



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: 18 September 2023

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 16(2) & (3)

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

Notification of Accompanied Site Inspection to be held on 20 October 2023

The ExA has decided to hold the following Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) on Friday 20 October 2023. Notice is provided below.

ASI	Date/time	Start Location ¹	Joining
ASI 4 An accompanied site inspection of the High Speed 2 (HS2 Ltd) Chiltern Compound (a location supporting tunnelling using a tunnel boring machine/ TBM).	20 October 2023 starting at or after 9 am and continuing until approximately 4 pm. The tunnelling undertaker may vary the precise time and duration of the inspection within this window.	Align Compound, South Portal, Chalfont Lane, WD3 9XN	Please be present at the start location at 08:45 am.

The Examining Authority (ExA) will publish a detailed itinerary for the inspection on the project webpage in advance of the ASI date. This will include a plan of the location to be inspected and a briefing in relation to the health and safety requirements in force at what is an operational tunnelling project. However, the actual itinerary on the day of the ASI may

¹ Click on the link to find the Start Location on Google Maps

be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA, responding to matters such as guidance by the HS2 Ltd (the tunnelling undertaker), weather or traffic conditions.

At the request of the tunnelling undertaker, attendance at this ASI is to be limited to the ExA, Planning Inspectorate Case Team staff in support of the ExA, representatives of the Applicant and representatives of the local planning authorities whose areas are affected by the Lower Thames Crossing tunnelling proposals: Thurrock and Gravesham Councils. The Thames Crossing Action Group (TCAG) may also nominate a representative to attend if they wish. As the consent of the tunnelling undertaker is required to take any persons onto operational land, it should be noted that it will not be possible to accommodate any further requests to attend this site inspection.

The Applicant, Thurrock and Gravesham Councils and TCAG are requested to inform the Case Team of the names of the attendees no later than Deadline 5, 3 October 2023, by email to the project mailbox marked 'ASI4 – Chiltern Tunnel'. Please draw the ExA's attention to any particular needs or requests that IPs may have relating to their participation. Alternatively, they 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/ 'ASI4 – Chiltern Tunnel' and a contact telephone number. Postal communications must be posted in good time to be received by the Planning Inspectorate by Deadline 5.

Intending attendees should note that there will be no catering provided at these events. It is the responsibility of individual attendees to bring their own refreshments. It cannot be assumed that refreshments will be available for purchase within the tunnelling compound.

The Planning Inspectorate has prepared [Advice Note 8.5](#) to assist those attending site inspections. Please refer to this advice.

If the above ASI is cancelled or amended, then notification will be published as soon as practicable on the project webpage, providing reasonable notice to all parties of the decision to cancel or amend 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

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