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Planning
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To Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons invited to the
Preliminary Meeting

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010036

Date: 21 December 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

The Planning Act 2008 – Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 (as amended)

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling

Examination Timetable and procedure

This letter provides you with the Examination Timetable, details of the publication of the Examining Authority's (ExA) Written Questions and other important information about the Examination.

All documentation associated with this project, including the audio recording taken at the Preliminary Meeting can be found using this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester-dualling/?ipcsection=docs>

A note of the Preliminary Meeting will be published shortly.

The Examination Timetable

We have made a Procedural Decision about the way the application will be examined. The final Examination Timetable is attached at **Annex B**.

The Examination Timetable replaces the draft timetable that was included in the Rule 6 letter dated 14 November 2018¹. In finalising the Examination Timetable, we have

¹ Your invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

sought to accommodate requests and suggestions made at the Preliminary Meeting and in representations submitted in advance of that meeting.

Please note that the Examination Timetable contains a number of deadlines for receipt of information by the Planning Inspectorate. All deadlines are at 23:59 on the date specified. Please ensure submissions arrive by the deadline. If you do not make your submissions by the dates specified in the timetable we may disregard them.

We request that Interested Parties send, where practicable, electronic copies of their submission as email attachments to A303SparkfordtoIlchester@pins.gsi.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. **Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable.** 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.

If we consider it necessary to vary the Examination Timetable during the Examination, notification will only be sent to Interested Parties and Other Persons² invited to the Preliminary Meeting. The changes will be published on the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The ExA has also carefully considered the requests to amend the timetable. The parties will be aware of the statutory requirement to complete the examination within six months. Because of the timing of Easter in 2019 the ExA has decided to move Deadline 6 to Wednesday 1 May 2019 to allow further time.

The ExA has also decided to move Deadline 3 to Friday 8 February 2019 to allow further time for parties to review information submitted at Deadline 2.

Principal Issues, Issue Specific Hearings and Statements of Common Ground

The ExA has considered the comments received at the Preliminary Meeting in respect of the initial list of principal issues, suggestions for Issue Specific Hearings and Statements of Common Ground and the points raised have been taken into consideration in the Examination.

On the issue of Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) the final list of requested SoCGs is set out in **Annex A** with the aim to clarify the issues between parties. It should be noted that the ExA has deferred to later in the process SoCGs between the Applicant and statutory undertakers to allow further time for their preparation and to tie in more closely with the timetable for the submission of associated documents.

Written Representations

² Other Persons are persons that we chose to invite to the Preliminary Meeting, in addition to the prescribed persons listed in section 88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 – see ‘Your status in the Examination and future notifications’ below

All Interested Parties are now invited to submit Written Representations and any comments on the Relevant Representations already submitted. These should be submitted by Deadline 2 in the Examination Timetable (**Annex B**).

Written Representations can cover any relevant matter and are not restricted to the matters set out in our Initial Assessment of Principal Issues discussed at the Preliminary Meeting and included in our Rule 6 letter³. Nor are they restricted to the content of our Written Questions (see next heading, below).

Any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a Written Representation must identify those parts of the application with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, explaining the reasons why⁴. Interested Parties should also provide with their Written Representations “*the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions*”⁵.

Further written submissions will be requested by the ExA at various points in the Examination.

Any Written Representations, and any further written submissions requested by the ExA in the course of the Examination which exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary which should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written submission and must be representative of the submission made.

ExA’s Written Questions

We have compiled Written Questions (ExQ1) about the application and the representations received so far. These questions are published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed through the following link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010036-000472>

Answers to our Written Questions must be provided by Deadline 2 in the Examination Timetable (**Annex B**).

If you require a hard copy of our Written Questions please contact the Case Team who will send you a copy.

Hearings

The Examination Timetable at **Annex B** includes periods of time reserved for any hearings to be held, and we will notify all Interested Parties of any hearings scheduled as part of the Examination at least 21 days in advance of them taking place. That

³ <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/TR010036-000419>

⁴ Required under Rule 10(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-act-2008-examination-of-applications-for-development-consent>

notification will include an additional deadline for Interested Parties to inform the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to attend the notified hearing(s).

Annex C provides details about what Interested Parties should include in a request to be heard at a hearing, and the procedure that will be followed at hearings.

Accompanied Site Inspection

Information about the Accompanied Site Inspection, scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19 February 2019, is contained in **Annex A**. Notification of the Accompanied Site Inspection is included at **Annex F**.

Availability of application documents and representations submitted to the Examination

All documentation and audio recordings associated with the examination of this application can be found using this link:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester-dualling/?ipcsection=docs>

Annex D provides details of locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development at which all Examination documents can be viewed electronically, free of charge.

Advice to Interested Parties about how to access and navigate the Examination Library is also provided at **Annex D**.

Your status in the Examination and future notifications

This letter has been sent to you because you (or the body you represent) fall within one of the categories in s88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

If you have made a Relevant Representation, have a legal interest in the land affected by the application or are a relevant local authority (reference numbers beginning with 2001, SPIL-AFP and SPIL-S57), you have a formal status as an Interested Party in the Examination.

Interested Parties will receive notifications from the Planning Inspectorate about the Examination throughout the process and may make written and oral submissions regarding the application.

If you are a Statutory Party (ie body specified in the relevant regulations supporting the PA2008) but have not made a Relevant Representation (reference number beginning with SPIL-SP) you will not automatically be an Interested Party. However, you may notify the Planning Inspectorate that you wish to be treated as an Interested Party at any point during the Examination.

Statutory Parties who have not made a Relevant Representation and do not notify us of their wish to become an Interested Party **will not** receive any further correspondence in relation to the examination of this application.

If you are not an Interested Party or a Statutory Party (ie a body specified in the relevant regulations supporting the PA2008), you have received this letter because you were invited to the Preliminary Meeting as an Other Person⁶ because it appeared to us that the Examination could be informed by your participation. Other Persons have a reference number beginning with SPIL-OP. If you are an Other Person you are not an Interested Party. We will not write to you again unless it is to inform you that the Examination Timetable has changed⁷, or we have specific questions for you in the course of the Examination.

If you are unsure of your status within the Examination, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter. Information regarding the formal status of Interested Parties and how you can get involved in the process is set out in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8 series, available here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>.

Important: If we require further information or written comments (a Rule 17 request⁸) to be submitted by a deadline that is set in the Examination Timetable at **Annex B**, this request will be sent to only those persons we consider it is applicable to. However, it will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website to enable all Interested Parties to respond if they feel it is relevant to their interests. If we consider it necessary, a further deadline will be added to the timetable to give all Interested Parties the opportunity to comment on any responses received.

Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an Examination under the PA2008, you may find it helpful to read the government guidance 'Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders' (July 2013)⁹. It is in everyone's interest that information is brought forward as early as possible in the examination process so you are encouraged to do so.

Management of information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted by the ExA) and a record of any advice which has been provided, is published at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester-dualling/?ipcsection=overview>

⁶ Other Persons are persons that we chose to invite to the Preliminary Meeting, in addition to the prescribed persons listed in section 88(3) of the Planning Act 2008

⁷ Rule 8(3) of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

⁸ Rule 17 of The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awards-of-costs-examinations-of-applications-for-development-consent-orders>

All Examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, we consider it 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

Lesley Coffey

Lesley Coffey, Lead Member of the Panel

Annexes

- A** Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority
- B** Examination Timetable
- C** Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings
- D** Availability of representations and application documents
- E** Assessment of Principal Issues
- F** Notification of Accompanied Site Inspection

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

Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

We have made a number of Procedural Decisions following the Preliminary Meeting¹:

1. Examination Timetable

The ExA has carefully considered the requests to amend the timetable. The parties will be aware of the statutory requirement to complete the examination within six months. Because of the timing of Easter in 2019 the ExA has decided to move Deadline 6 to Wednesday 1 May 2019 to allow further time.

The ExA has also decided to move Deadline 3 to Friday 8 February 2019 to allow further time for parties to review information submitted at Deadline 2.

The ExA has determined a number of topic areas on which it is minded to hold Issue Specific Hearings as noted at Item 10, **Annex B** (Examination Timetable).

2. Examining Authority's Written Questions

Some of our Written Questions are directed to specific Statutory Parties which have not, at the time of writing, confirmed that they wish to become Interested Parties for the purposes of the examination of the application.

All relevant Statutory Parties will receive this correspondence and we request for each to check our Written Questions carefully in order that they may identify and respond to any questions posed to them. No party should feel inhibited or restricted in responding to any question we ask, even if it is directed elsewhere.

For the avoidance of doubt, Statutory Parties are defined as the parties listed in Schedule 1 to The Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties and Miscellaneous Prescribed Provisions) Regulations 2015².

3. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

The applicant is taking the lead in the preparation of SoCGs and it will aid the smooth running of the Examination if all Interested Parties who are participating in the preparation of SoCGs liaise and co-operate with the applicant in respect of their production. Final signed versions of the SoCGs listed below are requested to be submitted by **Friday 31 May 2019** (Deadline 8, **Annex B**).

The Applicant and the Environment Agency including

- Water environment effects, including abstraction and discharge
- Drainage including provision for containment and treatment /disposal of contaminated run-off
- Waste management issues, including permitting and formal exemption requirements
- Any implications of the 2018 Ground Investigations

¹ Section 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/legislation/>

- Development Consent Order drafting, including requirements

The Applicant and Natural England including

- Habitats, Ecology and Nature Conservation, including assessment of cumulative effects
- Adequacy and means of securing mitigation
- Effects on Protected species and sites
- The need for and means of securing mitigation actions
- Need for Habitat Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment

The Applicant and Historic England including

- The amount of land to be taken from the RPG for the Hazlegrove Junction and Hazlegrove School access
- Effect on the RPG, its subsequent setting and the setting of Hazlegrove House
- Effect of ecological mitigation area to the east of Downhead Scheduled Monument on any associated archaeological remains or on the setting of the scheduled monument
- The effect on the listed milestone
- The effect on the Camel Hill Scheduled Monument
- The effect on the setting of other listed buildings identified in the ES
- Archaeology, if any, identified in the 2018 surveys

The Applicant and South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council including

- Potential for increased traffic on West Camel and Sparkford road network
- Traffic calming and other mitigation measures required
- Methodology for assessing Public Right of Way (PRoW) network usage
- Effect on un-recorded rights of way/applications to amend the Definitive Map and Statement
- Effects on the PRoW network and on cyclists, pedestrians and riders
- Air quality effects and mitigation
- Noise and vibration effects and mitigation
- Effect on Cultural Heritage, including archaeological assets
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Effect on biodiversity
- Economic and Social effects on local communities including businesses
- Geology, Assets and Waste
- Flood Risk Assessment
- Any implications of the 2018 Ground Investigations

The Applicant and Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium including

- Access for maintenance of ponds and ditches
- Need for other consents
- Flooding
- Any implications of the 2018 Ground Investigations
- Development Consent Order drafting, including requirements

The Applicant and Defence Infrastructure Organisation including

- Potential for conflict between construction equipment and air safety zone
- Potential for conflict between drainage ponds and bird strike
- Details of safeguarding zones for RNAS Yeovilton and Yeovil Airfield.
- Details of the Above Ground Level (AGL) heights of machinery if piling is required for the proposed borehole drilling and also the details of any cranes or other tall pieces of equipment used during the construction of the road.

The Applicant and West Camel, Queen Camel and Sparkford Parish Councils including

- Retention of A303 as a local road
- Traffic management arrangements during and post construction
- Traffic calming proposals
- Effect on communities and businesses

The Applicant and Church Commissioners including

- Extent of land take required
- Specification for proposed access tracks/gates
- Drainage arrangements
- Fencing proposals

The Applicant and Mr & Mrs Walton, Long Hazel Park including

- Appropriate location for measurement and assessment of noise effects
- Noise effect in amenity areas
- Noise mitigation measures

The Applicant and the relevant statutory undertakers³ including

- Mitigation of the effects of the project on the transmission/distribution systems
- Development Consent Order drafting, including requirements

All of the SoCGs listed above should cover the Articles and Requirements in the draft DCO. Any Interested Party seeking for an Article or Requirement to be reworded should provide in the SoCG the form of words which are being sought.

The content of SoCGs is necessary to help inform us as to the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings in May 2019, and to enable us and the applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

4. Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

A LIR is a report in writing giving details of the likely impact of a Proposed Development on a local authority's area (or any part of that area). For more

³ It should be noted that the submission of the first draft of these SoCGs is given at Deadline 4, 8 March 2019

information about the importance and content of LIRs see our Advice Note One: Local Impact Reports⁴.

Local authorities⁵ are invited to submit LIRs by **Wednesday 23 January 2019** (Deadline 2, **Annex B**).

5. Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

Time has been reserved in the Examination Timetable to undertake an ASI on **Tuesday 19 February 2019**, with Wednesday 20 February 2019 reserved to continue the ASI if required.

The applicant is invited to submit to the Examination a draft itinerary for the ASI by **Friday 11 January 2019** (Deadline 1, **Annex B**). This will be published to the National Infrastructure Planning website. Interested Parties are invited to suggest locations for site inspections, and justifications, for consideration by the ExA by **Wednesday 23 January 2019** (Deadline 2, **Annex B**).

Requests by Interested Parties to attend the ASI should be provided by **Friday 8 February 2019** (Deadline 3, **Annex B**). As explained in our Rule 6 letter, the Interested Parties attending the ASI will include representatives of the applicant, South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council, together with other Interested Parties (or their representatives).

It may be necessary to limit the numbers of persons who accompany us for logistical and safety reasons, but it should be possible for arrangements to be made for Interested Parties (or their representatives) to join the inspection at specified locations within the itinerary. Please contact the Case Team if you wish to meet the inspection at a specific location within the itinerary, or at a new location, as proposed in your comments.

The final itinerary for the ASI will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website on or before **Tuesday 12 February 2019**.

Interested Parties should be aware that **ASIs are not an opportunity to make any oral representations to the ExA about the Proposed Development**. However, we may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

⁴ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

⁵ Defined in s56A of the Planning Act 2008

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.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	Wednesday 12 December 2018 (morning)
2	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH1)	Wednesday 12 December 2018 (afternoon)
3	Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Written Questions 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
4	Deadline 1 (D1) Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on updated application documents • Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs) • Summaries of all RR's exceeding 1500 words • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case made at OFH1 • Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an IP by the ExA • Draft itinerary for Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) • Notification of wish to speak at any subsequent Open Floor Hearing (OFH) • Notification of wish to make oral representations at an Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) • Notification of wish to have future correspondence received electronically • Comments on any additional information/submissions received • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 11 January 2019
5	Deadline 2 (D2)	Wednesday 23 January

	<p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Representations (WRs) • Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words • Local Impact Reports from any local authorities • Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) requested by the ExA (except those requested between the applicant and statutory undertakers) – see Annex B • Responses to the ExA’s Written Questions • Applicant’s first revised draft DCO • Responses to comments on RRs • Comments on draft itinerary for ASI and suggested locations for site inspections • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D1 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	2019
6	<p>Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of Hearings 	Tuesday 29 January 2019
7	<p>Deadline 3 (D3)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs • Comments on Local Impact Reports • Comments on SoCGs • Comments on responses to the ExA’s Written Questions • Comments on applicant’s first revised draft DCO • Notification of wish to attend an ASI • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D2 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 8 February 2019
8	Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)	Tuesday 19 February 2019
9	Date reserved to continue Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) (if required)	Wednesday 20 February 2019 (if required)
10	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to the dDCO • An Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage 	Tuesday 26 February to Friday 1 March 2019

	<p>/Landscape Visual Effects (if required)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment Flooding/Drainage Strategy (if required) • An Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to Noise and Vibration/Air Quality and Emissions (if required) • An Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to Traffic and Transport (if required) • An Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to Socio-Economic Effects on surrounding Communities (if required) • Any subsequent Open Floor Hearing(s) that may be requested • Any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) that may be requested or required 	
11	<p>Deadline 4 (D4)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case • SoCGs between the applicant and statutory undertakers • Any revised/updated SoCG (if any) • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D3 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 8 March 2019
12	<p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's further Written Questions (if required) 	Friday 22 March 2019
13	<p>Deadline 5 (D5)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's further Written Questions (if required) • Applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on any revised/updated SoCGs • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D4 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 5 April 2019
14	<p>Time reserved for issue by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any notification of Hearings <p>Publication by the ExA of:</p>	Tuesday 16 April 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required) / or The ExA's draft DCO (if required) 	
15	<p>Deadline 6 (D6)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the ExA's further Written Questions (if required) • Comments on applicant's revised draft DCO • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO / or The ExA's draft DCO • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D5 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Wednesday 1 May 2019
16	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Issue Specific Hearing (if required) • Further Open Floor Hearing (if required) • Further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required) 	Tuesday 14 May to Thursday 16 May 2019
17	<p>Deadline 7 (D7)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case (if required) • Responses to comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO / or The ExA's draft DCO • Comments on the RIES • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D6 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Friday 24 May 2019
18	<p>Deadline 8 (D8)</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to comments on the RIES • Final DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report 	Friday 31 May 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final updated Book of Reference • Final SoCGs • Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Final updated Guide to the Application • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D7 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
19	The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.	Wednesday 12 June 2019

Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after each deadline for submissions.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning 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.

Report on the Implications for European Sites

Where the applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the DCO application, the ExA may decide to issue a Report on the Implication for European Sites (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 relevant Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations.

Requests to appear and procedure to be followed at hearings

The Examination Timetable reserves Tuesday 26 February to Friday 1 March for hearings to be held. Any requests to be heard should be provided by Deadline 1 **Friday 11 January 2019**.

At least one Issue Specific Hearing, dealing with the draft Development Consent Order, will also be held during this period, and another relating to Compulsory Acquisition if such a hearing is requested.

In relation to the notice given by the applicant of the forthcoming hearings to be held in the week commencing 25 February 2019, we have made a Procedural Decision directing the applicant to comply with the Rule 13(6) notification requirements⁶ as soon as practicable and not later than 21 days before the dates fixed for the commencement of the hearings. This is to enable the applicant to meet the print deadlines for publication of the notice of hearings in the local newspapers.

Please note that in respect of this Procedural Decision, we write to Interested Parties for information purposes only. This Procedural Decision does not affect the Examination Timetable in any way and Interested Parties other than the applicant are not required to respond to it.

Requests to appear at hearings

Interested Parties are required to notify the Examining Authority (ExA) in writing of their wish to take part in an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH). We remind Interested Parties of the Procedural Decision issued with the Rule 6 letter requesting notification from Interested Parties in this regard on or before **Friday 11 January 2019** (Deadline 1, **Annex B**).

If no written requests to take part in an OFH or CAH are received by the above deadline, we are not required to hold such a hearing; although we may choose to do so nonetheless.

We may also choose to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISH) about topics that we think need to be explored orally.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all Interested Parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

If an Interested Party wishes to attend an OFH or ISH they should indicate which topics in their Relevant Representation or Written Representation they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any Affected Person wishing to attend a CAH should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak.

Notifications from Interested Parties in respect of the above should be sent separately from any other written submission, and appropriately titled to allow us to quickly identify which event the notification relates to.

⁶ The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Procedure at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010⁷. Any oral representations must be based on either the Relevant Representation or Written Representation made by the person by whom, or on whose behalf, the oral representations are made.

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 parties⁸.

Our examination will be principally undertaken through the exchange of written submissions, and we will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important we consider an issue or topic to be.

Hearing agendas

We will aim to publish a draft agenda for each hearing on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning 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.

⁷ Rule 14

⁸ Rule 14(5)

Availability of representations and application documents

All application documents and representations submitted to the Examination are available to view on the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-west/a303-sparkford-to-ilchester-dualling/?ipcsection=docs>

For ease of navigation, we recommend that you use the Examination Library (EL) which is accessible via a blue button under the 'Documents' tab. The EL is updated regularly throughout the Examination.

The EL records:

- each application document;
- each representation accepted to be read in conjunction with the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is provided with a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the National Infrastructure Planning website is provided. **Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination documents in representations that you make.**

Documents can also be viewed electronically at the following locations close to the application site, free of charge. If you have difficulty accessing any documentation please contact the Case Team using the details provided at the top of this letter.

Local Authority	Library/ Address	Opening Hours
Somerset County Council	Yeovil Library, King George Street, Yeovil BA20 1PY	Monday: 09:30 - 17:30 Tuesday: 09:30 - 18:00 Wednesday: 09:30 - 17:30 Thursday: 09:30 - 18:00 Friday: 09:30 - 17:30 Saturday: 09:30 - 16:00 Sunday: Closed
Library Printing Costs	Black and White	Colour
A4	15p per side	40p per side
A3	There are no A3 printers however it is possible to photocopy A4 documents and print them in A3. The cost for this is:	
	Black and White	Colour
	10p per side for the A3 photocopy	70p per side for the A3 photocopy
Link to all council library locations:		
http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries-and-heritage/using-the-library/find-your-library/		

All printing charges quoted are correct as of Thursday 20 December 2018

Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the assessment of the principal issues arising from consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and Relevant Representations received and the discussions at the Preliminary Meeting. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters; regard will be had to all important and relevant matters in reaching a recommendation after the Examination is concluded. The order of the identified Principal Issues should not be taken to imply an order of importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues. In addition, it should be noted that a number of these Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the Examination.

1. **Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** including issues related to:
 - Effects on Hazlegrove Park Registered Park and Garden
 - Effects on scheduled monuments, including Camel Hill Romano-British Settlement and Downhead Medieval Settlement
 - Effects on archaeological interests
 - Effects on West Camel and Queen Camel Conservation Area
 - Effect on listed milestone
 - Effects on the settings of listed buildings/heritage assets
 - Consistency of approach to non-designated heritage assets

2. **Air Quality and Emissions including issues relating to;**
 - Adequacy of baseline assessment
 - Construction effects of the development
 - Operational effects of the development
 - Any cumulative impacts

3. **Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment**
 - Adequacy of baseline assessment
 - Loss of, or change to the ecological value of terrestrial and aquatic habitats and their species, including impacts on the ecological value
 - Implications for statutorily and locally protected sites
 - Effects on specific fauna and flora species and their habitats (including European protected species)
 - Effects on hedgerows and trees, including ancient hedgerows and veteran trees
 - Mitigation/compensatory measures
 - Timing of works and potential seasonal effects
 - Need for Habitat Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment

4. Noise and Vibration including issues related to:

- Baseline assessment
- Construction effects
- Operational effects including mitigation

5. Landscape and Visual Effects including issues relating to:

- Effect on character and appearance of surrounding landscape
- Design of the landscape mitigation, including bunds
- Construction Effects

6. Socio-Economic Effects on surrounding Communities including:

- Economic and employment effects, in construction and operation
- Construction effects – noise, traffic
- Effects on surrounding communities including on agriculture, business, attractions, and nearby residents, in construction and operation, including those outside of local impact area
- Individual properties - impacts/mitigation
- Signage to local businesses and attractions, during and post construction

7. Traffic and Transport including issues related to:

- Hazlegrove Roundabout junction design
- Retention of A303 as a parallel road
- Construction effects on the surrounding road network including the scope of the Construction Transport Management Plan, planned road closures
- Construction effects on the use of the Public Right of Way (PRoW) network – adequacy of baseline usage surveys
- Displaced traffic during construction, including highway safety
- Operational effects including the surrounding road network
- Junction design
- Links with local network
- Provision for Non-Motorised Users/effects on PRoW
- Mitigation/traffic calming for surrounding roads
- Adequacy of baseline assessment and any cumulative effects

8. Flooding/Drainage Strategy

- Impacts on unlicensed water abstractions
- Risks to ground water
- Future Management and maintenance of drainage
- Potential conflict between ponds and RNAS Yeovilton operations

9. Draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)

- The structure of the dDCO.
- Definitions
- Measures necessary to secure mitigation and implementation

10. **Compulsory Acquisition and/or Temporary Possession and/or Rights over land**

- The need for the land and rights proposed to be subject to compulsory acquisition and / or temporary possession
- Effects on statutory undertakers
- Effects on infrastructure and infrastructure providers
- Adequacy and security of funding for compensation
- Current position in relation to Crown Land
- Access for construction and maintenance
- Human rights, Public Sector Equality Duty, consideration of alternatives
- Tests set out in sections 122/123/127/132/135/138 of the Planning Act 2008
- Book of Reference

Date, time and meeting place for Accompanied Site Inspection

Please be advised that the Examining Authority (ExA) will hold an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) under Rule 16 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 on the following date:

Date	Meeting Place	Time
19 February 2019 (20 February 2019 reserved to continue ASI if required)	Haynes International Motor Museum, Sparkford, Yeovil BA22 7LH	Start 10:00am

Attendees are requested to arrive at the meeting places by **9.30am** to receive a compulsory safety briefing and introductory remarks from the Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate. The ASI will commence as soon as possible after these statements have been made.

The inspection will include some walking on uneven or wet ground. The Planning Inspectorate therefore advises attendees to wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather, and sturdy footwear.

If you wish to attend the ASI please let the Planning Inspectorate's case team know by emailing A303SparkfordtoIlchester@pins.gsi.gov.uk **no later than 8 February 2019** indicating your wish to attend and any special needs you may have (eg: disabled access etc).

Please be reminded that the purpose of the site inspection is to allow the ExA to look at particular physical features, first hand. It is not an opportunity to make any oral representations about the application to the ExA.