



The Planning Inspectorate

National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and any Other Person invited to the Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010032

Date: 7 August 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 – Sections 91, 92 & 93 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 9 & 13

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

Notification of Hearings to be held in September 2023

The ExA has decided to hold the following hearings between 5 and 15 September 2023. Notice is provided of them below.

Hearing	Date/time	Venue	Joining
Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH3) – Project Design ¹	5 September 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Orsett Hall & Online (Blended)	In person at Orsett Hall Hotel Prince Charles Ave, Orsett, Grays RM16 3HS
Issue Specific Hearing 4 (ISH4) – Traffic & Transportation ¹	6 September 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Orsett Hall & Online (Blended)	Virtually on Microsoft Teams: joining instructions will be sent to all attendees in advance of the event.
Open Floor Hearing 4 (OFH 4) ²	6 September 2023 at 7-30pm In-venue and virtual registration open from 6-45pm	Orsett Hall & Online (Blended)	

¹ Continuation(s) of any of these hearings (if required) will be on 12 & 13 September 2023 from 7-30pm as virtual events on MS teams.

² Continuation(s) of any of these hearings (if required) will be on a date, time and place to be set.

Hearing	Date/time	Venue	Joining
Issue Specific Hearing 5 (ISH5) – Tunnelling ¹	7 September 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Orsett Hall & Online (Blended)	
Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6) – Mitigation, Compensation & Land Requirements ¹	8 September 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Orsett Hall & Online (Blended)	
Issue Specific Hearing 7 (ISH7) – draft Development Consent Order ¹	11 September 2023 at 10am Virtual registration open from 9-15am	Online only (Virtual)	Microsoft Teams: joining instructions will be sent to all attendees in advance of the event.
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH1) – The Applicant’s Strategic Case ²	15 September 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Orsett Hall & MS Teams (Blended)	In person at Orsett Hall Hotel Prince Charles Ave, Orsett, Grays RM16 3HS
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2) – Objections ²	15 September 2023 at 2pm In-venue and virtual registration open from 1-45pm	Orsett Hall & MS Teams (Blended)	Virtually on Microsoft Teams: joining instructions will be sent to all attendees in advance of the event.

Hearings will be held as either Blended or Virtual events. Blended events allow attendance in-person and online through Microsoft Teams. Virtual events are held online only, through Microsoft Teams. All Hearings will be livestreamed, and a link will be posted on the [project webpage](#) before the start of the event.

The Examining Authority (ExA) will publish a detailed agenda on the project webpage at least five working days in advance of the Hearing date. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

If any interested parties (IPs) wish to attend and speak at any of the above Hearings, please inform the Case Team no later than Deadline 3, 24 August 2023 using the [Microsoft Form](#) available on the project webpage.

Alternatively, you can email or write to the Case Team using the contact details at the head of this letter to confirm your participation. Please address any letter to the ‘Lower Thames Crossing Case Team’, include the case reference TR010032 and a contact telephone number. Postal communications must be posted in good time to be received by the Planning Inspectorate by Deadline 3.

If you wish to observe the Hearings, this can be done at a Blended event from public seating in the venue. At a Blended or a Virtual event this can also be done by accessing the livestream link, which will be made available on the project website on the morning of the Hearings. Recordings and transcripts of all hearings will be published shortly after each event

The procedure to be followed at Hearings is set out in Rule 14 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules. The ExA is responsible for the oral questioning of Interested Parties or Other Persons giving evidence. Cross-questioning between parties is not normally allowed.

The Planning Inspectorate has prepared [Advice Note 8.5](#) to assist those attending hearings of all types and [Advice Note 8.6](#) to support any virtual event participants. Please refer to this advice.

If any of the above Hearings are no longer required, then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage, providing reasonable notice to all parties of the decision to cancel them.

If you have any queries, please contact the case team using the details at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Rynd Smith

Rynd Smith
Lead Panel Member for the Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
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