



Preliminary Meeting Note

Application:	A47 North Tuddenham to Easton
Reference:	TR010038
Time and date:	03 August 2021
Venue:	Microsoft Teams

This meeting note is not a full transcript of the Preliminary Meeting. It is a summary of the key points discussed. A recording of the event is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed via the following link: [Preliminary Meeting Part 1](#).

1. Welcome and Introduction

Adrian Hunter welcomed those present and introduced himself as the single Examining Authority (ExA) to examine the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton application.

The ExA explained that he would be examining the application made by Highways England ('the Applicant') before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed project, which is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), should be made.

The ExA explained the purpose of the Preliminary Meeting (PM), noting that only the procedural aspects of the Examination were being discussed, with the Examination commencing after Part 2 of the PM closes.

The ExA confirmed that all documents and submissions received and accepted during the Examination will be published on the project-specific page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The ExA explained the Planning Inspectorate's duties under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Further information relating to the GDPR can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's [Privacy Note](#).

The ExA invited the parties who had expressed their intention to speak at the PM to introduce themselves. Mr Michael Fry representing the Applicant (MF); Mr David Cumming representing Norfolk County Council (NCC); Ruth Goodall representing Weston Longville Parish Council (WLPC); Mr George Mackenzie representing Mr Anthony Meynell (GM); and Mr Richard Hawker (RH) introduced themselves.

The ExA requested any other attendees who wished to participate to introduce themselves. There were no further requests.

2. The Virtual PM Process

The ExA set out its remarks in respect of the virtual PM process, and made reference to Annex B of the [Rule 6 Letter dated 6 July 2021](#) (Rule 6 Letter) and the Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events](#).

MF raised a question with regards to the process going forward and whether any future hearings would be held in person. The ExA confirmed that all events for the foreseeable future would be held virtually but that this would be reviewed on an ongoing basis in light of the current government advice at the relevant point in time.

No further comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

3. The Examination Process

The ExA briefly explained the examination process under the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008), and referred to Annex B of the [Rule 6 Letter](#) and the Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.4](#).

No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

4. Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

The ExA explained the purpose of the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (IAPIs) (section 88 of the PA2008), and referred to [Annex C](#) of the Rule 6 Letter and asked for any observations on them.

Comments made to the Principal Issues were as follows:

- NCC identified that it was broadly content with the majority of the IAPIs, it requested that 'transfer of assets' be added, should consent be granted and the scheme is constructed, to allow discussion on the matter during Examination. NCC considered the best place for this would be in the dDCO section. NCC noted 'transfer of assets' is likely to be addressed through a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG).
- GM considered that, given the proposed Wood Lane junction, due to the number of issues it gives rise to, it should be a Principal Issue in its own right, including, amongst other things, whether reasonable alternatives have been considered. GM also suggested that reference to Berry Hall in the Historic Environment section should be changed to Berry Hall Estate.
- RH requested that St Michael's Church in Hockering should be added to the list of Listed Buildings within the Historic Environment section.

5. Examination Timetable

The ExA outlined the Deadline (DL) criteria and dates set out in the draft Examination Timetable (dET) found at [Annex D](#) of the Rule 6 Letter, clarified the purposes of Issue Specific Hearings (ISHs), Compulsory Acquisition Hearings (CAHs), Open Floor Hearings (OFHs), Accompanied Site Inspections (ASIs) and Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs). Further information relating to hearings

and site inspections can be found in the Inspectorate's [Advice Note 8.5: The Examination: hearings and site inspections](#).

The ExA noted requests, already received in writing, to amend the dET and also welcomed further suggestions from the parties in attendance.

MF, as set out in its response to Procedural Deadline A [[PDA-001](#)], identified various DLs within the dET that, in their view would result in limited time to prepare and respond to submissions. A number of changes to DLs were suggested to resolve these. In addition, the Applicant requested an early indication of the precise nature of any additional ISHs and the prompt publishing of hearing agendas. The ExA noted and acknowledged the request.

NCC supported the Applicant's request for early notification of ISHs, to ensure that adequate support from advisors and experts from other areas of the Authority could be arranged. NCC referred to other NSIPs within its Authority's administrative boundary and noted the potential for their respective timetables to overlap and impact on its Authority's resources. The ExA noted the request and reassured NCC that the case teams of the various applications were aware and had liaised over the dET.

GM requested that a visit to Berry Hall Estate, along with the location of the proposed Wood Lane junction, should be added to the itinerary for the ASI.

RH highlighted a potential viewpoint from a public footpath which is currently closed. The ExA requested details of this viewpoint to be submitted and the ExA would review access arrangements at the appropriate time.

WLPC raised two issues, firstly the configuration of Wood Lane junction, and secondly, the Side Road Strategy. WLPC requested that both should be the subject of an ISH. WLPC also requested a visit to Weston Longville.

All comments received were duly noted by the ExA and, where possible, considerations would be reflected in the final Examination Timetable within the Rule 8 Letter.

6. Procedural Decision

The ExA clarified the procedural decisions made under section 89(3) of the PA2008 and asked for any observations. The ExA referred to [Annex F](#) of the Rule 6 Letter.

Observations were raised as to the procedural decision relating to Statements of Common Ground and were noted by the ExA.

7. Any Other Matters

The ExA asked if anyone wished to raise any other matters regarding procedural matters not set out in the agenda. No comments were made by any of the parties in attendance.

The ExA reminded attendees and viewers that comments on the matters discussed at PM1 should be submitted for Procedural Deadline B: 9 August 2021. The resumption of the PM (PM2), if required, would take place on Thursday 12 August at 10.00am.

The ExA thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the PM1 at 11:20am.

The ExA, following consideration of the comments and representations made at Procedural Deadline B, decided that there were no further procedural matters which needed to be explored orally. As a result, in accordance with paragraph 7.5 of the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.6 (Virtual Events), the ExA formally closed the meeting through a written Procedural Decision sent to all Interested Parties on 12 August 2021 and PM2 was not held.