



National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Road
Bedford
MK41 7LW

06 September 2021

Dear Mr Shrigley

**APPLICATION BY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND FOR AN ORDER GRANTING
DEVELOPMENT CONSENT FOR THE A47/A11 THICKTHORN JUNCTION
PROJECT (TR010037)**

**APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO RULE 6 LETTER AND PROCEDURAL DEADLINE
A SUBMISSION**

1. Introduction

In advance of the Preliminary Meeting in respect of the application for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction Order (the Application), this letter addresses a number of matters raised in the Examining Authority's (ExA) notice of the Preliminary Meeting (the Rule 6 Letter), to be discussed further at the Preliminary Meeting.

2. Annex F - Statements of Common Ground

Since acceptance of the Application, Highways England has been working towards producing a number of Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with a number of consultees in relation to the Scheme, as follows:

- Natural England
- National Grid
- Network Rail
- Cadent Gas
- Anglian Water
- Environment Agency
- Norfolk County Council
- South Norfolk Council
- Historic England
- Big Sky Developments Ltd

Highways England will seek SoCGs where possible with the bodies listed above that it has been engaging with to-date and/or those that may be affected by the Application. Highways England will keep the ExA updated on the progress of the SoCGs and negotiation with the Statutory Undertakers and any required Protective Provisions throughout the Examination.

Highways England will endeavour to meet the deadlines set out in the timetable in relation to submission of the SoCGs.

3. Timetable for Examination

Highways England has the following comments on the ExA's draft examination timetable. We are grateful for the efforts which have been made by Case Officers to deconflict the three DCOs related to the A47 which are currently subject to Examination.

Item 8 – Hearings

The dates reserved to hold any Open Floor Hearing, Compulsory Acquisition Hearings and Issue Specific Hearings are the w/c 8 November 2021. This is same week that further hearings (if required) are timetabled for the A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Scheme. Should the hearings for both schemes be listed on the same dates, we anticipate that this may cause difficulties for many of the Interested Parties. In order to avoid such difficulties, the Applicant requests that any hearings for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Junction are listed to be held on 11, 12, 15 and 16 November if required.

Item 12 – Deadline 5

As there are other deadlines in respect of the A47 Tuddenham to Easton Scheme at the start of w/c 13 December, Highways England requests that the Examining Authority pushes Deadline 5 back to Monday 20 December 2021. We anticipate that this ought not to affect the progression of the Examination, but will allow Highways England and other Interested Parties additional time to respond to the deadline.

4. Notification of Non-material change(s)

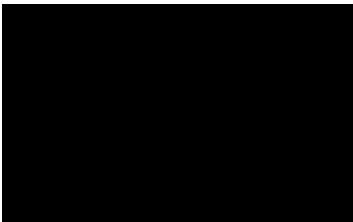
Highways England is considering currently two potential non-material changes to the scheme. The designs of both of these potential changes are not yet sufficiently advanced to be provided to the Examination, but the Applicant will present any potential non-material changes as soon as possible once they are sufficiently developed.

5. Proposed Attendees at Preliminary Meeting 1

Highways England will attend the Preliminary Meeting and proposes to address the ExA on the matters set out in this letter. The list of proposed attendees at the Preliminary Meeting 1 on behalf of Highways England is enclosed at Schedule 1.

Highways England will also be attending Preliminary Meeting 2, if required, and all hearings listed at Annex D of the Rule 6 letter. Following receipt of the agendas for each hearing, Highways England will produce a list of proposed speakers and present this to the ExA ahead of the relevant hearing.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Hedley
Project Manager
Highways England

SCHEDULE 1

List of Applicant Attendees at Preliminary Meeting 1

Attendee	Organisation	Email	Phone Number
Michael Fry (Barrister – consultant to WBD, Speaker at PM)	Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Claire Brook (Lead Legal Advisor)		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Kate Ashworth		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Stephen Hedley (Project Manager)	Highways England	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Glen Owen (Senior Project Manager)		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Kevin Stacey (Project Manager)	Galliford Try	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ben Williams (Project Manager)	Sweco	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
James Harvey (DCO Lead)		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Fran Bell (EIA Lead)		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]