

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

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 10 (ISH10): Traffic & Transportation

Hearing	Date and Time	Location
Issue Specific Hearing 10 on Traffic & Transportation	<p>Tuesday 24 October 2023 Hearing Starts at 10am</p> <p>Blended event</p> <p>Venue Registration Process from 9:15am</p> <p>Virtual Registration Process from 9:15am</p>	<p>Mercure Dartford Brands Hatch Hotel Dartford DA3 8PE</p> <p>By virtual means using Microsoft Teams</p>

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, introductions, arrangements for the Hearing**
- 2. Purpose of the Issue Specific Hearing**
- 3. Update on matters arising from ISH4**

The ExA will ask questions of the Applicant relating to:

a)	Wider Network Impacts Update
i	Applicant to provide an update statement on Wider Network Impacts.
ii	A review of the respective positions in relation to A229 Blue Bell Hill (if not covered under item a,i)

Other IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

4. Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) & Non-Motorised User (NMU) Routes

The ExA will ask questions of the Applicant relating to:

a)	Legal Status of proposed NMU routes and PRoWs
i	Whether there is clarity and agreement between parties of the legal status of new and affected routes.
ii	Whether there is a need to confirm the legal status of other existing routes within the application boundary.
b)	Design standards
i	Whether proposed design standards are suitable and applied appropriately.
ii	Whether opportunities to maximise the potential benefit for NMU users and routes has been suitably considered.
iii	How usage surveys and assessments have been undertaken and their relevant application.
c)	Future Maintenance
	Whether future maintenance responsibility and cost has been sufficiently considered.
d)	Construction Impact
i	Whether alternative routes during construction have been fully considered and appraised.
ii	General approach to how diversions during construction will be agreed, approved and managed.

Other IPs will be welcome to participate.

The Applicant will be provided with a right of reply.

5. Next Steps

6. Closing

Purpose of this ISH

The purpose of this ISH is to inquire into the progress on the actions arising from ISH4 and to examine the effects of the LTC on PRowS and NMU routes.

NB – The ExA has noted responses submitted at D5 regarding the ongoing localised modelling and feels that there would be limited value in re-visiting modelling issues until this work has concluded and all Interested Parties have had the opportunity to comment on it.

Attendees

The ExA would find it helpful if the following parties could attend this Hearing.

- The Applicant
- The host highway authorities
- Any other public authority affected by the proposed development
- Anyone who wishes to make oral representations in respect of any existing or proposed Public Right of Way and/or NMU route.

However, this does not indicate that other parties will not be able to contribute. All Interested Parties (IP) are invited to attend and make oral representations on the matters set out in the Agenda, subject to the ExA's ability to control the Hearing.

The Applicant is requested to have people with expertise in PRowS and NMU routes to assist the hearing.

The ExA has sought to provide sufficient detail to assist the parties to prepare for the Hearing. The details set out above are indicative and the ExA may find it necessary to include additional Agenda items or to amend the order in which the items are dealt with.

The event will be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the [project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website](#) closer to the Hearing date. IPs and members of the public who wish to observe the Hearing can view and listen to the Hearing using the livestream, or view and listen to the recording, after it has concluded. For the avoidance of doubt, you are advised that the recordings that we make are retained and published and form a public record that can contain your personal information and to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation applies.

Registration Process

Registering as a speaker

The speakers invited to this hearing are listed above. If you are invited, please register at **9-15am**. This enables arrangements to be explained and hearings to make a prompt start.

You can register in person at the venue. If you are attending virtually, you will receive joining and registration instructions in a separate email, shortly in advance of the event. This email will also explain what to do if you have difficulties getting connected.

Observing the hearing

Hearings are held in public. If you are not speaking, public seating at the venue will be open from **9-15am**. If you are observing on-line, please go to the [project landing page](#) on the National Infrastructure Planning website where you will find:

- on the day - a link to a livestream to watch the hearing in real time; and
- after the event has closed - a link to the recordings of the hearing

All Interested Parties (IPs) are welcome to submit observations in writing by the deadline following the hearing.

Procedure at an ISH

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provides that it is for the ExA to probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questions of persons making oral representations at Hearings. Questioning at the Hearing will be led by the ExA. Cross questioning of a person giving evidence by another person will only be permitted if the ExA decides it is necessary to ensure representations are adequately tested or that an IP has had a fair chance to put its case.

Parties attending an ISH for the first time are encouraged to view parts of previous ISH1 held at the start of this Examination, using the recordings held online. Whilst the matters to be examined in this hearing – identified in this Agenda – will be different, the approaches taken to hearing management and involvement by parties will be similar. Introductory and advisory material included in the opening stages of that hearing will not be set out in full in later hearings and so the ISH1 recording of the opening session on Day 1 will assist those who are not familiar with this type of hearing.

- ISH1 Recordings ([Day 1 – 21 June 2023](#))
- ISH1 Recordings ([Day 2 – 23 June 2023](#))

Participants at the hearing are reminded of the importance of respecting all other participants and allowing everyone here to have their say. Please do not interrupt the other speakers. If the ExA needs to clarify something that is being said, then the ExA will intervene. Unnecessary interruptions that disrupt the hearing can be viewed as unreasonable behaviour for which awards of costs can be sought by other interested parties; they can also lead to a party being removed from the hearing.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. The hearing will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered. If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time at any hearing, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to written responses to actions, to written questions or to a subsequent hearing.

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the hearing or how to participate.

Email: Lowerthamescrossing@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Tel: 0303 444 5000

Contingencies

If this hearing is unable to proceed or continue, then the ExA will adjourn incomplete business to hearing times in November 2023 that have been reserved in the Examination Timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided in the banner on the National Infrastructure Planning Website.