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|                        |          |                 |
|------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| The Applicant          | Our Ref: | TR010037        |
| All Interested Parties | Date:    | 26 January 2022 |
| All Affected Persons   |          |                 |
| All Statutory Parties  |          |                 |

Dear Sir/ Madam

## **Planning Act 2008 Section 89 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 8(3), 13, and 17**

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

#### **1. Notice of variation of Examination Timetable - under Rule 8(3)**

I write to provide notification that the Examining Authority (ExA) has made Procedural Decisions to vary the Examination Timetable in the following respects:

- 1) Additional Hearings are now to be accommodated **w/c Monday 28 February 2022** as item number 13 on the timetable. All remaining items are renumbered thereafter. The additional hearings are accommodated in the updated timetable and any changes are highlighted in red at **Annex A** attached below.

#### **2. Hearing Notification - under Rule 13**

The following notification is given for the Hearings to be held the **week commencing Monday 28 February 2022**:

| <b>Date</b>   | <b>Hearing</b>   | <b>Time</b>                                  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>            | Open Floor Hearing 2 (OFH 2)   | 10:00 (Arrangements conference from 09:30am) |
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</b>          | Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1 (CAH 1)   | 10:00 (Arrangements Conference from 09:30am) |
| <b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022</b>           | Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH 2) on Environmental Matters and Draft DCO  | 10:00 (Arrangements conference from 09.30am) |
| <b>Friday 4th March 2022 (Reserve hearing date)</b> | Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH 2) on Environmental Matters and Draft DCO (continuing from Thursday 3 March <b>if required</b> ) | 10:00 (Arrangements conference from 09.30am) |

The reserve hearing date of Friday 4 March 2022 may not be required if all matters are concluded on Thursday 3 March. If this hearing date is not required a banner will be published on the project webpage of the National Infrastructure website to inform of its cancellation.

Those Interested Parties who wish to speak/or attend the hearings should notify the Case Team at [A47A11thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:A47A11thickthorn@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) by **25 February 2022**.

If you do not have access to email, you can contact the Case Team on 0303 444 5000 or write to the Case Team to confirm your participation at the postal address above. Please address any letter to the 'A47-A11 Thickthorn Junction Case Team', including the case reference TR010056 and a contact telephone number. Postal communications must be received by the Planning Inspectorate by Friday 25 February 2022.

In making your request the following details are required:

- Name and Interested Party reference number
- Email address to send you arrangement details. If you do not have an email address, please provide a contact telephone number.
- 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

**Important Note: If you are not yet registered as an Interested Party but are impacted on by the scheme proposal and wish to attend any of the hearings set out in this letter, please also indicate that to the Case Team using the contact details provided and, in the manner, outlined.**

The scheme project page has been updated to reflect the current Hearing provision now taking place.

Hearing joining instructions are to be provided by the Inspectorate's Case Team. Those parties who register to speak will have the opportunity to do so. Any Interested Party or Affected Person is also able to attend if they require it and should contact the Case Team in accordance with the provisions this letter for further advice if needed. If attendance is not feasible written submissions can be considered by the ExA on any relevant matter which needs to be raised, or is outstanding, in accordance with the Timetable if parties require it.

### **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](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/) 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

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

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 it 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.

### **3. Information Request - under Rule 17**

There are several information matters arising which would aid the Examination considering all material received thus far. Therefore, under Rule 17 the following information is requested from the below named parties:

1. The ExA acknowledges that the Secretary of State for Transport (SoST) is requesting additional information on other highway projects (for example A1 Morpeth to Ellingham, A38 Derby Junctions scheme which was subject to High Court challenge, M25 Junction 28, and others) to assist a decision on climate change related impacts having regard to cumulative assessment concerns.

In those circumstances and based on current submissions, **the Applicant** is requested to provide a Climate Change Position Statement which further addresses climate change and cumulative assessment of climate impact information issues being referred to for this scheme.

The statement should provide (or, to the extent that it has already been provided, identify) its assessment of the cumulative effects of Greenhouse Gas

emissions from the scheme with other existing and/or approved projects on a local, regional and national level on a consistent geographical scale (for example an assessment of the cumulative effects of the Roads Investment Strategy RIS 1 and RIS 2 at a national level). This should take account of both construction and operational effects; identify the baseline used at each local, regional and national level; and identify any relevant local, regional or national targets/budgets where they exist and how the assessment complies with these (including the carbon budgets, the 2050 zero target under the Climate Change Act 2008, and the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement). It should be accompanied by reasoning to explain the methodology adopted, any likely significant effects identified, any difficulties encountered in compiling the information, and how the assessment complies with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. Confirmation should be given that the statement has been prepared by a competent expert. It is requested that links be provided to any documents referenced and their relevance fully explained. The ExA also notes that Written Question CC.1.1 (i), (ii), (iii) has not been answered in full in earlier submissions and is seeking a response.

2. **The Applicant's** response to further written question CA.2.7 indicated discussions are ongoing pursuant to Section 135 of the PA2008 for matters relating to the Compulsory Acquisition of an interest in land held by or on behalf of the Crown. It is acknowledged that consent under Section 135 (1) and (2) is outstanding and needs to be obtained from the Crown authority before the close of the Examination.

The ExA encourages that the issue should not be left until 23 March 2022 in the event that the Examination closes prior to this date. The ExA requests that the relevant consents are obtained/completed from the Crown authority and provided by **the Applicant** by **14 March 2022 (Deadline 9)** in the interests of certainty.

The submission of a Crown Land Position Statement giving all relevant details is requested from **the Applicant** by **3 March 2022 (Deadline 8)** setting out progress for relevant plots against the relevant authority for those.

3. **The Applicant, South Norfolk District Council, Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council** are requested to inform the Examination of any relevant updates to the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan (GALP) for the conurbation currently subject to formal examination. Those parties are also requested to confirm whether there are any forthcoming policy changes being pursued which raise new material issues for the land which the Proposed Development is located or in the immediate vicinity of the land concerned. In the event there are any material planned local policy changes those would need to be set out in full giving an assessment of the subsequent impact. An overview of any relevant strategic transport aim changes compared to the present local plan should also be provided.

For expediency, I request the above information outlined to be submitted by no later than **Deadline 8 Thursday 3 March 2022, unless otherwise specified above.**

In accordance with the stated deadlines, the ExA notes there is provision within the existing Examination Timetable to allow Interested Parties to make any comments on the anticipated information at the following Deadline once it is received.

All Interested Parties have been copied to my request in the event they wished to comment on any material received in accordance with the Examination Timetable as set out in the Rule 8 letter of 23 September 2021.

For your information and for the avoidance of any doubt all current examination details can be found on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-a11-thickthorn-junction/?ipcsection=docs>

If you have any further questions about the content of this letter, please contact the case team using the email address or telephone number provided in the header.

Yours faithfully

*M Shrigley*  
Examining Authority

**Documents attached**

**1. Annex A**

## Amended 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.

Updated documents including the Compulsory Acquisition Schedules and draft Development Consent Orders should be submitted as both clean and tracked changed versions.

| Item     | Matters  | Due Dates                                   |
|----------|--|---|
| <b>1</b> | <p><b>Deadline 1</b><br/>For receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on Relevant Representations</li> <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>• ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules (EPR)</li> </ul> | <p><b>Wednesday 13<br/>October 2021</b></p> |

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|-----------------|--|--|
| <p><b>2</b></p> | <p><b>Deadline 2</b><br/>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>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Tuesday 26 October 2021</b></p>  |
| <p><b>3</b></p> | <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>   | <p><b>w/c 15 November</b></p>          |
| <p><b>4</b></p> | <p><b>Deadline 3</b><br/>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>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul> | <p><b>Tuesday 23 November 2021</b></p> |
| <p><b>5</b></p> | <p><b>Publication of:</b></p>  | <p><b>Tuesday 30 November 2021</b></p> |

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|          | <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>6</b> | <p><b>Deadline 4</b><br/>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>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>   | <b>Monday 6 December 2021</b>  |
| <b>7</b> | <p><b>Deadline 5</b><br/>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> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 4</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul> | <b>Monday 20 December 2021</b> |
| <b>8</b> | Accompanied Site Inspection (only if deemed to be required by ExA)   | <b>w/c 17 January 2022</b>     |
| <b>9</b> | <p><b>Deadline 6</b><br/>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> </ul>  | <b>Tuesday 18 January 2022</b> |



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|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on any additional information/submissions received by Deadline 5</li> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>   |                                    |
| <b>10</b> | <p><b>Hearings</b><br/>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>11</b> | <p><b>Deadline 7</b><br/>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> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul> | <b>Thursday 10 February 2022</b>   |
| <b>12</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>13</b> | <p><b>Hearings</b><br/><b>Dates reserved to hold any:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Floor Hearing (OFH) (if required)</b></li> <li>• <b>Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (CAHs) (if required)</b></li> <li>• <b>Issue Specific Hearing(s) (ISHs) (if required)</b></li> </ul>  | <b>w/c Monday 28 February 2022</b> |

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| <b>14</b> | <p><b>Deadline 8</b><br/>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>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>  | <b>Thursday 3 March 2022</b>   |
| <b>15</b> | <p><b>Deadline 9</b><br/>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments on the RIES (if required)</li> <li>• <b>Post hearing submissions including written summaries of oral case (if required)</b></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>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul> | <b>Monday 14 March 2022</b>    |
| <b>16</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> <li>• Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the EPR</li> </ul>   | <b>Friday 18 March 2022</b>    |
| <b>17</b> | The ExA is under duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months  | <b>Wednesday 23 March 2022</b> |

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|  | 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 |  |
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**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