:45am . This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.
10.00am	Preliminary Meeting The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10.00am
Item 1	The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the Examination process and following the Programming Meeting
Item 3	The Examining Authority's remarks about written submissions received by Procedural Deadline B (26 May 2023)
Item 4	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – Annex B to Rule 6 letter
Item 5	Draft Examination Timetable – Annex D to Rule 6 letter
Item 6	Any other matters
Adjournment of the Preliminary Meeting	

Please note that the Preliminary Meeting (Part 1) will adjourn on Tuesday 6 June 2023 rather than close. Tuesday 20 June 2023 has been reserved for the resumption of the Preliminary Meeting (Part 2). The adjournment period is to allow for the consideration of any written submissions by Interested Parties (IPs) who did not, or could not, make oral submissions at Part 1 of the event. Any such written submissions must be received by **Procedural Deadline C** (13 June 2023).

If Procedural Deadline C submissions do not justify the resumption of the PM at Part 2, the ExA may decide to close the PM in writing, without Part 2 taking place. Therefore, **IPs should not rely on Part 2 of the PM to make oral representations about the Examination procedure.**

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting Part 2 (PM pt2), if required

If you wish to attend and/or participate in PM pt2 you must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Procedural Deadline C (13 June 2023).

If you simply wish to observe PM pt2 virtually then you do not need to register; you will be able to either watch the public livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin – or watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Date: **Tuesday 20 June 2023**

Registration Process: **From 9:15am**

Meeting start time: **10.00am**

Venue: **Virtual event via Microsoft Teams**
Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

Attendees: **Invited Parties who have pre-registered**

9:15am	<p>Virtual attendees</p> <p>Please log in at 9:15am to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and registered. This will allow for any questions to be asked about taking part virtually.</p> <p>Virtual attendees will be given further instructions at 9:45am. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.</p>
10.00am	<p>Preliminary Meeting</p> <p>The Preliminary Meeting will formally re-open at 10.00am.</p>
Item 7	The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
Item 8	The Examining Authority's remarks about written submissions received by Procedural Deadline C (13 June 2023)
Item 9	Any procedural representations on matters that could not be raised at Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting
Item 10	Any other matters
Close of the Preliminary Meeting	

Both parts of the Preliminary Meeting¹ will start at **10.00am** irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

The agenda for both parts of the PM is subject to change at the discretion of the (ExA), although in making changes the ExA will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all IPs.

¹ If part 2 takes place and is not closed in writing by the ExA.

Requests to participate in the PM **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique Interested Party reference number² for yourself *or* the person/organisation that you are representing;
- Your email address and contact telephone number;
- For blended events, confirmation of whether you plan to participate virtually or in-person; and
- The agenda item on which you wish to speak and a list of the points you wish to make³.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance to attend the PM, either virtually or in person.

² This can be found at the top of the notification letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate.

³ NB: these may be published in advance of the event

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the Initial Assessment of the Principal Issues raised by the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) project, prepared under s88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). This initial assessment has been made following consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents, additional submissions that it has requested and accepted, including the summaries of Principal Areas of Disagreement (PADs), and all valid Relevant Representations received in respect of the application. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters, and it also represents a snapshot in time. New issues may arise. Some of the issues identified here may increase in relevance and weight during the Examination and some may decrease or cease to be principal issues. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Transport (SoSfT) after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance. Several of the issues set out below have an interrelationship or overlap and these relationships will be reflected in the Examination and in the Recommendation Report. Legal, policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) or with the practice of planning more broadly form an integral part of the Examination context and are not set out as separate Principal Issues.

There are a number of matters that will be taken into account as overarching or internal components of the issues listed here:

- the achievement of good design;
- the achievement of sustainable development;
- the effects of the proposed development;
- the effects of linkages between issues – and by way of example these include but are not limited to;
 - links between tunnelling, the management of waste materials, aquifer and groundwater, construction traffic, the natural environment, agriculture, landscapes, visual impacts and mitigations of those effects;
 - links between daylight, overshadowing, light emissions and matters such as residential amenity and natural environment effects;
 - links between the effects of the proposed development and other major projects and proposals (cumulative and in-combination effects); and
- the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties.

All listed issues will be considered as necessary in terms of their effects over time; their construction and operational dimensions, including as necessary questions of:

- data, assessment and design methodology;
- construction effects;
- operational effects; and
- mitigation proposals and their effects.

All listed issues will also be considered as necessary in terms of their spatial effects, which may differ depending on their location (recorded here from south to north):

- in wider Kent (including the proposed A2/ M2 works and wider land requirements);
- in the Kent tunnel approach (the environs of Shorne, Thong, Riverview Park and Chalk);
- in the tunnel portals and alignments (beneath the River Thames and foreshores in Kent and Essex);
- in the River Thames, affecting the environmental values and uses of the river;
- in the Essex tunnel approach (the environs of Coalhouse, East and West Tilbury, Linford, Chadwell St Mary and Orsett Heath);
- in the environs of the proposed A13/A1089 intersection (Baker Street and Orsett) and linkages to the Essex ports;
- in the environs of the Mardyke Valley (including Stifford);
- in the environs of the proposed M25 intersection (South Ockenden and North Ockenden); and
- in wider Essex (including the proposed M25 works and wider land requirements).

1. Project definition

- Is the proposed development one nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) or more than one?
- The scope of and security for highway development.
- The scope of and security for gas transportation development.
- The scope of and security for electricity transmission and distribution development.

2. Climate change and carbon emissions

3. Consideration of alternatives (as necessary and proportionate) including:

- Consideration of planning timescales, social and economic changes.
- Consideration of alternatives to the road.
- Consideration of alternative proposals for the road.
- Consideration of alternative proposals for broader infrastructure design.
- Consideration of alternative mitigation measures.

4. Traffic and transportation

- Whether the modelling undertaken to support the application is sufficiently robust.
- Operational effects - whether the proposal would secure its objection with particular regards to the alleviation of congestion at the existing Dartford Crossing and the effect of LTC on the local road network north and south of the river.
- Design issues to include number of running lanes, appropriateness of SMART motorway design principles, service area facilities and charging.
- The effect of LTC on non-motorised users.

- Public transport provision/infrastructure.
- Connectivity to the Port of Tilbury and broader waterfront and related use and development.

5. Air quality

6. Geology and soils

7. Tunnelling considerations

8. Waste and materials

9. Noise and vibration

10. Road drainage, water environment and flooding

- Water discharge arrangements.
- Watercourse effects.
- Flooding effects.

11. Biodiversity

- On land.
- In aquatic and water-based environments including the River Thames and the tidal environment.
- Mitigation measures including net gain (where appropriate) and effects on existing natural environment assets.

12. Physical effects of development and operation

- Historic built environment.
- Archaeology.
- Landscapes including riverscapes and visual severance.
- Visual impacts.

13. Social, economic and land-use considerations

- Social effects – including differential effects on communities and equalities considerations.
- Community severance.
- Economic effects.
- Employment effects.
- Shipping and Ports effects.
- Agriculture/ food production effects.
- Health effects.
- Land use effects and the planning framework.

14. The draft Development Consent Order (dDCO), planning obligations, agreements, and the adequacy of security for project delivery and mitigation

15. The acquisition and temporary possession of land and rights

Agenda for the Programming Meeting

If you wish to attend and/or participate in the Programming Meeting you must register by completing the [Event Participation Form](#) by Procedural Deadline A (5 May 2023).

If you wish to observe the meeting virtually then you do not need to register; you will be able to either watch the public livestream of the event - a link to the livestream will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the event is scheduled to begin – or watch the recording of the event which will be published on the [project webpage](#) shortly after the event has finished.

Date: **Tuesday 16 May 2023**

Registration process: **From 9:15am**

Meeting start time: **10.00am**

Venue: **Virtual event via Microsoft Teams**
Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

Attendees: **Invited Parties who have pre-registered**

Agenda for Programming Meeting	
9.15am	<p>Virtual Registration Process</p> <p>Please log in between at 9:15am to enter the virtual lobby. From here you will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Case Team, greeted and registered. This will allow for any questions to be asked about taking part virtually.</p> <p>Virtual attendees will be given further instructions at 9:45am. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for the meeting.</p>
10.00am	<p>Programming Meeting</p> <p>The Programming Meeting will formally open at 10.00am</p>
Item 1	The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions
Item 2	The Examining Authority's remarks about the Examination process and preparation for the Preliminary Meeting

Item 3	The Examining Authority's remarks about written submissions received by Procedural Deadline A (5 May 2023)
Item 4	Local Authority participation in the Lower Thames Crossing Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key involvements • Resource considerations • Timing
Item 5	Local Impact Report (LIR) preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key involvements • Resource considerations • Timing
Item 6	Any other matters relevant to this agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item is confined to matters relating to the purposes of the meeting. • All other matters should be raised at the Preliminary Meeting in due course.
Closure of the Programming Meeting	

This Agenda is the confirmed agenda for the Programming Meeting. It replaces the draft Agenda that accompanied the ExA's Procedural Decision of 5 April 2023 [[PD-012](#)], in Annex B to that decision. It replaces the draft Agenda that accompanied the ExA's Procedural Decision of 5 April 2023 [[PD-012](#)], in Annex B to that decision.

The Programming Meeting is a statutory meeting: an 'other meeting' held under the Planning Act 2008 section 88(5) and EPR Rule 6(3). It will be subject to the provisions of the Planning Act section 95(2)(e) on the conduct of hearings (in relation to disruption, supervision and costs).

It is open for attendance by the Applicant and all Interested Parties. **Local authority Interested Parties are specifically invited to attend.** The ExA's questions arising under the agenda items will be limited to questions of examination procedure and will be directed at the Applicant and at the local authorities referred to under sections 88 and 88A of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended), within the framework provided by the draft Examination Timetable (**Annex D**).

The Programming Meeting has been provided to consult local authorities on the procedural arrangements for examination affecting them. The ExA will ask questions but will not take any firm or final procedural decisions. The proceedings of this meeting and all decisions consequent upon them will be a subject matter for consideration at the Preliminary Meeting in due course.

Interested Parties who wish to make observations on the matters raised at the Programming Meeting but do not attend it may do so in writing at **Procedural Deadline B** (26 May 2023) and if necessary, may make brief oral remarks at the Preliminary Meeting.

Draft Examination Timetable

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.

The Examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

Item	Matters	Date
1.	<p>Procedural Deadline A (PDA)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests to be heard orally at the Programming Meeting • Written submissions in advance of the Programming Meeting 	<p>Friday 5 May 2023</p>
2.	<p>Programming Meeting</p>	<p>Tuesday 16 May 2023 10am</p>
3.	<p>Procedural Deadline B (PDB)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event submissions, including written submissions of oral comments made at the Programming Meeting • Written submissions on matters raised in the Programming Meeting • Written submissions on the Examination procedure and draft timetable • Requests to be heard orally at Preliminary Meeting Part 1 • Applicant’s proposed Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) itinerary • Junction layout plans from Applicant (see Annex F) 	<p>Friday 26 May 2023</p>
4.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 1 (PM pt1)</p>	<p>Tuesday 6 June 2023 10am</p>

Item	Matters	Date
5.	<p>Procedural Deadline C (PDC)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event submissions, including written submissions of oral comments made at PM pt1 • Further written submissions on Examination procedure, including responses to matters raised orally at PM pt1 • Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting Part 2 • Requests to be heard orally at any of the examination hearings notified at Annex E of this letter • Comments by Interested Parties (IPs) on the Applicant's proposed ASI itinerary. 	<p>Tuesday 13 June 2023</p>
6.	<p>Preliminary Meeting Part 2 (PM pt2) or issue by the ExA of a decision to close the Preliminary Meeting in writing</p>	<p>Tuesday 20 June 2023 10am</p>
7.	<p>Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)</p>	<p>Tuesday 20 June 2023 6pm</p>
8.	<p>Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Project Definition</p>	<p>Wednesday 21 June 2023 10am</p>
9.	<p>Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)</p>	<p>Thursday 22 June 2023 10am</p>
10.	<p>Continuation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearing 1 (if required); and/or • Issue Specific Hearing 1 and/or 2 (if required) 	<p>Friday 23 June 2023</p>
11.	<p>Issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable 	<p>As soon as practicable following PM pt2</p>
12.	<p>Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)</p>	<p>Wednesday 28 June 2023</p>

Item	Matters	Date
		10am and Thursday 29 June 2023 (if required) 10am
13.	Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3)	Wednesday 5 July 2023 10am and Thursday 6 July 2023 (if required) 10am
14.	Deadline 1 (D1) For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments made at the hearings held between 20 June and 6 July 2023 • Comments on Additional Submissions submitted since the Application was accepted (see Annex F) • Summaries of all Relevant Representations (RR) that exceeded 1500 words • Comments on RRs • Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities • Written Representations (WR) • Summaries of any WRs over 1500 words • Applicant's amended proposed ASI itinerary • New Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) (and of updated SoCGs if required). See Annex F • New and updated Principal Areas of Disagreement Summaries (PADS) (if updated). See Annex F • Applicant's submission of documents (see Annex F) • Applicant's amended dDCO 	Tuesday 18 July 2023

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules (EPR)⁴ 	
15.	<p>Procedural Deadline D (PDD)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests by Statutory Parties to be considered as an IP by the ExA Requests by IPs to be heard at any subsequent OFH Requests by Affected Persons⁵ to be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) Requests to attend the ASI 	Tuesday 18 July 2023
16.	<p>Deadline 2 (D2)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on WRs Comments on LIRs Comments by Interested Parties (IPs) on the Applicant's amended proposed ASI itinerary. Comments on Applicant's amended dDCO Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) Applicant's submission of documents (see Annex F) Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D1 Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D1 Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	Thursday 3 August 2023
17.	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining Authority's First Written Questions (ExQ1) 	Tuesday 15 August 2023
18.	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses to comments on WRs 	Thursday 24 August 2023

⁴ The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010: SI 2010/103

⁵ Affected Persons are those defined in section 59(4) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) • Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) • Applicant's submission of documents requested (see Annex F) • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D2 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D2 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	
19.	<p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearings (OFH) (if required) • Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH) (if required) • Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) (if required) 	w/c 4 and 11 September 2023
20.	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments made at the hearings held w/c 4 and 11 September 2023 (if held) • Responses to ExQ1 • Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) • Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) • Applicant's submission of documents requested (see Annex F) • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D3 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D3 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	Tuesday 19 September 2023
21.	<p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) • Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) 	Tuesday 3 October 2023

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's submission of documents requested (see Annex F) • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D4 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D4 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	
22.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining Authority's further Written Questions (ExQ) (if required) 	Tuesday 10 October 2023
23.	Dates reserved for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearings (OFH) (if required) • Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH) (if required) 	Monday 16 to Tuesday 24 October 2023
24.	Deadline 6 (D6) For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments made at the hearings held 16 to 24 October 2023 (if held) • Responses to further ExQ (if issued) • Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) • Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) • Applicant's submission of documents requested (see Annex F) • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D5 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D5 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	Tuesday 31 October 2023
25.	Publication by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) and any associated questions (if required) 	Tuesday 14 November 2023

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ExA's commentary on, or schedule of changes to, the dDCO (if required) • Examining Authority's further Written Questions (ExQ) (if required) 	
26.	<p>Deadline 7 (D7)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's submission of draft s106 agreement • Comments on responses to further ExQ (if applicable) • Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) • Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) • Applicant's submission of documents requested (see Annex F) • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D6 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D6 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	Friday 17 November 2023
27.	<p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearings (OFH) (if required) • Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAH) (if required) • Further ASI (if required) 	Monday 20 to Tuesday 28 November 2023
28.	<p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-event submissions, including written submission of oral comments made at the hearings held 20 - 28 November 2023 (if held) • Comments on RIES (if issued) • Comments on ExA's DCO/Commentary (if issued) • Responses to further ExQ (if issued) • Applicant's submission of updated s106 agreement • Updated SoCGs (if updated. See Annex F) 	Tuesday 5 December 2023

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated PADSs (if updated. See Annex F) • Applicant's submission of documents requested (see Annex F) • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D7 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D7 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	
29.	<p>Deadline 9 (D9)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to further ExQ (if applicable) • Final SoCGs • Final PADSs • Applicant's final documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dDCO, with SI validation report ○ BoR and schedule of changes ○ Statement of Commonality ○ Status of Negotiations / CA schedule ○ Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers ○ NPS tracker ○ Final signed and dated s106 agreement • Comments on Applicant's submissions (see Annex F) at D8 • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D8 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	Friday 15 December 2023
30.	<p>Deadline 10 (D10)</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any information requested by the ExA and received by D9 	Wednesday 20 December 2023

Item	Matters	Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules 	
31.	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of six months	Wednesday 20 December 2023

Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is **23:59** on the relevant deadline date, unless instructed otherwise by the ExA.

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. See **Annex G** of this letter for more information.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where an applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the Examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the Examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the Secretary of State. The ExA may also raise questions in the RIES to confirm or clarify matters that remain outstanding.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of The Habitats Regulations 2017 and/ or Regulation 28 of The Offshore Marine Regulations.

Notification of initial hearings and events

If any of the hearings notified below are no longer required then notification to that effect will be published as soon as practicable on the [project webpage](#), providing reasonable notice to Interested Parties of the decision to cancel.

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following meeting:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
Tuesday 16 May 2023	Programming Meeting	Virtual registration from: 9:15am Hearing starts: 10am	This hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
<p>If you wish to attend and/or participate in the above meeting you must register by completing the Event Participation Form by Procedural Deadline A (Friday 5 May 2023).</p> <p>If you simply wish to observe the meeting, then you do not need to register as you will be able to watch a livestream of the event. A link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin. You will also be able to watch the recording of the meeting which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the meeting has finished.</p>			

The Examining Authority (ExA) provides notice of the following initial examination hearings:

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
Tuesday 20 June 2023	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Virtual registration from: 5:15pm Hearing starts: 6pm	This hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
Wednesday 21 June 2023	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Project Definition	Virtual registration from: 9:15am	This hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
		Hearing starts: 10am	Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
Thursday 22 June 2023	Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)	Virtual registration from: 9:15am Hearing starts: 10am	This hearing will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
Wednesday 28 June 2023 and Thursday 29 June 2023 (if required)	Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH2)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:15am Virtual registration from: 9:15am Hearing starts: 10am	Orsett Hall Hotel, Essex and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.
Wednesday 5 July 2023 and Thursday 6 July 2023 (if required)	Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3)	Registration and seating available at venue from: 9:15am Virtual registration from: 9:15am Hearing starts: 10am	Dartford Bridge Hilton Hotel, Kent and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance to those who have pre-registered.

Date	Hearing	Start time	Joining details
<p>If you wish to attend and/or participate in the above hearings you must register by completing the Event Participation Form by Procedural Deadline C (13 June 2023).</p> <p>If you simply wish to observe the hearings virtually then you do not need to register as you will be able to watch a livestream of the events. A link to the livestream will be made available on the project webpage shortly before the event is scheduled to begin. You will also be able to watch the recording of the events which will be published on the project webpage shortly after the events have finished.</p>			

Requests to participate

Requests to participate in the above events should be made via the relevant Event Participation form linked above and **must include** the following information:

- Name and unique Interested Party reference number⁶ for yourself *or* the person/organisation that you are representing;
- Your email address and contact telephone number;
- Confirmation of the hearing(s) you wish to participate in, the agenda item(s) on which you wish to speak and/or brief details of the topic(s) that you would like to raise⁷; and
- The [Examination Library](#) reference number (with paragraph/page number where appropriate) of any documents you wish to refer to.

Please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter if you require any support or assistance.

Agendas

Programming Meeting:

The agenda for the Programming Meeting, scheduled for 16 May 2023, can be found at **Annex C**. The actual agenda on the day may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Issue Specific Hearings:

The ExA will publish detailed draft agendas for the Issue Specific Hearings, scheduled for 21 and 22 June 2023 (ISH1 and ISH2), on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date. The actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Open Floor Hearings:

Agendas will be published at least five working days in advance of the hearings that will set out the time at which individuals will be heard.

⁶ This can be found at the top of the notification letter or email from the Planning Inspectorate.

⁷ NB: this may be published in advance of the hearing

Hearing livestream and recording

A public livestream of these hearings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the hearings are due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe the hearings in real time.

All hearings are recorded, and the recordings will be made available on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable after the close of the hearing. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed. Further information can be found in FAQ v2 [[PD-014](#)].

Livestreams and recordings are publicly accessible, and you do not need to register with the Planning Inspectorate in order to view them.

Procedure at hearings

The Examination will principally be a written process (see the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#)), supplemented where necessary by various types of hearings. Please refer to the [Advice Note 8.5: Hearings and site inspections](#) and [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#) as these provide important information about hearing procedures.

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence and the process affords very limited scope to allow cross-questioning between parties.

Further Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

The Examining Authority (ExA) has made a number of Procedural Decisions in the pre-examination period. These are numbered sequentially and can be found in the Procedural Decisions Log [[PD-007](#)], which will be kept updated throughout the Examination. Pre-examination Procedural Decisions (included the further decisions recorded here) may be discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and may be amended by the ExA where it is necessary to do so.

The ExA has made the following further Procedural Decisions:

13. Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)

The aim of SoCGs is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at the start of and then throughout the examination process. They provide focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute and may not need to be the subject of further evidence. They can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information.

The ExA has been greatly assisted by the preparation of a range of SoCG between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties, a process which commenced before the submission of the application. In its Procedural Decision 2 made on 19 December 2022 [[PD-005-02](#)], the ExA made the following observation about the SoCG process that had already commenced:

The ExA has considered the existing SoCGs submitted with the application and is content with the range of issues and parties covered at this stage. However, it is likely that revisions to existing agreements and further SoCGs with additional parties may prove to be necessary to address matters raised during the Relevant Representations period and then as a consequence of matters raised in Written Representations and oral submissions in Examination. The ExA will review the coverage and content of SoCGs after the closure of the Relevant Representations period and continuously thereafter. Further advice may be provided, or decisions made about the inclusion of issues and/ or parties in the SoCG process.

Since that decision was taken, the registration of Interested Parties (IPs) has led to the submission of Relevant Representations (RRs) and the ExA has considered the RRs to frame the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues identified in **Annex B**. As a consequence of that review, the ExA has identified certain IPs that were not in the initial SoCG process that it requests the Applicant to add to it (Items 1 – 17 below).

- 1) **Kent County Council obo Kent and Medway Economic Partnership**, to include:
 - The need (or otherwise) for highway improvements in the existing A2/M2 corridor.
 - The need (or otherwise) for an improved M20 – M2 link.

- The relationship (if any) between the proposed development and Kent Ports access, lorry parking demand, and Operation Brock.
 - Minimisation of traffic diversion to the existing A227, A228 and A2 routes.
 - Environmental, air quality and noise mitigation measures.
- 2) **Dover District Council**, to include:
- Channel Ports access.
 - Traffic modelling in relation to roads in the District.
 - Traffic effects in relation to roads in the District.
- 3) **Maidstone Borough Council**, to include:
- An update on a draft SoCG that the Council's RR suggests was prepared but not included with the SoCGs submitted by the Applicant.
- 4) **Sevenoaks District Council**, to include:
- Congestion and air quality around M25 J3.
 - Traffic modelling in relation to roads in the District.
 - Traffic effects in relation to roads in the District.
- 5) **Swale Borough Council**, to include:
- The need (or otherwise) for highway improvements in the existing A2/M2 corridor and M20 corridor.
 - The need (or otherwise) for an improved M20 – M2 link.
 - Traffic modelling in relation to roads in the Borough.
 - Traffic effects in relation to roads in the Borough.
- 6) **Cuxton Parish Council**, to include:
- Air quality.
 - Noise and vibration.
 - Construction traffic.
 - Traffic modelling in relation to roads in the parish.
 - Traffic effects in relation to roads in the parish.
- 7) **Luddesdown Parish Council**, to include:
- Traffic modelling in relation to roads in the parish.
 - Traffic effects in relation to roads in the parish.
- 8) **Meopham Parish Council**, to include:
- Woodlands, trees and hedgerows
 - Greenbelt effects
 - Traffic modelling in relation to roads in the parish
 - Traffic effects in relation to roads in the parish
- 9) **Maritime & Coastguard Agency**, to include:

- Works affecting the River Thames
 - River traffic and access to ports and harbours
 - Navigational risk and safety
- 10) **Trinity House**, to include:
- Works affecting the River Thames
 - River traffic and access to ports and harbours
 - Navigational risk and safety
- 11) **Peel Ports (Sheerness)**, to include:
- Works affecting the River Thames
 - River traffic and access to ports and harbours
 - Navigational risk and safety
- 12) **Hutchinson Ports (London Thamesport)**, to include:
- Works affecting the River Thames
 - River traffic and access to ports and harbours
 - Navigational risk and safety
- 13) **Essex Police**, to include:
- Construction security
 - Operational safety and security
 - Policing requirements
- 14) **Kent Police**, to include:
- Construction security
 - Operational safety and security
 - Policing requirements
- 15) **Metropolitan Police**, to include:
- Construction security
 - Operational safety and security
 - Policing requirements
- 16) Any **Internal Drainage Board** whose District is in/adjacent to the area, to include:
- Effects of the proposed development on the duties and responsibilities of the board.
- 17) Any **NHS Integrated Care Board** responsible for the area, to include:
- Availability and capacity of healthcare services to meet the needs of the construction workforce

- The need for and provision of any additional healthcare facilities and services to meet the needs of the construction workforce

SoCGs between the Applicant and all persons with whom the Applicant has already submitted them (listed below from Item 18) are requested to be maintained and updated.

Statutory Authorities and Agencies

18) The Environment Agency to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-094].

19) Forestry Commission to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-095].

20) Historic England to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-096].

21) Kent Downs AONB Unit to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-097].

22) Marine Management Organisation to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-098].

23) Natural England to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-099].

24) Port of London Authority to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-100].

Business and Industry

25) DP World London Gateway Draft to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-101].

26) Port of Tilbury London Limited to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-102].

- 27) Thurrock Power Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-103].

Statutory Undertakers, Utility Owners/ Operators and Regulators

- 28) Barking Power Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-104].
- 29) Cadent Gas Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-105].
- 30) Cellnex UK Ltd to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-106].
- 31) Essex and Suffolk Water to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-107].
- 32) EXA Infrastructure (previously known as GTT) to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-108].
- 33) Health and Safety Executive to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-109].
- 34) HS1 Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-110].
- 35) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-111].
- 36) NextGen Access to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-112].
- 37) Openreach Limited (including British Telecommunications) to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-113].
- 38) Royal Mail to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-114].
- 39) Southern Gas Networks plc to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-115].
- 40) UK Power Networks to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-116].
- 41) Verizon UK Limited (also known as Edgecast Networks) to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-117].
- 42) Virgin Media Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-118].
- 43) Vodafone Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-119].
- 44) Zayo Group UK Limited to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-120].

Local Authority and Transport Bodies

- 45) Basildon Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-121].
- 46) Brentwood Borough Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-122].
- 47) Dartford Borough Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-123].
- 48) Essex County Council to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-124].
 - Effect on the Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and its management of Flood Risk issues,
- 49) Gravesham Borough Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-125].
- 50) Kent County Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-126].
 - Effect on the Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and its management of Flood Risk issues.
- 51) London Borough of Havering to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-127].
- 52) Medway Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-128].
 - Effect on the Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and its management of Flood Risk issues.
- 53) Transport for London (TfL) to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-129].
- 54) Thurrock Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-130].
 - Effect on the Council's role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and its management of Flood Risk issues.
- 55) Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-131].

Parish Council, Community and Other Bodies

- 56) Cobham Parish Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-132].
- 57) Forestry England to include:

- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-133].
- 58) Higham Parish Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-134].
- 59) Shorne Parish Council to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-135].
- 60) Thames Chase Trust to include:
- Progress on matters addressed in the SoCG submitted with the application [APP-136].

Unless otherwise stated or agreed, all SoCGs should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant Interested Party or parties, and submitted by the Applicant.

All SoCGs should address the Articles and Requirements in the draft Development Consent Order. Any Interested Party seeking that an Article or Requirement is re-drafted should provide the form of words which are being sought in the SoCG.

New SoCGs (Items 1 – 17 above) should be submitted by **Deadline 1** (Tuesday 18 July 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**). Revised SoCGs may be submitted at any deadline in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**) and should be re-submitted at the next available deadline if there have been changes since the last submission date.

If a particular SoCG cannot be finalised between the parties at **Deadline 9** (15 December 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**), a progress draft version of that SoCG is requested to be submitted **by the Applicant** at **Deadline 9**. The other party is requested to submit a summary of the outstanding matters with an indicator of the reasons for them remaining outstanding, by the same deadline.

The content of SoCGs will help to inform the ExA about the need to hold and agenda items for Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable the ExA and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

14. Principal Areas of Disagreement Summaries (PADS)

As set out in Procedural Decision no. 2 within their letter of 19 December 2022 [[PD-005](#)], the ExA took the decision to request Principal Areas of Disagreement Summaries (PADS) from those IPs who are undertaking SoCGs with the Applicant. The ExA wished for the PADS to identify and focus on those matters on which major or principal areas of concerns arise, which would assist in the identification of the principal issues and provide a clear focus for the Examination and subsequent written questions to be asked.

PADSs were received with thanks from:

- Barking Power Ltd [[AS-063](#)];
- Brentwood Borough Council [[AS-064](#)]
- Cadent Gas Limited [[AS-065](#)]
- Cobham Parish Council [[AS-066](#)]
- DP World London Gateway (DPWLG) [[AS-067](#)]
- Essex County Council [[AS-085](#)]
- Gravesham Borough Council [[AS-069](#)]
- Higham Parish Council [[AS-071](#)]
- Kent County Council [[AS-072](#)]
- London Borough of Havering [[AS-073](#)]
- Maidstone Borough Council [[AS-074](#)]
- National Gas Transmission Plc [[AS-075](#)]
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc [[AS-076](#)]
- Northumbrian Water Limited [[AS-077](#)]
- Port of London Authority [[AS-078](#)]
- Shorne Parish Council [[AS-079](#)]
- Transport for London [[AS-081](#)]

A further document set out those parties who had informed the ExA that they would not be submitting a PADS [[AS-062](#)]. The ExA notes and thanks the parties for the nil responses: it would welcome PADSs from those parties at any stage should they consider that circumstances have changed. It would equally welcome PADS from any party from whom a SoCG has been requested in this Annex but who has not previously prepared a SoCG or submitted a PADS.

The ExA has set out in the draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D** that PADSs are requested to be submitted by the relevant party at any Examination Deadline following amendments or updates made to the document. No nil responses are required. Final PADSs should be submitted at **Deadline 9** (15 December 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**).

The content of PADSs will also help to inform the ExA about the need to hold and agenda items for Issue Specific Hearings during the Examination, and to enable the ExA and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

15. Procedure and Draft Itinerary for Site Inspections

The Applicant is requested to prepare a draft itinerary for Site Inspections. The draft Site Inspection itinerary should include relevant sites and locations referred to in Relevant Representations and any other sites and locations at which the Applicant has predicted likely significant environmental effects. The draft itinerary should be divided between routes and sites in the public domain that the ExA can inspect on an unaccompanied basis (USIs), and sites that require an accompanied site inspection (ASI) because they are on private or operational land, require accompaniment for reasons relating to site safety or contain specific features or provide specific views that need to be shown to the ExA.

The Applicant's draft Site Inspection itinerary should be submitted to the ExA at **Procedural Deadline B** (26 May 2023). Interested Parties will then be able to comment on the draft itinerary at **Procedural Deadline C** (13 June 2023). Comments that nominate additional routes or sites for inspection should:

- identify the nominated routes or sites (preferably with reference to a map or a plan);
- identify whether an unaccompanied (USI) or an accompanied (ASI) inspection is sought;
- if consent to enter land is required, provide consent or provide contact details for the person from whom consent must be obtained; and
- include a reason for the proposed inspection and a summary of the issues or features to be seen at or from the route or site.

The Applicant is requested to coordinate the ASI, seeking any consents necessary for the ExA and accompanying parties to enter private land. It should submit an updated ASI itinerary by **Deadline 1** (18 July 2023) and, if necessary, final comments can be made by IPs at **Deadline 2** (8 August 2023). The ExA will review the comments made about the draft ASI itinerary and may make changes to it before issuing the final ASI itinerary.

In making the draft itinerary and when commenting on it, the Applicant and Interested Parties are asked to take into account the following Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) that have been undertaken by the ExA:

- USI-01: 6 and 7 December 2022 [[SI-001](#)]
- USI-02: 13, 14 and 15 February 2023 [[SI-002](#)]
- USI-03: 21 and 22 March 2023 [[SI-003](#)]

It will not normally be necessary for the ExA to revisit routes or sites that it has already inspected in a USI, unless there are particular issues or features that in the view of the Applicant and/or Interested Parties need to be seen at or from the route or site.

The ExA will continue to undertake USIs as required and in doing so will inspect those locations nominated by Applicant and/or Interested Parties that it agrees need to be and are able to be inspected on an unaccompanied basis. Itineraries for USIs are not published. Notes of completed USIs are published, after the inspections are complete.

The ExA's final ASI itinerary(ies) will be published at least three weeks in advance of the event(s) taking place. Post-event notes of completed ASIs are not published unless issues or features are inspected that were not identified in the pre-event itinerary.

16. Additional submissions since the Application was accepted for examination

Since the application was accepted for examination, the ExA has exercised its discretion and made Procedural Decisions to accept the following Additional Submissions:

- Applicant's response to s51 request following acceptance in [PD-002](#) and [PD-005](#) – AS-001 to AS-057
- Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary (PADS) in response to a request in [PD-005](#) - AS-063 to AS-067, AS-069, AS-071 to AS-079, AS-081 and AS-085. Confirmation of parties who do not intend to submit a PADS - [AS-062](#)
- Applicant's response to a request in [PD-005](#) - AS-058 to AS-061
- Responses from Essex County Council and Thurrock Council in response to a request in [PD-010](#) – [AS-068](#) and [AS-080](#)
- Gravesham Borough Council s106 document – [AS-070](#)
- Notification of proposed changes by the Applicant - [AS-082](#) and [AS-083](#)
- Request by Thurrock Council to delay examination - [AS-084](#)
- Responses by the Applicant to delay request - [AS-086](#)
- Email from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council regarding delay - [AS-087](#)

17. Applicant's submission of documents at Examination Deadlines

The Applicant is requested to submit an updated version of the following document at every Examination Deadline, as referenced in the draft Examination Timetable:

- Navigation document

The Applicant is requested to submit updated versions of the following documents at any Examination deadline as is appropriate, including notification of nil returns if no updates are required at that deadline:

- draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) (in addition to where specifically requested in the draft Examination Timetable at **Annex D**). This should include:
 - a new version number identifying that the submitted dDCO is an amended version;
 - a clean version of the amended dDCO without any mark-up;
 - a track changed version of the amended dDCO, marking up all amendments since the previous version number; and
 - a consolidated schedule of changes listing all amendments to the dDCO since the application version; including the version number, date of change and the reason for each amendment.
- Book of Reference (BoR). This should include:
 - a new version number identifying that the submitted BoR is an amended version;
 - a clean version of the amended BoR without any mark-up;
 - a track changed version of the amended BoR, marking up all amendments since the previous version number; and
 - a consolidated schedule of changes listing all amendments to the BoR since the application version; including the version number, date of change and the reason for each amendment.

- Statement of Commonality
- Status of Negotiations / Compulsory Acquisition schedule
- Status of Negotiations with Statutory Undertakers
- National Policy Statement (NPS) tracker

18. Changes to land interests

When the Applicant becomes aware that there has been a change in ownership or a new interest in relevant land, the Applicant is requested to make the relevant person or organisation aware that they can make a request to the ExA to become an Interested Party under section 102A of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) by completing the [form available on the project webpage](#). The Examination Timetable (and Procedural Decision 17 above) includes deadlines for the submission of an updated BoR and Schedule of Changes to the BoR, submission of which should include a clear and separate confirmation of any such relevant persons who have been identified and informed of their rights under section 102A.

19. Request for junction layout plans

To assist with the review of the proposal, the Applicant is requested to produce additional plans for the main junctions (A2-M2-LTC at Thong, A13-A1089-LTC at Baker Street and M25-LTC at North Ockendon) at a suitable size so that the whole of the highways works in that junction are shown on a single plan. The plan is designed to be viewed virtually and so does not have to be formatted to print to a given paper size. The information shown should be the same as currently shown on the plans of Engineering drawings set [APP-030] to [APP-037].

The ExA requests these additional plans are submitted by **Deadline PDB** (26 May 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**).

20. Submission of Written Representations

Written Representations will be required to be submitted at **Deadline 1** (18 July 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**).

21. Local Impact Reports

Local Impact Reports (LIRs)⁸ from the host Local Authorities are requested. LIRs from any other relevant Local Authorities who may wish to submit one are welcome. All LIRs to be submitted into the Examination at **Deadline 1** (18 July 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**). This decision is subject to discussion at the Programming Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 May 2023.

22. Deadline for notification by Statutory Parties, or certain Local Authorities, of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party

⁸ [Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

The ExA has made a procedural decision that, in order to facilitate a timely start to the Examination, Statutory Parties and certain Local Authorities must have decided whether they wish to be considered as an Interested Party and notified the Planning Inspectorate of their decision by **Procedural Deadline D** (18 July 2023) in the draft Timetable (**Annex D**).

23. Requesting communications by email

Any Interested Party receiving notifications by post who wishes to receive notifications electronically is requested to provide the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team with a suitable email address.

24. Contingency Provisions for Events

Where the Examination Timetable (**Annex D**) or Procedural Decisions make provision for an event (a meeting, a hearing or a site inspection) to be held, the ExA has timetabled and notified or will provide notice of the event in a manner that includes the following contingency provisions to manage the effects of technical, service and any other unforeseen disruption.

Meetings and Hearings

- **Place:** where an event is notified as taking place in a physical venue, the event has been or will be notified as a blended event, enabling it to proceed as a virtual event instead of as a physical event. If an appointed physical venue becomes unavailable, unsafe or is subject to significant disruption, the ExA may conduct the event as a solely virtual event.
- **Date and time:** where an event is notified as taking place on a particular date and/ or at a particular time, the event has been or will be notified as containing or subject to a reserved date and/or time to provide additional time that it can be delivered within, should its original date or time become unavailable or subject to significant disruption.

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs)

- If an appointed route or site becomes unavailable or unsafe for inspection or is subject to significant disruption, the ExA may defer the event. An inspection arranged as an ASI may be rearranged as a USI or as an access required site inspection (ARSI), or alternative measures including the creation of drone, video or photographic footage may be adopted.

Announcement of amended arrangements

- Where feasible, the ExA will announce any amended event arrangements orally within the event affected by the amended arrangements. Additionally, and where announcements cannot be made within an event, amended arrangements will be announced by banner on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website. Banner announcements may be made before or during an event.

Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the [project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website](#).

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published under the [Documents tab](#) at the above location.

The Examination Library

For ease of navigation, please refer to the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible by clicking the blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records and provides a hyperlink to:

- Each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. **Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.**

Electronic deposit locations

Documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the electronic deposit locations listed in the table below. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification in order to use a computer at these locations. Please check availability at the relevant location before you attend.

Local authority	Venue/address	Opening hours	Printing costs
Brentwood Borough Council	Brentwood Library New Road, Town Centre, Brentwood CM14 4BP	Monday: 09:00-19:00 Tuesday: 09:00-19:00 Wednesday: 09:00-19:00 Thursday: 09:00-19:00 Friday: 09:00-19:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: 13:00-16:00	A4 B&W – £0.20 Colour – £1.35 A3 B&W – £0.50 Colour – £2.20
Kent County Council	Gravesend Library	Monday: 10:00-17:00	A4

	Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BE	Tuesday: 10:00-17:00 Wednesday: 10:00-17:00 Thursday: 10:00-17:00 Friday: 10:00-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-17:00 Sunday: Closed	B&W – £0.15 Colour – £0.50 A3 B&W – £0.20 Colour – £0.75
Thurrock Council	Grays Library Thameside Complex, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DX	Monday: 09:00-19:00 Tuesday: 09:00-17:00 Wednesday: 09:00-17:00 Thursday: 09:00-19:00 Friday: 09:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed	A4 B&W – £0.30 Colour – £1.00 A3 B&W – N/A Colour – N/A
Thurrock Council	Chadwell Library As part of Chadwell Information Centre Brentwood Road, Chadwell St Mary, Grays, Essex RM16 4JP	Monday: 10:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 Tuesday: 10:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 10:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 Friday: 10:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 Saturday: 10:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed	A4 B&W – £0.30 Colour – £0.30 A3 B&W – N/A Colour – N/A
Kent County Council	Maidstone Library At Kent History & Library Centre James Whatman Way, Maidstone, ME14 1LQ	Monday: 10:00-17:00 Tuesday: 09:00-17:00 Wednesday: 09:00-17:00 Thursday: 09:00-17:00 Friday: 09:00-17:00 Saturday: 09:00-17:00 Sunday: Closed	A4 B&W – £0.15 Colour – A3 B&W – N/A Colour – N/A
Kent County Council	Snodland Library	Monday: Closed	A4

	<p>15- 17 High Street, Snodland, ME6 5DA</p>	<p>Tuesday: 09:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 Wednesday: 12:00- 17:00 Thursday: 09:00-13:00 & 14:00-17:00 Friday: 09:00-14:00 Saturday: 10:00-13:00 Sunday: Closed</p>	<p>B&W – £0.15 Colour – A3 B&W – N/A Colour – N/A</p>
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Information about the Make a submission tab

The [Make a submission](#) tab will be available on the project webpage.

You will need to enter your unique reference number ('Your ref' found at the top your postcard or email from the Planning Inspectorate) beginning either '200' or 'LTC'. If you are making a submission on behalf of another person or organisation, and do not have your own unique reference number, then you should enter the unique reference number of the person or organisation you are representing. If you are not a registered Interested Party then it is at the discretion of the Examining Authority whether or not your submission is accepted.

Submissions will be published on the [project webpage](#) as soon as practicable following the close of the relevant Deadline. For further information about publishing submissions please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

You will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB.

Submissions **must not include hyperlinks** to documents/evidence hosted on a third-party website eg technical reports, media articles etc. See the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4: The Examination](#) for further information about making written submissions. All submissions must be made in a format that can be viewed in full on the National Infrastructure Planning website. Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary; this summary should not exceed 10% of the original text.

You should select the relevant Deadline for your submission and then, on the next webpage, select the appropriate Submission item as described in the Examination Timetable at **Annex D** to this letter. Please ensure you make a separate submission for each Submission item and **do not duplicate your submission**. If you consider that your submission does not fit the description of any of the Submission items then please select the Submission item 'Other' and ensure that it is titled appropriately.

If you experience any issues when using the Make a submission tab please contact the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter and they will assist.