



National Infrastructure  
Planning  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer 0303 444 5000  
Services: [A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)  
e-mail:

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All Interested Parties and Statutory  
Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010037

Date: 20 August 2021

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Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 – Section 88 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 4, 6 and 9**

### **Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction**

#### **Notice of appointment of the Examining Authority and date, time and place of the Preliminary Meeting and Notification of Hearing**

The Secretary of State has appointed me to act as the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application by Highways England. A copy of the appointment notice can be viewed under the [documents tab](#) on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning Website.

I would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations. These representations have assisted me when preparing my proposals regarding how to examine this application.

#### **1. Examinations during Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

In the light of ongoing public health controls I will be carrying out this Examination using virtual methods. Please see the Planning Inspectorate's [guidance related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) for more information.

This guidance is updated periodically to align with the most up to date Government guidance relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19). On that basis I will remain flexible so that, should public health controls allow, I may have the option of holding physical 'in person' events during the Examination if it is safe to do so.

If you intend to participate in virtual events held during this Examination, please read the Planning Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual Examination events](#), which contains important information about how virtual events will be held and how you can participate.

If you wish to make representations to us about the use of virtual procedures to carry out this Examination, please make them **by Procedural Deadline A, Monday 6 September 2021** which is before the Preliminary Meeting takes place.

### **Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting**

This letter is an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the Examination procedure. It contains a number of important supporting annexes.

**Dates of meetings:** **Preliminary Meeting Part 1 – Monday 13 September 2021**

**Preliminary Meeting Part 2 – Thursday 23 September 2021 (if required)**

**Arrangements conference:** **from 9:20am (for both meetings)**

**Meeting begins:** **10am (for both meetings)**

**Venue:** **Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)**

Please note that the Preliminary Meeting on 13 September 2021 will adjourn rather than close. Thursday 23 September 2021 has been reserved for the resumption of the Preliminary Meeting if required.

### **Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting**

The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting 13 September 2021 is to enable views to be put to me about the way in which the application is to be examined. At this stage I am looking at the procedure only, and not the merits of the Application. The merits of the Application will only be considered once the Examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed. See Annex B to this letter and the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.3: the Preliminary Meeting for more information.

The agenda for the meeting can be found at **Annex A** to this letter. The agenda has been set following an Initial Assessment of Principal Issues arising from our reading of the application documents and the Relevant Representations received. That assessment is set out in **Annex C**.

As a result of this assessment, I wish to hear from the Applicant, Local Authorities, Interested Parties and Statutory Parties where they consider changes may be needed to the draft Examination Timetable, which is set out in **Annex E**, and other procedural arrangements.

Please email your request to be heard at the meeting to the Case Team [A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk), along with the procedural matters you would like to discuss. Alternatively, you may wish to make submissions in writing for consideration if you are unable to attend. **Your response to be heard**

**at the meeting must be received by Procedural Deadline A on Monday 6 September 2021 (as set out in Annex A).**

Due to the nature of the event, the Planning Inspectorate can only accommodate Interested Parties' participation at the Preliminary Meeting who register to speak by the above deadline, and numbers may need to be limited.

In setting out the above I must also make clear that written submissions will carry equal weight as any oral contributions made during the meeting. It will not be necessary to repeat any written submission through speaking at the Preliminary Meeting.

### **Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting**

I wish to run fair, efficient and effective meetings so that all relevant views can be heard. The Preliminary Meeting is planned to be live-streamed and recorded. The recording will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning website project page as soon as practicable after the adjournment and then again after the resumption session.

Because participation in a virtual Preliminary Meeting relies on the provision of a joining link or telephone number in advance, it **is critically important that you think about whether you wish to speak and confirm your involvement by no later than the Procedural Deadline A outlined above.**

The Preliminary Meeting is scheduled in two parts, separated by an adjournment period. During the adjournment period any Interested Parties who did not, or could not, make oral representations at Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting can make written submissions about the examination procedure by **Procedural Deadline B Friday 17 September 2021**. In the event Part 2 of the meeting is not warranted I may decide to close that in writing.

I would also strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure to choose one representative to speak for the group. People who have not made an involvement request will still be able to access a live-stream or the recording and so the meeting will be in public. On receipt of requests to participate from Interested Parties, we will consider them and may contact some parties to confirm their type of involvement in line with the information they have provided, in advance of the Preliminary Meeting taking place. As such, prospective participants are advised to keep the whole day available.

It is also the case that you are not required to make oral or written submissions at the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the Examination. If you are an Interested Party, you will still be able to make a Written Representation and comment on the Written Representations made by other Interested Parties. You will also be able to participate in any hearings that are arranged. Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the Examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.

## After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting closes you will be sent a letter, known as the Rule 8 letter, setting out the finalised Examination Timetable.

The Examination will be held using a combination of written and hearing procedures that are explained in **Advice Notes 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6**. Advice Note 8.6 describes the procedure and methods for conducting virtual events.

All hearings are held in public. Where hearings take place virtually, they will be recorded and made available to view on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure Planning website shortly after each event. Where physical hearings can take place, a recording will also be published on the website.

All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when I make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport, who will take the final decision in this case.

## Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority

I have made some Procedural Decisions including requests for documentation relating to the following matters:

1. Request for Statements of Common Ground;
2. Request for Local Impact Reports (LIRs);
3. Request for Written Representations;
4. Request for Summaries of Relevant Representations and Written Representations exceeding 1500 words;
5. Request for notifications of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, or Issue Specific Hearing;
6. Request for a Compulsory Acquisition Schedule;
7. Request for a Guide to the Application;
8. Acceptance of Additional Submissions;
9. Site Inspection(s).

These are set out and detailed at **Annex F** of this letter.

## Managing Examination correspondence

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an Examination, we aim to communicate with people by email and using online questionnaires, as electronic communication is more environmentally friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

If you have received a postal letter and/or postcard but are able to receive communications by email, please confirm this with the Case Team using the contact details at the top of this letter, as soon as possible. Up-to-date information about the project and the Examination can be obtained from the relevant project page on the National Infrastructure website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=docs> .

There is a function on the right-hand side of the project webpage called 'E-mail updates'. This provides you with an opportunity to register to receive automatic e-mail updates at key stages during the Examination. You will receive an e-mail every time the banner is updated on the project page, at key stages during the Examination.

A 'Make a submission' tab will become available on the website which provides a portal through which parties will be able to make written submissions at relevant deadlines during the Examination. Further information about the 'Make a submission' portal is provided at **Annex H** to this letter.

### **Your status in the Examination**

You have received this letter because you fall within one of the groups described in this FAQ document: [what is my status in the examination](#)

If your reference number begins with THKN', 'THKN-0', 'THKN-AFP', 'THKN-S57' 'THKN-APP' you are in Group A. If your reference number begins with 'XXXX-SP' you are in Group B. If your reference number begins with 'XXXX-OP' you are in Group C.

If having read the FAQ document published at the link above you are still unsure about your status, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

### **Award of costs**

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the award of costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant costs guidance 'Awards of costs; examinations of applications for development consent orders' which applies to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This guidance is available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/>

### **Deadlines**

All deadlines in the draft Examination Timetable and as referred to in this letter are at 23:59 on the deadline day. Each deadline within the Timetable should, however, be treated as being a 'not later than time and date'. Accordingly, there is no reason why submissions relating to a particular deadline cannot be made to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the stated deadline.

### **Management of information**

Information including representations submitted to this Examination (if accepted by the ExA), and a record of any advice which has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate, is published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Examination Documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex G**.

In the interest of facilitating an effective and fair Examination, I may consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our [Privacy Notice](#).

I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

*Matthew Shrigley*

## **Examining Authority**

### **Annexes**

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** ExA opening remarks for the Preliminary Meetings
- C** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- D** Draft Examination Timetable
- E** Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)
- F** Procedural Decisions made by the ExA
- G** Availability of Examination Documents
- H** Electronic 'Make a submission' portal

## Annex A

### Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting PART 1

Because participation in a virtual Preliminary Meeting relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a link or telephone number in advance, **if you intend to participate at Part 1 you must register by date 1 September 2021 (see Procedural Deadline A at Annex D to this letter).**

**Date:** 13 September 2021

**Arrangements conference:** from 9:30am

**Meeting start time:** 10:00am

**Venue:** **Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)**  
Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate

**Attendees:** **Invited Parties who have pre-registered**

A public livestream of the meeting will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the meeting is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe the meeting.

<b>9:20am</b>	<b>Event Lobby</b> Please arrive at 9:20am to enter the Preliminary Meeting Lobby From here you will be admitted to the Arrangements Conference by the Case Team, greeted, and given further instructions.
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Arrangements Conference</b> The Arrangements Conference will commence at 9:30am. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.
<b>Item 1 10:00am</b>	<b>Preliminary Meeting</b> The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10.00am. The Examining Authority (ExA) will join, welcome participants and lead introductions, including the Examining Authority's remarks about the Examination process.
<b>Item 2</b>	Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – <b>Annex C</b>
<b>Item 3</b>	Procedural Decisions taken by the ExA – <b>Annex F</b>
<b>Item 4</b>	Draft Examination timetable – <b>Annex D</b>

**Annex A**

<b>Item 5</b>	Any remaining submissions regarding procedural matters not set out in the agenda that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting.
<b>Item 6</b>	Any other matters.
<b>Adjournment of the Preliminary Meeting</b>	



**Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting PART 2**

Because participation in a virtual Preliminary Meeting relies on the Planning Inspectorate providing you with a link or telephone number in advance, **if you intend to participate you must register by 1 September 2021 (see Procedural Deadline A at Annex D to this letter).**

**Date:** **23 September 2021**

**Arrangements conference:** **from 9:30am**

**Meeting start time:** **10:00am**

**Venue:** **Virtual event (Microsoft Teams)**  
Full instructions on how to join online or by phone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate

**Attendees:** **Invited Parties who have pre-registered**

A public livestream of the meeting will be made available on the [project webpage](#) shortly before the meeting is due to open. The livestream is available to anybody who wishes to observe the meeting.

<b>9:20am</b>	<b>Event Lobby</b> Please arrive at 9:20am to enter the Preliminary Meeting Lobby. From here you will be admitted to the Arrangements Conference by the Case Team, greeted and given further instructions.
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Arrangements Conference</b> The Arrangements Conference will commence at 9:30am. This will be hosted by the Case Team and cover the housekeeping arrangements for Part 1 of the Preliminary Meeting and allow for any questions to be asked about how to take part.
<b>Item 7 (10:00am)</b>	<b>Preliminary Meeting (Part 2)</b> The Preliminary Meeting will formally open at 10:00am. The Examining Authority will join, welcome participants and lead introductions.
<b>Item 8</b>	The Examining Authority's remarks about written submissions received to <b>Procedural Deadline B.</b>
<b>Item 9</b>	Any remaining items/submissions regarding procedural matters unable to be covered at Part 1 of the Meeting held on 13 September.
<b>Item 10</b>	Any other matters.

**Close of the Preliminary Meeting**

**Please note:** If you are joining as an active participant at Part 1 and/or Part 2 of the Preliminary Meeting, please join the Arrangements Conference lobby promptly using the instructions that are sent to you. In common with Preliminary Meetings held in physical locations, the event will start at 10:00am irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

The agenda for both parts of the Preliminary Meeting is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA, although in making changes the ExA will be mindful of the need to provide opportunities for fair involvement to all Interested Parties.

### **Introduction to the Preliminary Meeting**

#### **Background**

The Preliminary Meeting (PM) for the A47/A11 Thickethorn Junction scheme (the proposed development) will take place virtually, using Microsoft Teams, but the format, content and procedure will be very similar to the physical, face-to-face PMs that have been held for other National Infrastructure Examinations.

The Examining Authority (ExA) is conscious of videoconferencing fatigue and will aim to keep the proceedings focussed and as efficient as possible. This annex provides advance access to information that would usually be included in the ExA's introductory remarks following the opening of the PM. Please read this carefully. The ExA will only present a summary of the key points set out here at the Preliminary Meeting, in order to ensure that the time available for participants to speak is maximised.

#### **The Examining Authority**

Matthew Shrigley has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (SoSHCLG) to examine the Application. A copy of the appointment letter can be found in the Examination Library under reference [PD-003].

#### **The Case Team**

The ExA will be supported before and during the meeting by the Planning Inspectorate Case Team. Bart Bartkowiak is the Case Manager and Harpriya Kaur is the NSIP Officer for this application. A member of the team will be welcoming and admitting participants into the virtual Preliminary Meeting via the Arrangements Conference, and they will be available to answer questions by email before and after the meeting. The contact email address is: [A47A11Thickethorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A47A11Thickethorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

#### **The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting**

The PM is being held to discuss the arrangements for the examination of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the A47/A11 Thickethorn Junction, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and which will generally be referred to in the PM and Examination as the 'Proposed Development'. The application has been made by Highways England, which will be referred to as 'the Applicant'.

You will find information about the application and, in due course, documents produced for the Examination on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website ('NI Planning website'). This has a dedicated landing page for the project with links to Examination procedure, the Examination Timetable, Relevant Representations and Examination documents. The relevant NI Planning website project page is: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47a11-thickethorn-junction/?ipcsection=docs>

## **Annex B**

You are encouraged to explore the NI Planning website project page if you haven't already done so, because it will be used to communicate with you and to provide access to documents throughout the Examination. There is the option on the project page to register to receive updates and we would also encourage you do this so that you will receive a notification via e-mail at key stages during the Examination.

The main purpose of the PM is to discuss how the application should be examined. It focuses on the process only, and it will not be looking at the substance of the proposals: Questions, discussions and representations about the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development are for the Examination itself which will begin the day after the close of the PM.

The PM will be your opportunity to influence the process that we intend to follow, and you should read this Rule 6 letter and all accompanying annexes thoroughly beforehand. The agenda for the PM is attached to this Rule 6 letter at **Annex A**. It is important to have the letter and the agenda in front of you and to refer to them during the course of the PM. If you are not experienced with videoconferencing and using multiple documents on screen, you may wish to print these in advance of the PM for reference.

### **Government guidance and policy**

The application is a NSIP under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The ExA will consider the Proposed Development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Statement for National Networks and any other applicable policy or considerations the ExA deem to be important and relevant. The PA2008 makes it clear that, in making a decision, the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) "*must decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS*" (s104(3)), subject to certain provisos. Essentially, the provisos are that the application must not breach legal or treaty obligations, and that any adverse impact of the Proposed Development would not outweigh its benefits.

The SoS is entitled to disregard any representations that relate to the merits of the designated National Policy Statement (NPS). In practice, this means that the ExA will not spend time examining representations that challenge policy set out in NPSs, or the validity of NPSs themselves. The focus will be on the merits or disadvantages of the Proposed Development, tested to the appropriate extent using the tests set out in relevant designated NPSs that are in force.

Other important and relevant planning policies that the ExA may consider include policies in the relevant local authorities' development plans. However, if these conflict with policy in a NPS, then the NPS will take precedence.

In summary, the PM will establish the procedures and timetable for the Examination of the Proposed Development. It will set a framework for the ExA to enable the SoS to consider and decide the application, by identifying relevant policy and examining the application in the light of it. In doing so, the ExA will have regard to:

## **Annex B**

- The positions and representations of all Interested Parties (IPs);
- any Local Impact Reports (LIR) prepared and provided by relevant local authorities;
- other prescribed matters; and
- any other matters that appear to be both relevant and important to the relevant SoS's decision.

### **Preliminary Meeting Invitees**

The Applicant is invited to the PM and is generally given the opportunity to reply to any representations made, either orally at the time or in writing during the adjournment of the meeting.

Everyone who has made a Relevant Representation has been registered as an IP and has been sent a copy of this Rule 6 letter. Each IP is entitled to participate in this Examination.

Each person or organisation with an interest in land or rights that are affected by a Compulsory Acquisition request in this application is an Affected Person (AP). In addition to a general entitlement to involvement in the Examination, APs have a right to be heard in relation to any objection about the effects of Compulsory Acquisition on their interests in land, and a right to be notified of any Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. APs are IPs, whether or not they have made a Relevant Representation.

Certain bodies are Statutory Parties. Statutory Parties can elect to become IPs without having made a Relevant Representation.

The ExA has the power to involve people who are not IPs in the Examination as though they are IPs, including by inviting them to the PM. However, this is only done in exceptional circumstances, for example if it was clear that the application would materially affect a person, they are not automatically or eligible to elect to become an IP and they had been unable to take the necessary action to register as an IP.

### **Conduct of the Preliminary Meeting**

Past experience suggests that a PM for a project of this size and complexity could take around half a day/ a day complete. However, in running the event virtually there are limitations on the number of people who can speak at any one time. Therefore, in order to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak can do so, one day has been timetabled for Part 1. One day has also been timetabled for Part 2 of the PM, subject to the progress made at Part 1 of the PM and any remaining discussion points or in the event of unforeseen technical issues. If circumstances do not warrant Part 2 it may not occur and be closed in writing.

During the PM participants may have to make allowances and be patient if there are delays associated with the technology used. In recognition of the fatigue associated with on-screen communication, the ExA will provide breaks during the PM as appropriate. For those who pre-register to be involved your joining instructions will provide more information about this.

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A digital recording will be made available on the project page of the NI Planning website as soon as practicable following Part 1 of the PM and again following Part 2 (if the PM is resumed). The digital recording allows any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed at the PM, whether they are able to attend or observe the meeting or not. The making and publication of these recordings are a means by which we meet the legal requirement to hold these events in public. In this regard, anyone speaking at the PM will need to introduce themselves each time they speak, to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking. A written note of the PM will be produced and published as soon as practicable following the closure of the PM.

As the digital recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) applies. Participants must do their best to avoid making public any information which they would otherwise wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made publicly available. Any person who is unclear on this point should ask the Case Team for guidance before they include personal and private information in any submissions.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the SoS's decision on the DCO. If you actively participate in the PM, it is important that you understand that you will be recorded and that the recording will be made available in the public domain. Please see our [Privacy Notice](#) for more information about how we handle your data.

Following the ExA's introductions, each participant who has been registered to speak will be asked to introduce themselves, including any organisations or groups that they represent. The ExA will then conduct the meeting in accordance with the agenda. If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you can switch off your camera at any point.

### **The Examination process**

The examination of NSIPs follows different processes to those, for example, of a Public Inquiry into a planning appeal following the refusal of planning permission. The main differences are that the examination of NSIPs are primarily a written process and hearings take on an inquisitorial approach as opposed to an adversarial one.

This means that the ExA will probe, test and assess the evidence primarily using written questions. While some hearings are held to provide supplementary evidence, questions to the Applicant or to witnesses will come from the ExA. Questioning or cross-examination of witnesses by other parties will not generally be allowed.

## Annex B

In terms of opportunities to provide evidence in writing, the draft Examination Timetable makes provision for the following written processes:

- Local authorities can submit LIRs if they wish. Whilst these are voluntary, the PA2008 provides that if they are provided, they must be considered by the SoS in reaching a decision. Consequently, LIRs are a very important method for local authorities to communicate issues of concern to the ExA, the SoS and their residents.
- IPs can make Written Representations (WRs) and comment on WRs made by other parties.
- IPs can respond to the ExA's written questions (ExQs) and comment on responses to these written questions provided by others.
- IPs may be asked to contribute to the making of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) if it appears that there are matters on which they and the Applicant agrees, and if it would be useful for this to be clarified. SoCGs most usefully extend to catalogue matters that are not agreed or are outstanding.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a series of numbered deadlines for receipt of written submissions. Timely submissions received by the relevant deadline and that address its purpose will be accepted. Documents received after the relevant deadline are only accepted at the discretion of the ExA and may not be accepted to ensure fairness to all parties. Circumstances where documents are submitted late without good reason, causing inconvenience or delay to other parties can amount to unreasonable behaviour.

These written processes will be the principal means used by the ExA to gather information, evidence and views about the application. However, the Examination will only be effective if all parties resolve to give timely, full, frank, clear and evidenced answers to every question that is relevant to their interests and to engage fully with any other related processes such as the completion of WRs and SoCGs.

There is no merit in withholding or delaying information, or in failing to co-operate, and, should it occur, any unreasonable behaviour that caused another party to incur wasted expenditure could lead to an award of costs against the offending party.

The ExA has discretion to make amendments to the Examination Timetable for the wider benefit of the Examination. If possible, events will be arranged for times when all relevant parties are available, but the ExA is under a duty to complete the Examination by the end of the six-month period beginning with the day after the close of the PM. This requirement is set by legislation, and while the ExA will try to rearrange event dates to accommodate all relevant parties, in practice there will be limited scope to alter dates set out in the draft Examination Timetable.

## **Annex B**

The statutory time limit for the Examination means that where there are matters that still need to be discussed and agreed between the Applicant and IPs, it will be very helpful to the ExA if these could be progressed as early as possible.

### **Hearings**

The draft Examination Timetable includes provision for hearings (if required), at which the ExA takes oral evidence from the various parties.

Any registered IP may request an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) to make oral representations about the application if they believe this to be preferable to relying on their written representation, though both carry equal weight. Oral submissions should be based on representations previously made in writing, but they should not simply repeat matters previously covered in the written submission. Rather, they should focus on specific detail and explanation to help inform the ExA. There should be no new or unexpected material in oral representations. A written summary note with any supporting evidence or references will be requested of each speaker following the hearing.

As with all Examination events, OFHs are subject to the powers of control of the ExA, as set out in the PA2008 and supporting legislation. Participants must register in advance by the deadline shown in the Examination Timetable and in accordance with the instructions an agenda may be circulated. It is common practice for the ExA to set a time limit for each speaker and speakers with common points are asked to come together to nominate a spokesperson or representative speakers to cover specific topics, so as to avoid repetition. Speakers representing public authorities, community and membership organisations or multiple IPs are normally provided with an additional time allowance, recognising their representative role.

The Applicant's draft DCO provides for the Compulsory Acquisition of land and rights, and the Temporary Possession of land. Affected Persons (i.e., those whose land or rights over land are affected) have a right to request and be heard at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH). If one or more APs request to be heard then a CAH must be held. Provisional dates for CAHs are included in the draft Examination Timetable along with deadlines by which requests to be heard must be submitted.

The ExA has the discretion to hold Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs) if it would aid in the Examination and there is a specific reason this would be more helpful than reliance on written evidence only. The lack of an ISH on one or more topics does not suggest that that topic is less important than others which are subject to a hearing. Rather, it is an indication that the ExA is satisfied that the issues can be fully considered through written submissions and responses to its written questions and that each party has had a fair opportunity to put its case.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a number of reservations for ISHs and IPs may make suggestions for topics in their written or oral representations to the PM.



## Annex B

It may be necessary for the ExA to hold more than one ISH on the draft DCO. This is normal practice, and they are held on a without prejudice basis. Parties can suggest modifications and amendments to the draft DCO provided with the Proposed Development applications by the Applicant, without prejudicing their overall position on the application.

Holding such hearings does not imply that the ExA has reached any judgements on the merits of the application. Whatever the ultimate recommendation is, the ExA must make sure that the draft DCO is fit for purpose if the SoS decides to grant consent, as any consent will be subject to Requirements (ie conditions) set out in the DCO.

At hearings it will not normally be necessary for parties to make long and detailed submissions that require (for example) PowerPoint presentations. Any supporting detail/information can be provided in writing following the event by the relevant deadline.

The draft Examination Timetable includes **Deadline 1 on 13 October 2021** for participants to notify the ExA that they wish to speak at an OFH or CAH.

### **Site Inspection(s)**

As part of the Examination process the ExA may undertake site inspections. These can be either unaccompanied or accompanied, though all would be subject to any Government restrictions relating to COVID-19 in force at the time.

The purpose of these is for the ExA to see features of the proposals within the context of the evidence put forward. Notes of Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs) are published on the project webpage on the NI Planning website following them taking place.

Accompanied Site Inspections (ASI) will only be necessary to view land to which there is no public right of access, or with no clear view from nearby locations with open public access. The purpose of ASIs is familiarisation only and no discussion of the merits of the Proposed Development will be entertained during an ASI.

It is anticipated by the ExA that only USIs will be utilised during the examination given both the extent of public vantages available as well as current public health restrictions.

The draft Examination Timetable includes a deadline for IPs to make submissions suggesting sites and locations that the ExA should visit. These submissions will be used to inform the examination.

## **Initial Assessment of Principal Issues**

This is the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues prepared under s88(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). It has been prepared by the Examining Authority (ExA) following its reading of:

- The application documents;
- the Relevant Representations received in respect of the application; and
- its consideration of any other important and relevant matters.

It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of the issues that will be subject to examination and inevitably some issues will overlap or interrelate. The ExA will have regard to all important and relevant matters during the Examination and when it writes its Recommendation Report to the Secretary of State for Transport after the Examination has concluded.

The order of the issues listed is alphabetic and does not imply any order of prioritisation or importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the PA2008 are an integral part of the Examination and are therefore not listed as main issues.

It should also be noted that whilst the effects of the proposal in relation to human rights and equalities duties are not listed as main issues, the ExA will conduct all aspects of the Examination with these in mind.

### **1. Air Quality and Emissions**

- Approach to Air Quality Assessment and baseline data.
- Effects on human health and ecological receptors caused by potential increased traffic during construction and operational phases.
- Reasoning of the choice of study area and the zone of influence for the air quality assessment of the construction and operational phases; and the choice of Cringleford, Hethersett, Mulbarton and Stoke Holy Cross for the assessment of health impacts.
- Consideration of any necessary mitigation, monitoring, management and compensatory measures and their effectiveness.

### **2. Biodiversity and Ecological Conservation**

- Impacts on protected species and species of conservation concern.
- Effects on habitats of conservation concern including ancient woodland, other woodland, veteran trees, trees, hedgerows and the water environment.
- Extent of mitigation, effectiveness and consideration of ecological enhancements.
- Use of appropriate metrics to determine overall effect.

### **3. Climate Change**

- The effects of the construction and operation of the proposed development on climate change.
- Consideration of the carbon budget.

### **4. Compulsory Acquisition**

- Justification for Compulsory Acquisition of the land, rights and powers that are sought by the draft Development Consent Order.
- Alternatives to the scheme.
- Statutory Undertaker apparatus and potential detriment to the carrying out of an undertaking.
- Approach taken to identification of Category 1/2 parties.
- Crown rights to the land and any regulatory provisions associated.
- Funding and compensation.
- Limitations on rights of way and access.

### **5. Development Consent Order**

- Adequacy of the draft Development Consent Order and requirements.
- Protective provisions and indemnities.
- Scheme design flexibility.
- The scheme for the discharge of DCO Requirements and the appropriate authorities for approving such discharge.

### **6. Geology and Soils**

- Effects of permanent and temporary agricultural land loss/ soil management plans.
- Potential contamination from Cantley Lane infill, or other sources, and mitigation.

### **7. Historic Environment**

- Impacts to listed structures and scheduled monuments in the vicinity.

### **8. Landscape and visual effects**

- Effects of engineering works as well as tree loss.
- Overbridge and underpass design.
- Artificial lighting.
- Tree retention and effectiveness of mitigation measures including additional tree planting and reinforcing vegetation.

### **9. Materials and Waste**

- The effects on local and regional waste infrastructure and effectiveness of any mitigation proposed.

### **10. Noise and vibration**

- Effects during construction and operation and effectiveness of any mitigation proposed.

### **11. People and Communities**

- Effects on green space/amenity land including regard to any associated to the Cringleford residential development.
- Effects on public rights of way/non-motorised user routes and other footpaths.
- Effects on business, agriculture, and living conditions.
- The effectiveness of mitigation measures.

### **12. Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment**

- Adequacy of surveys and baseline data, the approach to flexibility and definitions of the significance of impacts in the Environmental Statement.
- Conformity or otherwise with the National Networks Policy Statement, development plans and other relevant policies.
- Whether correct/up-to-date policies and guidance have been used.
- Cumulative and in-combination effects on, and with, other major projects and proposals.

### **13. Transportation and Traffic**

- The soundness of traffic predictions and their consequences for the local environment/roads and junctions.
- Appropriateness of the proposed T junction design linked to B1172.
- Impact of travel times, traffic volumes and road safety for users of the surrounding highway network.
- Access/ safety issues relating to public rights of way, pedestrians, cyclists, residents, business/commerce and agriculture.
- Effects during construction and operational periods inclusive of temporary traffic management provision.

### **14. Water, drainage, and flood risk**

- Impact on water quality, local drainage, surface and ground water during construction and operational periods.
- Impacts of Cantley Stream realignment.
- Risks of flooding of downstream receptors including residential uses.

## Draft 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.

The examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at hearings.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Matters</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Procedural Deadline A</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written submissions on the Examination procedure including any submissions about the use of virtual procedures</li> <li>• Any changes that are considered necessary to the draft Examination Timetable</li> <li>• Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 6 September 2021</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Preliminary Meeting Part 1</b>	<b>Monday 13 September 2021</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Procedural Deadline B</b> Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written submissions on Examination procedure including responses to matters raised orally at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1</li> <li>• Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting Part 2</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 17 September 2021</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Preliminary Meeting Part 2</b>	<b>Thursday 23 September 2021</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Issue by ExA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination Timetable</li> </ul> <b>Publication of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ExA's Written Questions (ExQ1)</li> </ul>	<b>As soon as practicable following close of the Preliminary Meeting</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Deadline 1</b> For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on Relevant Representations</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 13 October 2021</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities</li> <li>• Written Representations (WRs)</li> <li>• Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words</li> <li>• Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)</li> <li>• Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>• Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Guide to the Application</li> <li>• Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP)</li> <li>• Notification of wish to speak at an Issue Specific Hearing</li> <li>• Notification from any Affected Person of wish to speak at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing</li> <li>• Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing</li> <li>• Nominations of suggested locations and justifications for site inspections for consideration by the ExA</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Deadline 2</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to ExQ1</li> <li>• Comments on LIR(s)</li> <li>• Comments on WRs</li> <li>• The Applicant's revised draft Development Consent Order (draft DCO)</li> <li>• Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 1</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 26 October 2021</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Hearings</b></p> <p>Dates reserved to hold any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required)</li> <li>• Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required)</li> <li>• Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>w/c 8 November 2021</b>

<b>9</b>	<p><b>Deadline 3</b></p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to ExQ1</li> <li>• Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case (if required)</li> <li>• The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>• Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Progressed SoCGs</li> <li>• Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 2</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Wednesday 17 November 2021</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Publication of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required)</li> <li>• (Notice to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection the week commencing Monday 17 January 2022 in the event the ExA considers it necessary).</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 30 November 2021</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Deadline 4</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 3</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 30 November 2021</b>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Deadline 5</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses to ExQ2 (if required)</li> <li>• The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>• Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Progressed SoCGs</li> <li>• Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>• Applicant's suggested draft Itinerary for an ASI (if required);</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 16 December 2021</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 4</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	
<b>13</b>	Accompanied Site Inspection (only if deemed to be required by ExA)	<b>w/c 17 January 2022</b>
<b>14</b>	<p><b>Deadline 6</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on responses to the ExQ2 (if required)</li> <li>• An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>• The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>• Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 5</li> <li>• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline.</li> </ul>	<b>Tuesday 18 January 2022</b>
<b>15</b>	<p><b>Hearings</b></p> <p>Dates reserved to hold any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required)</li> <li>• Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required)</li> <li>• Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>w/c 31 January 2022</b>
<b>16</b>	<p><b>Deadline 7</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case (if required)</li> <li>• Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule</li> <li>• The Applicant's revised draft DCO</li> <li>• Schedule of changes to the draft DCO</li> <li>• Progressed SoCGs</li> <li>• Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG</li> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 6</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 10 February 2022</b>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	
<b>17</b>	<p><b>Publication of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required)</li> <li>The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO/Commentary on the draft DCO (if required)</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 21 February 2022</b>
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Deadline 8</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO/Commentary on the draft DCO</li> <li>An updated Guide to the Application</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 7</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Thursday 3 March 2022</b>
<b>19</b>	<p><b>Deadline 9</b></p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on the RIES (if required)</li> <li>Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report</li> <li>Final Explanatory Memorandum</li> <li>Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (identifying any unresolved objections)</li> <li>Final SoCGs</li> <li>Final Statement of Commonality also listing matters not agreed (in circumstances where a SoCG could not be finalised)</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 8</li> <li>Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline</li> </ul>	<b>Monday 14 March 2022</b>
<b>20</b>	<p><b>Deadline 10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Guide to the Application</li> <li>Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 9</li> </ul>	<b>Friday 18 March 2022</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination (if required)</li> </ul>	
<b>21</b>	<p>The ExA is under duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months</p> <p>Please note that the ExA may close the Examination before the end of the six-month period if it is satisfied that all relevant matters have been addressed and discussed</p>	<b>Monday 21 March 2022</b>

### Submission times for deadlines

The time for submission of documents at any deadline in the timetable is **23:59** on the relevant deadline date, unless otherwise stated or instructed by the ExA

### Publication dates

All information received will be published on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as practicable after the deadlines for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the Examination and can be accessed via the 'Documents' tab on the project webpage. Each document will be given a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the Examination:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=docs>

### Hearing agendas

Please note that for Issue Specific Hearings and Compulsory Acquisition hearings the ExA will aim to publish a detailed draft agenda on the project website 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.

For Open Floor Hearings agendas will not be published unless, in consideration of the number of participants notified to the Planning Inspectorate, the ExA decides that establishing a running order will facilitate the process on the day.

**Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)**

Where an applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report or a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report with the application, the ExA may decide to issue a 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 2017.

## Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made Procedural Decisions in respect of the following under Section 89(3) of the PA2008:

1. **Request for Statements of Common Ground**
2. **Request for Local Impact Reports (LIRs)**
3. **Request for Written Representations**
4. **Request for Summaries of Relevant Representations and Written Representations exceeding 1500 words**
5. **Request for notifications of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, or Issue Specific Hearing**
6. **Request for a Compulsory Acquisition Schedule**
7. **Request for a Guide to the Application**
8. **Acceptance of Additional Submissions**
9. **Site Inspection(s)**

### 1. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG)

SoCGs are requested to be prepared between the Applicant and the following bodies:

Party (ies)	Topics
<b>Natural England</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which European Sites, Ramsar Sites or nationally designated landscapes would be significantly impacted (if any)</li> <li>• Effects on biodiversity</li> <li>• Protected species issues inclusive of bats and barn owls</li> <li>• Cantley Wood status as potential ancient woodland or otherwise and impacts</li> <li>• Extent of any biodiversity net gain requirements</li> <li>• Licence applications</li> <li>• The draft DCO</li> </ul>
<b>National Grid, Network Rail, Cadent Gas, and Anglian Water Limited</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on existing services, apparatus, and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Emergency works agreements</li> <li>• Protective Provisions contained within the draft DCO/ provisions set out in section 127 of the Planning Act 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Environment Agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of mitigation/ survey and modelling work required</li> <li>• Waste matters</li> <li>• Licencing required</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft DCO</li> </ul>
<b>Norfolk County Council &amp; South Norfolk Council</b> <b>(including internal drainage boards applicable)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Policy</li> <li>• The Need and Principle of the Proposed Development and Examination of alternatives</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• People and Communities</li> <li>• Historic Environment</li> <li>• Landscape and visual impacts</li> <li>• Traffic and Access</li> <li>• Air Quality</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration</li> <li>• Cumulative Impacts</li> <li>• Drainage matters and water resources</li> <li>• Protective Provisions</li> <li>• The draft DCO</li> </ul>
<b>Historic England</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of archaeological surveys required</li> <li>• The impacts to heritage assets</li> <li>• DCO wording to ensure appropriate mitigation</li> </ul>

**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.

Where a particular SoCG cannot be agreed between the parties, or in so far as any local authority position represents an officer level view only, draft versions of that SoCG are requested to be submitted by the Applicant. The position of the relevant Interested Parties should then be confirmed during the course of the Examination, **up to no later than Deadline 7.**

The content of SoCGs is necessary to help inform the ExA as to the need to hold any Issue Specific Hearings during the examination period, and to enable the ExA and the Applicant to give notice of such hearings at least 21 days in advance of them taking place.

## **2. Request for Local Impact Reports**

The ExA requests Local Impact Reports (LIRs) from the host Local Authority and welcomes LIRs from any other relevant local authorities who may wish to submit one. All LIRs are requested to be submitted into the Examination no later than by **Deadline 1 on Wednesday 13 October 2021.**

## **3. Request for Written Representations**

The ExA has made the decision that Written Representations will be required at Deadline 1 (13 October 2021).

#### **4. Request for Summaries of Relevant Representations and Written Representations**

The ExA has made the decision that Summaries of Relevant Representations and Written Representations exceeding 1500 words will be required at **Deadline 1 (13 October 2021)**.

#### **5. Request for a Compulsory Acquisition Schedule**

The ExA requests that at various deadlines, the Applicant provides an updated document which provides the most up-to-date information regarding agreements with Affected Persons in respect to CA and Temporary Possession. A final version must be submitted by **Deadline 9 (14 March 2022)**.

#### **6. Request for a Guide to the Application**

This will be necessary to give an appropriate record of any changes.

The ExA requests that at various deadlines, the Applicant provides an updated Guide to the Application document which provides a list of the most up-to-date documents for Examination. A final version must be submitted by **Deadline 10 (18 March 2022)**. This document should form part of the certification of plans identified within the draft DCO and should not be removed from subsequent drafts if submitted during the Examination.

#### **7. Request for notifications of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearing or Issue Specific Hearing**

The ExA has made the decision that receipt of notifications to speak at hearings will be required at **Deadline 1 (13 October 2021)**.

#### **8. Acceptance of Additional Submissions**

1. A response from South Norfolk Council dated 7 January 2021 sent to Highways England reference [AS-007].
2. Additional Submissions from Highways England relating to item reference numbers [AS-001] to [AS-006] referring to: Land Plans; Book of Reference; Environmental Statement - Report to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment; and Crown Land Plans.

All items have been published on the main project page for public viewing.

#### **9. Site Inspection(s)**

Taking into account the nature of the development proposed, the information supporting the application and the public vantage points available it is anticipated by the ExA that only the use of an Unaccompanied Site Inspection(s) will be necessary throughout the examination.

With that in mind, interested Parties are asked to provide suggested site inspection locations by draft examination timetable **Deadline 1 (13 October 2021)** to inform an unaccompanied site inspection taking place. This should

include issues to be observed and whether the site can be accessed via public land.

Please ensure all submissions are made by the appropriate deadline.

## Availability of Examination Documents

The application documents and Relevant Representations are available on the project webpage on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/Eastern/A47A11-Thickthorn-Junction/>

All further documents submitted in the course of the Examination will also be published at the above location.

For ease of navigation, please refer to 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 and provides a hyperlink to:

- each application document;
- each representation made to the Examination; and
- each Procedural Decision made by the Examining Authority.

Each document is given a unique reference which will be fixed for the duration of the Examination. A hyperlink to each document on the project webpage is also provided. Please use the unique reference numbers applied in the EL when referring to any Examination Documents in any future submissions that you make.

Documents may potentially (subject to COVID 19 restrictions preventing access) be viewed electronically, free of charge, at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of identification to use a computer at these locations. Please contact the venue before travelling to check their opening hours and availability given the impact from Coronavirus may affect arrangements.

### Electronic deposit locations

Local Authority	Library/ address	Opening hours
Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/have-your-say/contact-norfolk-county-council">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/have-your-say/contact-norfolk-county-council</a>	Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich NR2 1AW	10am-7pm Monday- Friday, 9am- 5pm Saturday



## Annex G

Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/have-your-say/contact-norfolk-county-council">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/have-your-say/contact-norfolk-county-council</a>	Hethersett Library, Queens Road, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3DB	10am-1pm and 2pm – 5pm Monday Wednesday and Friday, 2pm-7pm Thursday and 10-2pm Saturday
<b>Printing costs</b>	<b>Black and white</b>	<b>Colour</b>
<b>A4</b>	Black/white A4 - 20p <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/printing-and-copying">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/printing-and-copying</a>	Colour A4 - 50p
<b>A3</b>	Black/white A3 - 30p	Colour A3 - £1
<b>Link to all council library locations</b>		
<a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/locations-and-opening-times/costessey-library">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries/your-local-library/locations-and-opening-times/costessey-library</a>		
If you require a hard copy of the application documents please contact the Applicant by email at <a href="mailto:A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk">A47A11ThickthornJunctionRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk</a> or by telephone on 0303 123 5000.		

## **Electronic 'Make a submission' portal**

The Planning Inspectorate will be using an electronic portal, which parties will be able to use to make their written submissions at the relevant deadline.

A 'Make a submission' tab will become available on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure website. The portal operates on a system where submissions are separated in accordance with the deadline submissions type requested (see the Examination Timetable at Annex D). Please ensure documents are submitted respective to the associated deadline and are the relevant document submission types. Where this is not possible, please use the 'Other' drop down option.

Interested Parties will be able to submit a document (upload file), make a text representation or both. It is possible to upload multiple files for each individual submission item. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with the subject title and not exceed 50MB. 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.

We would encourage everyone in the first instance to use the 'Make a submission' portal to make your submissions however, if necessary, Interested Parties will be able to send electronic copies of their submission via email to the project mailbox, [A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk), on or before the applicable deadline.

If you experience any issues when using this portal, please contact a member of the Case Team to assist. The Inspectorate will be monitoring the use of the portal.

Any feedback is much appreciated and will help the Inspectorate identify and prioritise future service enhancements for our customers.