



National Infrastructure Planning Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
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2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

To all specific parties identified not included in original Mail Merge And cc to the Applicant	Our Ref: TR010037 Date: 14 December 2021
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Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 8, 9 and 17

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47/A11 Thickthorn Project

Procedural Decisions of Examining Authority (ExA) - Notification and Request for Information

I write to you to explain that in error you were omitted as a named recipient of notifications in respect of the Examination of the above application. The notifications included:

- Notification of, and your invitation to, the Preliminary Meeting which was held on **13 September** (which is referred to in my 'Rule 6' letter issued on 20 August). The [Rule 6 letter](#) also invited any requests to be heard orally at an Open Floor Hearing or Compulsory Acquisition Hearing be received by the ExA to be made by no later than **13 October**.
- Notification of the Examination Timetable and other Procedural Decisions made at or following the Preliminary Meeting (as set out in the [Rule 8 letter](#) of the **23 September**).
- Comments invited on, site inspection/accompanied visit locations and considerations.
- Notification of making Written Representations in accordance with the Timetable.
- Notification of, and your invitation to, an Open Floor Hearing which was held on **16 November**.
- Notification of, and your invitation to, an Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters which was held on **17 November**.
- Notification of, and your invitation to, an Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order which was held **18 November**.

There are existing timetabling and procedural provisions to specifically allow your views on all of the associated examination information to date to be taken into account. As a result, you have an opportunity to:

- Comment on any of the matters arising from the Preliminary Meeting (available at Annex A of the Rule 6 letter dated 20 August and the subsequent Rule 8 letter issued on the 23 September);
- Make any other Written Representations you deem appropriate;
- Make representations in writing in respect of the matters set out in the agenda for the Issue Specific Hearings on Environmental Matters as well as the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) which were held on 17 and 18 November, respectively;
- Make any written representations, based on the information listed under Deadline's 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Examination Timetable;
- Provide any responses as appropriate to the [ExA's Written Questions 1](#) and [ExA Written Questions 2](#) issued on the 23 September 2021 and 30 November 2021, respectively.
- Make a written request to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (CAH) or an Open Floor Hearing (OFH). CAH and OFH's would take place w/c 31 January as per the Examination Timetable already enables (if required) along with any other hearing deemed necessary by the ExA and further notifications would also be given to all Interested Parties as well as statutory parties).

In line with the existing Examination Timetable issued in my Rule 8 letter, I therefore request that your views (if you wish to make any comments) as well as any requests to speak at a hearing are submitted to by no later than **Deadline 6** which is the **Tuesday 18 January 2022**.

Your response should be sent to the project email address A47A11Thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Please also note that the ExA has discretionary powers to enable parties to become an 'Interested Party' should any persons need to request that under Section 102(4) of the National Infrastructure Planning (Interested Parties) Regulations. It is already the case that 'Category 1' persons as described in the Applicant's [Book of Reference](#) [REP4-004] have equivalent rights as an Interested Party. 'Category 3' persons do not have the right to request that a CAH takes place. However, if you do wish to become an Interested Party please specify that in writing by the **Tuesday 18 January 2022** when forwarding your comments.

There is no change to the Examination Timetable currently established and I have copied this letter to the Applicant for their information.

The Examination Timetable is provided at **Annex A** to this letter and is also available here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=exam>

For the avoidance of any doubt, our records have now been updated and you will receive all future relevant notifications and correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the Examination of this application.

Up-to-date information about the project and the Examination and copies of all Examination documentation, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and Action Points from the Issue Specific Hearings, can be found on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/>

As the Examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful for you to become familiar with this resource. Please also note that video recordings from the Preliminary Meeting and the Issue Specific Hearing's on Environmental Matters and also the dDCO; held on 16, 17 and 18 November 2021 are available here:

Preliminary Meeting [Examination document reference EV-002]:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000338-A47%20-%20A11%20Thickthorn%20PM%20P1.html>

Open Floor Hearing [Examination document reference EV-005]:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000479-thickthorn%20ofh1.html>

Issue Specific Hearing on Environmental Matters [Examination document reference EV-009 & EV-011]: Part's 1 and 2 –

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000484-ish1%20s1.html>

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000485-ish1%20s2.html>

Issue Specific Hearing on the draft DCO [Examination document reference's EV-015 & EV-017]: Part's 1 and 2 –

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000491-dco1%20s1.html>

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010037/TR010037-000492-dco1%20s2.html>

On behalf of the Planning Inspectorate, I wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused. If you have any questions about the content of this letter, please contact the Case Team using the details found within the header at the top of the first page.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Shrigley
Examining Authority

Annex A

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	Deadline 1 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comments on Relevant Representations• Summaries of all RRs exceeding 1500 words• Local Impact Reports (LIR) from Local Authorities• Written Representations (WRs)• Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words• Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)• Statement of Commonality for SoCG• Compulsory Acquisition Schedule• Guide to the Application• Notification by Statutory Parties of their wish to be considered as an Interested Party (IP)• Notification of wish to speak at an Issue Specific Hearing• Notification from any Affected Person of wish to speak at Compulsory Acquisition Hearing• Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing• Nominations of suggested locations and justifications for site inspections for consideration by the ExA• Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline	Wednesday 13 October 2021
2	Deadline 2 For receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responses to ExQ1• Comments on LIR(s)• Comments on WRs• The Applicant's revised draft Development Consent Order (draft DCO)• Schedule of changes to the draft DCO	Tuesday 26 October 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 1 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
3	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved to hold any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required) • Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required) 	w/c 15 November
4	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to ExQ1 • Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case (if required) • The Applicant's revised draft DCO • Schedule of changes to the draft DCO • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Progressed SoCGs • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 2 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Tuesday 23 November 2021
5	<p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Written Questions (ExQ2) (if required) • (Notice to hold an Accompanied Site Inspection the week commencing Monday 17 January 2022 in the event the ExA considers it necessary). 	Tuesday 30 November 2021
6	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated Guide to the Application • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 3 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	Monday 6 December 2021

<p>7</p>	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExQ2 (if required) • The Applicant’s revised draft DCO • Schedule of changes to the draft DCO • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Progressed SoCGs • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG • Applicant’s suggested draft Itinerary for an ASI (if required) • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 4 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	<p>Monday 20 December 2021</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Accompanied Site Inspection (only if deemed to be required by ExA)</p>	<p>w/c 17 January 2022</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Deadline 6</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the ExQ2 (if required) • An updated Guide to the Application • The Applicant’s revised draft DCO • Schedule of changes to the draft DCO • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 5 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR. 	<p>Tuesday 18 January 2022</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Hearings</p> <p>Dates reserved to hold any:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required) • Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required) • Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required) 	<p>w/c 31 January 2022</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p>	<p>Thursday 10 February 2022</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case (if required) • Updated Compulsory Acquisition Schedule • The Applicant's revised draft DCO • Schedule of changes to the draft DCO • Progressed SoCGs • Progressed Statement of Commonality for SoCG • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 6 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
12	<p>Publication of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required) • The ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO/Commentary on the draft DCO (if required) 	Monday 21 February 2022
13	<p>Deadline 8</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the ExA's proposed schedule of changes to the draft DCO/Commentary on the draft DCO • An updated Guide to the Application • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 7 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR 	Thursday 3 March 2022
14	<p>Deadline 9</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the RIES (if required) • Final draft DCO to be submitted by the Applicant in the SI template with the SI template validation report • Final Explanatory Memorandum • Final Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (identifying any unresolved objections) • Final SoCGs • Final Statement of Commonality also listing matters not agreed (in 	Monday 14 March 2022

	<p>circumstances where a SoCG could not be finalised)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 8 • Responses to any further information requested by the ExA for this deadline 	
15	<p>Deadline 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Guide to the Application • Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 9 • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination (if required) 	Friday 18 March 2022
16	<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>	Wednesday 23 March 2022

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>