



The Planning Inspectorate

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

Our Ref: TR010032

Date: 23 October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13

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

Notification of Hearings to be held in November 2023

The Examining Authority (ExA) has decided to hold the following hearings between 20 and 28 November 2023. Notice is provided of them below.

Hearing	Date/time	Venue	Joining
Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 5 (CAH5)	Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am This hearing may include an evening session if required	Hilton London Tower Bridge & Online (Blended)	In person at Hilton London Tower Bridge, 5 More London Pl, Tooley St, London, SE1 2BY Virtually on Microsoft Teams: joining instructions will be sent to all attendees in advance of the event.
Issue Specific Hearing 11 (ISH11): Environmental Matters	Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am This hearing may include an evening session if required	Hilton London Tower Bridge & Online (Blended)	

Hearing	Date/time	Venue	Joining
Issue Specific Hearing 12 (ISH12): Social, Economic and/or Project Delivery Matters (including Control Documents and Agreements)	Thursday 23 November 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Hilton London Tower Bridge & Online (Blended)	
Open Floor Hearing 5 (OFH5)	Thursday 23 November 2023 at 7pm In-venue and virtual registration open from 6-15am	Hilton London Tower Bridge & Online (Blended)	
Issue Specific Hearing 13 (ISH13): Traffic and Transportation	Monday 27 November 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Hilton London Tower Bridge & Online (Blended)	
Issue Specific Hearing 14 (ISH14): The draft DCO	Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 10am In-venue and virtual registration open from 9-15am	Hilton London Tower Bridge & Online (Blended)	

Hearings will be held as Blended events. Blended events allow attendance in-person and online 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 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 6, 31 October 2023 by emailing or writing 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 6.

If any Affected Persons (APs) objecting to Compulsory Acquisition (CA) or Temporary Possession (TP) requests wish to be heard then they should request to be heard in a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing.

If you wish to observe the Hearings, this can be done at a Blended event from public seating in the venue. It can also be done virtually, 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 IPs 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.

Please be aware that the events notified here are intended to be the final general-purpose hearings held in this Examination. Although the timetable reserves time for hearings in December if required, those events are for limited purposes. They are only intended to hear additional Interested Parties / Affected Persons who have responded to the additional land requests submitted by the Applicant since the commencement of the Examination, as part of Change Requests MRC03, EC01 and EC02 and made a request to be heard pursuant to regulations 14, 15 and 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Compulsory Acquisition) Regulations 2010. It follows that any Interested Party or Affected Person concerned with the application as originally submitted who have requested or been invited to be heard is requested to use their best endeavours to attend and participate on the appropriate day(s) of the November hearings if, as these will be the last opportunities to be heard orally.

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.

You are reminded that not all issues in the Examination will be addressed in hearings. Examinations conducted under the Planning Act 2008 are primarily conducted using written procedures, and the ExA obtains the information that it needs from a range of written procedures in addition to hearings.

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 Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
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