



The Planning Inspectorate

The Planning Act 2008 – section 91

Application by Highways England for an Order granting Development Consent for the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton project.

Agenda for Issue Specific Hearing 1 dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order

Issue Specific Hearing 1:	Draft Development Consent Order
Date:	2 November 2021
Joining available from:	9.30am ¹
Meeting start time:	10.00am ²
Location:	Virtual event

Issue Specific Hearings

All Interested Parties are invited to attend Issue Specific Hearings but as this is a virtual event to assist the running of the hearing, please let the Inspectorate's Case Team (A47NorthTuddenhamtoEaston@planninginspectorate.gov.uk) know by **25 October 2021** of a wish to participate in the hearing, so that the relevant instructions can be sent for you to join the event.

The event will also be livestreamed and a link for watching the livestream will be posted on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website closer to the event date.

Each Interested Party (IP) is entitled to make oral representations at hearings. However, this is subject to the Examining Authority's (ExA) power to control hearings.

The ExA would find it helpful for the following attendees to participate in Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) into the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO):

- Highways England (the Applicant) - including representatives of the Applicant who are in a position to discuss the matters on the agenda;
- Norfolk County Council;
- Broadland District Council;
- South Norfolk Council;
- Breckland Council;

¹ Full instructions on how to join online or by telephone will be provided in advance of the meeting to those who register to participate

² If you are joining as an active participant, please follow the joining instructions for the virtual event carefully and connect to the Hearing in good time. In common with traditional Hearings, the event will start on time irrespective of any late arrivals, for whom access may not be possible.

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- Environment Agency;
 - Natural England;
 - Historic England; and
 - Any other IPs with an interest in the drafting of the dDCO, the implementation or discharge of proposed articles, requirements or other provisions.

Participants may be legally represented if they wish, but the hearing will be conducted to ensure that legal representation is not required.

Guidance under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 provide that it is the ExA that will probe, test and assess the evidence through direct questioning of persons making oral representations at hearings. Questioning at the hearing will therefore be led by the ExA.

The virtual event will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the ExA deems that all those present have had their say and that all matters have been covered.

The agenda is for guidance only. It is not designed to be exclusive or exhaustive. The ExA may add other issues for consideration, may alter the order in which issues are considered and will seek to allocate sufficient time to each issue to allow proper consideration of them. Any lack of discussion of a particular issue at a hearing does not preclude further examination of this issue, including the asking of further written questions.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the day that they are scheduled for. Should the consideration of these issues take less time than anticipated, the ExA may conclude the Hearing as soon as all relevant contributions have been made and all questions asked and responded to.

If there are additional matters to be dealt with or there are submissions that take a considerable amount of time, there may be a need to continue the session for longer on the day. Alternatively, it may be necessary to prioritise matters and defer others to further written questions.

The evidence presented orally at ISH1 should be included in post-hearing submissions and submitted by Friday 12 November 2021 (Deadline 4).

Purpose of ISH1

The main purpose of the dDCO Hearing is to undertake an examination of its Articles and Schedules.

In particular to:

- Clarify issues around how the dDCO is intended to work – what would be consented, the extent of the powers and what requirements, provisions and agreements are proposed;
- Identify any possible issues of prevention, mitigation or compensation which are not covered by the dDCO as currently drafted;

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- Establish or confirm the views of other IPs as to the appropriateness, proportionality or efficacy of the dDCO.

Contingencies

The ExA will endeavour to hear all participants. If the ISH1, or parts of it, is unable to proceed, for example for technical reasons, then the ExA may adjourn incomplete business to reserved hearings later in the Examination Timetable. Notice of any adjournments will be provided on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Microsoft Teams

The ISH1 will take place virtually using Microsoft Teams. Further information about virtual events in relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events:

[Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-note-8.6-virtual-examination-events/)

Further information, including a short video regarding taking part in a Planning Inspectorate virtual event, can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website:

[Planning Inspectorate virtual events: guide to participating - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-inspectorate-virtual-events-guide-to-participating)

Please contact the Case Team if you have any questions about using Microsoft Teams.



Agenda

Title of meeting	A47 North Tuddenham to Easton project Issue Specific Hearing 1 on the dDCO
Date	2 November 2021
Time	10.00am
Venue	Online via Microsoft Teams
Attendees	Invitees

1. Welcome, introductions and arrangements for the hearing

2. Articles and Schedules of the dDCO

- The Applicant will be asked to;
 - provide a very brief overview of each part of the dDCO;
 - briefly highlight changes which have been made to the dDCO since the original submission version; and
 - explain the relationship between the dDCO and the Environmental Management Plan and associated Record of Environmental Actions and Commitments in securing mitigation.
- ExA will ask questions in respect of Articles and Schedules of the dDCO, including highlighting any drafting errors and/or inconsistencies within the dDCO.
- IPs will be invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to dDCO Articles and Schedules.

3. Schedule 2 of the dDCO – Requirements

- The Applicant will be asked to provide a brief overview of the Requirements.
- The ExA will then ask questions, seeking responses where appropriate from the Applicant, the local councils, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England and other Interested Parties. Interested Parties will also be invited to ask questions of clarification in relation to DCO requirements.

4. Schedule 9 – Protective Provisions

- To obtain an update on progress between parties regarding protective provisions.

5. Consents, licences and other agreements

- The Applicant to provide an update of progress and timescales for completion.
- The ExA will ask any questions, including whether any legal agreements are proposed and, if so, what is the indicative timescale for finalising them.

6. Statements of Common Ground

- The Applicant to provide an update on Statements of Common Ground relevant to the dDCO.

7. Review of issues and actions arising

8. Any other matters

9. Closure of the hearing