

National Infrastructure
Planning
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Services:
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All Interested Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: TR010037

Date: 14 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Sections 91 and 93 and The
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended)
– Rule 13**

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

My letter of 23 September 2021, the Rule 8 letter, provides the Examination Timetable setting out dates reserved for Hearings. I have considered how best to examine the matters arising from the application and how best to ensure fairness given the practical constraints arising from COVID-19 as well as other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects currently being considered locally.

Following that consideration, I have decided to hold a series of virtual Hearings (via Microsoft Teams) using dates reserved in the Examination Timetable. Hearings will be held virtually in the week commencing **15 November 2021** and, if required, dates have been reserved for Hearing's week commencing 31 January 2021.

Notification of Hearings

Open Floor Hearings

Open floor hearings provide an opportunity for any Interested Party to set out their views about the application to the Examining Authority (ExA).

Issue Specific Hearings

Issue Specific Hearings are to be held for the ExA to question particular parties on various issues. The ExA may also invite any parties who I may wish to hear from at a Hearing. A full day is reserved for each of the Hearings. However, they will be able to be closed earlier provided relevant matters have been covered. Moreover, at my discretion written submissions can be considered if subsequent timings do not allow completion of the full agenda.

The events will be held virtually and joining details will be sent out beforehand.

Date	Hearing	Time
Tuesday 16 November 2021	Open Floor Hearing 1 (OFH 1)	10:00 (Arrangements conference from 9.30am)
Wednesday 17 November 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH 1) on Environmental Matters	10:00 (Arrangements conference from 9.30am)
Thursday 18 November 2021	Draft DCO Hearing 1 (DCO 1)	10:00 (Arrangements conference from 09:30am)

Those Interested Parties who wish to speak/or attend the hearings should notify Case Team at A47A11thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk by **8 November 2021**. If you are unable to submit your request to attend the hearings electronically, please contact the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000 by the deadline. In making your request the following details are required:

- Name and Interested Party reference number
- Email address (if available), to send you arrangement details
- Name of the organisation that you are representing and your role
- If you would like to speak at a Hearing(s) please state which Hearing and the topic(s) that you would like to raise
- Plot numbers if you would like to speak at the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing

Arrangements for the Hearings

Agenda: The Agendas and detailed arrangements for the Hearings will be published to the project page of the [National Infrastructure Planning website](#) at least five working days before the Hearings. However, the actual agenda on the day of each Hearing may be subject to change at my discretion. I will manage the Hearings and invite participants to speak on the topics they have requested to speak about.

Attendance: If your request to attend and / or speak at a Hearing is accepted, you will receive an invitation which will include joining instructions.

Joining the event: The Arrangements Conference will admit you to the event and provide information on the Hearing and reminders about using the technology. Arrive early so the Case Team can admit you before the start time.

Contributing at Hearings: You may speak on issues set out in your Relevant Representation or Written Representation. I will be responsible for questioning each party, and as such, may not need to ask further questions either to you or to other parties in attendance. Please be assured that I will carefully assess all contributions you make during my examination of the application. Technical and management

considerations may mean I need to limit the number of speakers at any Hearings. I will prioritise Interested Parties and those speaking on behalf of a group of people. I will give the same consideration to any matter, whether it is raised once or several times.

Speaking in Hearings: Speakers will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, each time they speak to ensure that someone listening to the recording after the event is clear who was speaking.

Written comments: All parties are invited to submit their comments, in writing, on specific matters included in the Hearing Agendas or arising at the Hearings. These submissions must be made before the deadline for post-Hearing submissions identified in the [Examination Timetable](#).

Cancellation: If any of the Hearings are no longer required or need to be cancelled / postponed for any other reason, notice will be provided on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website alongside any further notification correspondence where that is deemed appropriate.

There will be a livestream recording of the event, a link will be posted on the project page before the start of the event. Please note that all Examination timetable deadline submissions should continue to be provided via the [Submissions Portal](#) on the A47-A11 Thickthorn Junction webpage of the National Infrastructure website.

Information about examination hearings is included in the [Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.5 – The Examination: Hearings and Site Inspections](#)

For information on attending and participating in online hearings please also see the [Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.6 - Virtual Events](#)

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

M Shrigley

Examining Authority

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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