



National Infrastructure Planning
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All Interested Parties

Our Ref: TR010038

Date: 4 October 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

Planning Act 2008 sections 91 and 92 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 13 and 16

Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Project

Notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI)

In accordance with Rule 13(1) and (6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended), I am required to give a 21 day notice period for hearings. I request that the Applicant publicly notifies and advertises the Hearings and ASI arrangements no later than 21 days before the events.

I write to advise you that Hearings will be held between Tuesday 2 November and Friday 5 November 2021. I proposed to hold the ASI on Tuesday 16 November. Important details about the Hearings are set out below as well as the arrangements for the ASI.

My letter of 12 August 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.

Following that consideration, I have decided to hold a series of Virtual Hearings using the dates reserved in the Examination Timetable.

Following consideration of the submissions, I do not propose to hold an Open Floor Hearing (OFH) at this stage. I consider that the matters and issues raised are more appropriately dealt with via the Issue Specific Hearings. Within the timetable, provision is made for an OFH in January 2022. I will consider the need for this Hearing closer to the time.

Please note that the Issue Specific Hearing scheduled for Friday 5 November 2021 will only be used if necessary. Anyone wishing to attend this hearing should ensure they are available from the start of the hearing on Thursday 4 November 2021. The hearing will only continue on Friday 5 November if all agenda items have not been adequately covered on the Thursday.

Issue Specific Hearings are being held because I have decided that it is necessary to hear oral representations on particular issues. In the subsequent Agenda for each Hearing, I will invite Interested Parties (IPs) and any Other Persons that I consider will assist me to examine the matters to be discussed for each Issue Specific Hearing.

A Compulsory Acquisition Hearing is being held because the Application includes a request for an order granting development consent to authorise Compulsory Acquisition (CA) of land or CA of an interest in or right over land.

As well as the Applicant the following parties, or their representatives, are invited to participate in, and therefore provide notice of a wish to speak in, the Compulsory Acquisition Hearings:

- Any Affected Person who would like to object to Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession
- Statutory Undertakers, Crown bodies and other bodies with special statutory protections under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) who would like to object to Compulsory Acquisition or Temporary Possession.

The events will be held virtually and joining details will be sent out beforehand. Please see below on how to register.

Date	Hearing	Start Time	Joining Details
Tuesday 2 November 2021	Issue Specific Hearing 1: Draft Development Consent Order	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am	Virtual event Join by digital device or telephone using details to be provided in forthcoming Agenda
Wednesday 3 November 2021	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 1: The Applicant's case for Compulsory Acquisition and Temporary Possession.	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am	Virtual event Join by digital device or telephone using details to be provided in forthcoming Agenda
Wednesday 3 November 2021	Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2: Site / plot specific issues	Arrangements Conference at 1.30pm Hearing Starts at 2.00pm	Virtual event Join by digital device or telephone using details to be provided in forthcoming Agenda
Thursday 4 November 2021 (continuing on Friday 5 November if necessary)	Issue Specific Hearing 2: Environmental Matters	Arrangements Conference at 9.30am Hearing Starts at 10.00am	Virtual event Join by digital device or telephone using details to be provided in

			forthcoming Agenda
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Advanced notice must be provided of a wish to speak at any Hearing. The advanced notice **must include all of the following**:

- your name and (if available) Interested Party reference number;
- your email address (if available), for us to send you arrangement details;
- a telephone number that we can contact you on before and during any Hearing;
- the name of any organisation that you are representing and your role;
- the Hearing(s) and sessions (if applicable) that you would like to speak at;
- if you would like to speak at Compulsory Acquisition hearing 2, the plot number(s) that you would like to discuss; and
- an Examination Library reference number for a document, or a copy of any new material, that you would like to be shared visually at a Hearing.

Requests to speak at Hearings are to be provided to the Case Team, using the below contact details by **25 October 2021**.

Email: A47NorthTuddenhamtoEaston@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The Agendas and detailed arrangements for the Hearings will be published on 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

All parties, including those who do not wish to speak or attend the Hearings, 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 by 12 November (Deadline 4) via the [Make a Submission](#) tab on the project page.

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.

The Planning Inspectorate has published detailed advice on virtual examination events on our [website](#).

We will be using Microsoft Teams to conduct the event. You can join the event through the internet, the app or by telephone. If you have any questions about attending the event, please contact the Case Team and they will be happy to assist you.

There will be a livestream recording of the event if you prefer to watch this rather than enter the Hearing. A link will be posted before the start of the event on the project page.

All Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project Examination events, whether virtual or physical are recorded. The recordings of the Hearings will be made available on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website. The recordings allow any member of the public who is interested in the application and the Examination to find out what has been discussed at a Hearing. Speakers will need to introduce themselves, including any organisation or groups that they represent, each time they speak to ensure that someone watching the recording after the event is clear who was speaking.

As the recordings are retained and published, they form a public record that can contain personal information to which the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) applies. Please refer to our Privacy Notice for further information.

Participants should avoid making public any information they wish to be kept private and confidential. If there is a need to refer to such information, it should be in written form. Although this will also be published, personal and private content can be redacted or removed before it is made public. You may contact the Case Team for further guidance on your personal information.

The Planning Inspectorate's practice is to publish the recordings and retain them for a period of five years from the Secretary of State's decision on the Development Consent Order. If you participate in a Hearing, you will be recorded and the recording will be made available in the public domain.

If you prefer not to have your image recorded, you may keep your camera switched off.

Notification and Itinerary for an Accompanied Site Inspection

Further to the procedural decision and timetable enclosed with my letter of 12 August 2021, I confirm that I will be undertaking an ASI on Tuesday 16 November 2021.

Date	Meeting Place	Time	Address of Meeting Place
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Tuesday 16 November 2021	The Honingham Buck	Meeting time: 8.00 am Start Time: 8.20 am	29 The Street, Honingham, Norwich NR9 5BL
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Given the current health situation, I am keen to ensure that the amount and level of interaction is kept to the minimum required. As a result, I have made the decision to limit the ASI to a few specific, privately owned locations. I am aware of several requests from Interested Parties to view the proposed scheme from a number of specific, publicly accessible locations. Therefore, it is my intention to visit these locations on an unaccompanied basis, in advance of the ASI. I will publish a note of the locations I have visited as soon as possible after I have completed these.

With regard to the ASI, the following represents a draft list of the general locations to be visited:

- Berry Hall Estate
- Gypsy Lane, Hockering
- Poppy Wood
- Land to north-east of Wood Lane and A47 Junction
- Hall Farm and River Tud

Requests to attend the ASI should be provided to the Case Team, using the contact details at the top of this letter by 25 October 2021. Parties intending to join en-route should notify the Planning Inspectorate, giving a contact telephone number.

Please note that the ExA's inspection of sites is not an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the project or discuss evidence. It is an opportunity for the ExA to look at the physical features that can be seen on, or from, the site. Participants may be invited by the ExA to point out specific features or sites of interest.

It will be necessary for all parties to wear appropriate sturdy footwear and weatherproof clothing. It is recommended that participants bring and wear high visibility jackets when walking on the public highway.

It is not possible to predict precisely how long each part of the inspection will last. Parties wishing to join the inspection should attend the advertised start point in good time. The ExA will not wait for parties who are not present at the start point at the notified time. Parties intending to join en-route should notify the Planning Inspectorate, giving a contact telephone number.

Access onto private land is at all times by permission of the person controlling it; householders, occupiers and landowners may refuse to allow some persons accompanying the ExA onto their land. Under those circumstances the ExA will decide whether or not to proceed with that part of the inspection and may ask those refused access to wait outside.

To ensure the smooth running of the ExA's inspection, any changes in attendance should be notified to the Case Manager at the email address as soon as possible. Please provide contact details for the day and ensure the Planning Inspectorate is made aware of any special access requirements for any participants.

Please note that in the unlikely event that the ASI has to be cancelled because of unforeseen circumstances, we shall endeavour to contact attendees beforehand but we would advise that you should regularly check the Planning Inspectorate's website

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions about this letter.

In the meantime, I look forward to the continuing Examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Adrian Hunter

Examining Authority (ExA)

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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