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Highways England  
For information - to all Interested  
Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010036

Date: 9 May 2019

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 9 and Rule 8(3)**

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

**Proposed design changes to the original application**

We are writing to inform you of the procedural decision made by the Examining Authority (ExA) regarding the Applicant's proposed changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

The Applicant submitted a request to the ExA with their Deadline 6 (D6) submissions (Examination Library (EL) reference [REP6-014]) to accept a number of design changes. The Applicant considers the proposed changes are minor and as such are non-material.

The proposed changes are summarised as follows:

Works within the Hazlegrove House Registered Park and Garden

- Pond 5 – to move the proposed pond to the south and west and realign the maintenance track.
- Hazlegrove Preparatory School access – to realign this by approximately 20 metres northwards and provide additional planting between the realigned Pond 5 access track and the access track to Hazlegrove School.

Podimore turning head

- Delete this proposed turning head and alter the Extent, Description and Situation of Land or Right to be taken in the relevant area of land (plot 1/5a – see Book of

Reference [REP5-011/REP5-012]) so that it would be for temporary possession only.

### Footpath between the east of Traits Lane and the west of Gason Lane

- To delete the more southerly of the two proposed footpaths between the east of Traits Lane and the west of Gason Lane (shown as plots 7/7a and 7/7c on the Lands Plans (Sheet 7) [REP5-002]).

The Applicant's reasons for the proposed changes are:

- Pond 5 – to address concerns raised by Historic England and South Somerset District Council in relation to the effects on the Hazlegrove House Registered Park and Garden.
- Hazlegrove Preparatory School access – to avoid a veteran tree and to improve the sense of arrival to the Registered Park and Garden.
- Podimore Turning Head – as there is no apparent need for a turning head in this location.
- Footpath between the east of Traits Lane and the west of Gason Lane – following consent having been obtained under section 135(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) from the appropriate Crown authority for the inclusion of Crown Land within the Development Consent Order there is no need for a second footpath.

### **ExA Conclusion**

The ExA has reviewed the information provided and assessed the Applicant's request in line with paragraphs 109 to 115 of DCLG Guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Examination of Applications for Development Consent' and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 16.

The ExA notes that all of the identified amendments to the design are set within the red line boundary for the scheme and would not result in a materially different project. The Applicant has been in discussions with those who would be directly affected by the proposed changes. The ExA accepts that the proposed changes would still allow for the examination to be completed within the statutory timetable of 6 months (section 98(1) Planning Act 2008 (as amended)). All would represent minor design changes.

The ExA is therefore able to accept the above matters as non-material changes to the application.

### **Timetable variation**

Following the ExA's decision to accept the changes, we now invite comments in relation to them by Deadline 7, and the Applicant's response to any comments submitted by Deadline 8. The Examination Timetable has been updated accordingly and is attached at Annex A. This replaces the timetable that was issued in the letter dated 24 April 2019.

Yours sincerely

*Lesley Coffey*

Lesley Coffey

**Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors**

## Annex A

### Revised Examination Timetable

<b>18</b>	<b>Further Issue Specific Hearing (ISH5)</b> Date reserved to hold ISH5	<b>Tuesday 14 May 2019</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Further Open Floor Hearing (OFH3)</b> Date reserved to hold OFH3	<b>Wednesday 15 May 2019 (9.30 to 11.00)</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Further Issue Specific Hearing (ISH6)</b> Date reserved to hold ISH6 on dDCO	<b>Wednesday 15 May 2019 (11.30)</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Hearings (in accordance with the CA Regs)</b> <b>Date reserved for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Issue Specific Hearing</li> <li>• Further Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>• Further Open Floor Hearing</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 23 May 2019 (9.30 to 12.15)</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Further Issue Specific Hearing (ISH7) (If required)</b> Date reserved to continue ISH5 and ISH6 if required	<b>Thursday 23 May 2019 (13.30)</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Deadline 7 (D7)</b> Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Hearing submissions including written submissions of oral case (if required)</li> <li>• Comments on the RIES</li> <li>• Written Representations on the proposed provision to amend the application and include additional land</li> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExA's Additional Written Questions, issued on 25 April 2019</li> <li>• Applicant's revised draft DCO (if required)</li> <li>• Comments on the accepted non-material change request</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D6</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 30 May 2019</b>

<b>24</b>	<p><b>Publication by the ExA of:</b></p> <p>The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO (if required)</p>	<p><b>Thursday 6 June 2019</b></p>
<b>25</b>	<p><b>Deadline 8 (D8)</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to comments on the RIES</li> <li>• Applicant's response to any comments on the accepted non-material change request</li> <li>• Final DCO to be submitted by the applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report</li> <li>• Final updated Book of Reference</li> <li>• Final SoCGs</li> <li>• Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Final updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by D7</li> </ul> <p>Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</p>	<p><b>Monday 10 June 2019</b></p>
	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday 12 June 2019</b></p>

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